



WITH SUPPORT FROM
EUROPEAN UNION



NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR CIVIC EDUCATION



MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE GHANAIAN VOTER

2016 PRESIDENTIAL AND
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

FOREWORD

The National Commission for Civic Education (‘NCCE’ or ‘the Commission’), established by Act 452 of 1993 pursuant to Articles 231 - 239 of the 1992 Constitution is among others, mandated *‘to formulate, implement and oversee programmes intended to inculcate in the citizens of Ghana, awareness of their civic responsibilities and an appreciation of their rights and obligations as free people’* and *‘to assess for information of government, the limitations to the achievement of true democracy arising from the existing inequalities between different strata of the population and make recommendations for redressing these inequalities’*.

The Commission has over the years carried out various activities in furtherance of its mandate. One of such activities is a research on matters of concern to Ghanaian Voters. The maiden survey was undertaken in 2004 and has since become one of the Commission’s flagship programmes.

The Commission sees this survey as a contribution to the discourse on what political parties need to identify as issues to address in their manifestoes and campaign messages. It also provides Presidential/Parliamentary candidates with critical areas that Ghanaians and their constituents expect them to

address concerning the issues raised. For the NCCE, the report provides the content of its message in undertaking effective civic/voter education towards December 7, 2016 general election and beyond.

The survey findings also provide the relevant issues dear to the hearts of the electorate and thereby steers the campaign discourse from acrimony to issues based engagements.

The Commission is grateful for the insightful contribution by Dr. Justice Nyigmah Bawole of University of Ghana Business School.

The Commission acknowledges with gratitude the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union (EU) for making this survey a reality.

Lastly, the Commission commends its hard working and dedicated staff for making this survey a reality.

AYEKOO

SAMUEL ASARE AKUAMOAH
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
(OPERATIONS), NCCE

August 2, 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
DEFINITION OF KEY WORDS	xi
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	xii
CHAPTER ONE	
INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.2 Objectives of the Study	1
1.3 Questionnaire Administration	2
1.4 Data Analysis and presentation	2
1.5 Summary of Chapters	2
CHAPTER TWO	
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND OF RESPONDENTS	4
2.0 Introduction	4
2.1 Sex of Respondents	4
2.2 Disability Status of Respondents	5
2.3 Age of Respondents	5
2.4: Educational Background of Respondents	6
2.5 Occupational Backgrounds of Respondents	8
2.6 Marital Status of Respondents	8
2.7 Religious Affiliation of Respondents	9
CHAPTER THREE	
VOTING HISTORY AND WILLINGNESS TO VOTE	10
3.0 Introduction	10
3.1 Number of Times Respondents Have Voted	10
3.2 Voting in the Last Presidential and Parliamentary Elections	11
3.3 Willingness to Vote in the Forthcoming Presidential Election	11
3.3.1 Reasons Given by Respondents Who Will Vote in the Presidential Election	12
3.3.2 Reasons Given by Respondents Who Will Not Vote in the Presidential Election	13

3.3.3	Reasons Given by Respondents Who Are Undecided on Voting in the Presidential Election	13
3.3.4	What Would Make Respondents in the ‘No’ and ‘Undecided’ Category Vote in the Forthcoming Presidential Elections?	14
3.4	Willingness to Vote in the Forthcoming Parliamentary Election	15
3.4.1	No or Undecided, What Will Make You Vote in the Forthcoming Parliamentary Election?	17
3.5	Three Most Important Reasons Why Respondents Voted for a Particular Candidate	17
3.6	Whether Respondents Would Vote for the Same Party they Voted for in 2012	18
3.7	Knowledge of Women Contesting as MPs	18
3.8	Willingness of Respondents to Vote a Woman as MP in their Constituency	19
3.9	Willingness to Vote a Woman as President	20
CHAPTER FOUR		
ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE VOTER		
4.0	Introduction	22
4.1	Ranking of Issues	22
4.1.1	Upper Group Issues (1st – 3rd Rank Issues)	24
4.1.2	Middle Group Issues (4th – 11th Rank Issues)	24
4.1.3	Lower Group of Issues (12th – 16th Rank issues)	24
4.2	Regional Ranking of Issues	25
4.2.1	Ashanti Region – Ranking of Issues	27
4.2.2	Brong Ahafo – Ranking of Issues	28
4.2.3	Central Region – Ranking of Issues	29
4.2.4	Eastern Region – Ranking of Issues	30
4.2.5	Greater Accra Region – Ranking of Issues	31
4.2.6	Northern Region – Ranking of Issues	32
4.2.7	Upper East – Ranking of Issues	33
4.2.8	Upper West Region – Ranking of Issues	34
4.2.9	Volta Region – Ranking of Issues	35
4.2.10	Western Region – Ranking of Issues	36
4.3	Ranking of Issues by Sex	37
4.4	Ranking of Issues by Age of Respondents	39
4.5	Ranking of Issues by Occupational Background	41
4.5	Ranking of Issues by Educational Background	43
4.5.1	Ranking of Issues by Persons with Disability (PWDs)	45
4.6	Specific Issues Government Should Address Concerning the Sectors Ranked	46
4.6.1	Education	46
4.6.2	Health	47

4.6.3	Employment	48
4.6.4	Agriculture	48
4.6.5	Energy	49
4.6.6	Economy	50
4.6.7	Corruption	50
4.6.8	Women and Children	51
4.6.9	Roads and Infrastructure	52
4.6.10	National Security	52
4.6.11	Youth Development	53
4.6.12	Social Services	54
4.6.13	Taxes and Tariffs	54
4.6.14	Housing	55
4.6.15	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	55
4.6.16	Sports	56
4.7	Specific Issues Parliamentarians Should Address Concerning the Sectors Ranked	56
4.7.1	Education	56
4.7.2	Health	57
4.7.3	Employment	58
4.7.4	Agriculture	58
4.7.5	Energy	59
4.7.6	Economy	60
4.7.7	Corruption	60
4.7.8	Women and Children	61
4.7.9	Roads and Infrastructure	62
4.7.10	National Security	62
4.7.11	Youth Development	63
4.7.12	Social Services	63
4.7.13	Taxes and Tariffs	64
4.7.14	Housing	64
4.7.15	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	65
4.7.16	Sports	65
CHAPTER FIVE		
ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IN GHANA		66
5.0	Introduction	66
5.1	Respondents View on Whether the Electoral Commission Will Conduct Free, Fair and Credible Elections	67
5.2	Reasons Why Respondents Believe Electoral Commission Will Conduct Free, Fair and Credible Elections	68

5.3	Reasons Why Respondents Do Not Believe EC Will Conduct Free, Fair and Credible Elections	69
5.4	Reasons Why Respondents Don't Know Whether to Believe the Electoral Commission Will Conduct Free, Fair and Credible Elections	69
5.5	Changes With Regards to the Electoral System of Ghana	70
5.7	Respondents' Definition of a Rejected Ballot	72
5.8	How to Reduce the Incidence of Rejected Ballots.	72
CHAPTER SIX		
GROWTH AND MAINTENANCE OF DEMOCRACY IN GHANA		73
6.0	Introduction	73
6.1	Prevention of Election Violence	73
6.2	Measures to curb Election Violence in forthcoming 2016 General Elections	74
6.3	Safeguarding Ghana's Democracy	75
6.4	Growth of Ghana's Democracy	76
6.4.1	Respect for Human Dignity	76
6.4.2	Freedom of Speech	77
6.4.3	Citizens Being Alive to Their Civic Responsibility	78
6.4.4	Rule of Law	79
6.4.5	Improvement of Living Conditions	80
CHAPTER SEVEN		
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION		81
7.0	Introduction	81
7.1	Summary	81
7.3	Conclusion	86
REFERENCES		88
METHODOLOGY		89
APPENDIX		90
QUESTIONNAIRE		90
Previous Research Conducted by The NCCE		98

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1:	Regional Sample Distribution	2
Table 2.1:	Regional Distribution of Sex of Respondents	4
Table 2.2:	Regional Distribution of Age of Respondents	6
Table 2.3:	Educational and Sex backgrounds of Respondents	7
Table 3.1:	Number of Times Respondents Have Voted	10
Table 3.2:	Reasons Why Respondents Did Not Vote in the Last Presidential and Parliamentary Elections	11
Table 3.3:	Reasons Given by Respondents Who Will Vote in the Presidential Election	12
Table 3.4:	Reasons Given by Respondents Who Will Not Vote in the Presidential Election	13
Table 3.5:	Reasons given by Respondents who are undecided as to whether they would vote in the Presidential elections	13
Table 3.6:	What would make Respondents in the ‘No’ category vote in the forthcoming Presidential election	14
Table 3.7:	What would make Respondents in the ‘Undecided’ category vote in the forthcoming Presidential election?	15
Table 3.8:	Reasons for Willingness to Vote	16
Table 3.9:	Reasons for Unwillingness to Vote	16
Table 3.10:	Responses of what will make Respondents Vote in the Parliamentary elections	17
Table 3.11:	Reasons for Willingness to Vote for a Woman as MP	19
Table 3.12:	Reasons for Unwillingness to Vote for a Woman as MP	20
Table 3.13:	Reasons for Willingness to Vote for a Woman as President	21
Table 3.14:	Reasons for Unwillingness to Vote for a Woman as President	21
Table 4.1:	Regional Distribution of Issues Ranked by Respondents	25
Table 4.2:	Educational Concerns Raised By Respondents for Redress by Government	46
Table 4.3:	Health Concerns of Voters Which They Want Government to Address	47
Table 4.4:	Specific Issues Respondents Want Government to Address under Agriculture	49
Table 4.5:	Issues Raised Under the Women and Children Category	51
Table 4.6:	Specific Areas of Education Raised by Respondents	56
Table 4.7:	Agricultural Issues Respondents Want Parliamentarians to Address	59
Table 4.8:	Economic Issues Respondents Want Parliament to Address	60

Table 4.9:	How Parliamentarians Can Solve Issues Related To Women and Children	61
Table 4.10:	Responses on How Parliamentarians Can Help Deal With National Security Issues	62
Table 4.11:	Proposed Measures on How MPs Can Address Issues in Relation to Youth Development	63
Table 4.12:	Specific Issues Respondents Want Parliamentarians to Tackle Under Taxes and Tariffs	64
Table 5.1:	Reasons why Respondents believe Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections	68
Table 5.2:	Reasons why Respondents do not believe Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections	69
Table 5.3:	Reasons why Respondents don't know whether to believe Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections	69
Table 5.3.1:	Changes Respondents recommend for Ghana's Electoral System	70
Table 6.1:	Ways to Prevent Election Violence at the Constituencies	74
Table 6.2:	How to safeguard Ghana's democracy	75

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1:	Sex Characteristics of Respondents	4
Figure 2.2:	Disability Status of Respondents	5
Figure 2.3:	Age Distribution of Respondents	5
Figure 2.4:	Educational Background of Respondents	7
Figure 2.5:	Occupational Backgrounds of Respondents	8
Figure. 2.6:	Marital Status of Respondents	9
Figure. 2.7:	Religious Affiliation of Respondents	9
Figure 3.1:	Willingness to Vote in the Forthcoming Presidential Election	12
Figure 3.2:	Willingness to vote in the forthcoming Parliamentary election	15
Figure 3.3:	Most important reasons why Respondents voted for the particular candidate	17
Figure 3.4:	Whether Respondents would vote for the same party they voted for in 2012	18
Figure 3.6:	Willingness of respondents to vote a woman as MP in their constituency	19
Figure 3.7:	Willingness to vote a woman as a president	20
Figure 4.1:	Respondents' Ranking of Issues (National Ranking)	23
Figure 4.2:	Ashanti Region- Issues Ranked by Respondents	27
Figure 4.3:	Brong Ahafo- Ranking of Issues by Respondents	28
Figure 4.4:	Central Region; Ranking of Issues by Respondents	29
Figure 4.5:	Eastern Region – Ranking of Issues by Respondents	30
Figure 4.6:	Greater Accra – Ranking of Issues by Respondents	31
Figure 4.7:	Northern Region – Ranking of Issues by Respondents	32
Figure 4.8:	Upper East- Ranking of Issues by Respondents	33
Figure 4.9:	Upper West Region; Ranking of Issues by Respondents	34
Figure 4.10:	Volta Region- Ranking of Issues by Respondents	35
Figure 4.11:	Western Region- Ranking of Issues by Respondents	36
Figure 4.11.1:	Issues Ranked by Sex of Respondents	38
Figure 4.12:	Issues Ranked by Age of Respondents	40
Figure 4.13:	Respondents Ranking of Issues by Occupational Background	42
Figure 4.14:	Respondents Ranking of Issues by Educational Background	44
Figure 4.14.1	Ranking of Issues by PWDs	45
Figure 4.15:	Specific Issues on Employment Raised by Respondents	48
Figure 4.16:	Specific Issues on Energy Respondents Want Government to Solve	49
Figure 4.17:	Specific Economic Issues Respondents Want Government to Address	50
Figure 4.18:	Respondents View on How Government Can Tackle Corruption	51
Figure 4.19:	Issues on Roads and Infrastructure Raised by Voters	52
Figure 4.20:	Specific national security issues which Respondents want Government to address	53
Figure 4.21:	Specific Issues Raised Under Youth Development	53

Figure 4.22:	Critical Areas of Social Services Raised by Respondents	54
Figure 4.23:	Specific Concerns Raised Under Taxes and Tariffs	54
Figure 4.24:	Housing Concerns Raised by Respondents	55
Figure 4.25:	Specific ICT issues of which Respondents want Government to address	55
Figure 4.26:	Specific Issues Raised Under Sports	56
Figure 4.27:	Health Related Concerns of Respondents	57
Figure 4.28:	Issues on Employment Respondents Want Their MPs to Address	58
Figure 4.29:	Energy Concerns that Respondents Want Parliamentarians to Address	59
Figure 4.30:	Suggestions by Respondents on How Parliamentarians Can Help Deal With Corruption	61
Figure 4.31:	Issues on Roads and Infrastructure	62
Figure 4.32:	Proposed Measures on How MPs Can Help Solve Social Services Concerns of Respondents	63
Figure 4.33:	Specific Concerns of Respondents in the Housing Sector	64
Figure 4.34:	Issues under the ICT Sector	65
Figure 4.35:	How Parliamentarians Can Help Solve Issues under Sports	65
Figure 5.1:	Respondents view on whether the Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections	67
Figure 5.2:	Regional classification on whether respondents believe the Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections	67
Figure 5.2.1:	Respondents views on changes with regards to electoral system of Ghana	70
Figure 5.3:	Knowledge on spoilt and rejected ballots	71
Figure. 6.1:	Ways to prevent election violence in the country	73
Figure. 6.2:	Regional Demand for Intensive Public Education against Election Violence	75
Figure. 6.3:	Respect for Human Dignity	76
Figure. 6.4:	Respect for Human Dignity by Sex	76
Figure. 6.5:	Level of Satisfaction regarding Freedom of Speech	77
Figure. 6.6:	Freedom of Speech by Sex	77
Figure. 6.7:	Level of Satisfaction of Citizens Being Alive to their Civic Responsibility	78
Figure. 6.8:	Level of Satisfaction of Citizens Being Alive to their Civic Responsibility	78
Figure. 6.9:	Level of Satisfaction regarding the Rule of Law	79
Figure. 6.10:	Level of Satisfaction regarding the Rule of Law	79
Figure. 6.11:	Level of Satisfaction in the Improvement of Living Conditions	80
Figure. 6.12:	Level of Satisfaction in the Improvement of Living Conditions	80

DEFINITION OF KEY WORDS

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY:

The legally mandated responsibilities that all citizens are required to fulfill. It comprises of actions and attitudes associated with democratic governance and social participation. In Ghana, the civic responsibility of citizens include protecting, promoting and defending the good name of Ghana, voting in elections, protecting state properties, participating in communal activities among others.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH:

The right to speak without censorship or restraint by any authority.

HUMAN DIGNITY:

An individual or group's sense of self-respect and self-worth, physical and psychological integrity and empowerment.

IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING CONDITIONS:

An assessment of the perception of respondents on improvement in the household income, consumption expenditure and or cost of living and non food items including housing over the period of the fourth republican era.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDS):

Any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits his or her participation in one or more major life activities.

RULE OF LAW:

The principle that all people and institutions are subject and accountable to the existing law that is fairly applied and enforced by all.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOADS (SDGS):

The transformative plan of action of the United Nations adopted by member countries based on 17 goals and 169 targets aimed at addressing urgent global challenges over the next 15 years.

UNEMPLOYED:

Persons who are without work and actively seeking for work.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Election 2016: Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter was undertaken by the Research Department of the NCCE in July, 2016. A total of 7,497 respondents were interviewed during the nationwide survey which covered all the 275 constituencies of the country.

THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY ARE PRESENTED BELOW:

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

The study interviewed 7,435 respondents out of whom 3,991 (53.7%) were males whilst 3, 444 (46.3%) were females.

Also sampled in the survey were 268 (3.6%) respondents who were Persons With Disabilities (PWDs). This percentage was slightly higher than the National percentage for PWDs, which according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census stands at 3.0 per cent.

WILLINGNESS TO VOTE

A total of 6,668 (89.7%) respondents indicated that they will vote in the forthcoming Presidential election. The top three most important reasons why respondents will vote were the good policies and programmes of the party (33.5%), to exercise their civic responsibilities (21.5%), and the party or candidate can be trusted (17.2%). The results as expressed was similar to responses given in the 2012 survey undertaken by the Commission.

Prominent among the reasons for the unwillingness on the part of some respondents to vote were: failure by governments over the years to live up to expectations (41.8 %), having no interest in voting/a feeling that their votes do not count (19.2 %) and low standard of living/little or lack of development projects (13.5 %).

In relation to Parliamentary elections, as many as 6,534 (87.9%) respondents indicated their willingness to vote whilst 448 (6.0%) of respondents said they will not vote. Among reasons given by those who said they will not vote, 2,259 (47.1%) of them said their members of Parliament (MPs)/candidates had disappointed them in their expectations, and 1,757 (26.9%) said they saw no developmental activity taking place in their constituency.

If the responses on willingness to vote during both the Presidential and Parliamentary elections is anything to go by, it presupposes a high voter turnout during the forthcoming elections. Addressing certain concerns raised by the respondents may mean an even higher number of voters will cast their ballot on voting day, December 7, 2016. The survey projected estimated 89.7% voter turnout. The turnout in the previous Presidential elections were as follows: 1992 (50.16 %), 1996 (78.21 %), 2000 (61.74 %), 2004 (85.12%), 2008 (72.91%) and 2012 (80.15 %).

WILLINGNESS TO VOTE FOR A WOMAN

The study established that a sizable number of Ghanaians are ready to vote for a woman as President of the nation. Out of 7,435 respondents, 4,344 (58.6 %) said they would vote a woman as a President of the nation as in contrast to the 3,091(41.4 %) who said they would not vote for a woman as President. Comparing this with the 2012 research, one observed that the number of people who would vote for a woman as a President has increased from 50 per cent to 58.4 per cent while the number of those who would not vote a woman as President has reduced from 48.9 per cent to 41.6 per cent.

Significantly, 5,024 respondents representing 67.6 per cent indicated that they are willing to vote for a woman as member of Parliament (MP) while 2,411 (32.4 %) said they were not willing to vote for a woman as MP. In the 2012 survey, 5,233 (69.8%) of respondents said they were willing to vote for a woman as MP for their Constituency. This result constitutes a drop in the percentage of the number of Ghanaians ready to be represented by a woman in Parliament. It is evident that more education needs to be undertaken for the removal of barriers against participation of women in the representation procedure in parliament

IMPORTANT ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE VOTER

The study categorized the issues of concern to respondents under sixteen thematic areas. Of the sixteen areas, Education (19.8%) ranked first followed by Health (16.4%) and then Employment (15.7%). At the bottom of the ranking order were Housing (1.5%), Information and Communication Technology (0.3%) and Sports (0.3%).

VITAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY GOVERNMENT

Under Education, issues brought up for redress by government included ensuring that basic education is really free, compulsory and of high quality. There were also calls on government to reduce the cost of accessing education, provide enough educational facilities and employment of qualified teachers, restore allowances for teacher trainees and provide better conditions of service for teachers among others.

On health, issues pertaining to the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) featured prominently with nearly half of the total responses (45.5%) calling for addressing various problems under the scheme. Others called on government to provide enough healthcare facilities whilst some requested that government should ensure that there are health professionals in all healthcare facilities.

In relation to Employment, the most pressing issue which respondents desire government to address is the creation of more employment opportunities for graduates/youth (76.4%).

VITAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY PARLIAMENTARIANS

On Education, respondents wanted their Parliamentarians to facilitate and provide scholarships for students in their constituencies (21.7%), ensure that schools within their constituencies have the requisite educational materials (14.8%) and ensure that government provides enough educational facilities (13.9%) among other issues.

On issues of Health, respondents called on MPs to critically address problems affecting the NHIS (34.6%), facilitate the provision of enough healthcare facilities (27.2%) and provide the necessary equipment at various healthcare facilities (11.6%).

On employment, respondents want Parliamentarians to lobby or facilitate the establishment of industries to create more jobs in their constituencies (27.1%), champion issues that border on reducing unemployment in the country (24.1%) as well as assist in the provision of skills training and financial support for the youth (20.3%).

THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

About two-thirds (66.5%) of the 7,435 respondents interviewed, trust and have confidence that the Electoral Commission (EC) will conduct free, fair and credible elections. For the 4,946 respondents who said they believe the EC will conduct free, fair and credible elections, reasons given were that: EC can be trusted, they had a good reputation, good track record and competent staff (64.0%); EC is the constitutionally/ independent mandated body to conduct elections and declare election results (18.0%); they trust the electoral process in place in the country (7.0%); they do so for the sake of peace (4.0%); the EC chair is a woman with innate characteristics such as compassion, care and sympathy (3.0%); and EC is non-partisan(3.0%).

The survey results also indicated 38.3 per cent of respondents wanted to see some changes with regards to the electoral system of Ghana. Some of the changes recommended were: a new voter's register/address issues relating to the voter register (22.5%); EC should be transparent, free and fair in the conduct of elections (18.9%); and Improve upon/ Advance the biometric voting technology/ E-voting and counting/ Simplify EC form (17.5%).

With regards to whether respondents knew what a spoiled and rejected ballot was, the results showed that 58.1% of respondents understood correctly what a spoiled ballot was, whilst 64.1 per cent understood correctly what a rejected ballot was. For respondents who knew what a rejected ballot was their understanding of a rejected ballot connotes: Intentional or unintentional thumb-printing more than one box (48.6%); Mistakenly leaving an indelible ink mark in two or more boxes (19.9%); When a ballot paper does not carry the stamp or a required identification symbol of the EC (15.1%); and Mistakenly smudging the ballot paper with indelible ink while folding it or putting it into the ballot box (14.3%). Respondents, who knew what a rejected ballot was, gave several views on how to prevent a ballot from being rejected. These included intensive public education on how to cast and fold a ballot correctly which was mentioned by 4,765 (69.5 %) of the respondents, with a significant 11.5 percent calling for thumb printing in only one box.

GROWTH AND MAINTENANCE OF DEMOCRACY IN GHANA

Respondents acknowledged that one of the main threats to democratic stability in the country was election violence and were convinced that the incidence of this could be minimized through civic education. They were of the view that citizens need to defend the 1992 Constitution from all forms of abuse and violation so as to safeguard the country's democracy (35.9%). On how the country was growing its democracy, respondents said Ghana is doing well in terms of respect for human dignity (57.8%) and freedom of speech (73.6%). They were however not satisfied with the level of commitment to civic responsibilities (53.5%), rule of law (52.8%) and improvement in living conditions in the country (67.1%).

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

In June 2004, the Research Department of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE or the Commission) undertook an opinion poll on issues of concern to the voter. The objectives of the poll among others, were to provide political parties with a list of issues of concern to the Ghanaian voter, outline expectations from civil societies and individuals during the elections, and for the NCCE to formulate its educational campaign on the December 2004 elections on significant issues of concern to the Ghanaian.

The opinion poll of the Commission was used extensively by the politicians and political commentators. Given the good reception of the report by the public at large, the NCCE in 2008 undertook a similar research. Since then, the research by the NCCE to collate views of Ghanaians on each general election has been highly anticipated.

The current research, *Election 2016: Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter* follows previous ones. Funding for this research was obtained from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union (EU).

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of this survey is to collate information on issues of concern to the Ghanaian voter in the upcoming December 7, 2016 general election.

Specifically, the study seeks to:

- Provide political parties with issues that voters would like them to address.
- Analyze issues of concern based on gender and age to identify whether there are any differences among voters.
- Provide presidential/parliamentary candidates with critical areas that Ghanaians and their constituents want them to address concerning the issues raised.
- Provide the Commission with adequate information that will help it undertake an effective civic/voter education towards the December 7, 2016 general election.

1.3 Questionnaire Administration

In all, a total of 7,435 questionnaires were retrieved from the field instead of the anticipated total questionnaires of 7,470 earmarked for the study. The shortage occurred as a result of the failure of some research assistants to submit all the questionnaires allocated to them. This shortage affected all regions with the exception of the Upper West region. The shortfall in questionnaires was 35 in number.

Table 1.1: Regional Sample Distribution

Region	Total Questionnaire Distributed	Total Questionnaires Received	Per Cent (%)
ASHANTI	1,410	1,409	99.9
BRONG AHAFO	725	723	99.7
CENTRAL	575	570	99.1
EASTERN	990	987	99.7
GREATER ACCRA	1,020	1,010	99
NORTHERN	930	929	99.9
UPPER EAST	300	294	98
UPPER WEST	220	220	100
VOLTA	650	648	99.7
WESTERN	650	645	99.2
Total	7,470	7,435	99.5

1.4 Data Analysis and presentation

The data was analyzed by the NCCE Research Department. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for the analysis. The statistical results are presented in the form of percentages, tables, histograms, pie charts, and bar charts.

1.5 Summary of Chapters

The survey report is presented in eight chapters. Chapter One deals with the Objectives of the Study, the Methodology used with focus on such issues as Sample Design, Sample Selection, Survey Instrument, and Questionnaire Administration.

Chapter Two focuses on the socio-economic background of respondents seeking to understand how these influenced their various responses to issues.

Chapter Three focuses on voting history of respondents with a view to ascertaining the level of civic activities they have been engaged in. The chapter also looks at the willingness of respondents to vote in the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

Chapter Four of the report focuses on the issues of concern to the voters. The chapter presents 16 thematic issues from which respondents were expected to rank the three

most important to them. Thereafter respondents indicated their expectation from government and parliamentarians in addressing those issues.

Chapter Five of the report focuses on the electoral system and election administrators. It seeks from the respondents their opinions whether the Electoral Commission (EC) would conduct free, fair and credible elections. It also looks at respondents' knowledge and understanding of what 'rejected' and 'spoilt ballot' are. Finally it solicits views of respondents on whether they would like to see changes with regards to the electoral system currently in place in Ghana.

Chapter Six of the report focuses on growth, sustenance and maintenance of democracy in Ghana. It looks at ways to prevent election violence, safeguarding Ghana's democracy and how Ghana is growing its democracy in aspects such as Human Dignity, Freedom of Speech, Citizens alive to their civic responsibilities, improvement in living conditions and the rule of law.

Chapter Seven or the Conclusion of the report gives a general summary and conclusion to the report highlighting issues that researchers wish the public to take note of.

CHAPTER TWO SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND OF RESPONDENTS

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents interviewed with respect to sex, age, educational background, occupation, marital status, religious affiliation and disability status.

2.1 Sex of Respondents

Figure 2.1: Sex Characteristics of Respondents

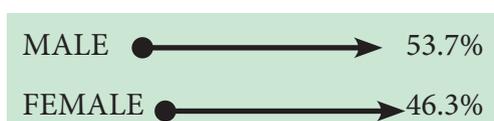


Figure 2.1 presents the sex distribution of respondents. The data shows that out of 7,435 respondents interviewed, 3,991 respondents (53.7%) were male whilst 3,444 respondents (46.3%) were females.

Table 2.1: Regional Distribution of Sex of Respondents

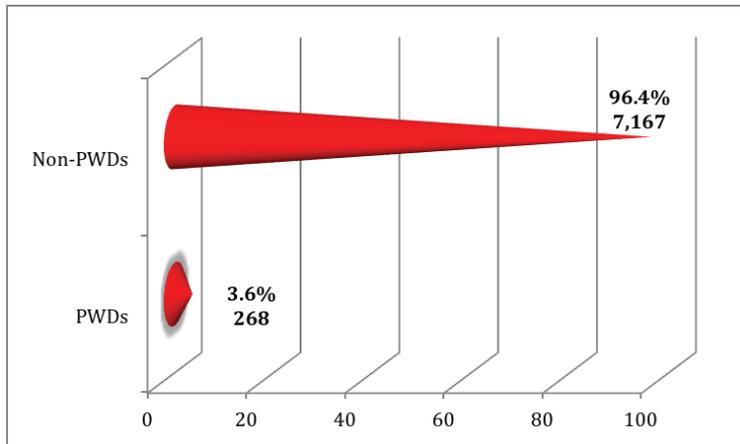
Regional Distribution of Sex	Male	Female	Total
ASHANTI	767	642	1,409
	54.4%	45.6%	100%
BRONG AHAFO	370	353	723
	51.2%	48.8%	100%
CENTRAL	309	261	570
	54.2%	45.8%	100%
EASTERN	491	496	987
	49.7%	50.3%	100%
GREATER ACCRA	546	464	1,010
	54.1%	45.9%	100%
NORTHERN	534	395	929
	57.5%	42.5%	100%
UPPER EAST	170	124	294
	57.8%	42.2%	100%
UPPER WEST	127	93	220
	57.7%	42.3%	100%
VOLTA	346	303	648
	53.4%	46.6%	100%
WESTERN	331	314	645
	51.3%	48.7%	100%

A look at table 2.1 shows the regional distribution of respondents according to gender.

2.2 Disability Status of Respondents

The survey captured the views of persons with disability to enhance inclusiveness and the participation in the decision making process towards national development. Figure 2.2 depicts the disability status of respondents.

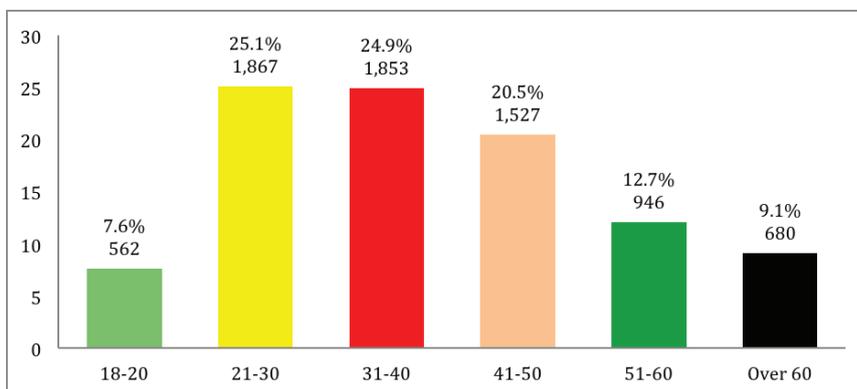
Figure 2.2: Disability Status of Respondents



2.3 Age of Respondents

Article 42 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana stipulates that ‘Every citizen of Ghana of eighteen years of age or above and of sound mind has the right to vote and is entitled to be registered as a voter for the purposes of public elections and referenda’. Consequently, the study requested the respondents to indicate their ages since the study was restricted to persons of 18 years and above. Figure 2.3 below displays the age distribution of respondents.

Figure 2.3: Age Distribution of Respondents



The age distribution of respondents revealed that the age group 21 – 30 recorded the

highest number of respondents, 1,867 (25.1%). This was followed by the age group 31 – 40, 1,853 respondents (24.9%), and age group 41 – 50, 1,527 respondents (20.5%). Age group 51 – 60 also recorded 946 respondents (12.7%) followed by age group 60 years and above, 680 respondents (9.1%) whilst age group 18 – 20 received 562 respondents (7.6%).

Table 2.2: Regional Distribution of Age of Respondents

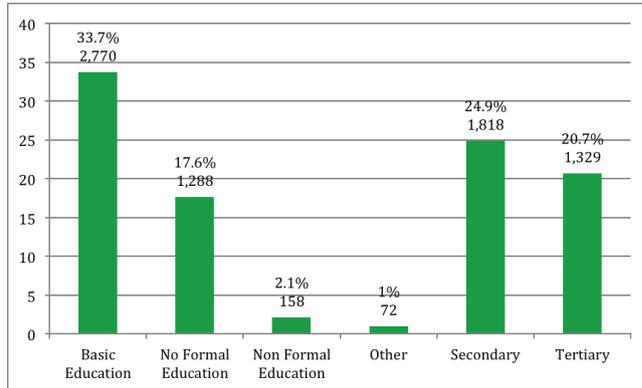
Region	18 - 20	21 - 30	31 - 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	Over 60	Total
Ashanti	134	375	344	259	184	113	1409
	9.5%	26.6%	24.4%	18.4%	13.1%	8.0%	100%
Brong Ahafo	53	183	190	144	85	68	723
	7.5%	25.3%	26.3%	19.9%	11.8%	9.4%	100%
Central	49	144	134	107	77	59	570
	8.6%	25.3%	23.5%	18.8%	13.5%	10.4%	100%
Eastern	68	237	240	202	128	112	987
	6.9%	24.0%	24.3%	20.5%	16.5%	13.0%	11.3%
Greater Accra	70	274	235	220	112	99	1010
	6.9%	27.1%	23.3%	21.8%	11.1%	9.8%	100%
Northern	63	238	268	205	98	57	929
	6.8%	25.6%	28.8%	22.1%	10.5%	6.1%	100%
Upper East	31	65	67	71	38	22	294
	10.5%	22.1%	22.8%	24.1%	12.9%	7.5%	100%
Upper West	13	49	63	50	23	22	220
	5.9%	22.3%	28.6%	22.7%	10.5%	8.4%	100%
Volta	38	134	150	151	98	77	648
	5.9%	20.7%	23.1%	23.3%	15.1%	11.9%	100%
Western	43	168	162	151	98	77	648
	6.7%	26.0%	25.1%	18.3%	16.0%	7.9%	100%

The table 2.2 on the regional distribution of the age of the respondents follows the pattern of the national result. The regional distribution also presents the age groups, 21 – 30, 31 – 40, and 41 – 50 as the groups recording highest percentages of respondents. In all the regions just as in the national result, age group 18 – 20 recorded the least number and for that matter the least percentage of respondents. This was to be expected since the age span was only three years against ten years for most of the others.

2.4: Educational Background of Respondents

Education and literacy 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 backgrounds of respondents in relation to their highest attainment as shown in figure 2.4.

Figure 2.4: Educational Background of Respondents



The figure 2.4 reveals that the respondents with the basic level of education recorded the highest number of respondents, 2,770 (33.3%), followed by respondents with secondary level of education drawing 1,818 respondents (24.9%). The respondents with tertiary level of education followed with 1,329 respondents, (20.7%), No

Formal Education also followed with 1,288 respondents (17.6%). Respondents with the Non-Formal level of education accounted for 158 (2.1%) whilst the 'Other' recorded the least number of respondents 72 (1.0%). Figure 2.4 shows that the respondents with formal educational backgrounds are far more than those without it. Altogether, respondents with formal education numbered 5,917 (79.5%) out of 7,435, the total number of respondents for the study.

Table 2.3: Educational and Sex backgrounds of Respondents

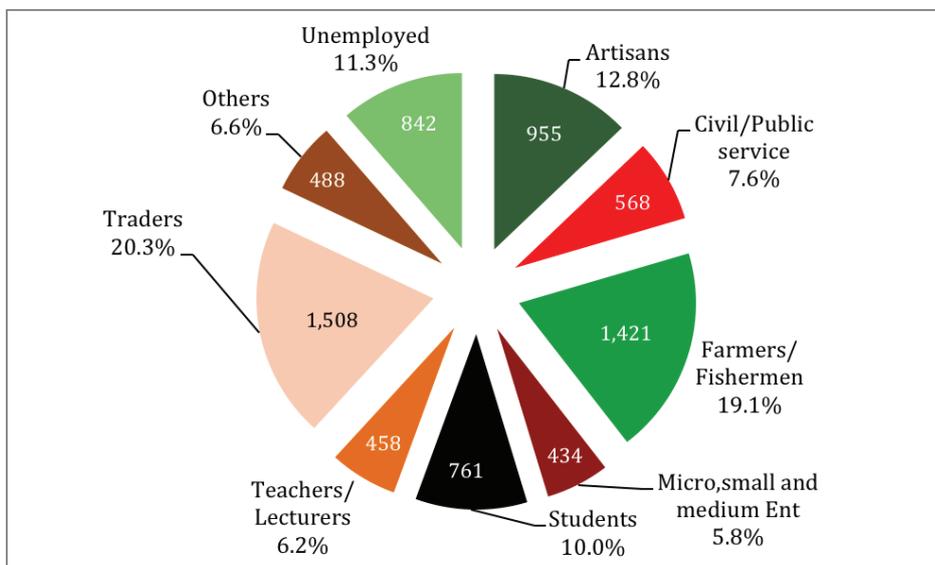
Education by Sex of Respondents	Male	Female	Total
Basic	1,349	1,431	2,770
	48.7%	51.3%	100%
No Formal	535	753	1,288
	41.5%	58.5%	100%
Non-Formal	88	70	158
	55.7%	44.3%	100%
Secondary	1,054	764	1,818
	58.0%	42.0%	100%
Tertiary	918	411	1,329
	69.1%	30.9%	100%
Other	25	47	72
	65.3%	34.7%	100%

At the level of basic education the females outnumbered the males. However, from secondary school level upwards the number and for that matter the percentage of females began to decrease. The drop in the high number of females after basic education is a worrying trend that must be addressed to encourage women to pursue higher education.

The study also sought the occupational backgrounds of respondents. Figure 2.5 displays the detailed occupational backgrounds of the respondents.

2.5 Occupational Backgrounds of Respondents

Figure 2.5: Occupational Backgrounds of Respondents

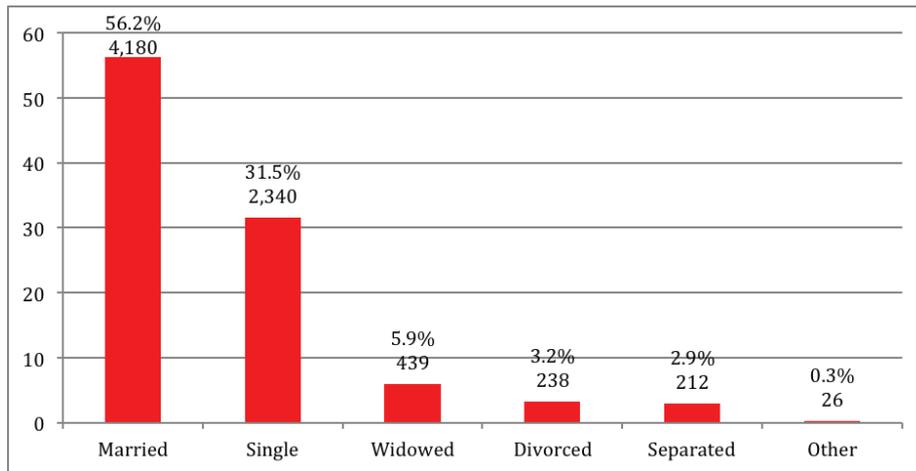


From figure 2.5 it was deduced that 78.5% of the respondents are engaged in one form of occupation or the other whilst 21.5% of the total population sampled and interviewed were not engaged in any form of occupation.

The next socio-demographic characteristic examined was the respondents' marital status. Figure 2.6 depicts the marital status of the respondents.

2.6 Marital Status of Respondents

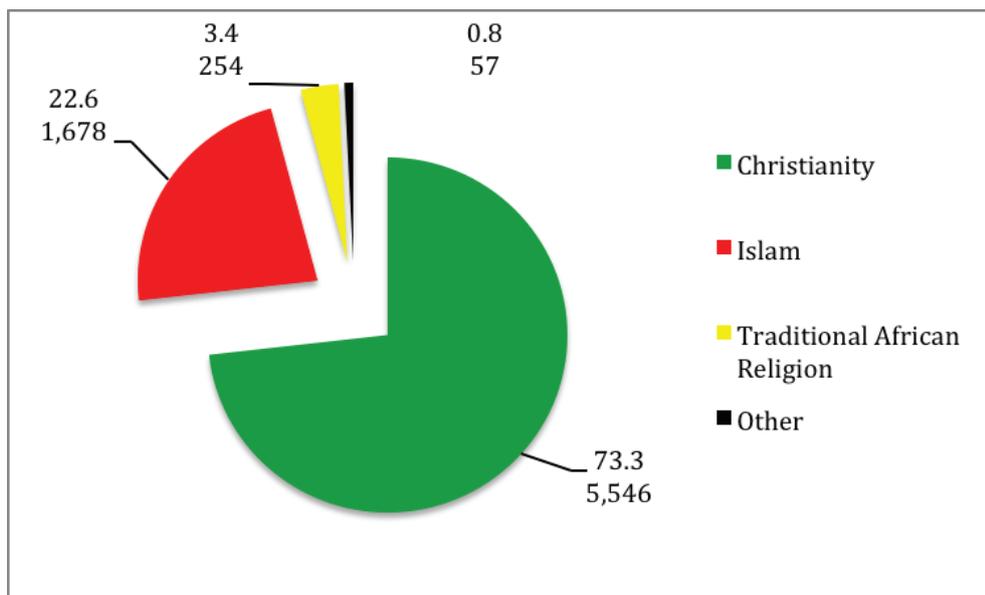
Figure. 2.6: Marital Status of Respondents



2.7 Religious Affiliation of Respondents

Figure 2.7 presents the details of respondents' religious background

Figure. 2.7: Religious Affiliation of Respondents



CHAPTER THREE VOTING HISTORY AND WILLINGNESS TO VOTE

3.0 Introduction

The Fourth Republic of Ghana was established on January 7, 1993 when the Fourth Republican Constitution of Ghana came into force. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana was adopted by Ghanaians at a nationwide referendum held on April 28, 1992. The election for the first President and first Parliament of the Fourth Republic took place separately on November 3, 1992 and December 29, 1992 respectively. Since then, both Presidential and Parliamentary elections have been held at the same time.

With the exception of the 2004 and 2012 Presidential and Parliamentary elections which recorded a voter turn out of 80 per cent and above, the rest of the general elections recorded between 61 per cent and 79 per cent voter turn out.

This chapter assesses respondents readiness to vote in the 2016 Presidential and Parliamentary elections and other related issues.

3.1 Number of Times Respondents Have Voted

Like many other democracies across the globe, elections form a vital part of the democratic process. It is necessary therefore to assess some key components of elections in Ghana and review the history of voting in Ghana and the willingness of Ghanaians to vote. The question respondents were asked was: “How many times have you voted in Presidential elections since 1992”? Refer to table 3.1 for details of the responses.

Table 3.1: Number of Times Respondents Have Voted

Responses	Frequency	Per cent (%)
1	733	9.9
2	1,027	13.8
3	1,167	15.7
4	992	13.3
5	696	9.4
6	1,989	26.8
Nil	831	11.2
Total	7,435	100.0

3.2 Voting in the Last Presidential and Parliamentary Elections

The 2012 Presidential elections in Ghana was keenly contested and this sets the stage for a fiercer contest in the forthcoming elections. The survey ascertained the number of respondents who voted in the 2012 elections. A total of 6,117 respondents representing 82.3 per cent of the total respondents indicated that they voted in the 2012 elections, while 1,318 respondents making up 17.7 per cent of total respondents answered in the negative.

To ascertain why some of the respondents did not vote they were asked to give one reason for not voting. Table 3.2 presents the findings.

Table 3.2: Reasons Why Respondents Did Not Vote in the Last Presidential and Parliamentary Elections

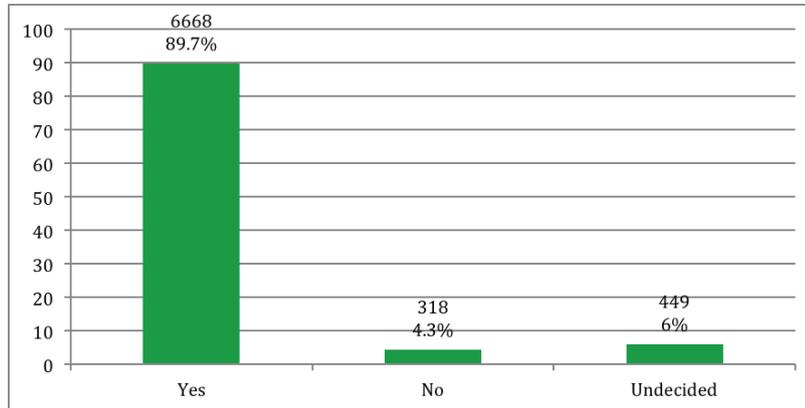
Responses	Frequency	Per cent (%)
Was Not Yet of Voting Age	594	45.1
Did Not Want to Vote	243	18.4
Due to Indisposition	241	18.3
Lost ID Card	72	5.5
Any Other	168	12.7
Total	1,318	100.0

3.3 Willingness to Vote in the Forthcoming Presidential Election

Out of 7,435 total survey figure, a total of 6,668 (89.7%) indicated that they will vote in the forthcoming Presidential election, whilst 318 (4.3%) said they will not vote, and a total of 449 (6.0%) were undecided as to whether to vote or not.

From the above, it can be predicted that there will be a high turnout in the forthcoming 2016 parliamentary and presidential elections.

Figure 3.1: Willingness to Vote in the Forthcoming Presidential Election



3.3.1 Reasons Given by Respondents Who Will Vote in the Presidential Election

Table 3.3 Potrays reasons given by the 6,668 (89.7%) of the respondents who said they will vote in the forthcoming Presidential election.

Table 3.3: Reasons Given by Respondents Who Will Vote in the Presidential Election

Response	Frequency	Per cent (%)
To exercise my civic responsibility	2,233	33.5
To change government in power	1,436	21.5
Good policies and developmental projects	1,144	17.2
Maintain ruling government	648	9.7
I like the candidate/want my party to win	548	8.2
Job creation/better economic conditions/standard of living	353	5.3
Protect our democracy/promote good governance	184	2.8
Better education/free SHS and youth development	61	0.9
Social intervention programs/LEAP/attention to PWDs	16	0.2
Try other parties aside NDC and NPP	11	0.2
Don't know	14	0.2
Any other	2	0.0
No response	18	0.3
Total	6,668	100

3.3.2 Reasons Given by Respondents Who Will Not Vote in the Presidential Election

Of the 318 respondents who said they would not vote, the reasons adduced included low interest in voting, unfulfilled promises and low standard of living amongst others. Table 3.4 below shows the details.

Table 3.4: Reasons Given by Respondents Who Will Not Vote in the Presidential Election

Response	Frequency	Per cent (%)
Failure by governments to live up to expectations over the years	133	41.8
Have no interest in voting/my vote does not count	61	19.2
Low standard of living/Little or lack of developmental projects	43	13.5
Loss of ID card	14	4.4
Against religious beliefs	14	4.4
Travelling and will not be around	12	3.8
Due to old age/ill-health	8	2.5
Problems at polling station	8	2.5
Cannot travel to polling station	6	1.9
Exclusion of PWDs and youth	4	1.3
Don't know	8	2.5
No response	7	2.2
Total	318	100.0

3.3.3 Reasons Given by Respondents Who Are Undecided on Voting in the Presidential Election

The category of respondents who were undecided 449 (6.0%) gave reasons why they were not sure. The highest percentage of 34.5 was that political parties keep disappointing the electorate. The second highest percentage of 24.7 was respondents not having interest in voting.

Table 3.5: Reasons given by Respondents who are undecided as to whether they would vote in the Presidential elections

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)
Political parties keep disappointing electorates	155	34.5
No interest in voting	111	24.7
Economic hardship/high cost of living	34	7.6
Yet to evaluate party's manifestos	31	6.9
Uncertain of being around on the voting day	18	4.0
I have not transferred my vote/may not go to the polling station	14	3.1

Due to old age/ill-health	10	2.2
Problems at the polling station	10	2.2
Lost ID card	9	2.0
Voting is secret and confidential	4	0.9
Don't know	25	5.6
Any other	3	0.7
No response	25	5.6
Total	449	100.0

3.3.4 What Would Make Respondents in the 'No' and 'Undecided' Category Vote in the Forthcoming Presidential Elections?

Respondents in the “No” and “Undecided” category were asked what would make them change their minds in the forthcoming elections. The top two responses given were that: nothing can convince /influence them to vote/only by divine intervention (38.4%), whilst 74 (23.3 %) of the respondents said if they saw improvement in their standard of living. The table 3.6 presents the various reasons given by the respondents who said ‘No’ to the question regarding what would change their mind to vote.

Table 3.6: What would make Respondents in the ‘No’ category vote in the forthcoming Presidential election

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)
Nothing can convince/ influence me to vote/ Only by divine intervention	122	38.4
Improvement in my standard of living	74	23.3
If candidates prove that they are trustworthy/ If i am convinced	29	9.1
Good policies/ Sound campaign message	21	6.6
If i am well/ Present at my polling station	16	5.0
Vote for a change	13	4.1
If i get a new ID card	13	4.1
Financial inducement/ Vote for monetary gains	12	3.8
Vote for the third strong political party	5	1.6
Exercise my franchise/ A feeling of participation	3	0.9
Don't know	8	2.5
No response	2	0.6
Total	318	100.0

The reasons given by the undecided respondents as to what will make them vote in the forthcoming Presidential election, 96 (21.43%) said they would vote if they saw improvement in their standard of living. The next highest, 90 (20.0 %) respondents, said good policies/sound campaign message is what would make them vote, whilst 2 (0.4 %) respondents had no response.

Table 3.7: What would make Respondents in the ‘Undecided’ category vote in the forthcoming Presidential election?

Response	Frequency	Per cent (%)
Improvement in my standard of living	96	21.4
Good policies/ Sound campaign message	90	20.0
If candidates prove that they are trustworthy/ If i am convinced	52	11.6
Nothing can convince/ influence me to vote/ Only by divine intervention	52	11.6
Financial inducement/ Vote for monetary gains	24	5.3
If i am well/ Present at my polling station	21	4.7
If i get a new ID card	12	2.7
Vote for a change	11	2.4
Exercise my franchise/ A feeling of participation	8	1.8
Vote for the third strong political party	3	0.7
Don't know	75	16.7
Any other	3	0.7
No response	2	0.4
Total	449	100.0

3.4 Willingness to Vote in the Forthcoming Parliamentary Election

Below is figure 3.2 which presents findings on willingness of respondents to vote in the forthcoming Parliamentary election.

Figure 3.2: Willingness to vote in the forthcoming Parliamentary election

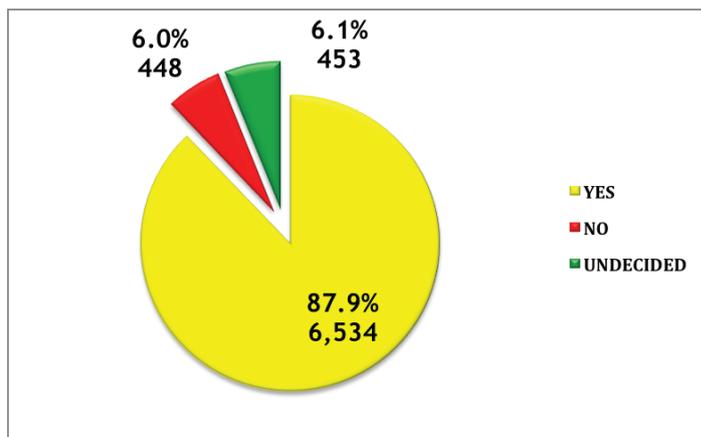


Table 3.8 depicts reasons given by respondents for their willingness to vote in Parliamentary elections in 2016. Continuity of development project by MPs seem to be the topmost priority of respondents to vote with 34.6%

Table 3.8: Reasons for Willingness to Vote

Response	Frequency	Percent
For development to continue/ For the MP to continue with his work	2,259	34.6
As a civic responsibility	1,757	26.9
Vote for a change	865	13.2
Promote good governance/ For representation	653	10.0
Vote for preferred candidates	439	6.7
To help my party win more seats in parliament	266	4.1
Based on candidates policies and agenda	170	2.6
No response	58	0.9
For personal reasons (vote for friends, relatives, from same religious or ethnic group)	44	0.7
Don't know	19	0.3
Any other	4	0.1
Total	6,534	100.0

Table 3.9: Reasons for Unwillingness to Vote

Response	Frequency	Percent
Candidates/ MPs have disappointed us	211	47.1
No developmental activity taking place in my constituency	48	10.7
No response	34	7.6
My candidates lost the primaries/ Dislike for candidates	30	6.7
Do not know the candidates/ Don't know who to vote for	27	6.0
Only vote for presidential candidate	17	3.8
Don't know	17	3.8
Against religious beliefs	14	3.1
May not be able to travel to polling station to vote	13	2.9
Problems at the polling station (cumbersome voting process/ violence at polling station/ time consuming)	12	2.7
Due to old age/ ill-health	9	2.0
Lost ID card	9	2.0
Do not like the policies/ campaign messages of the candidates	5	1.1
Any other	2	0.4
Total	448	100.0

Of the 448 respondents who said they will not vote in the Parliamentary elections, reasons adduced included their candidates/MPs disappointing them and the lack of developmental activity in their constituency.

3.4.1 No or Undecided, What Will Make You Vote in the Forthcoming Parliamentary Election?

In relation to responses to the question on what would cause respondents who were undecided or unwilling to vote to change their minds, 189 (42.2 %) respondents stated they ‘don’t know’ what will make them change their mind. The second highest group of respondents 79 representing 17.6 per cent stated that if MPs have the well-being of the people at heart. ‘Any Other’ reasons recorded the lowest number of 7 respondent representing 1.6 per cent.

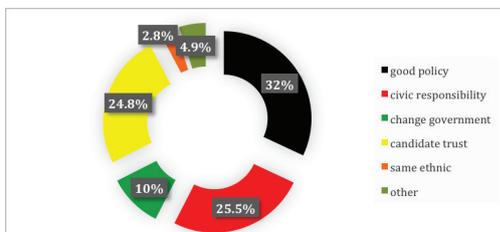
Table 3.10: Responses of what will make Respondents Vote in the Parliamentary elections

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Don't know	189	42.2
Based on candidates manifestos/ A candidate who will have the wellbeing of the people at heart	79	17.6
Development in my constituency	73	16.3
Improvement in living conditions	38	8.5
No response	25	5.6
Present at my polling station	10	2.2
Financial inducement/ Vote for monetary gains	9	2.0
A well informed youthful MP	9	2.0
Replacement of voters ID cards/ Find voters ID card	9	2.0
Any other	7	1.6
Total	448	100

3.5 Three Most Important Reasons Why Respondents Voted for a Particular Candidate

The study sought to find out the reasons that underpinned a voter’s choice of a particular candidate or party in the 2012 Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The figure 3.3 displays the result obtained from respondents.

Figure 3.3: Most important reasons why Respondents voted for the particular candidate

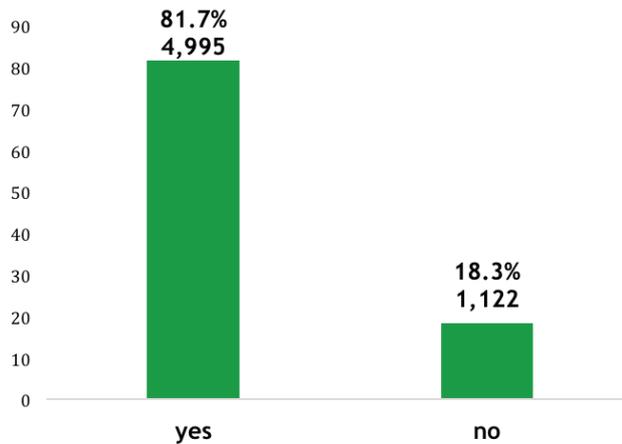


Out of the three most important reasons, good policies and programs came first with 32.0 per cent of respondents. To exercise their civic responsibility came second with 25.5 per cent while the party or candidate can be trusted was third with 24.8 per cent of respondents. These were the most important reasons when it was ranked. This shows that in our previous election in 2012, respondents believed that their candidate had good policies and programs. They also believed that it was their civic responsibility to vote.

3.6 Whether Respondents Would Vote for the Same Party they Voted for in 2012

Respondents were asked if they would vote for the same party they voted for in the 2012 election. The figure 3.4 shows the number of people who said ‘yes’ and those who said ‘no’.

Figure 3.4: Whether Respondents would vote for the same party they voted for in 2012

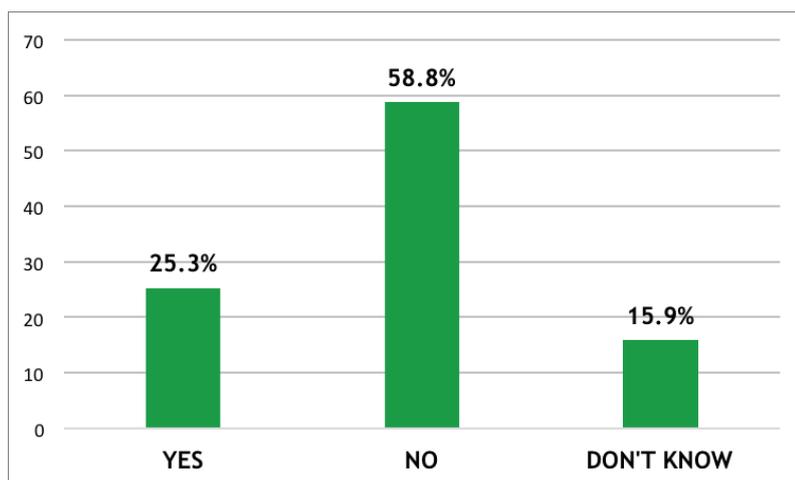


Out of 6,117 respondents who voted in the 2012 elections, in responding to this question, 4,995 representing 81.7 per cent said yes and 1,122 representing 18.3 per cent said they would not vote for the same party.

3.7 Knowledge of Women Contesting as MPs

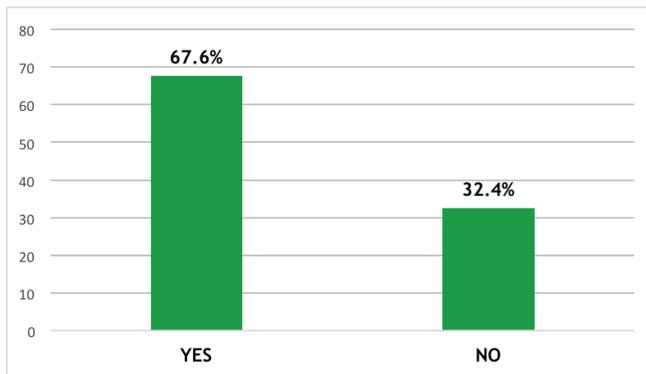
In order to ascertain whether women were standing as MPs, respondents were asked if a woman was contesting as an MP in their constituency. The result is depicted in figure 3.5

Figure 3.5: Knowledge of Women Contesting as MPs



3.8 Willingness of Respondents to Vote a Woman as MP in their Constituency

Figure 3.6: Willingness of respondents to vote a woman as MP in their constituency



The figure 3.6 shows that, 5,024 (67.6%) respondents said they were going to vote for a woman MP. whiles 2,411 (32.4%) respondents were not willing to vote for a woman as MP. Those who said “yes” gave reasons such as: women can do better or bring development to the constituency constituted 1,670 representing

22.5 per cent, women have innate characteristics of compassion, care, sympathy and are good managers/leaders, which recorded 788 respondents, representing 10.6 per cent and the third highest group stating that they wanted to promote the interest of women/ women empowerment/ increase women representation in Parliament which recorded 734 respondents representing 9.9 per cent.

Those who said no gave reasons such as: women in high positions tend to be arrogant, disrespectful and proud/ dislike woman leaders recording 395 representing 5.3 per cent. This was followed by women cannot cope with the pressures associated with holding public office/ women cannot take bold decisions with 365 (4.9 %) respondents and the third reason being against cultural and religious beliefs recording 355 respondents representing 4.8 per cent. The tables 3.11 and 3.12 presents the findings of this survey

Table 3.11: Reasons for Willingness to Vote for a Woman as MP

Response	Frequency	Percent
Women can do better/ bring development to the constituency	1,670	33.2
Innate characteristics of women (compassion, care, sympathy, good managers) are good for leadership	788	15.7
Promote interest of women/ Women empowerment/ Increase women representation in parliament	734	14.6
If she is competent/ has proven track record	663	13.2
For change/ Test the capability of women/ The men have failed Ghanaians	513	10.2
Depending on her manifestos. policies and ideology	357	7.1
If she belongs to my party	243	4.8
Don't know	33	0.7
No response	19	0.4
Any other	4	0.1
Total	5,024	100.0

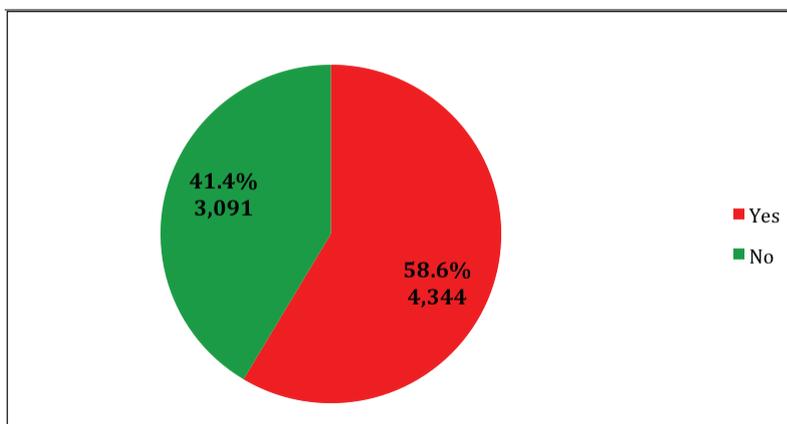
Table 3.12: Reasons for Unwillingness to Vote for a Woman as MP

Response	Frequency	Percent
Women in high positions tend to be arrogant, disrespectful and proud/ dislike women leaders	395	16.4
A woman cannot cope with the pressure associated with holding public office/ A woman cannot take bold decisions	365	15.1
Against cultural and religious beliefs	355	14.7
Men can do better job	338	14.0
No woman running for MP in my constituency	253	10.5
Not competent	249	10.3
Don't know	180	7.5
She is not from my party/ She will not win	119	4.9
Not their time yet	56	2.3
Impressed with the current male MPs' performance	52	2.2
Any other	29	1.2
No response	20	0.8
Total	2411	100.0

3.9 Willingness to Vote a Woman as President

Respondents were asked if they would vote a woman as President. Figure 3.7 presents the findings to these questions.

Figure 3.7: Willingness to vote a woman as a president



Comparing this with the 2012 research, The study observed that the number of people who would vote for a woman as a President has increased from 50 per cent to 58.6 per cent while those who are averse to voting a woman as a President has reduced from 48.9 per cent to 41.4 per cent. The figure 3.7 shows the result. Respondents were further asked for their various reasons for voting a woman as President of the nation or otherwise. The table 3.13 presents the findings of this survey

Table 3.13: Reasons for Willingness to Vote for a Woman as President

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender equality/ Equal opportunities (What a man can do, a woman can do better)	922	21.2
For change/ The men have failed Ghanaians	646	14.9
Innate characteristics of women (compassion, care, sympathy) are good for leadership	637	14.7
If she is competent/ has proven track record	620	14.3
Portrays good leadership traits (trustworthy, dependable, reliable and credible)	560	12.9
Depending on her manifestos, policies and ideology	515	11.9
To address concerns of women/ From same gender background	229	5.3
If she represents my party	173	4.0
Don't know	18	0.4
Experience from household management	17	0.4
Any other	5	0.1
No response	2	0.0
Total	4,344	100.0

For those who were averse to voting for a woman to lead the nation, the reasons are depicted in table 3.14.

Table 3.14: Reasons for Unwillingness to Vote for a Woman as President

Reason	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Men can do better job/ A woman cannot take bold decisions	708	22.9
Against cultural and religious beliefs / A woman cannot be president/ A man is the head	682	22.1
Women in high positions tend to be arrogant, disrespectful and proud/ dislike women leaders	417	13.5
Not ready for a woman president	297	9.6
A woman cannot cope with the pressure associated with presidency	231	7.5
Not competent	225	7.3
Don't know	134	4.3
A woman can be easily influenced or controlled	127	4.1
She is not from my party / She will not win	114	3.7
Women are slow	112	3.6
Any other	28	0.9
She might shield women/ She would like to lord over the men	13	0.4
No response	3	0.1
Total	3091	100.0

CHAPTER FOUR ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE VOTER

4.0 Introduction

One major role of Government is to improve the livelihood of citizens as well as address issues of concern to the electorate. The purpose of this study was to give Ghanaians the opportunity to articulate issues of concern they think should be addressed by candidates seeking their mandate.

For the purpose of this study, 16 key issues were selected for the exercise and respondents were asked to select and rank them according to their importance. These key issues were:

- **Agriculture**
- **Economy**
- **Employment**
- **Health**
- **Road and Infrastructure**
- **Sports**
- **Youth Development**
- **Housing**
- **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**
- **Corruption**
- **Education**
- **Energy**
- **National Security**
- **Social Service**
- **Women and Children**
- **Taxes/Tariffs**

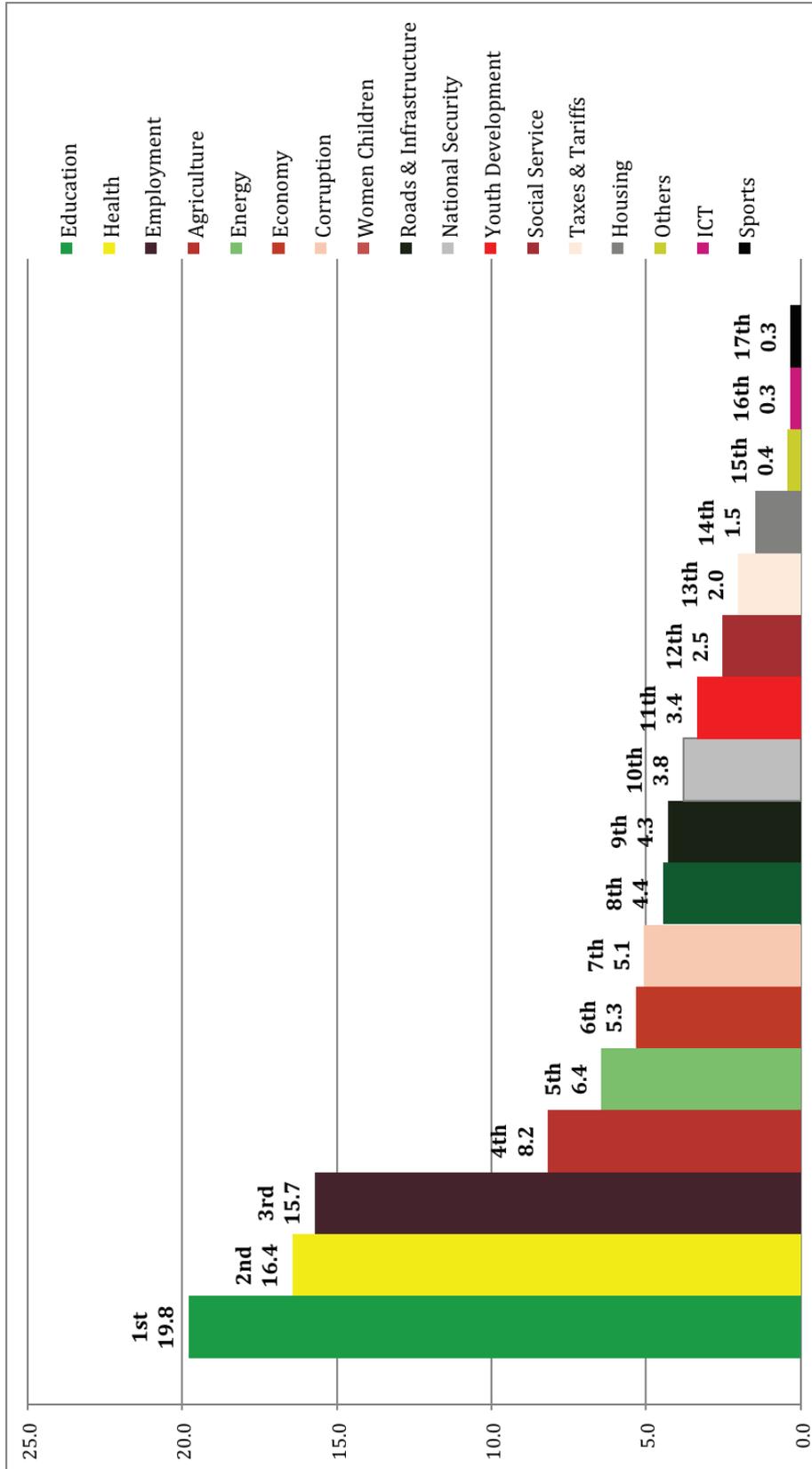
The 16 thematic areas chosen and presented to respondents for their ranking were based on the work of the various select committees of Parliament, topical issues of the day, the effect and impact of these issues on national development and the well-being of the citizenry.

4.1 Ranking of Issues

Data presented in figure 4.1 below shows the national ranking of the issues by respondents. The percentage showed on each issue was used as the basis for measuring the importance respondents attached to it.

To distinguish issues that are of primary importance to respondents, the issues were categorized into three groups namely, the Upper Group issues (which comprised of 1st – 3rd issues), Middle Group issues (4th-11th issues) and Lower Group issues (12th – 16th issues).

Figure 4.1: Respondents' Ranking of Issues (National Ranking)



4.1.1 Upper Group Issues (1st – 3rd Rank Issues)

From figure 4.1 above, the three most important issues of concern to respondents were Education, Health and Employment. Education topped the range of issues with 19.8 per cent of respondents followed by Health and Employment with 16.4 per cent and 15.7 per cent respectively.

It is important to note that, these three issues have maintained their positions for the second time in two consecutive surveys i.e. 2012 and 2016 emphasizing the importance of these issues to the citizenry. It also shows that to date, actions and policies taken in that regard have still not met the expectations of the electorates. There is therefore the need for Government to find effective ways to address them.

4.1.2 Middle Group Issues (4th – 11th Rank Issues)

From the data, Agriculture placed fourth in the ranking with 8.2 per cent, Energy placed fifth with 6.4 per cent followed by Economy placing sixth (5.3%). Corruption placed seventh (5.1%) whilst Women and Children placed eighth (4.4%). The rest were: Road and infrastructure which placed ninth (4.3%), National Security placed tenth (3.8%) and Youth Development placed eleventh (3.4%).

In comparison, Energy, Economy and Corruption which ranked 9th, 7th and 12th respectively in the 2012 survey jumped to 5th 6th and 7th places respectively. On the other hand, Women and children which was ranked 5th in the 2012 dropped three places to the 8th position. This could indicate that respondents are now more concerned about Energy and the Economic issues than issues on Women and Children.

4.1.3 Lower Group of Issues (12th – 16th Rank issues)

The bottom five ranked issues by respondents were: Social Services with 2.5 per cent, Taxes and Tariffs 2 per cent, Housing 1.5 per cent. Others were ICT and Sports with 0.3 per cent each.

4.2 Regional Ranking of Issues

Since regions in Ghana are heterogeneous in nature, this section seeks to extract the regional distribution of issues ranked by the respondents. A general overview of the regional distribution shows a similar pattern as seen in the national ranking of issues. Education, Health and Employment remained in the top three issues ranked. Nevertheless, there were slight variations in terms of percentages or the pattern of issues across regions. The table below shows the regional distribution of issues ranked by respondents in percentage.

Table 4.1: Regional Distribution of Issues Ranked by Respondents

ISSUES	Ashanti	Brong Ahafo	Central	Eastern	Gt Accra	Northern	Upper East	Upper West	Volta	Western
Education	20.5	20.1	19.2	20	17.7	21.8	18.7	22.4	16.9	21
Health	17.4	17.1	14.7	15.7	15.5	19.3	16.9	19.1	14.5	16.4
Employment	15.7	14.9	15.5	17.8	17.8	15.1	16.9	9.7	13.9	16.3
Energy	8.4	9	5.7	6.8	7	3.1	6.2	4.5	7.8	8.5
Economy	7	6.4	7.1	4.6	5.5	2.9	4.2	3.9	7.8	4.6
Agriculture	6.5	5.4	8.2	6.6	5.4	11.9	11.2	12.1	10	7.6
Corruption	5	5.3	4.2	5.2	6.9	4.6	5.3	3.8	4.6	4.7
Women & Children	4.2	4.7	4.5	4.1	4.5	5.9	3.7	5.3	4.7	3.3
Youth Development	3.8	4.3	3.6	3.6	3	3.2	1.9	1.8	4.7	2.8
National Security	3.5	4.1	4.4	2.8	4.8	3.5	2.2	1.8	3.7	3
Road Infrastructure	2.1	3	5.7	5	3.6	4	4.8	5.6	6.6	4.7
Taxes & Tariffs	2	2.9	2.8	2.3	4.3	1	0.3	0.8	1.1	1.9
Social Service	1.3	1.2	1.7	2.7	1.7	2.6	5.4	7.9	3.3	2.6
Housing	1	0.8	1.3	1.8	3.3	0.8	1.4	0.3	1.2	1.6
Others	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5
ICT	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.6	0.3
Sports	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.3	0	0.3	0.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

From table 4.1 it is evident that across all regions, Education topped the issues ranked with the highest proportion of respondents coming from the Upper West region with 22.4 per cent of respondents followed by the Northern and Western regions with 21.8 per cent and 21 per cent respectively. Volta region on the other hand recorded the lowest proportion of respondents with 16.9 per cent ranking education as the top most issue of concern.

On the issue of Health, respondents in six out of the ten regions ranked Health as the 2nd most important concern. These regions included Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Northern, Upper West, Volta and Western. The Northern region recorded the highest percentage of respondents with 19.3 per cent.

Notwithstanding the above, three regions, that is, Central, Eastern, and Greater Accra had Employment as their 2nd most important concern. In the Upper East region both Education and Health shared the 2nd place of ranking recording 16.9 per cent of respondents each.

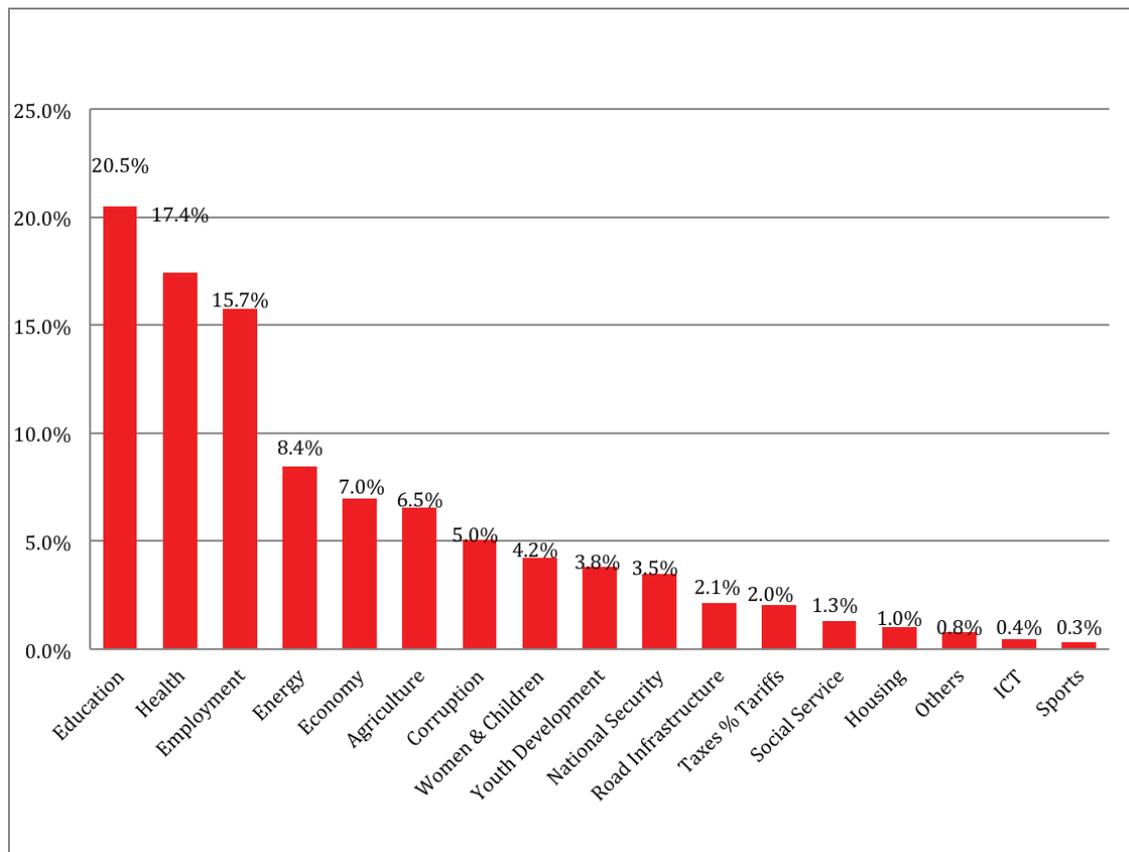
It is important to note that Energy which was ranked 5th nationally was ranked 4th in five (5) regions namely Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Eastern, Greater Accra and Western. This was probably because of the current power outages and its adverse effects being experienced in these regions. Agriculture which was also ranked 4th nationally was ranked 6th by respondents in Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Greater Accra regions.

4.2.1 Ashanti Region – Ranking of Issues

Like the national ranking, respondents’ top three ranked of issues in the Ashanti region were Education which recorded 20.5 per cent of respondents, Health 17.4 per cent and Employment 15.7 per cent. Comparatively the percentage ranking of education by the region was slightly higher than the national ranking. For example while national ranking for education was 19.8 per cent, that of Ashanti region was 20.5 per cent.

Energy occupied the 4th position of the ranking with 8.4 per cent followed by Economy, Agriculture and Corruption with 7 per cent, 6.5 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. The rest were Women and Children (4.2%), Youth Development (3.8%), National Security (3.5%). The lowest proportion was recorded for issues on Sports with 0.3 per cent of the respondents. Figure 4.2 depicts the full result.

Figure 4.2: Ashanti Region- Issues Ranked by Respondents

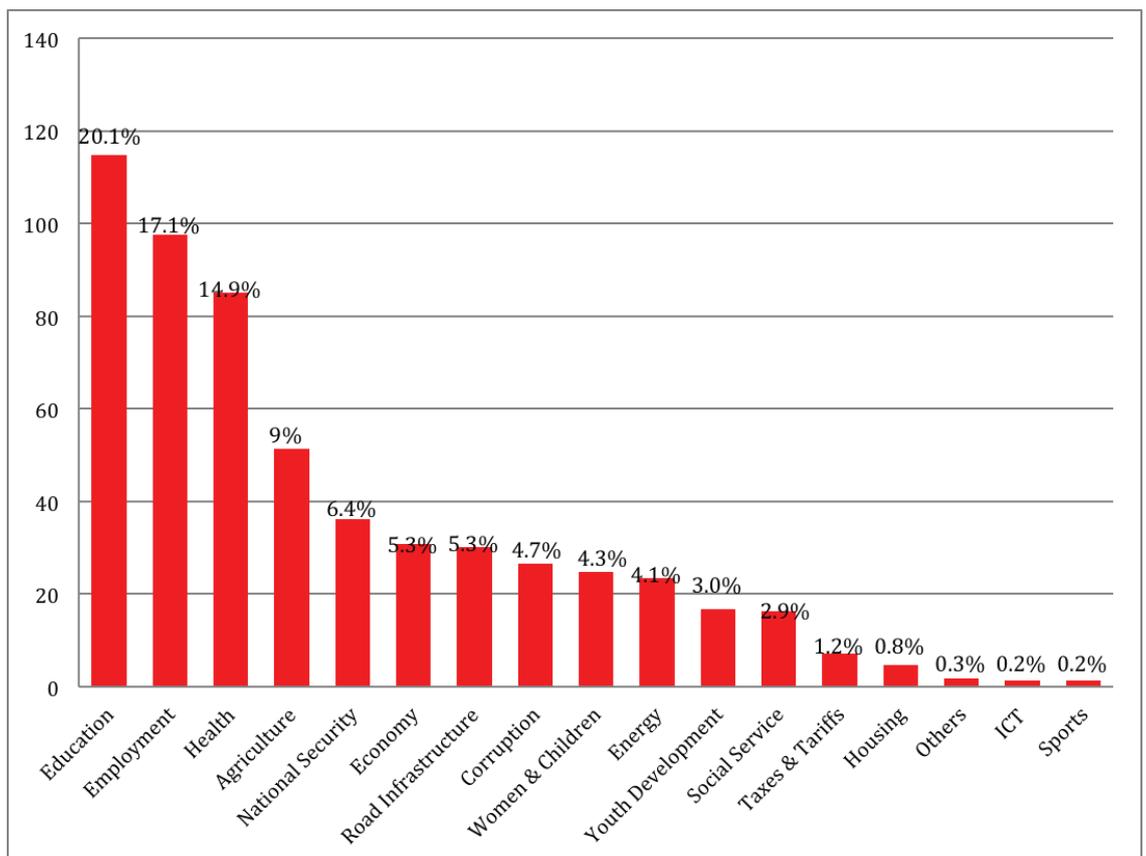


4.2.2 Brong Ahafo – Ranking of Issues

In the Brong Ahafo region, even though Education topped the ranking of issues with 20.1 per cent, there were slight variations from the national ranking as Employment overtook Health to place 2nd with 17.1 per cent of respondents and Health recording 14.9 per cent, taking the 3rd place. Again National Security which was ranked 10th in the national ranking jumped to the 5th position in the Brong Ahafo region with 6.4 per cent of the respondents. One factor which could contribute to this is the increasing incidence of armed robbery attacks in that part of the country.

The other issues ranked were as follows: Agriculture (9%), Economy (5.4%), Road and Infrastructure (5.3%), Corruption (4.7%), Women and Children (4.3%), Energy (4.1%) and Youth Development (3.0%). The rest were Social Services (2.9%), Taxes and Tariffs (1.2%), Housing (0.8%), ICT (0.2%) and Sports (0.2%).

Figure 4.3: Brong Ahafo- Ranking of Issues by Respondents

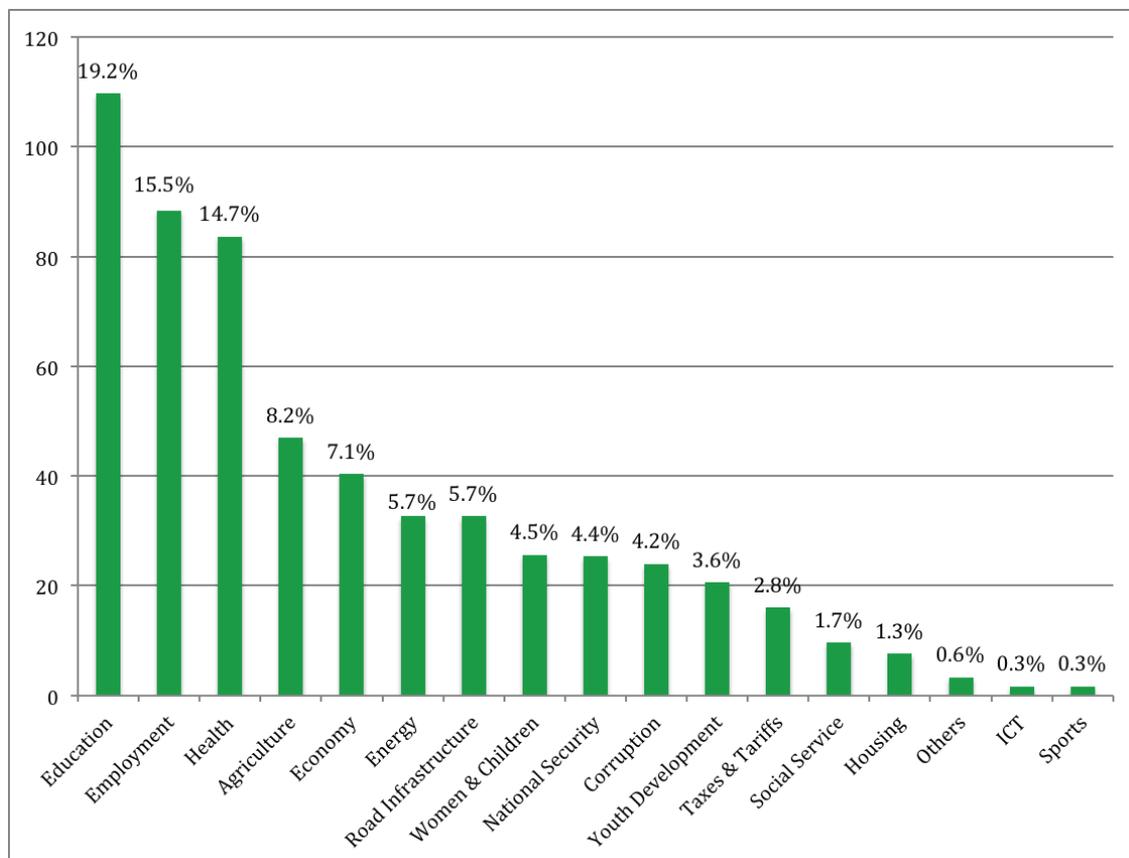


4.2.3 Central Region – Ranking of Issues

The first three ranked issues in Central Region were Education (19.2%), Employment (15.5%) and Health (14.7%). Here, just like the Brong Ahafo region, Employment overtook Health as the 2nd place issue, a variation from the national ranking. Agriculture came 4th after Health with 8.2% of the respondents followed by Economy (7.1%), Energy (5.7%), Road and Infrastructure (5.7%), Women and Children (4.5%), National security (4.4%) and Corruption (4.2%).

Furthermore, Central Region recorded the 2nd highest percentage of respondents for Taxes and Tariffs with 2.8 per cent just behind Greater Accra’s 4.3 per cent.

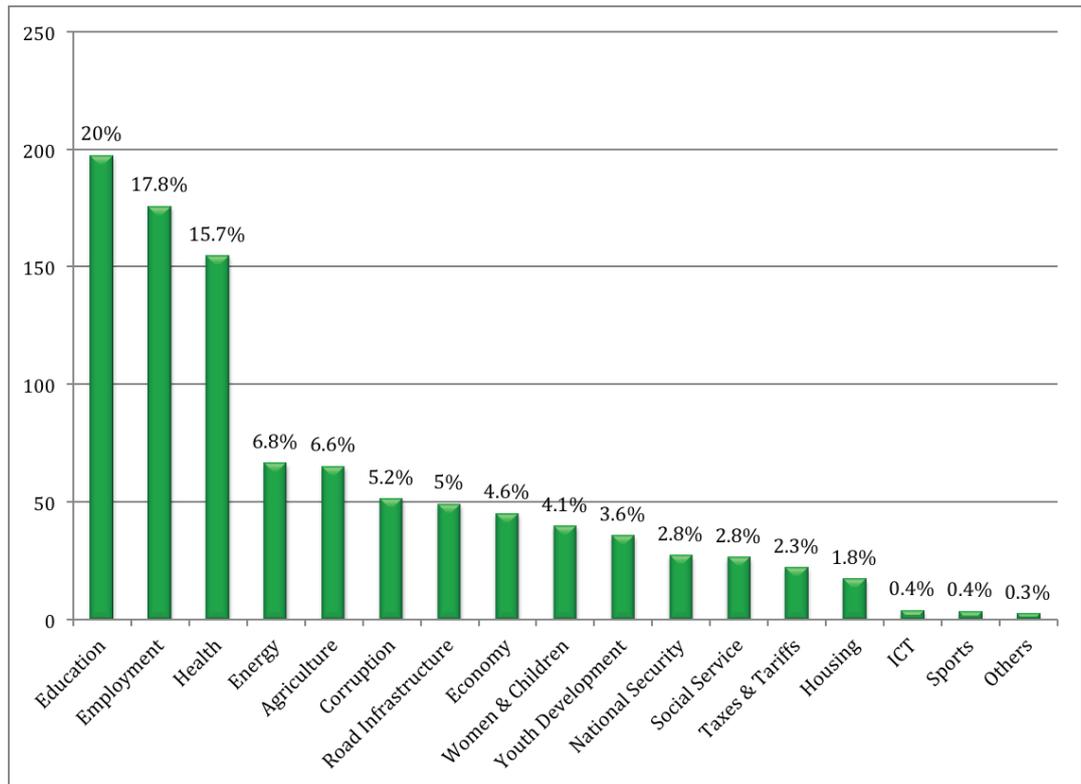
Figure 4.4: Central Region; Ranking of Issues by Respondents



4.2.4 Eastern Region – Ranking of Issues

Eastern Region’s ranking conformed to that of Brong Ahafo and Central regions’ with regard to the top three issues. Education was ranked 1st with 20.0% of the respondents, Employment 2nd with 17.8 per cent and Health 3rd with 15.7 per cent. Of the four regions (i.e Brong Ahafo, Central, Eastern and Upper East), that ranked Employment as the 2nd important issue, Eastern region recorded the highest proportion of such respondents.

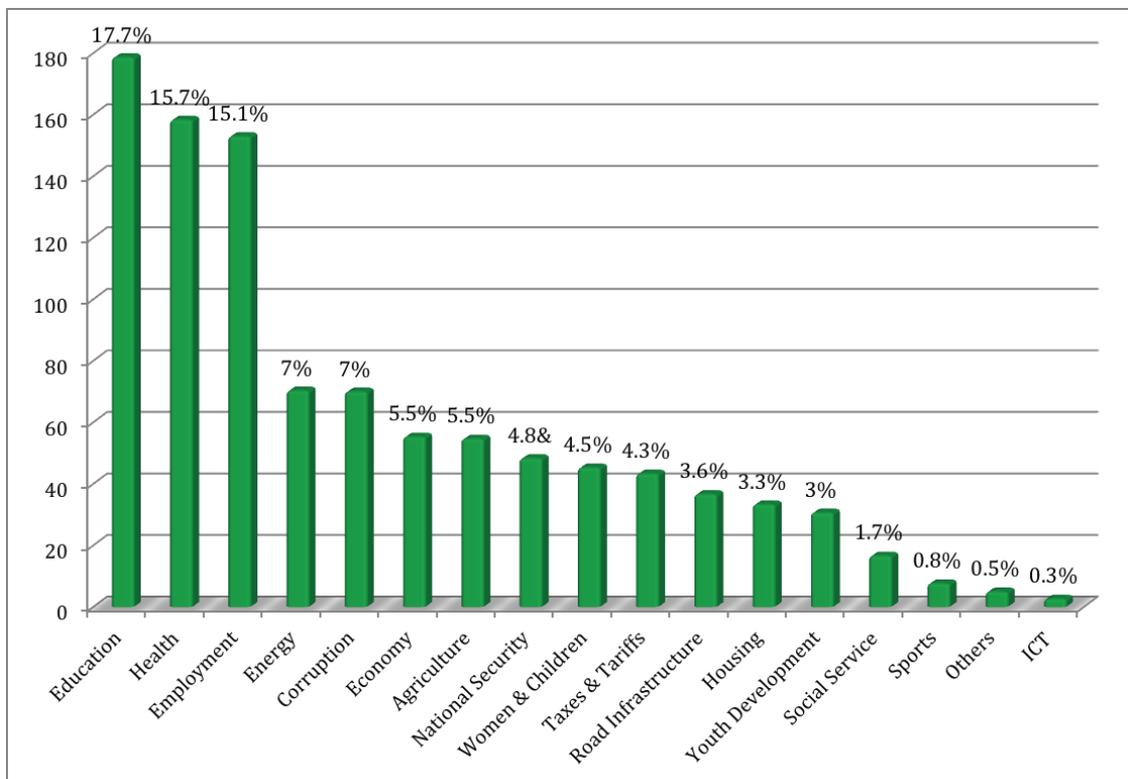
Figure 4.5 : Eastern Region – Ranking of Issues by Respondents



4.2.5 Greater Accra Region – Ranking of Issues

Greater Accra region’s first three ranked issues were Education (17.7%), Health (15.7%), and Employment (15.1%). The region’s pattern of ranking conformed to that of the national ranking with Education, Health and Employment placing first, second and third respectively. Additionally, Energy and Corruption followed with 7 per cent each of respondents. The high proportion of respondents for Energy could be attributed to the erratic power outage at the time the region was experiencing which had negatively affected many businesses and the livelihood of people due to the high number of industries and businesses operating in the city of Accra.

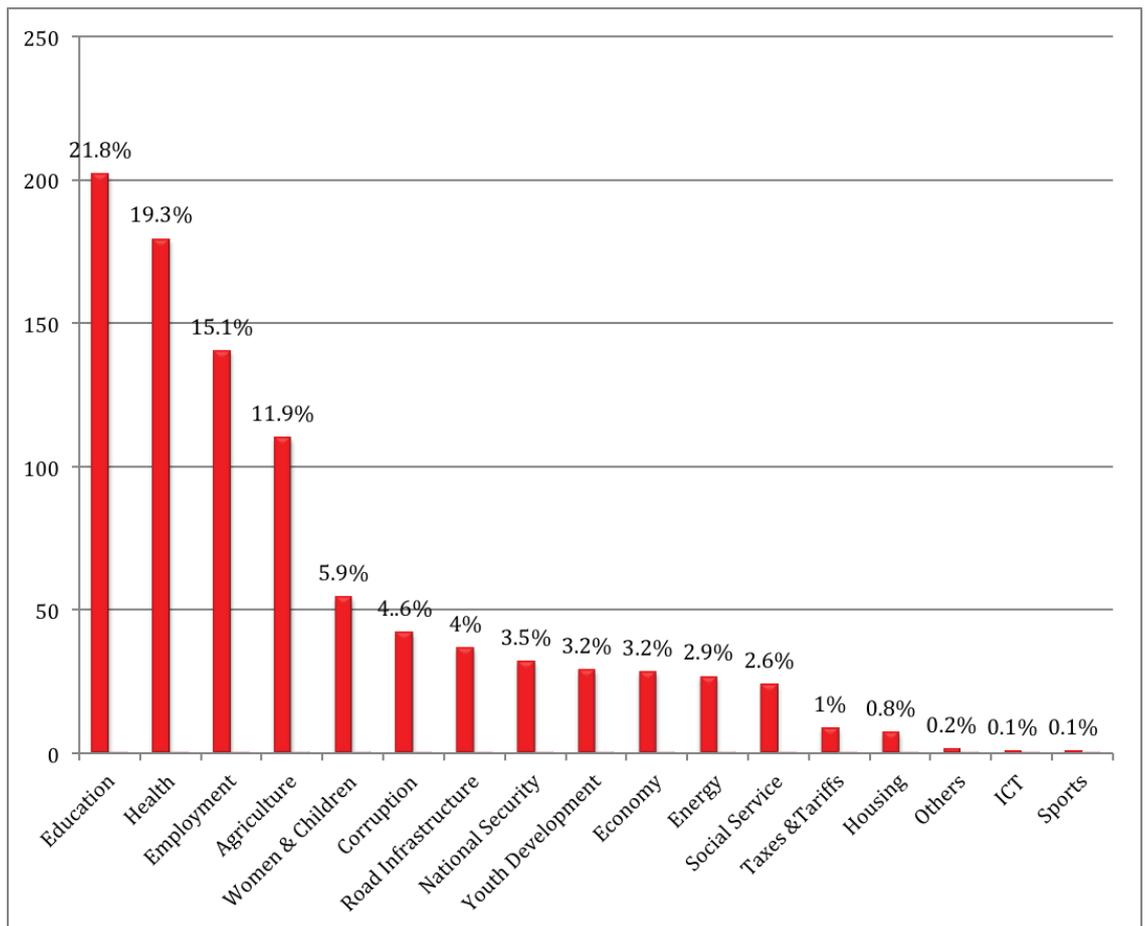
Figure 4.6: Greater Accra – Ranking of Issues by Respondents



4.2.6 Northern Region – Ranking of Issues

The region's top three issues were Education (21.8%), Health (19.3%) and Employment (15.1%). The region's proportion of respondents who ranked Education first was the second highest nationwide after Upper West region. Furthermore, Agriculture was ranked 4th with 11.9 per cent of respondents, Women and Children 5th with 5.9 per cent and Corruption 6th with 4.6 per cent. It is important to also note that the proportion of respondents of the region who ranked Women and Children 5th was the highest across all the regions. This result points to the priority the people in the region place on issues relating to Women and Children. It is penitent to note that UNICEF, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the NCCF and other Civil Society Organisations have over the years undertaken a series of awareness creation activities in the area of child and women protection and empowerment in the Northern Region in order to educate the people.

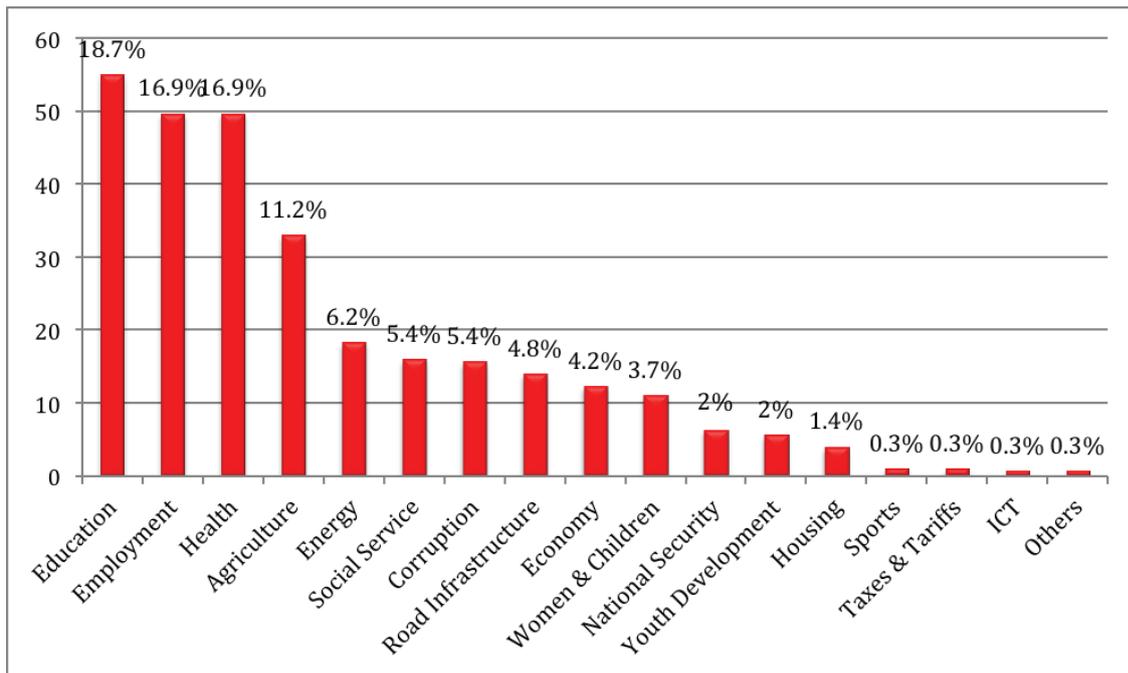
Figure 4.7: Northern Region – Ranking of Issues by Respondents



4.2.7 Upper East – Ranking of Issues

Upper East Region’s ranking of the first three issues conformed to that of Brong Ahafo, Central and Eastern regions as Education was ranked 1st with 18.7 per cent of the respondents in the region, Employment and Health followed with 16.9 per cent each. Agriculture came 4th with 11.2 per cent, Energy 5th (6.2%), Social Service 6th (5.4%) and Corruption 7th (5.3%). Figure 4.8 shows the details of issues ranked by respondents.

Figure 4.8: Upper East- Ranking of Issues by Respondents

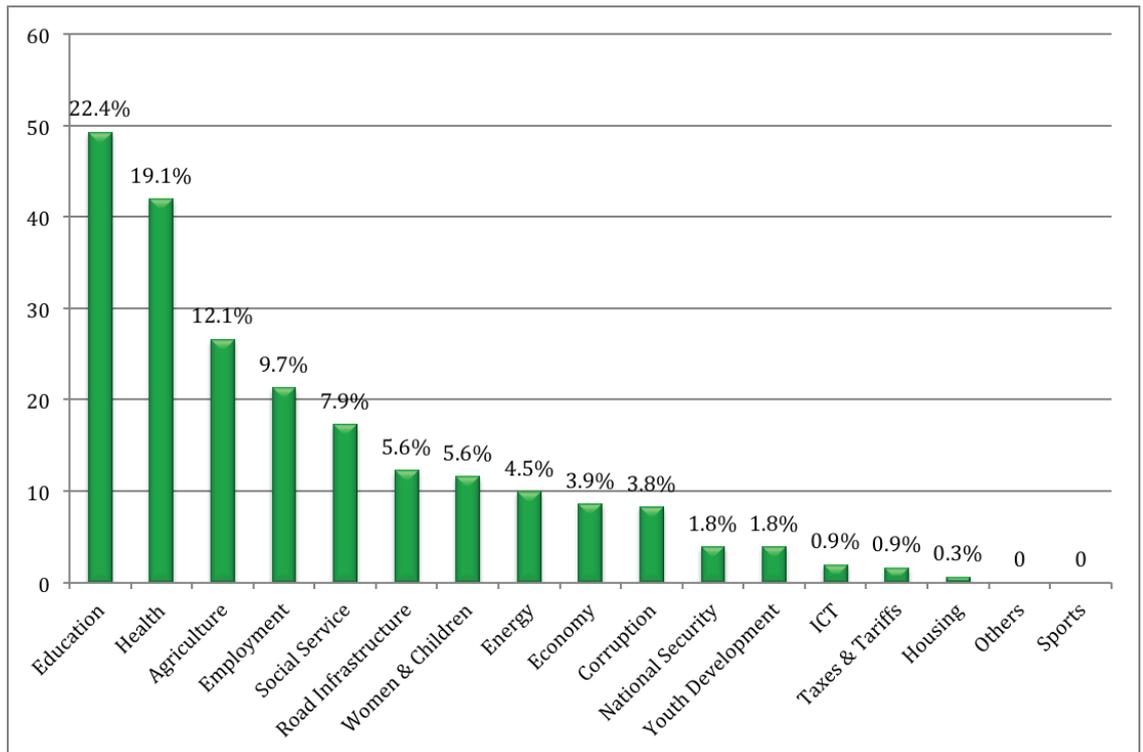


4.2.8 Upper West Region – Ranking of Issues

In the Upper West region, the usual pattern of ranking was not the case because for the first time, Agriculture made its way into the first top three issues. The top three issues ranked were Education which came 1st with 22.4 per cent of the respondents, Health 2nd with 19.1 per cent and Agriculture 3rd with 12.1 per cent. This portrays the seriousness the people in the region attach to issues relating to agriculture.

Employment placed 4th in the ranking of issues with 9.7 per cent, Social Service 5th (7.9%), Road and Infrastructure 6th (5.6%). Again Social Services placing 5th in the ranking is the second highest proportion of respondents after Northern region. Road and Infrastructure came 6th (5.6%) and Women and Children 7th (5.3%). The details are depicted in the figure 4.9.

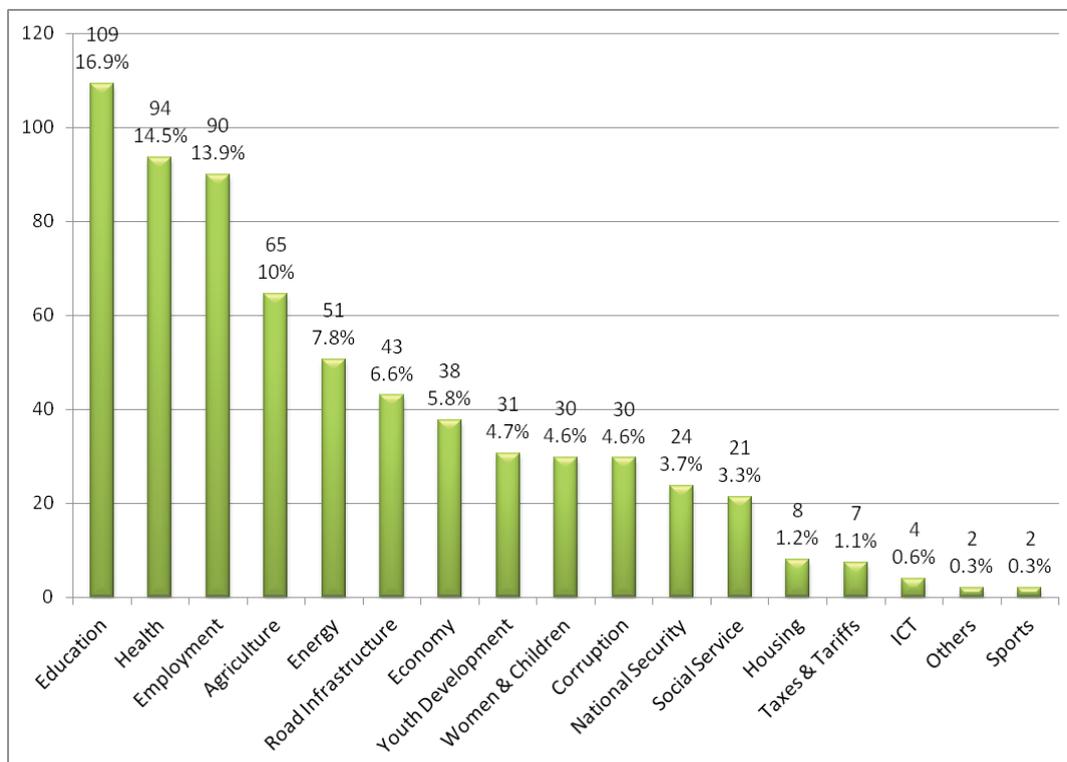
Figure 4.9: Upper West Region; Ranking of Issues by Respondents



4.2.9 Volta Region – Ranking of Issues

Education, Health and Employment made up the top three issues ranked by respondents in the region. Volta region was the only region that recorded the lowest proportion of respondents for the top three issues (i.e. Education, Health and Employment). Agriculture ranked 4th with 10 per cent, followed by Energy in the 5th place with 7.8 per cent and Road and Infrastructure at the 6th position with 6.6 per cent (the highest percentage across regions). The rest were Economy (5.8%), Youth Development (4.7%), Women and Children (4.6%), Corruption (4.6%), National Security (3.7%) and Social Service (3.3%)

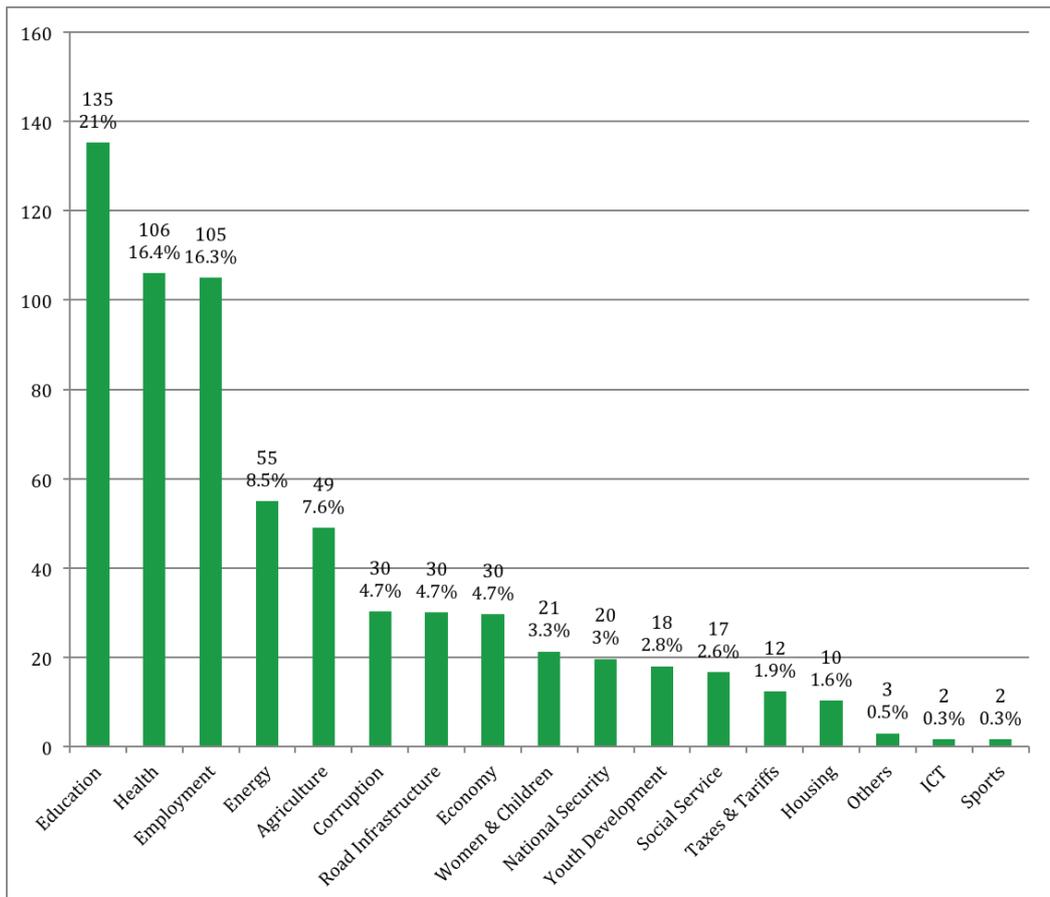
Figure 4.10: Volta Region- Ranking of Issues by Respondents



4.2.10 Western Region – Ranking of Issues

The ranking in the Western Region follows the pattern of the national ranking of issues namely Education, Health and Employment. The percentage gap between Health and Employment is just 1.0 per cent. It is significant to point out that Energy ranked fourth with 8.5 percent followed by Agriculture with 7.6 per cent. It is noteworthy that Corruption, Road Infrastructure and Economy each recorded 4.7 per cent, hence could be said to have been ranked sixth issue in the region.

Figure 4.11: Western Region- Ranking of Issues by Respondents



4.3 Ranking of Issues by Sex

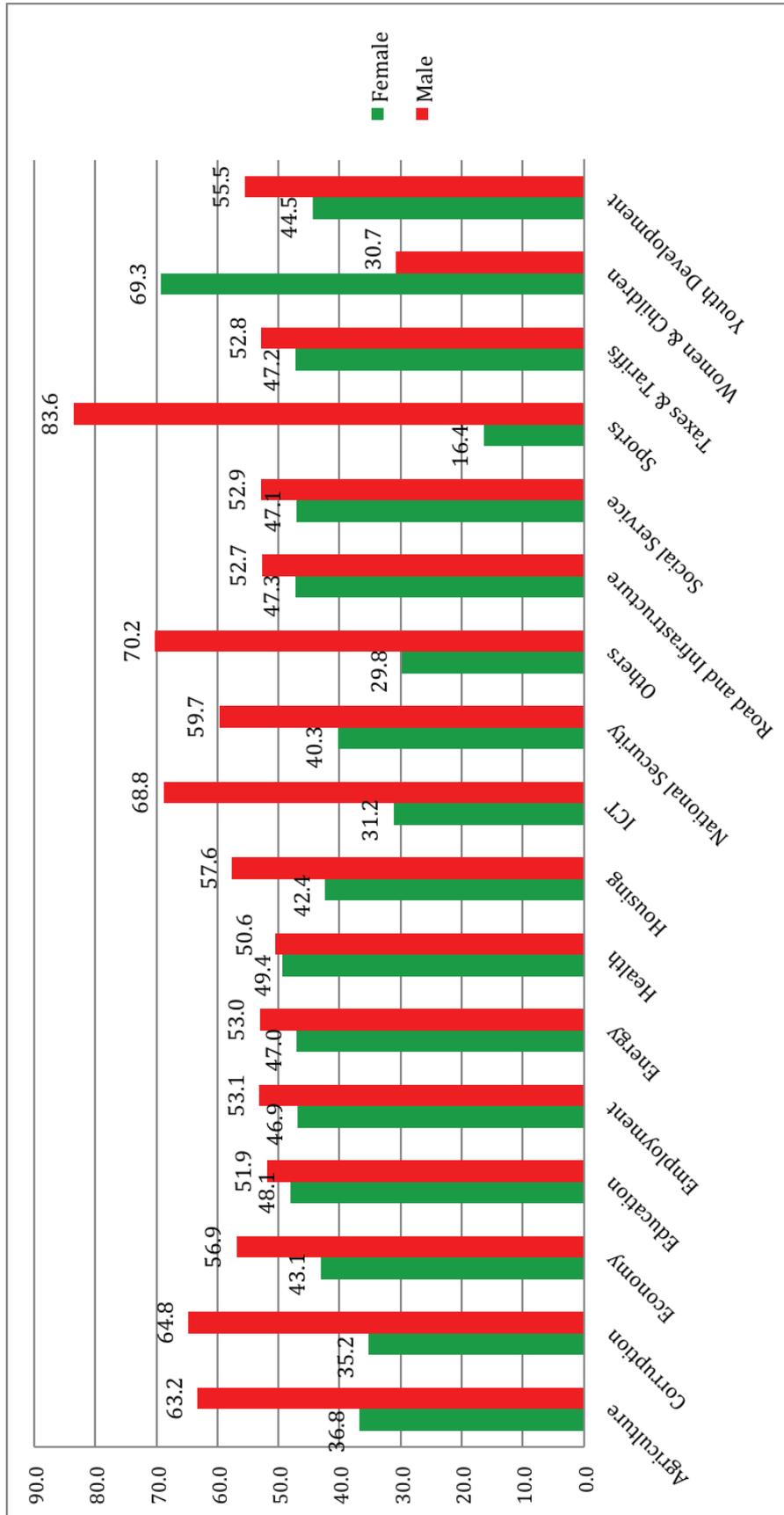
A cross tabulation of the issues ranked by the sex of respondents shows that generally, the male responses were relatively higher than that of female responses across all the various issues with the exception of Women and Children where the female responses were higher than males. This could be attributed to the fact that more males than females were interviewed for the study.

Conversely and unsurprisingly, on the issue of Women and Children, female proportion doubled that of their male counterpart as the females recorded 69.3 per cent against 30.7 per cent of the males. The wide difference may be due to the seriousness women place on issues relating to themselves and children and the fact that any policy or programme by Government in relation to Women and Children would affect them directly or indirectly. It further reflects the growing awareness of women in relation to marginalization and affirmative action to become empowered citizens of the country.

Lastly, on the issue of Sports, large proportion of males (83.6%) than females (16.4%) responded to issues under sports.

Figure 4.11.1 shows the full results of the various issues ranked by sex of respondents.

Figure 4.11.1: Issues Ranked by Sex of Respondents



4.4 Ranking of Issues by Age of Respondents

With regard to the issue of Education, the age group 21-30 recorded the highest proportion with 25.7 per cent, this was followed by the age group 31-40 with 24.2 per cent. On the other hand, the age group “over 60” recorded the least with 8.6 per cent.

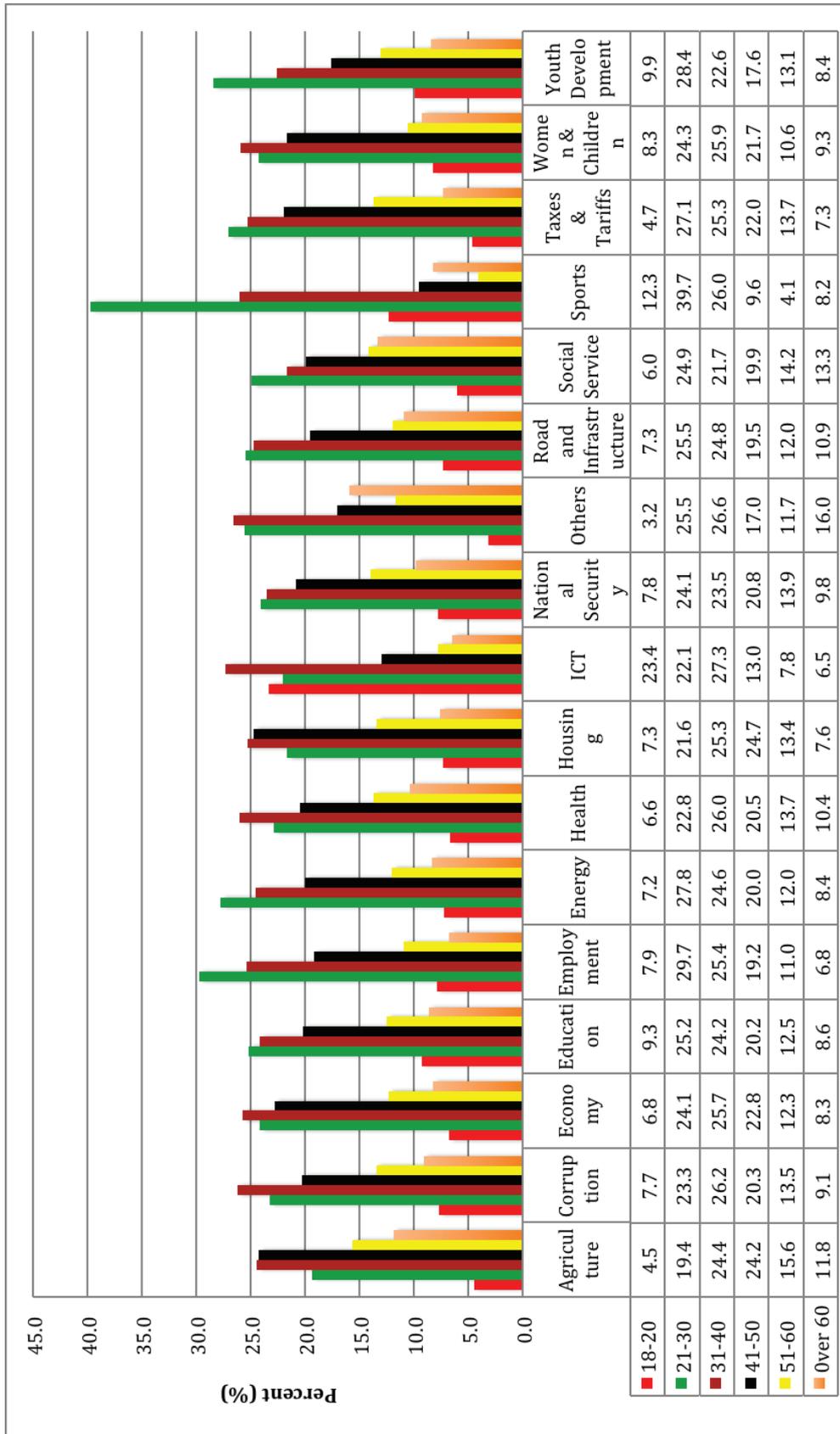
For Health, the highest proportion was from the age group 31-40 with 26 per cent, 21-30 and 41-50 age groups followed in that order with 22.8 per cent and 20.5 per cent respectively.

Employment being a concern to respondents saw the age group 21-30 recording the highest response (29.7%) followed by the age group 31-40 (25.4%) and 41-50 (19.2%). The age group 31-40 topped the ranking for Agriculture with 24.4 per cent with the age group 41-50 also registering 24.2 per cent of respondents.

Additionally, the age group 31-40 topped the ranking for Economy, Corruption and Women and Children with 25.7 per cent, 26.2 per cent and 25.9 per cent respectively. On the other hand, the age group 21-30 topped the ranking for Road and Infrastructure, Social Service and Sports with 25.5, 24.9 and 27.1 per cent respectively. Figure 4.12 below show the details.

Figure 4.12 depicts survey findings on ranking of issues by age of respondents

Figure 4.12: Issues Ranked by Age of Respondents



4.5 Ranking of Issues by Occupational Background

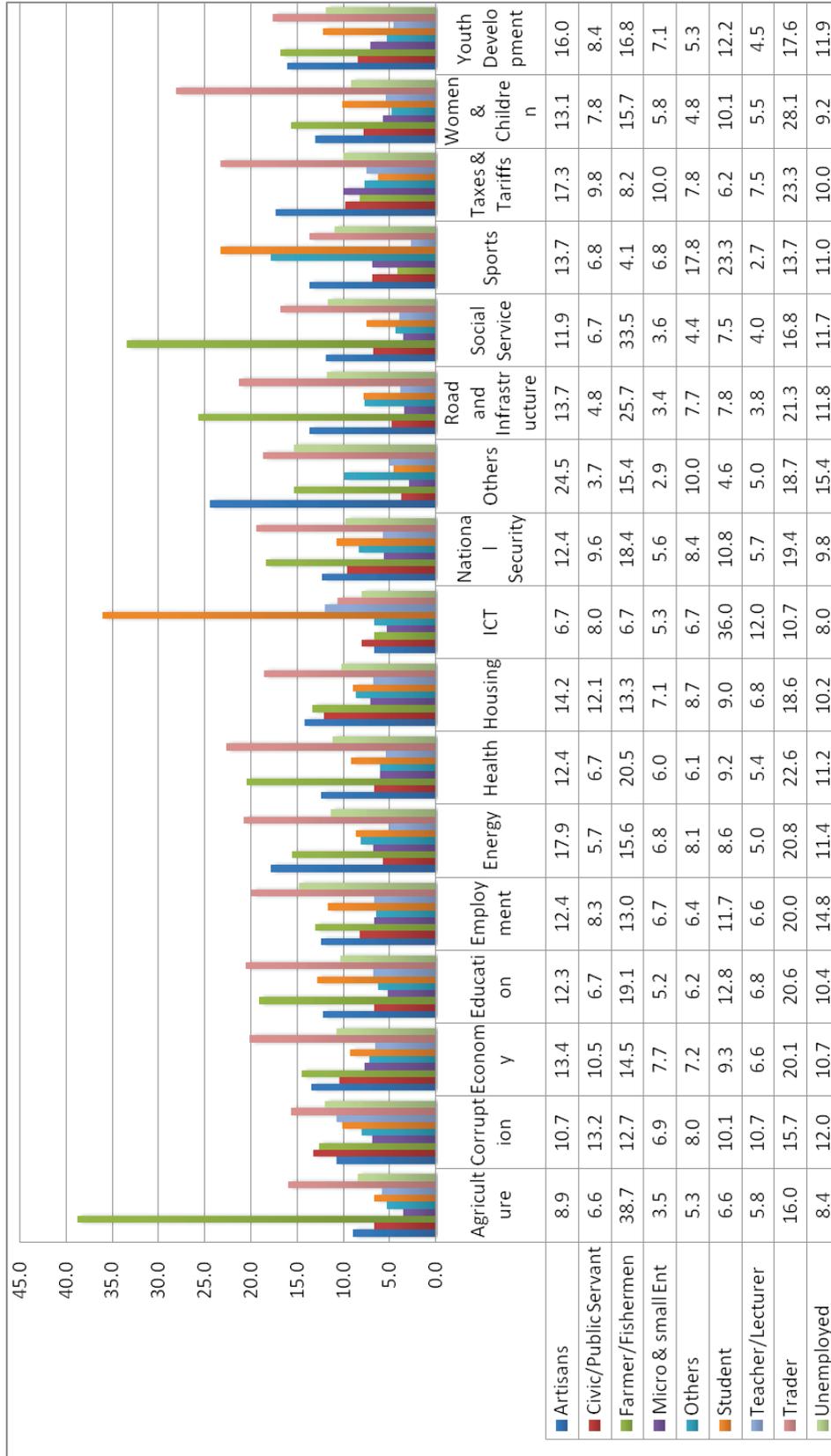
Looking at the occupational background of respondents with the issues ranked, those involved in trading had higher proportions across all the issues as compared to other occupations. This is probably because the modal occupation of respondents for the study was Traders.

For respondents who mentioned Agriculture, a little above 50 per cent were directly or indirectly involved in farming activities or its value chain. This comprised of Farmers/Fishermen and Traders with 38.7 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. It is also important to indicate that these same occupations recorded the highest percentages for the issue Road and Infrastructure. This is expected as Agriculture products largely depend on the transport system that delivers farm produce to consumers.

Furthermore, from the data it came to light that issues relating to ICT were of more concern to Students and Teachers/lecturers than the other occupations because 36.0% of students and 12.0% of Teachers/Lecturers ranked ICT as an important issue. This explains the relevant role of ICT to students and teachers in their studies/work.

From the study, the general attitude towards ICT is that most persons in educational institutions namely students or lecturers utilise it; this underscores the fact that perhaps ICT is not taken seriously by a large segment of the society.

Figure 4.13: Respondents Ranking of Issues by Occupational Background



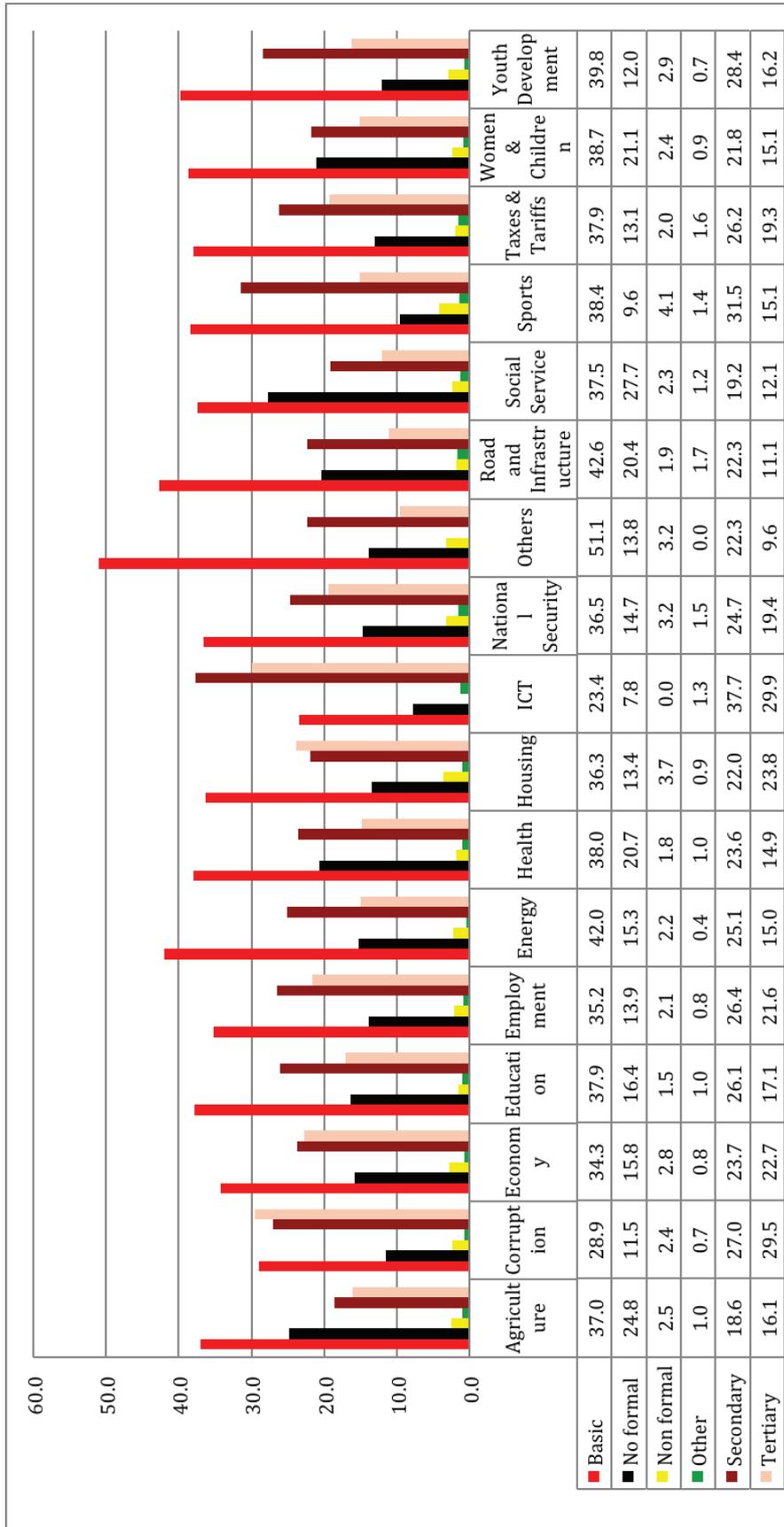
4.5 Ranking of Issues by Educational Background

Generally, the proportions of respondents with basic education were relatively higher across the different issues ranked with the exception of ICT where respondents with Secondary education were higher.

With regard to the issue of Education, apart from those with Basic education that recorded the highest percentage (37.9%), respondents with secondary and tertiary backgrounds were also quite high with 26.1 per cent and 17.1 per cent respectively. Again respondents with No formal education had higher proportions for all the issues than those with Non formal education.

Figure 4.14 shows the distribution of issues ranked by educational background.

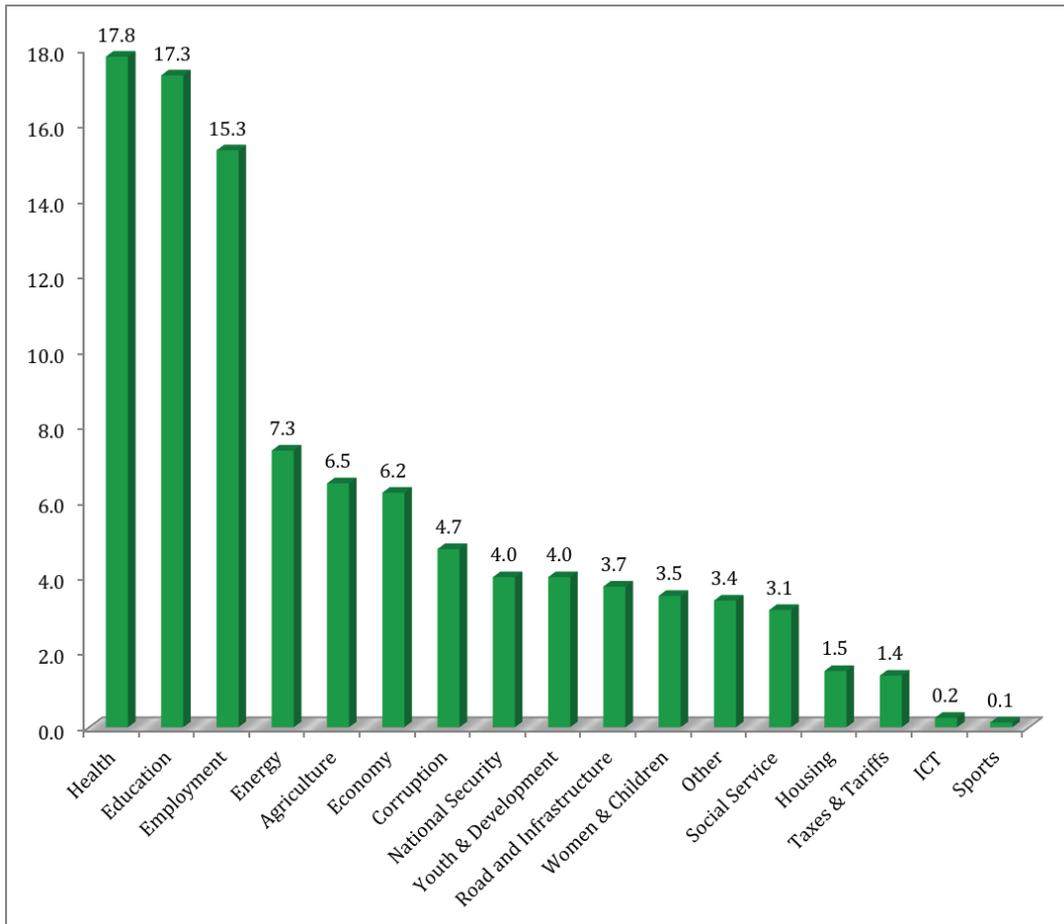
Figure 4.14: Respondents Ranking of Issues by Educational Background



4.5.1 Ranking of Issues by Persons with Disability (PWDs)

On the ranking of issues by PWDs, of the 268 respondents with one form of disability or the other, 17.8 per cent ranked Health first. This was followed by Education and Employment with 17.3 per cent and 15.3 per cent respectively. This response pattern is slightly different from the order of the national ranking of issues. The Figure 4.14.1 presents the full results of the ranking by PWDs.

Figure 4.14.1 Ranking of Issues by PWDs



4.6 Specific Issues Government Should Address Concerning the Sectors Ranked

The study probed the matters raised by respondents further to evaluate their specific concerns under each sector they mentioned. Respondents were also asked of their view on what they considered the next administration (i.e. Government and Parliamentarians) could do to help solve the issues they have raised. Below is the detail of the responses received from the field survey.

4.6.1 Education

Education was ranked first on the list of major issues of concern to the Ghanaian voter. Principal issues respondents wanted Government to address included: reduction in cost of accessing education (22.3%), Government ensuring that SHS and basic education are in reality free, compulsory and of high quality (21.4%) as well as providing enough educational facilities (19.1%).

The figure 4.2 shows the list of responses obtained.

Table 4.2: Educational Concerns Raised By Respondents for Redress by Government

Specific Issues	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Reduce cost of accessing education	478	22.3
Government must ensure that SHS basic education is indeed free, compulsory and of high quality	459	21.4
Provide enough educational facilities	409	19.1
Employ more qualified teachers/ Restore allowances for teacher trainees/ better the condition of service of teachers	250	11.7
Provide enough educational materials for the public schools	169	7.9
Sponsor brilliant but needy students	104	4.8
Revert to the 4-year system at SHS	93	4.3
Ensure that tertiary education includes training in entrepreneurship	71	3.3
Expand the school feeding programme and free uniforms to all basic schools	53	2.5
Help instill discipline in pupils and students to curb cheating and other vices	40	1.9
Deal with specific issues that hinder the girl child from staying and continuing their education	15	0.7
Don't know	4	0.2
Total	2,145	100.0

SDG 4 focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. The main targets under this goal deals with gender issues relating to education, access to primary education, promotion of vocational, technical and tertiary education, skills training, provision of educational infrastructure, reduction in cost/provision of scholarships as well as recruitment of qualified personnel as teachers among others. The data, as shown in the figure is clearly in support of the realization of the targets of the SDG 4 as all the responses fit appropriately under one target or the other within the SDG referred.

4.6.2 Health

Towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 which connotes achieving health and well-being at all ages, countries are to ensure universal coverage of quality healthcare. The responses obtained supports this target of the SDGs as a many of the respondents in this section (i.e. 45.5%) wanted Government to deal with the numerous issues affecting the National Health Insurance Scheme. This is the national intervention aimed at ensuring universal access to quality healthcare for all sections of the Ghanaian society. The next highest group of respondents in this section (i.e. 28.3%) expected Government to provide enough health care facilities.

Table 4.3: Health Concerns of Voters Which They Want Government to Address

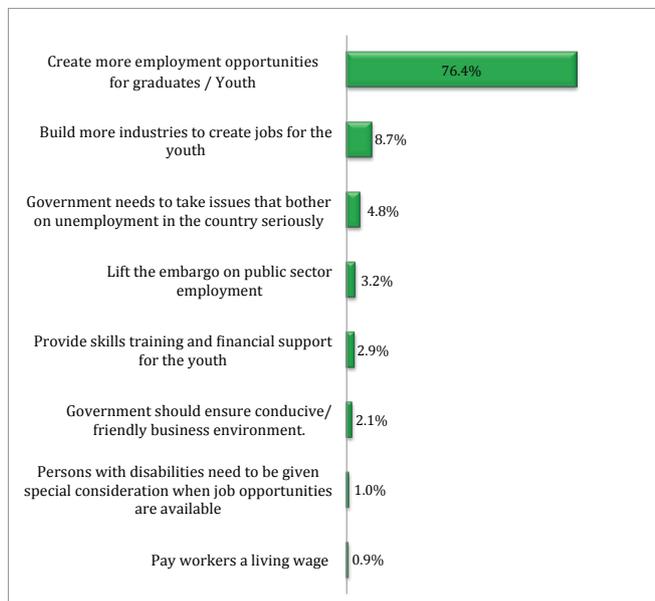
Specific	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Deal with the numerous issues affecting the National Health Insurance Scheme	404	45.5
Provide enough healthcare facilities	251	28.3
Ensure that there are enough health professionals in every health facility	79	8.9
Provide public hospitals and clinics with adequate equipment and drugs	63	7.1
Health centres should be accessible and affordable.	30	3.4
There should be extensive public health education at all times	28	3.2
Persons with disability need to be given special attention in accessing health facilities	20	2.3
Reinstate allowances for nurse trainees	6	0.7
Professional negligence on the part of health professionals need to be severely dealt with	4	0.5
Don't know	2	0.2
Total	887	100.0

From table 4.3, the critical issues under health that respondents wanted addressed, were the National Health Insurance Scheme and the provision of health care facilities and professionals.

4.6.3 Employment

Employment which was the third topmost issue had the following specific issues raised by respondents as depicted in figure 4.15

Figure 4.15: Specific Issues on Employment Raised by Respondents



Employment issues raised cut across the scope of two goals under the SDGs i.e. goal 8 and 9. Whilst the goal 8 seeks to promote productive employment and decent work for all, goal 9 aims at achieving sustainable industrialization. The targets within these goals such as the call on Governments to provide jobs for sections of their populace in goal 8 and the call on Governments to promote sustainable industrialization so as to increase industry's share of employment in goal 9 subsumes 97.0% of the total responses received as such responses are related to the provision of jobs in varied forms.

4.6.4 Agriculture

The fact that the call on Government to provide subsidies on agricultural inputs (53.5%) alone outweighs all other responses put together under the agriculture sector underscores the need for Government to put in appropriate measures to address this issue as a step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 2 which seeks to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote agriculture.

Table 4.4 depicts the specific issues to be addressed by Government under agriculture

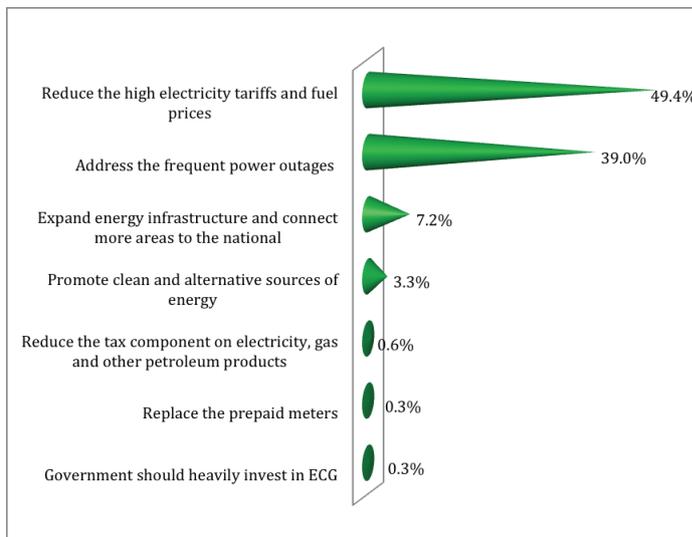
Table 4.4: Specific Issues Respondents Want Government to Address under Agriculture

Specific Issue	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Provide subsidies on agricultural inputs	257	53.5
Provide financial support to agriculture and related business	67	14.0
Invest in Agriculture / Provide more agricultural infrastructure and facilities	60	12.5
Introduce policies that will increase food and animal production	25	5.2
Build more factories and industries to process farm produce	25	5.2
Encourage and support women and the youth to get into farming	23	4.8
Ensure good pricing of cocoa and other cash crop products	15	3.1
Construction of Feeder roads and make other roads motorable	6	1.3
Revitalize the Cocoa spraying programme	2	0.4
Total	480	100.0

4.6.5 Energy

In the light of the recent energy crisis that Ghana has suffered, the response obtained showed that the two most outstanding issues respondents wanted Government to address under the energy sector are: reduce the high electricity tariffs and fuel prices (49.4%) and also address the frequent power outages (39.0%) as shown in the figure below.

Figure 4.16: Specific Issues on Energy Respondents Want Government to Solve

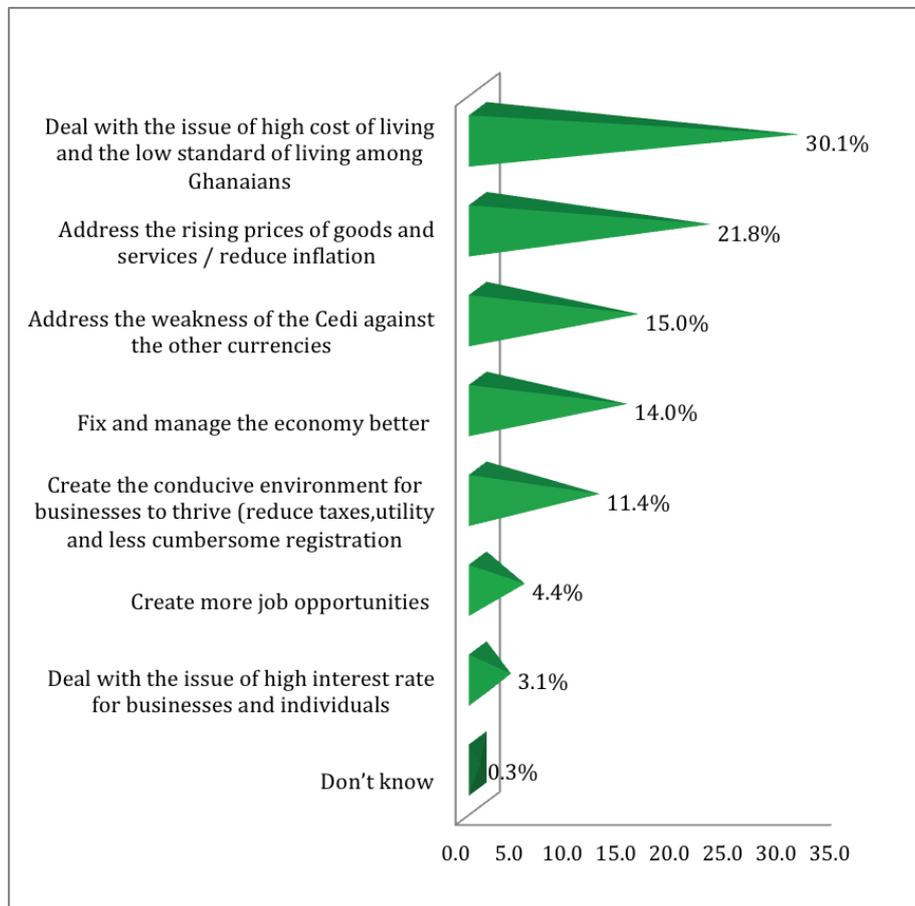


The figure 4.16 again portrays that expansion of the existing energy infrastructure and connecting more areas to the national grid (7.2%), promoting clean and alternative sources of energy (3.3%) and also reducing the tax component on electricity, gas and other petroleum products (0.6%) are 'other' specific issues on energy to be addressed by Government.

4.6.6 Economy

The figure below depicts the responses received when respondents were asked about the specific issues on the economy that they wanted Government to put measures in place to address.

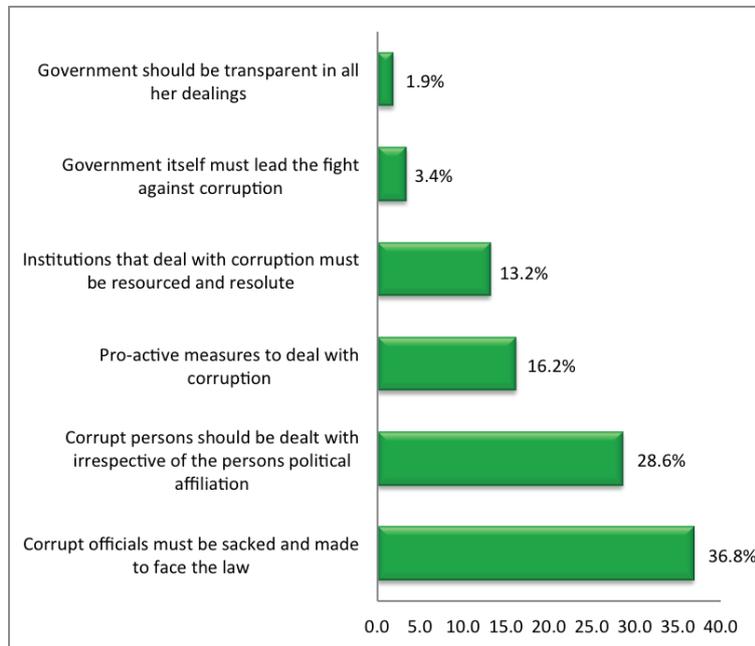
Figure 4.17: Specific Economic Issues Respondents Want Government to Address



4.6.7 Corruption

A summary of the results on respondents' view on what Government could do to reduce corruption shows that punitive measures dominated the total responses received as it made up 65.4% of the total responses. Preventive measures also made up 21.5% whilst institutional strengthening and capacity building made up 13.2 per cent of the total responses. It is significant to note that some of the issues to be addressed fall within the scope of SDG 16 which envisages among others, the rule of law, good governance at all levels, transparency and effective accountable institutions.

Figure 4.18: Respondents View on How Government Can Tackle Corruption



4.6.8 Women and Children

Issues on Women and Children received considerable attention among respondents as it ranked eighth on the scale of issues of concern to the Ghanaian voter. The table 4.5 below presents the specific issues which respondents wanted Government to address under this section.

Table 4.5: Issues Raised Under the Women and Children Category

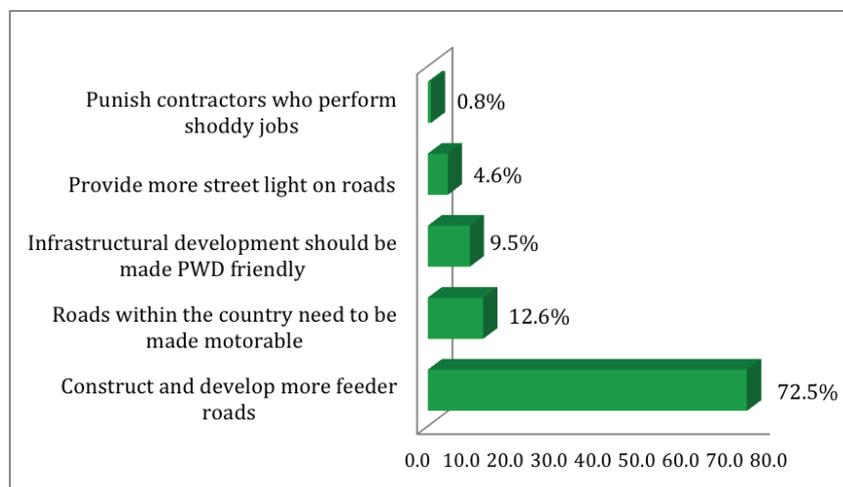
Specific Issues	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Create employment opportunities / vocational training for women and children	94	17.8
Empower women financially and economically/soft loans	94	17.8
Enforce laws regarding the wellbeing of women	91	17.2
Address issues of child abuse (especially, child marriage, child trafficking, child molestation and child labour)	64	12.1
Address issues of domestic abuse	54	10.2
Empower women socially (allow women to participate in domestic, local and national affairs)	49	9.3
Ensure children of school going age are in school/ free education	34	6.4
Government should address issues of orphans and the less privileged	30	5.7
Appoint more women to positions of high responsibilities	19	3.6
Don't know	0	0.0
Any other	0	0.0
Total	529	100.0

The rights of Ghanaian women and children are guaranteed under Articles 27 and 28 of the 1992 Republican constitution of Ghana. A careful observation of the responses received under this section shows that the specific issues raised by respondents for Government to address also fall directly in line with the provisions under the SDG 5 which calls on all Governments to empower women and girls to reach their full potential by eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and other harmful practices against them. Again, it also enjoins Governments to put measures in place to make women enjoy equal participation with men in political, economic and public life.

4.6.9 Roads and Infrastructure

The dominant issue to be addressed under road and infrastructure was the construction and development of feeder roads. Figure 4.19 presents the various findings on road and infrastructure. As stated earlier, the group comprising Farmers, Fishermen and traders recorded the highest percentage for issues on Roads and Infrastructure. This is due to the reliance on adequate road network for transportation of their produce to consumers.

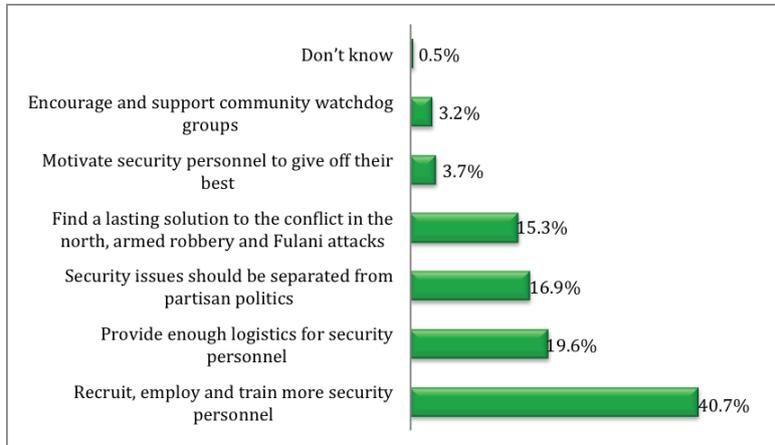
Figure 4.19: Issues on Roads and Infrastructure Raised by Voters



4.6.10 National Security

On the general national security issue, the data reviews that 64 per cent of the responses received were directed at security personnel regarding their recruitment, employment, and training (40.7%), provision of logistics (19.6%) and their motivation (3.7%). Further, security issues should be separated from partisan politics (16.9%) and Government should find a lasting solution to the conflict in the Northern Region, were also raised by respondents. Armed robbery and Fulani attacks (15.3%) were also mentioned as key areas of national security that Government should address. Encouraging and supporting community watchdog groups (3.2%) were other issues Government should address. Figure 4.20 represents the findings on national security issues.

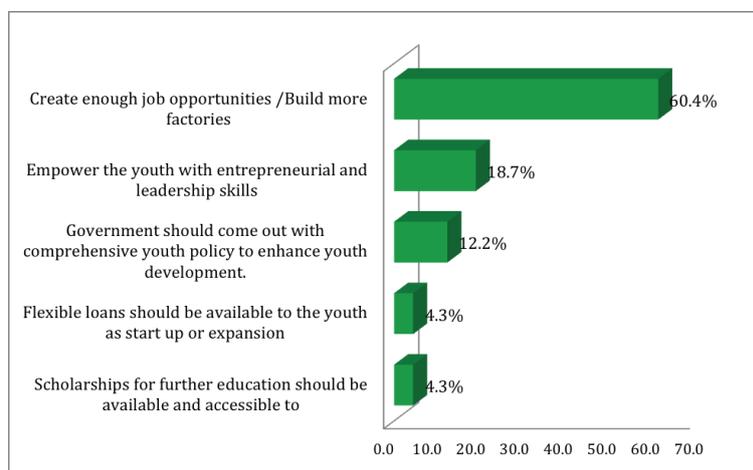
Figure 4.20: Specific national security issues which Respondents want Government to address



4.6.11 Youth Development

Under the SDG 3, countries as part of measures to ensure youth development are to ensure effective learning for all children and youth for life and livelihood. To this end, countries are to ensure that all youth transition effectively into the labour market by putting measures in place to increase youth employment rate within the formal and informal sectors. The results obtained is in line with this provision in the SDG as majority of respondents (60.4%) wanted Government to create enough job opportunities/build more factories. The next highest group of respondents (18.7%) wanted Government to empower the youth with entrepreneurial and leadership skills whilst 12.2 per cent representing the third highest group said Government should come out with comprehensive youth policy to enhance youth development. The figure below completes the list of responses obtained on specific issues respondents want Government to address under youth development.

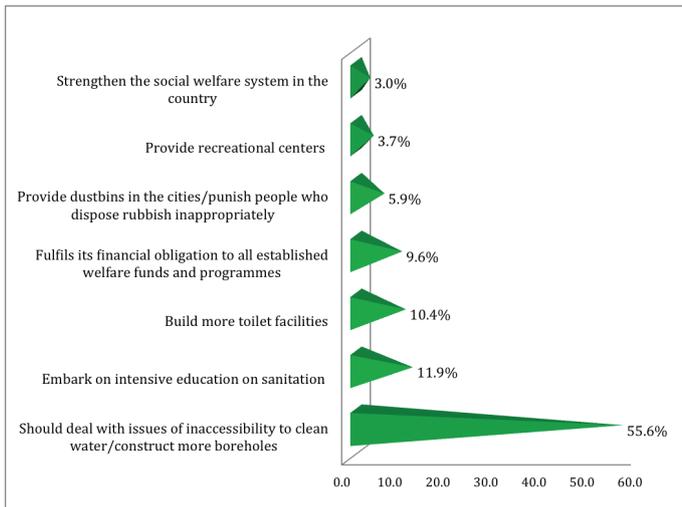
Figure 4.21: Specific Issues Raised Under Youth Development



4.6.12 Social Services

The three topmost issues namely accessibility to clean water/construction of more bore holes, (55.6%), intensive education on sanitation (11.9%), building of more toilet facilities in our communities (10.4%) fall directly under SDG 6. SDG 6 deals with clean water and sanitation and is entitled “Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. Figure 4:22 presents the finding on issues in relation to social services.

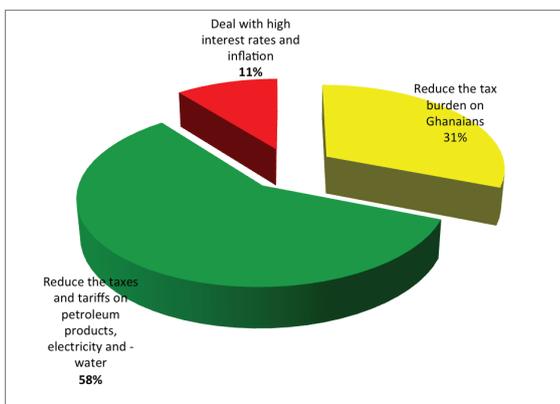
Figure 4.22: Critical Areas of Social Services Raised by Respondents



4.6.13 Taxes and Tariffs

Issues on taxes and tariffs placed thirteenth on the general scale of ranking of major issues. Specific issues that were subsumed under this section which respondents wanted Government to address are presented in the figure 4.23 below. Predominantly, 58 per cent of respondents wanted the Government to reduce taxes and tariffs on petroleum products, electricity and water.

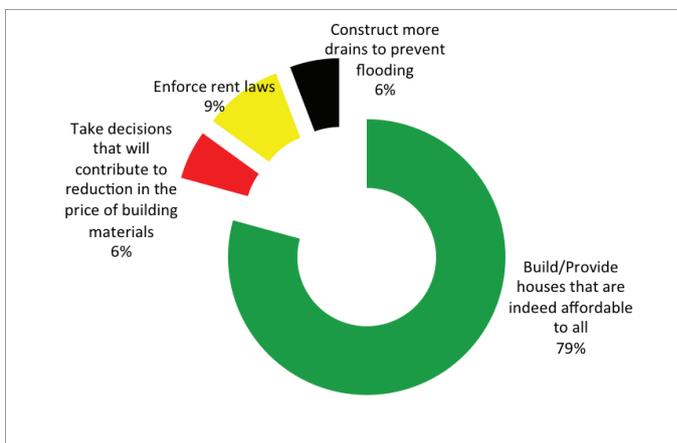
Figure 4.23: Specific Concerns Raised Under Taxes and Tariffs



4.6.14 Housing

Issues on housing did not attract much attention among respondents as it ranked fourteenth on the general scale of issues. Majority of respondents (79.0%) called on Government to build or provide houses that are indeed affordable to all. This affirms the position of the UN under target 1 of the SDGs which relates to making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by ensuring access to adequate, safe and affordable housing for all. Further to this, target 5 of the same goal also seeks to reduce damages due to disasters including water-related disasters. This provision is in parity with the call on Government to construct more drains to prevent flooding (6.0%).

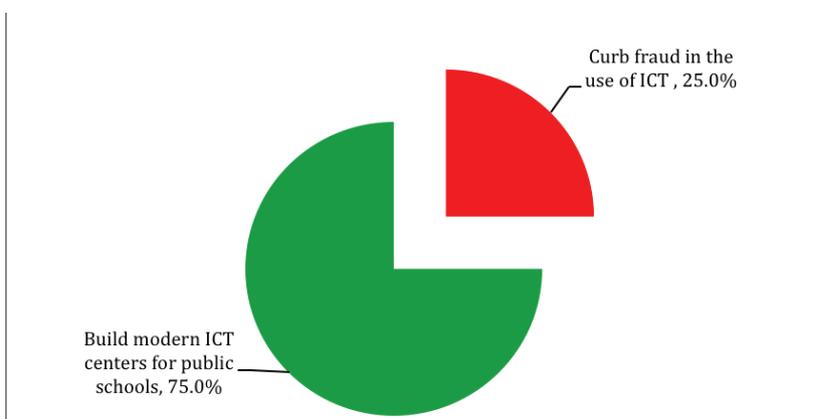
Figure 4.24: Housing Concerns Raised by Respondents



4.6.15 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Issues on ICT did not also feature prominently in the responses obtained. From the few issues encountered, respondents wanted Government to build modern ICT centers for public schools (75.0%) as well as curb fraud in the use of ICT (25.0%).

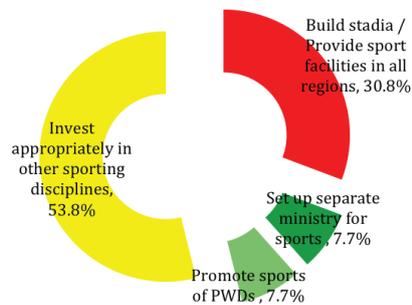
Figure 4.25: Specific ICT issues of which Respondents want Government to address



4.6.16 Sports

The figure 4.26 below presents the response obtained on the specific issues in Sports that respondents wanted Government to address.

Figure 4.26: Specific Issues Raised Under Sports



Invest appropriately in other sporting disciplines besides football namely boxing, athletics, swimming, weightlifting, taekwondo among others (53.8%) dominated the list of responses; followed by build stadia / provide sports facilities in all regions (30.8%), promote sports of PWDs (7.7%) and then set up a separate ministry for sports (7.7%) were but the few issues mentioned.

4.7 Specific Issues Parliamentarians Should Address Concerning the Sectors Ranked

The roles parliamentarians could play to tackle the specific issues raised under each sector was assessed in the study.

4.7.1 Education

Educational issues ranked first on the scale of major issues. Specifically, critical issues respondents wanted their MPs to address under this sector are presented in the table 4.6 below.

Table 4.6: Specific Areas of Education Raised by Respondents

Specific Issues	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Facilitate and provide scholarship for their students	466	21.7
Ensure that schools in their constituency have the required educational materials	317	14.8
Ensure that Government provides enough educational facilities	299	13.9
Ensure free education at the basic level indeed becomes a reality	291	13.6
Advocate for affordable education	276	12.9
Advocate for restoration of teacher trainees allowance	210	9.8
Enact laws that will improve the education sectors	133	6.2
Ensure the school feeding programmes are functioning appropriately	97	4.5
Regular visit to schools to encourage and motivate pupils	40	1.9
Don't know	16	0.7
Total	2,145	100.0

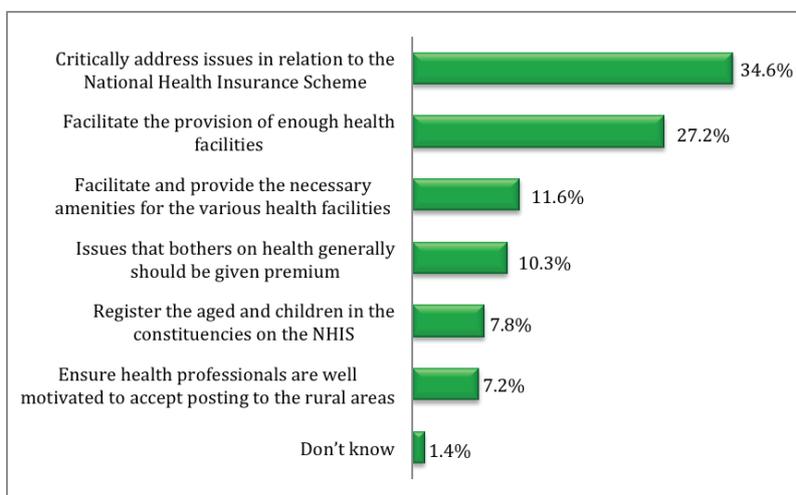
Of the total responses received, 21.7 per cent of respondents said their MPs should facilitate and provide scholarship for students in their constituencies. Some 14.8 per cent tasked their parliamentarians to ensure that schools in their constituency have the required educational materials whilst 13.9 per cent called on MPs to ensure that Government provide enough educational facilities. According to 13.6 per cent, MPs should ensure that free education at the basic level indeed becomes a reality whilst 12.9 per cent wanted MPs to advocate for affordable education/free education. A sizeable proportion of respondents (i.e. 9.8%) were also of the view that MPs should advocate for the restoration of the allowance of teacher trainees. Enact laws that will improve the education sector (6.2%), ensure the school feeding programme is functioning appropriately (4.5%) and regular visit to schools to encourage and motivate pupils (i.e. 1.9%) were also mentioned among the list of issues raised.

4.7.2 Health

Health Issues ranked second on the scale of major issues. Specifically, critical issues respondents wanted their MPs to address under this sector are presented in table 4: 27.

The results obtained on specific areas in health that respondents wanted their MPs to address showed that the majority of respondents (34.6%) wanted MPs to critically address issues in relation to the National Health Insurance Scheme. The next majority (i.e. 27.2%) also wanted parliamentarians to facilitate the provision of enough health facilities. This group was followed by 11.6 per cent of respondents who said MPs should facilitate and provide the necessary amenities for the various health facilities.

Figure 4.27: Health Related Concerns of Respondents

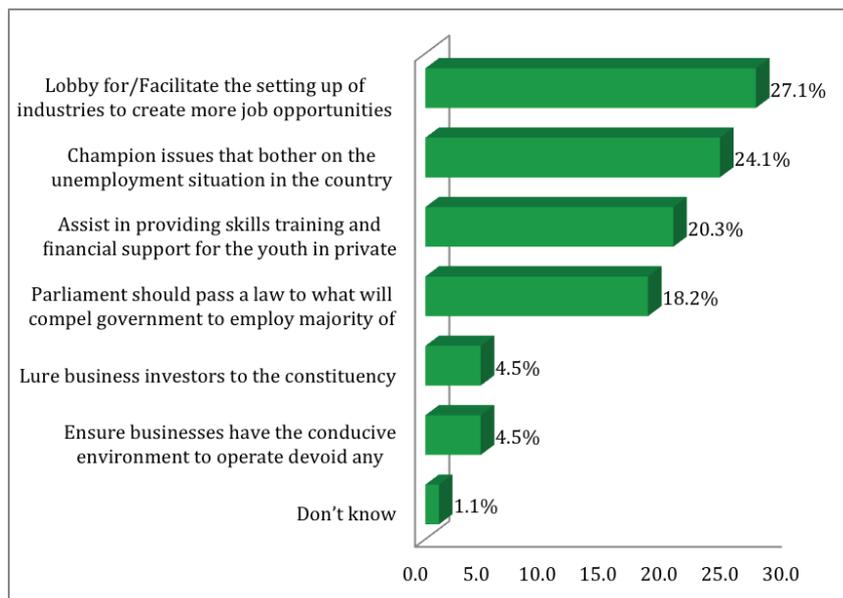


Some 10.3 per cent of respondents wanted MPs to consider issues bordering on health whilst 7.8 per cent said MPs should register the aged and children in the constituencies on the NHIS. The least group (i.e. 7.2%) said MPs should ensure that health professionals are well motivated to accept posting to rural areas.

4.7.3 Employment

Employment was one of the most important issues of national development that respondents raised in this survey as it ranked third on the list of issues of concern. Under this broad issue, respondents raised issues such as lobby for/facilitate the setting up of industries to create more job opportunities (27.1%) as well as champion issues that border on reducing unemployment in the country (24.1%) as measures they would want their MPs to implement to solve the issue of unemployment in the country..

Figure 4.28: Issues on Employment Respondents Want Their MPs to Address



Apart from the two afore mentioned issues, other ways respondents proposed that MPs could contribute to tackle the unemployment situation in the country included: assisting in provision of skills training and financial support for the youth in their constituency (20.3%), parliamentarians should enact laws that would compel Government to employ majority of the youth and PWDs (18.2%), ensure businesses have the conducive environment to operate devoid of any interference (4.5%) and also lure business investors to the constituency (4.5%).

4.7.4 Agriculture

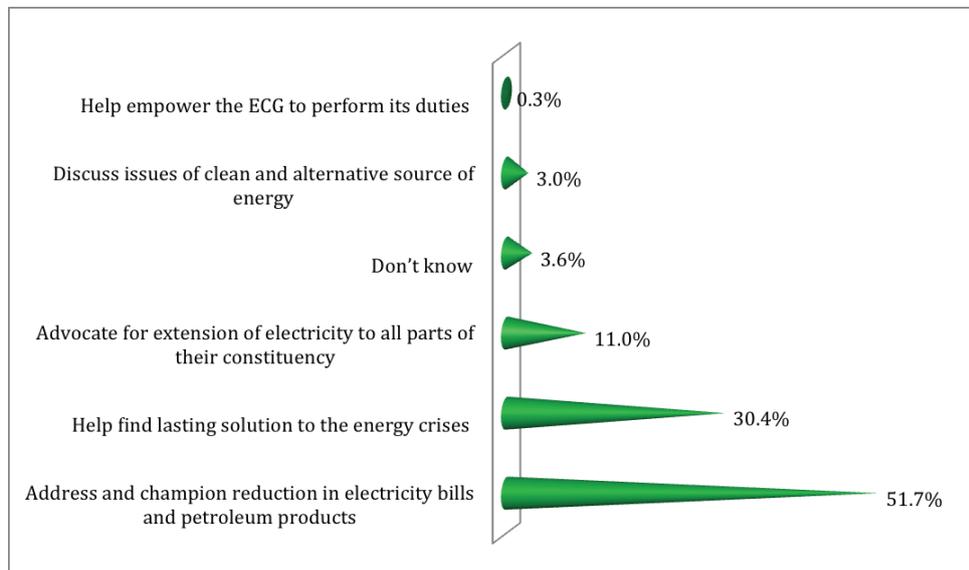
Under agriculture, respondents wanted Parliamentarians to ensure that farmers got the needed facilities and support devoid of partisan politics (42.5%). Members of Parliament (MPs), according to respondents should be non-partisan in discussing and fashioning out policies that affect agriculture (21.9%) and also advocate for and ensure that Government pays attention to the agriculture sector (20.6%). Others called on parliamentarians to encourage the youth to venture into agriculture business (8.8%), ensure that issues that border on land acquisitions are dealt with (2.5%) as well as enact laws to ban importation of staple foods (2.3%).

Table 4.7: Agricultural Issues Respondents Want Parliamentarians to Address

SPECIFIC ISSUES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Ensure that farmers get the needed facilities and support devoid of partisan politics	204	42.5
Be non-partisan in discussing and fashioning out policies that affect agriculture	105	21.9
Advocate for and ensure Government pays attention to the agriculture sector	99	20.6
Encourage the youth to venture into agriculture/farming business	42	8.8
Ensure that issues that bother on land acquisitions are dealt with	12	2.5
Enact laws to ban importation of staple foods.	11	2.3
Don't know	7	1.5
Total	480	100.0

4.7.5 Energy

Figure 4.29: Energy Concerns that Respondents Want Parliamentarians to Address



As depicted in the figure above, respondents wanted MPs to address and champion reduction in electricity bills and petroleum products (51.7%), help find a lasting solution to the energy crisis (30.4%) and also advocate for the extension of electricity to all parts of their constituency (11.0%) among others.

4.7.6 Economy

Economic issues ranked sixth on the scale of major issues. The three notable suggestions on what Parliamentarians should be doing namely help in raising the standard of living of their constituents (33.4%), suggest policies to stabilize the economy / regulate the prices of goods and services (14.8%) and discuss economic issues on the floor of parliament (11.9%) point to the perception of citizens on the crucial role MPs can play in raising the living standards of the people. Figure 4.8 depicts findings on economic issues.

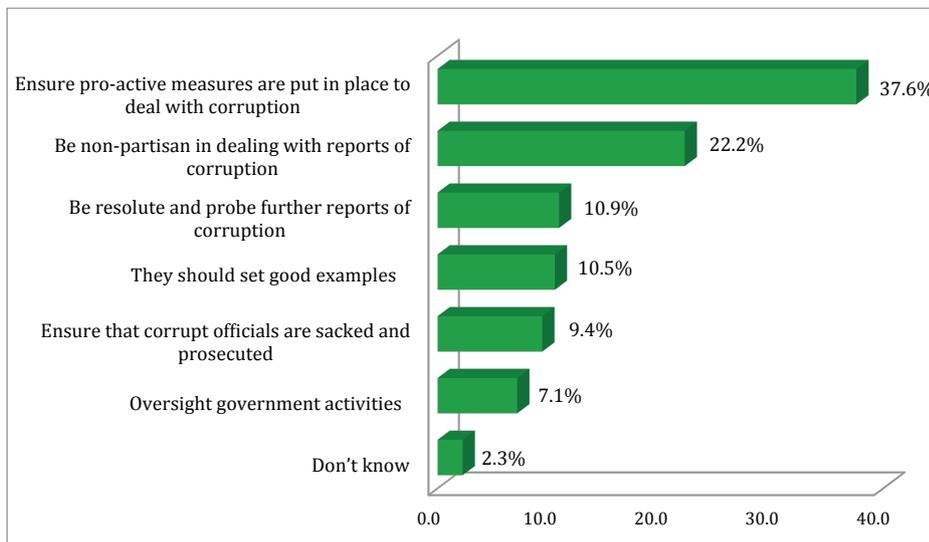
Table 4.8: Economic Issues Respondents Want Parliament to Address

Specific Issues	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Help in raising the standard of living of their constituents	129	33.4
Suggest policies to stabilize the economy/regulate prices of goods and services	57	14.8
Discuss economic issues on the floor of parliament	46	11.9
Support Government in managing the economy	37	9.6
Stop approving loans and budget which have the resultant effect of hurting the economy	33	8.5
Ensure that Government creates more job opportunities	27	7.0
Assist constituents with loans from the common fund	24	6.2
Ensure that the issue of high interest rate is dealt with	23	6.0
Don't know	10	2.6
Total	386	100.0

4.7.7 Corruption

To tackle corruption in the country, respondents called on their MPs to ensure proactive measures are put in place to deal with corruption (37.6%). Respondents also tasked Parliamentarians to be non-partisan in dealing with reports of corruption (22.2%) and be resolute and probe further into reports of corruption (22.2%). All the findings on corruption are presented in figure 4.30.

Figure 4.30: Suggestions by Respondents on How Parliamentarians Can Help Deal With Corruption



4.7.8 Women and Children

Regarding the issue of Women and Children, Table 4.9 depicts the responses on specific issues to be addressed by MPs on Women and Children

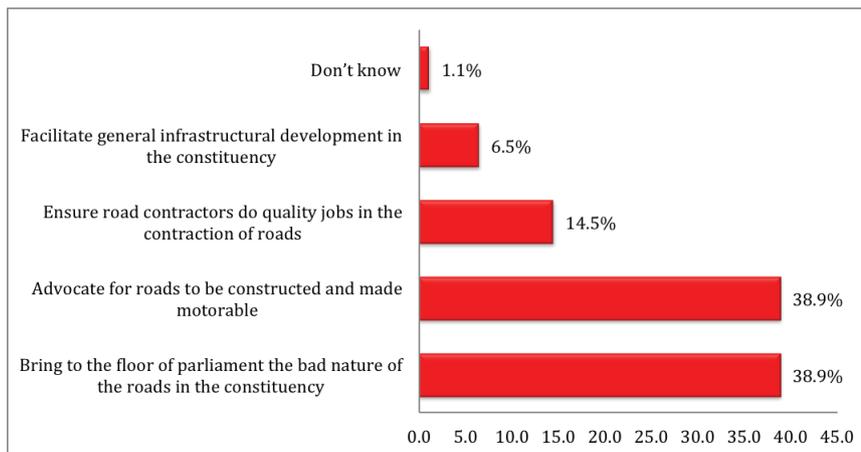
Table 4.9: How Parliamentarians Can Solve Issues Related To Women and Children

Specific Issues	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Champion issues of women and children on floor of parliament	172	32.5
Facilitate training for women and children in their constituency	139	26.3
Ensure that all Government policies are pro women and children	70	13.2
Promote child education	54	10.2
Address issues of child abuse (especially, child marriage, child trafficking, child molestation and child labour) in their constituencies	51	9.6
Help empower women financially	20	3.8
Help provide scholarship for needy but brilliant students in their constituencies	19	3.6
Don't know	4	0.8
Total	529	100.0

4.7.9 Roads and Infrastructure

In the roads and infrastructure sector, two issues i.e. bringing to the floor of Parliament the bad nature of the roads in the constituency and advocating for roads to be constructed and made motorable came up topmost with equal percentages of 38.9 per cent each as the important issues respondents wanted their MPs to address.

Figure 4.31: Issues on Roads and Infrastructure



Some other respondents (14.5%) wanted MPs to ensure that road contractors delivered quality jobs whilst 6.5 per cent wanted parliamentarians to facilitate general infrastructural development in the constituency.

4.7.10 National Security

The table 4.10 below depicts specific issues of national security concerns which respondents wanted their parliamentarians to address.

Table 4.10: Responses on How Parliamentarians Can Help Deal With National Security Issues

Specific Issues	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Separate security issues from partisan politics	55	29.1
Parliament must ensure that the requisite measures are put in place to safeguard the nation	47	24.9
Ensure that security personnel are provided with the needed accoutrements and motivation	45	23.8
Help in redressing issues that have the tendency of fueling crime and aggravating insecurity	16	8.5
Directly be involved in the formation and motivation of community watchdog groups	15	7.9
Ensure that the necessary measures are put in place to protect the lives and properties of their constituents	10	5.3
Don't know	1	0.5
Total	189	100

4.7.11 Youth Development

Youth development ranked 11th on the national ranking of issues. Specific issues which respondents wanted the MPs to act on are presented in the table 4.11

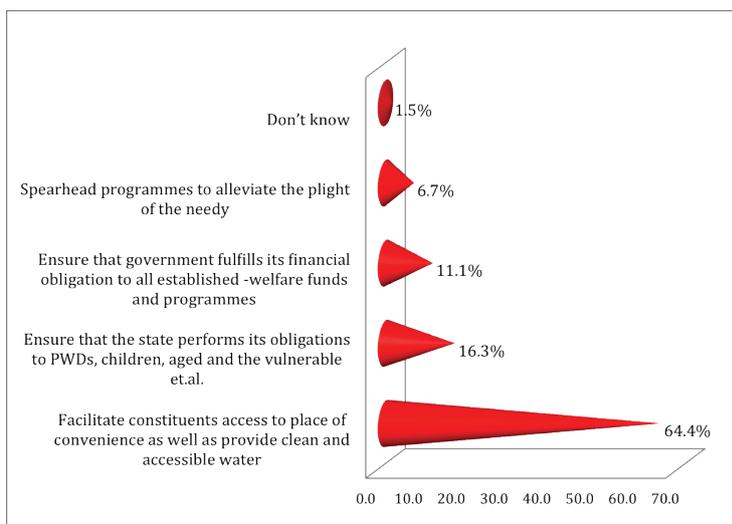
Table 4.11: Proposed Measures on How MPs Can Address Issues in Relation to Youth Development

Specific Issues	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Ensure provision of more job opportunities	83	36.1
Issues on Youth development need to be a priority to them	74	32.2
Facilitate the training of the youth in acquiring leadership, entrepreneurial and employable skills	38	16.5
Set up fund from the common fund to support youth in business/startup businesses.	14	6.1
Establish award schemes for needy but brilliant students in the constituency	10	4.3
Ensure workers are paid a living wage	8	3.5
Don't know	3	1.3
Total	230	100.0

4.7.12 Social Services

Under the broad category of Social Services, as the eleventh issue on the national ranking of issues, the call on MPs to provide clean and places of convenience dominated the lot of responses

Figure 4.32: Proposed Measures on How MPs Can Help Solve Social Services Concerns of Respondents



4.7.13 Taxes and Tariffs

One of the key functions of Parliament relates to the passage of laws on taxes and tariffs. However the issues to be addressed by parliament in relation to taxes ranked thirteenth. Ensuring that Government reduces the tax burden on the citizenry was also raised by 11.5 per cent of the respondents in this section. The specific issue respondents wanted Parliamentarians to tackle are under table 4.12

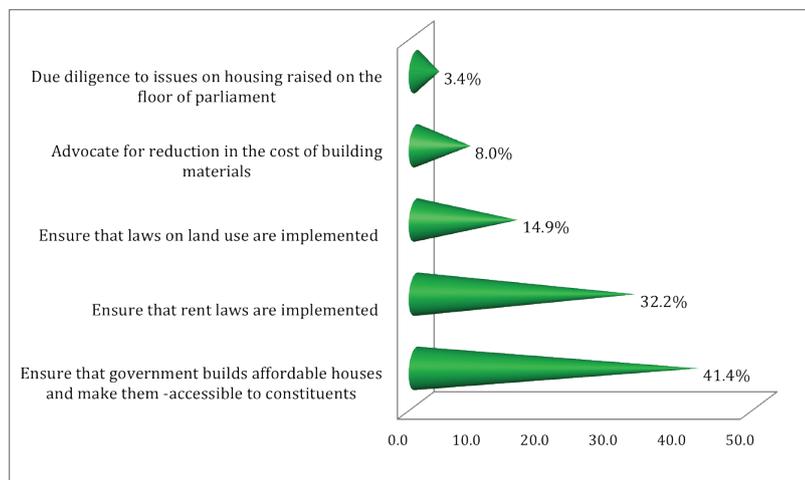
Table 4.12: Specific Issues Respondents Want Parliamentarians to Tackle Under Taxes and Tariffs

Specific Issues	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Advocate for the reduction/removal of taxes on petroleum products and electricity	58	51.3
Advocate for tax relief on essential commodities	23	20.4
Should not pass anymore bills that impose more taxes on the citizenry	14	12.4
Ensure that Government reduces the tax burden on the citizenry	13	11.5
Don't know	5	4.4
Total	113	100

4.7.14 Housing

Housing is one basic necessity of life which respondents want MPs to address. The specific concerns in that regard are presented in figure 4.33.

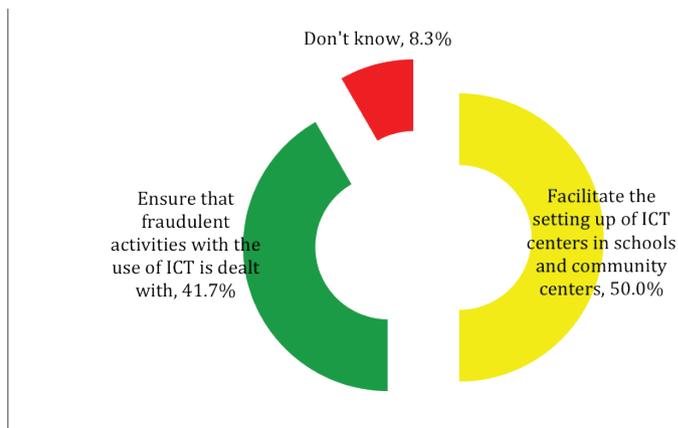
Figure 4.33: Specific Concerns of Respondents in the Housing Sector



4.7.15 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Even though Information, Communication and Technology is crucial to national development, ICT was the fifteenth ranked issue. The specific issues respondents wanted Parliamentarians to address are depicted in figure 4.34.

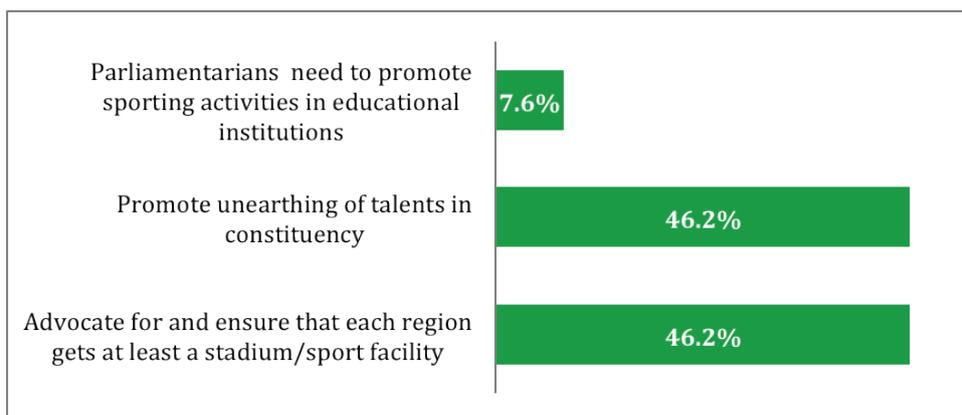
Figure 4.34: Issues under the ICT Sector



4.7.16 Sports

The few issues received under sports mainly requested Parliamentarians to advocate for and ensure that in each region at least a stadium/sports facility was built or established (46.2%), promote unearthing of talents in the constituency (46.2%) and promotion of sport activities in the educational institutions (7.6%).

Figure 4.35: How Parliamentarians Can Help Solve Issues under Sports



CHAPTER FIVE

ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IN GHANA

5.0 Introduction

Multiparty democracy is currently the most acceptable form of government in most parts of the world, including Africa. Elections play critical roles in multiparty democracies. Consequently, election management bodies especially on the African continent have become pivotal in conducting elections to sustain the democratic process.

The basic characteristics of Ghana's Electoral System include:

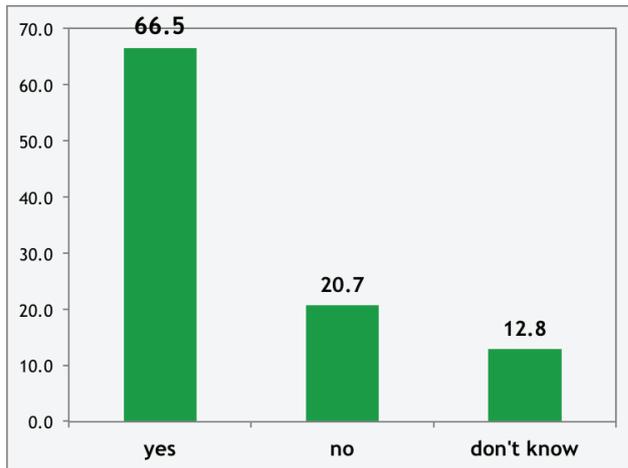
- Universal adult suffrage.
- Non-partisan Assembly system
- Non-compulsory registration or voting
- Official registration of voters.
- Use of identity cards and biometric information issued by the Electoral Commission to establish voters' identity and to prevent impersonation.
- Secret ballot.
- National and local elections alternate at two year intervals.
- The winner in a Presidential election must obtain more than fifty per cent (50%) of the valid votes cast.
- A run-off election in case no winner emerges on the first ballot of Presidential elections.
- Parliamentary and local elections on the basis of the first-past-the post.
- Use of indelible ink (electoral stain) to prevent multiple voting and
- A permanent, independent and non-partisan.
(*Ghana Elections 2008, 2010*).

This section of the survey report looks at whether respondents;

- believe the EC will conduct free, fair and credible elections,
- would like to see some changes with regard to the electoral system of Ghana,
- know what a spoilt and rejected ballot is and how one can prevent a ballot from being rejected.

5.1 Respondents View on Whether the Electoral Commission Will Conduct Free, Fair and Credible Elections

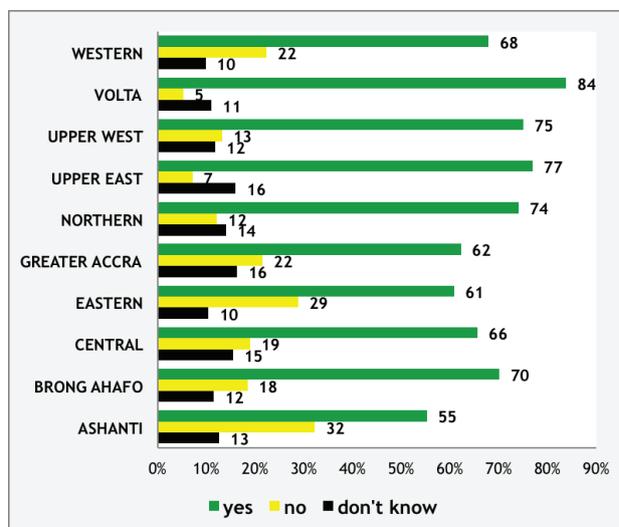
Figure 5.1: Respondents view on whether the Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections



In relation to the above assessment, about two-thirds (66.5%) of the 7,435 respondents interviewed, trust and have confidence that the Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections. Free from any restrictions and interference, Fair by way of being impartial and unbiased in handling of their affairs and Credible by means of being dependable and sincere in their line of duty.

Regional classification based on the trust of the Electoral Commission indicates that all regions had a majority of their respondents trusting the Electoral Commission.

Figure 5.2: Regional classification on whether respondents believe the Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections



Analysis within constituencies shows that 100 per cent of respondents from the Bolgatanga Central, Builsa South, Tema East, Berekum West, Agotime Ziope and Tatale/Sanguli Constituencies trust the Electoral Commission to conduct free, fair and credible elections. In the Atwima Nwabiagya Constituency of the Ashanti Region and Akim Oda Constituency in the Eastern region both recorded 73 per cent of respondents who do not believe in the fact that Electoral Commission would conduct free, fair and credible elections. Likewise, Manhyia North, Obuasi East and Tema Central had 67, 63 and 63 per cent respectively not trusting the Electoral Commission to conduct free, fair and credible elections.

5.2 Reasons Why Respondents Believe Electoral Commission Will Conduct Free, Fair and Credible Elections

Table 5.1: Reasons why Respondents believe Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections

Responses	Frequency	Per cent (%)
Electoral Commission can be trusted/ Good reputation of the Electoral Commission/ Based on Electoral Commission track record and competent staff	3,156	64
Electoral Commission is the constitutional / independent mandated body to conduct elections and declare election results	871	18
Trust the electoral process	356	7
For the sake of peace	199	4
The Electoral Commission chair is a woman with innate characteristics (compassion, care, sympathy)	156	3
Electoral Commission is non-partisan	125	3
Electoral Commission declares actual votes cast (Majority rule principle)	33	1
Have no option than to accept/ Can't do anything	21	0
Don't know	10	0
Any other: only if there is unity among the political parties	2	0
No response	17	0
Total	4,946	100

The survey discloses several reasons mentioned by respondents who indicated that the Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections as shown in table 5.1 above. Majority of them (64%) said the Electoral Commission can be trusted, had a good reputation, a good track record and competent staff. Here, the Electoral Commission was seen to be loyal, truthful and had a track record in conducting elections six times without any problem.

Table 5.1 presents the reasons why Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and peaceful elections.

5.3 Reasons Why Respondents Do Not Believe EC Will Conduct Free, Fair and Credible Elections

Table 5.2: Reasons why Respondents do not believe Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections

Responses	Frequency	Per cent (%)
Low confidence in the Electoral Commission	784	51
Unless a new voter register is created/ Problems with the existing register and registration process	255	17
Electoral Commission is partisan/ Not independent	236	15
New Chairman/ Cannot determine her credibility / Lacks experience in the position	111	7
Unless the election reforms suggested by the Supreme Court are implemented	82	5
Appointment of the Electoral Commission Chairman by ruling government	40	3
Uncertainty about election date/ Not happy with election date	7	0
Don't know	12	1
Any other: Political parties are many, merge all independent parties	4	0
No response	5	0
Total	1,536	100

The table 5.2 shows the reasons given by the respondents who mentioned that they do not believe the Electoral Commission would conduct free, fair and credible elections.

5.4 Reasons Why Respondents Don't Know Whether to Believe the Electoral Commission Will Conduct Free, Fair and Credible Elections

Table 5.3: Reasons why Respondents don't know whether to believe Electoral Commission will conduct free, fair and credible elections

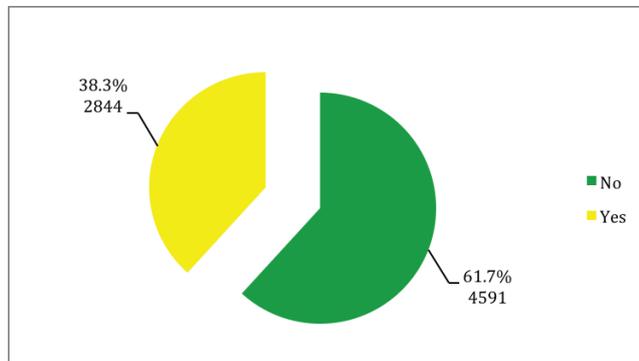
Response	Frequency	Per Cent (%)
Low confidence in the Electoral Commission	217	23
Uneducated/ Not aware of the electoral process/ First time voter	167	18
In the hand of the Supreme God/ Only time will tell	68	7
New Chairman/ cannot determine her credibility/ Lacks experience in the position	63	7
Issues with the voter register/ Supreme court ruling on the voter register/ Pressure on the EC	58	6
Electoral Commission is the constitutionally independent mandated body to conduct and declare election results	48	5
Electoral process not open to the public	33	3
Uncertain since election results may be tampered with	29	3
EC is in bed with the ruling government	14	1
Uncertain about election date	10	1
Appointment of Electoral Commission chair by ruling government	4	0
Don't know	180	19
Any other	2	0
No response	60	6
Total	953	100

The reasons given by respondents who claimed they did not know whether or not to believe the Electoral Commission would conduct free, fair and credible elections is presented in Table 5.3. Out of the 167 respondents who could not proffer an opinion on the Electoral Commission, 43 per cent stated they did not vote in the last presidential and parliamentary elections because they had not attained the minimum voting age of 18 years.

5.5 Changes With Regards to the Electoral System of Ghana

The survey polled out 38.3 per cent of respondents who wanted to see some changes with regards to the Electoral System of Ghana.

Figure 5.2.1: Respondents views on changes with regards to electoral system of Ghana



Several changes were recommended. Table 5.3.1 shows the details

Table 5.3.1: Changes Respondents recommend for Ghana's Electoral System

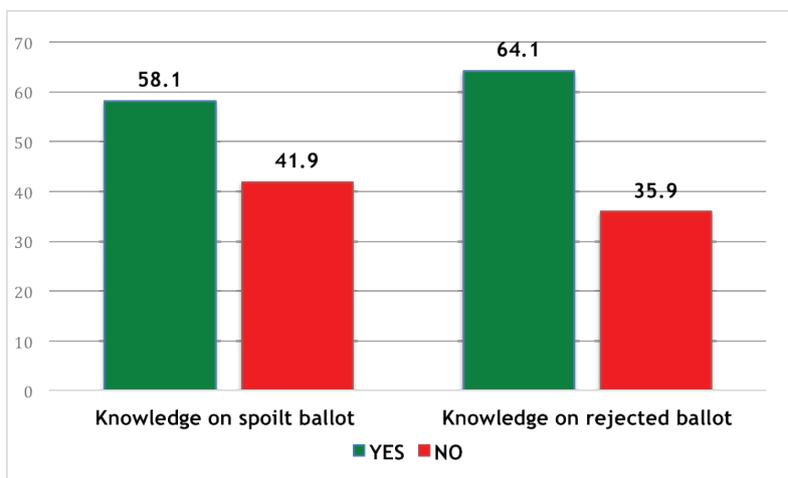
Responses	Frequency	Percentages
New voter register/ Address issues with the voter register	640	23.6
Electoral Commission (Electoral Commission) should be transparent, free and fair in the conduct of the elections	538	19.8
Improve upon/ Advance the biometric voting technology/ E-voting and counting/ Simplify EC form	497	18.3
Adequate training/ motivation for polling agents/ Electoral Commission officers/ Party officials	198	7.3
Registration/ Exhibition days should be extended or held regularly/ Unique form of identification card should be used	170	6.3
Electoral laws should be amended and strictly adhered to.	158	5.8
Provide more polling centers/ Ability to cast vote at any polling center	106	3.9
Change leadership of Electoral Commission	96	3.5
Electoral Commission Chairman should not be appointed/ Electoral Commission should be elected/ DCE should be elected	90	3.3
Tight security at the various polling station	89	3.3
Intensive public education on the electoral process	89	3.3
Elections should begin and end on time	31	1.1
Abolish EC strong room system	12	0.5
Total	2,714	100.0

5.6 Respondents' Knowledge on Spoilt and Rejected Ballot

The Electoral Commission classification of what constitutes a rejected ballot includes: no official mark or stamp on the ballot paper, unclear mark of choice, multiple voting, no thumb print and a mark indicating the identity of the voter.

The survey sought to find out whether respondents knew what a spoilt and/or rejected ballot was. The results showed that 58.1 per cent of respondents knew what a spoilt ballot was and 64.1 per cent of respondents also knew what a rejected ballot was. Figure 5.3 presents the results.

Figure 5.3: Knowledge on spoilt and rejected ballots



The number of rejected ballots in Ghana's last election was high and placed third in the first round of the 2008 presidential election after the NDC (4,056,634, 47.9%) and NPP (4,159,439, 49.1%) with 2.4 per cent (205,438) of the valid votes cast. The parties which placed fourth and fifth were PNC (73,494, 0.9%) and DFP (27,889, 0.3%). In 2012 rejected ballot was 251,720 with 2.3 per cent of valid votes cast (Dr. Gyampoh, 2014 & Ghana Elections 2008, 2010).

Rejected ballots in 1992 was 3.6 per cent of valid votes cast, in 1996 it stood at 1.5 per cent, in the 2000 1st round of presidential election it was 1.8 per cent and in the run-off it was 1.58 per cent. In the 2004 presidential and parliamentary elections some 2.4 per cent of votes cast were rejected.

Rejected ballots have been on the increase in terms of numbers and it is not surprising that a number of Ghanaians 35.9 per cent don't know what a rejected ballot was. The Northern and Upper West regions had 45.2 and 44.1 per cent of respondents respectively not knowing what a rejected ballot was.

Analysis within the Constituencies revealed that one out of every four constituencies had over 50 per cent of respondents who did not know what a rejected ballot was.

5.7 Respondents' Definition of a Rejected Ballot

The 64.1 per cent (4,765) respondents who said yes, they knew what a rejected ballot was gave their definition as follows:

- 1 Intentional or unintentional thumb printing of two boxes (48.6%)
- 2 Mistakenly leaving unlinked mark in two or more boxes (19.9%)
- 3 A ballot paper not bearing the stamp or required identification symbol of the Electoral Commission behind it (15.1%)
- 4 Smudging the ballot paper with indelible ink whiles folding or putting the ballot paper into the ballot box (14.3%)

Any other reasons given by 1.9 per cent of respondents were that, a rejected ballot was a ballot paper torn apart by a voter, leaving the ballot empty and same as a spoilt ballot.

However, a rejected ballot is not the same as a spoilt ballot. In the case of a rejected ballot, it finds its way into the ballot box to be counted but a spoilt ballot does not enter the ballot box. When the spoilt ballot is brought to the attention of the presiding officer, he/she marks on it spoilt and gives the voter a new ballot paper. Some 0.2 per cent of respondents however did not respond to the question.

5.8 How to Reduce the Incidence of Rejected Ballots.

Respondents, who knew what a rejected ballot was, gave several views on how to reduce the incidence of rejected ballots. These are highlighted in table 5.3.2

Table 5.3.2: how to reduce the incidence of Rejected Ballots

Response	Frequency	Percent
Intensive Public Education	3323	44.7
No response	2674	36
Thumb printing in only one box	550	7.4
Abide by all electoral regulations/Exercise the requisite caution when voting/Be vigilant at the time of voting	241	3.2
Report to Electoral Officer to change a spoilt ballot / Electoral Commission must train their officers well	219	2.9
Clean inked finger before folding the ballot paper/Fold the ballot paper correctly/	190	2.6
Ensure that the ballot paper is stamped before voting	159	2.1
Any other	33	0.4
Assist the aged, visually impaired and any other who needs assistance when voting	24	0.3
Don't know	14	0.2
Persons who deliberately destroy / spoil ballot papers	8	0.1
Total	7435	100

CHAPTER SIX GROWTH AND MAINTENANCE OF DEMOCRACY IN GHANA

6.0 Introduction

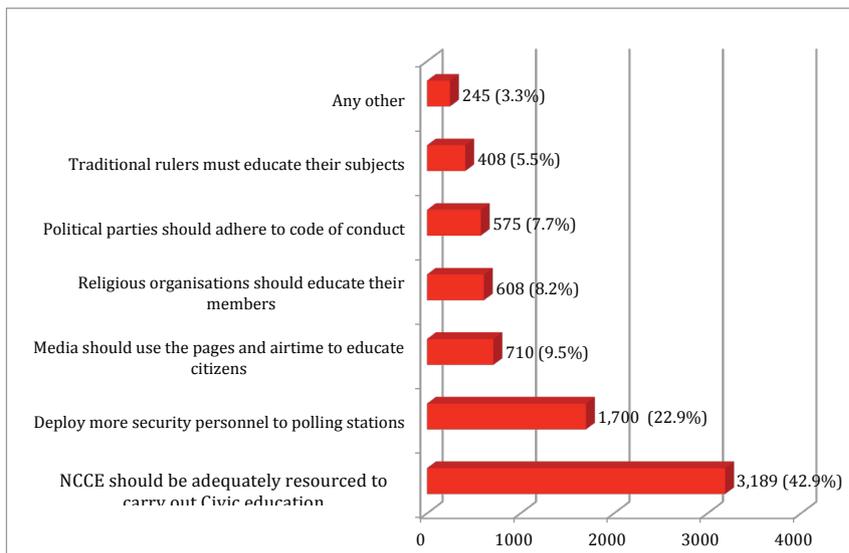
Ghana has enjoyed four republican democratic eras as an independent country and has experienced six successive elections which is unprecedented in the political history of the country. This feat has earned the country the accolade ‘beacon of hope’ of Sub Saharan African democracy, (Ruxin 2009).

This chapter assesses measures to grow and sustain Ghana’s maturing democracy with respect to human dignity, freedom of speech, commitment to civic responsibility, rule of law and improvement of living conditions in the country. Respondents acknowledged that one of the main threats to democratic stability in the country is election related violence and were convinced that the incidence of this could be minimised through civic education.

6.1 Prevention of Election Violence

In spite of the fact that Ghana has not experienced an escalation of election violence across the country, isolated cases of violence have been recorded in every region. This situation appeared worrisome to respondents. The pre-dominant opinion expressed by respondents was that NCCE should be empowered to carry out civic education. Figure 6.1 depicts the details of the results.

Figure. 6.1: Ways to prevent election violence in the country



6.2 Measures to curb Election Violence in forthcoming 2016 General Elections

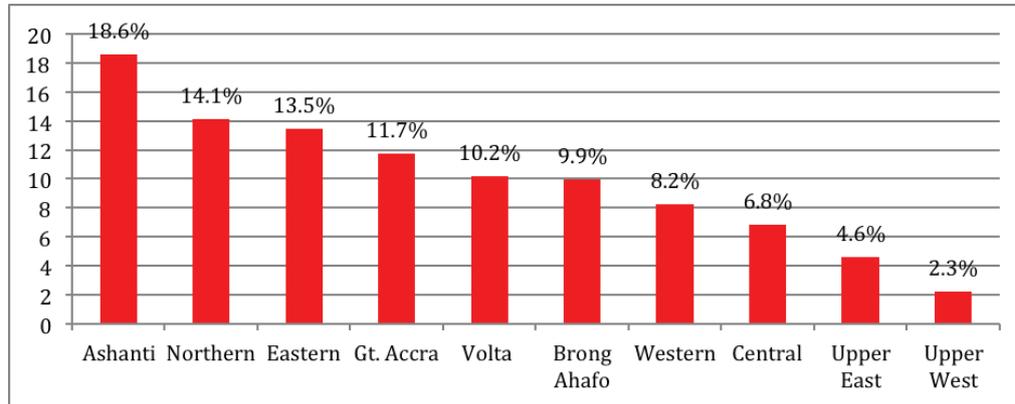
The study also sought views on how to prevent election violence at the constituency level. Table 6.1 indicates responses in relation to this subject.

Table 6.1: Ways to Prevent Election Violence at the Constituencies

Responses	Frequency	Percent
NCCE, religious organisations and traditional councils should educate citizens	2937	39.5
Govt. should equip security agencies/train more security personnel	1632	22.0
Citizens should tolerate/respect/trust and love each other	752	10.1
Political parties/officials should educate their Members	437	5.9
Citizens should abide by election rules and regulation	403	5.4
Electoral officials should be transparent/firm/ fair	368	4.9
Campaign messages should be based on issues rather than personal attacks	246	3.3
The youth should be advised against electoral violence	190	2.6
Media and other stakeholders should be disciplined	178	2.4
Any other: Divine intervention/abolish winner takes all system in place/create more jobs	158	2.1
Interparty dialogue committees should address issues violent in nature	95	1.2
No response	20	0.3
Don't know	19	0.3
Total	7,435	100

A regional analysis of the ways to reduce election violence in the constituencies showed that among the regions, many of the respondents wanted the NCCE, religious bodies and traditional authorities to educate their constituents. Figure 6.2 depicts the regional distribution of respondents views on reducing election violence through intensive public education

Figure. 6.2: Regional Demand for Intensive Public Education against Election Violence



6.3 Safeguarding Ghana's Democracy

The study sought respondents' views on how to safeguard Ghana's democracy. Drawing from recent occurrences such as Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast, in which election related violence led to the destabilisation of those countries, it is important to solicit respondents views on how to consolidate the gains made in our democratic governance. Significant gains includes six successive elections, incumbency handing over power to opposition and using due process to contest election results dispute. Table 6.2 presents the various opinions expressed by respondents on how to achieve this.

Table 6.2: How to safeguard Ghana's democracy

Responses	Frequency	Per Cent
Defend the Constitution/Citizens participation in good governance/free & fair election	2,666	35.9
Educate citizens on their right and responsibilities	1,764	23.7
Educate the public to maintain the peace through tolerance, respect, love and unity	1,548	20.8
Avoid abusive language on media/media should be more responsible	349	4.7
Eschew/expose and punish corrupt officials/transparency and accountability	334	4.5
Any other: Review or repeal the constitution/divine intervention/employment	207	2.7
Institutions should be allowed to operate independently and be strengthened	170	2.3
Don't know	127	1.7
Adequate security measures through recruitment/training and resourcing the security agencies	123	1.7
political parties/politicians should act responsibly /Caution their supporters against violent acts	109	1.5
No response	24	0.3
Assembly members should accept the views of their community members	14	0.2
Total	7,435	100

6.4 Growth of Ghana's Democracy

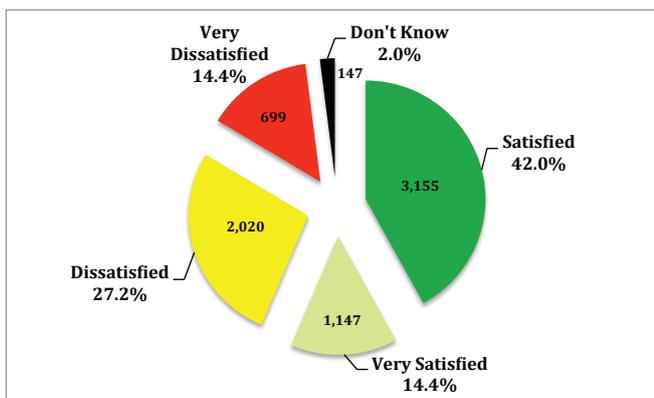
The study sought to assess Ghana's democratic growth in terms of respect for human dignity, freedom of speech, citizens' responsibilities, rule of law and improvement of the living conditions of citizens. These are all enshrined in the 1992 Fourth Republican Constitution of Ghana.

6.4.1 Respect for Human Dignity

Democracy promotes human dignity as the basic human right to ensure the growth of a country. Figure 6.3. depicts the results collated from the field. Article 15 as an entrenched provision under chapter five of the Constitution stipulates that the human dignity of all persons shall be inviolable. It underscores the importance the Constitution attaches to human dignity.

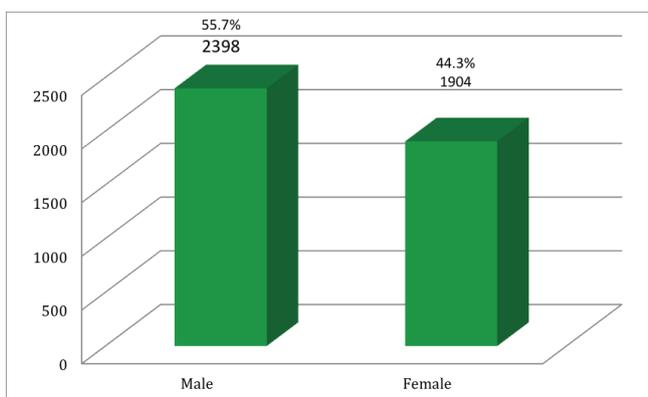
Figure 6.3 represents views on respect for human dignity.

Figure. 6.3: Respect for Human Dignity



A critical observation of the data indicated that more male (55.7%) than female (44.3%) respondents were satisfied with the growth of Ghana's democracy through respect for human dignity.

Figure. 6.4: Respect for Human Dignity by Sex



6.4.2 Freedom of Speech

Freedom House ranking 2016, rated Ghana with a highest score of one in the category of freedom status which includes freedom of expression. The Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression under general fundamental freedom (Article 21(1a))

This study assessed how satisfied Ghanaians were in terms of their freedom of speech and expression. Figure 6.5, 6.6 and table 6.3 presents the findings

Figure. 6.5: Level of Satisfaction regarding Freedom of Speech

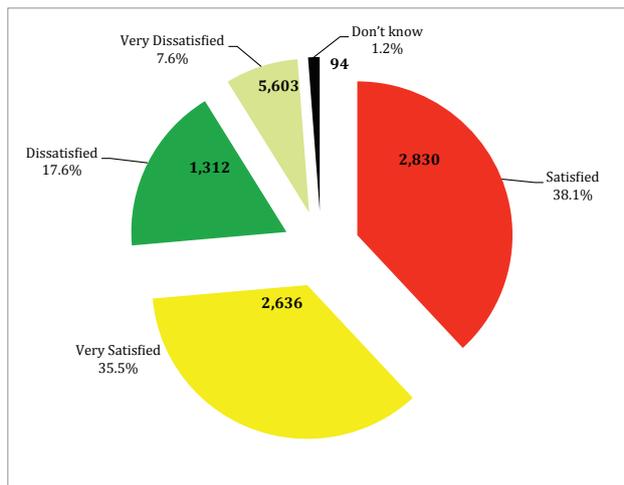
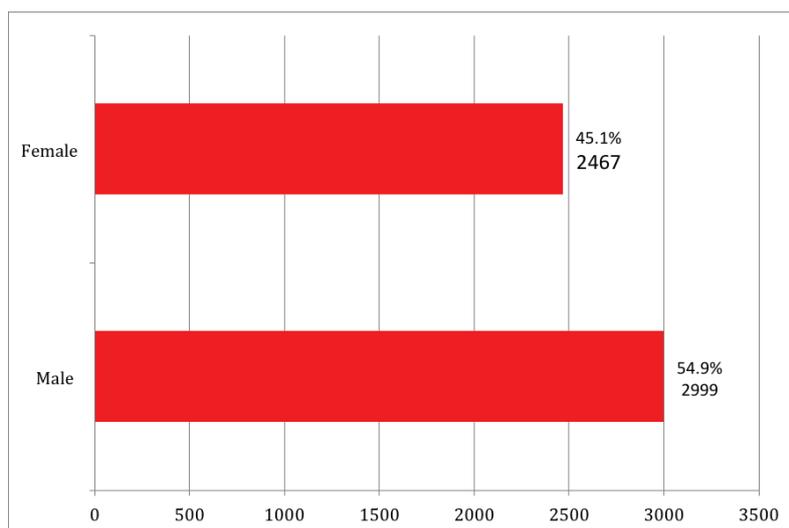


Figure. 6.6: Freedom of Speech by Sex



More male than their female counterparts expressed satisfaction about the level of freedom of speech prevailing in the country.

6.4.3 Citizens Being Alive to Their Civic Responsibility

This study sought to assess the level of citizens' awareness of their civic responsibility and how they are actively fulfilling them. It was worrying to note that a majority of respondents rated this as unsatisfactory. Fig 6.7 sheds further light on the levels of satisfaction.

Figure. 6.7: Level of Satisfaction of Citizens Being Alive to their Civic Responsibility

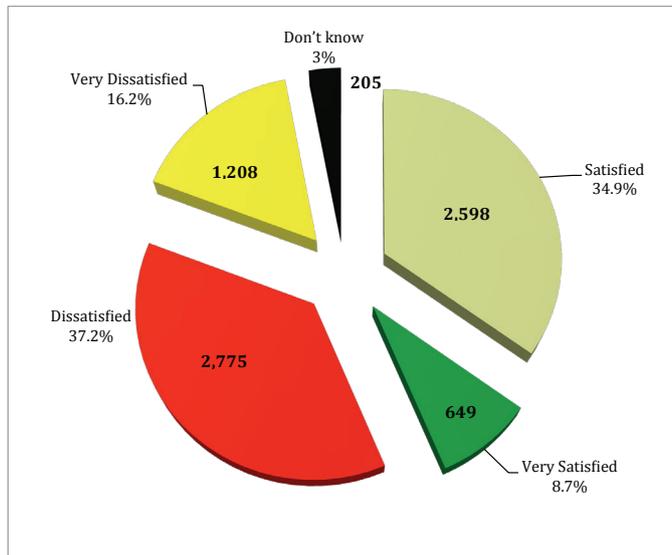
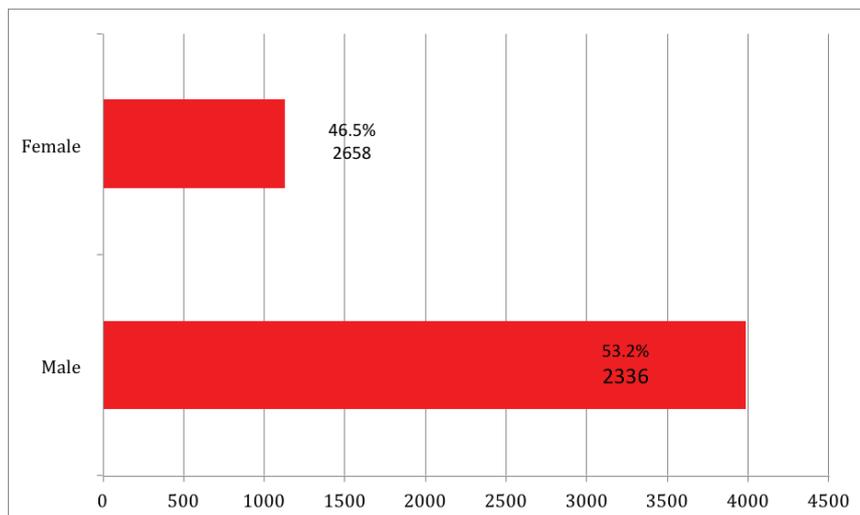


Figure. 6.8: Level of Satisfaction of Citizens Being Alive to their Civic Responsibility



6.4.4 Rule of Law

The rule of Law has been noted as the bedrock of every thriving democracy. It is one of the cardinal principles underpinning all the provisions of the Constitution regarding human rights and the judiciary. Freedom House ranking 2016, rated Ghana with a highest score of one in the category of freedom status which includes Rule of Law. Despite this ranking respondents rated the Rule of Law in Ghana in negative terms. The total level of dissatisfaction comprising dissatisfied and very dissatisfied amounted to (52.8%) responses.

Figure 6.9 presents the findings of the respondents to this question.

Figure. 6.9: Level of Satisfaction regarding the Rule of Law

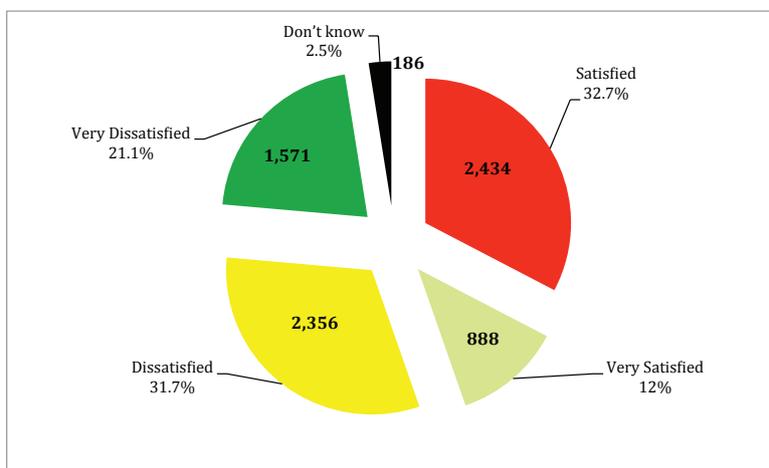
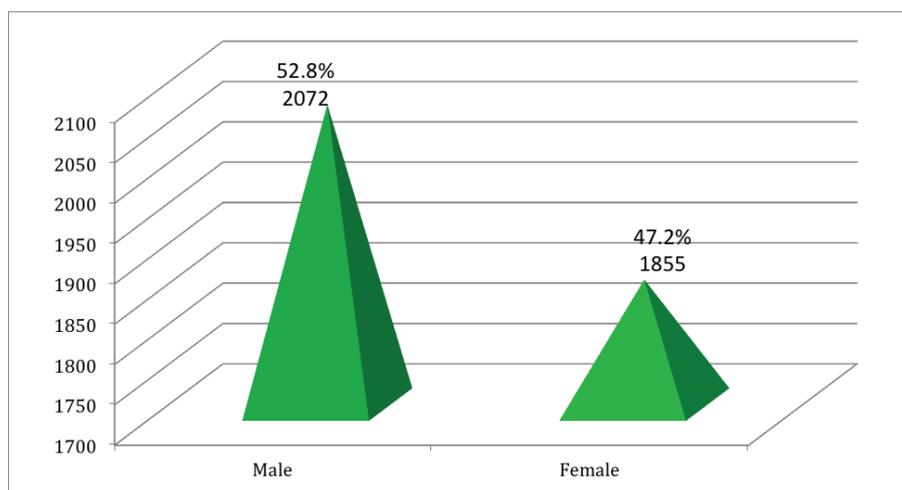


Figure. 6.10: Level of Satisfaction regarding the Rule of Law



6.4.5 Improvement of Living Conditions

One very important role of Democracy is to better the living conditions of citizens by promoting values of goods and service rendered by both private and public institutions. One of the main objectives of democratic governance is to improve the living conditions of citizens. In assessing this democratic indicator, a majority of 67.1 per cent of the respondents stated that improvement in living conditions in the country was low. Data at a glance signified that majority (38.9%) of the respondents were very dissatisfied with the level of improvement in the living conditions in the country. Those who were dissatisfied added up to 28.2 per cent. Respondents who were satisfied and very satisfied had 21.9 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. “Don’t know” responses yielded 7 per cent. See fig. 7.9 for the results.

Figure 6.11 presents assessment of respondents views on how well Ghana is ensuring better living conditions of its citizens

Figure. 6.11: Level of Satisfaction in the Improvement of Living Conditions

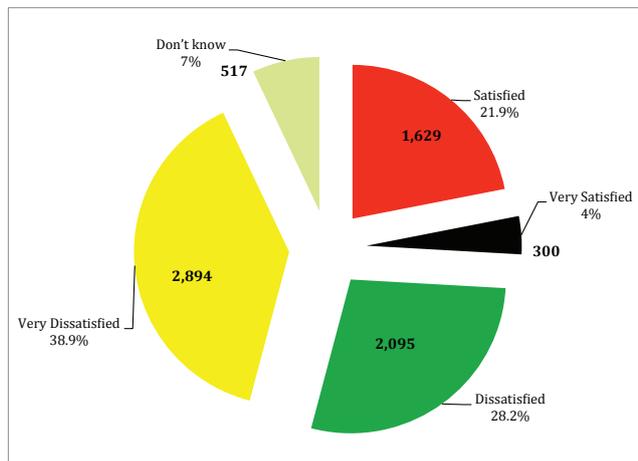
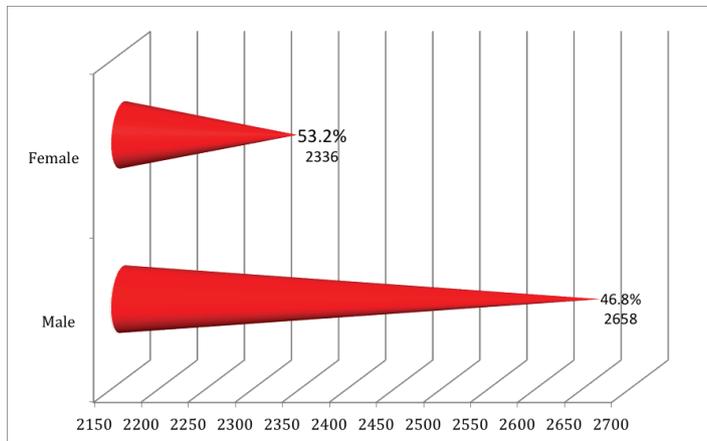


Figure. 6.12: Level of Satisfaction in the Improvement of Living Conditions



CHAPTER SEVEN SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

7.0 Introduction

One crucial feature of democracy is the chance for every eligible citizen to choose a candidate of his/her choice to run the affairs of the state. The opening of political markets to political party competitions and regular elections are thus considered central to institutional building in countries where democracy has become the political order (Andrews and Inman 2009).

Ghana has employed constitutional democracy as the central political governing mechanism since her return to democratic rule in 1993. The elections system has been used to hand over political power to political actors and also to remove political leaders at the district, parliamentary and national levels. Apart from affording the opportunity to citizens to elect or to remove political actors, elections are also used to gauge the political health of a society.

Voting patterns are a complex phenomenon which results from an inter-play of varying factors in different circumstances. It is therefore important to understand both the objective factors and subjective sentiments that determine the pattern of voting and the choices voters make in an electoral contest.

7.1 Summary

The study “Election 2016: Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter” was undertaken in July, 2016. The main purpose of the study was to collate information on issues of concern to the Ghanaian voter in the forthcoming 2016 general election. Specifically, it was to provide electoral candidates with critical areas that Ghanaians and their constituents wanted them to address concerning the issues raised and analyze issues of concern based on gender, age, and regions. The study sought to identify whether there were any differences among voters as well as provide the Commission with adequate information that would help it undertake effective civic/voter education towards December 2016 general elections.

Beyond the above, it was also to prompt the political parties, parliamentarians and government to address voter concerns towards an issues based campaign.

In all, seven thousand, four hundred and seventy (7,470) questionnaires were dispatched out into the field but at the end of data collection, seven thousand, four hundred and thirty-five (7,435) questionnaires were retrieved from the field for analysis. Seven thousand, four hundred and thirty-five (7,435) eligible voters nationwide were interviewed covering all the 275 constituencies. The report consequently presents a number of issues that

Government, Members of Parliament (MPs), Political Parties, Policy Makers and the general public or society are expected to address during the electioneering campaigns towards successful elections and thereafter.

The study investigated the voting history and the willingness of respondents to vote in the forthcoming December, 2016 general elections. The respondents were asked how many times they had voted in the Presidential elections since 1992. The results showed that on the whole, a high majority of respondents (89.8%) indicated they had voted since 1992 at varying times, 26.8 per cent indicated that they had voted six (6) times, followed by 15.7 per cent who also said they had voted three (3) times since 1992 among others.

On whether respondents voted during the last Presidential and Parliamentary elections, the survey results revealed that a very high majority of respondents 82.3 per cent answered in the affirmative whilst 17.7 per cent of respondents also indicated the contrary.

For the 1318 respondents (17.7%) who said they did not vote in the last Presidential and Parliamentary elections, their reasons were solicited. The results showed that a significant percentage of the respondents (45.1%) said they were not yet of the voting age, 18.4 per cent also said they were not registered so they could not vote. Another 18.3 per cent of respondents also indicated that they were indisposed among others.

The study investigated the first three reasons why respondents voted for a particular candidate or party in 2012 elections and the results revealed the following: majority of respondents 51.2 per cent said they voted for a particular candidate or party because of their good policies. For the second major reason why respondents voted for a particular candidate or party, two reasons tied and these were civic responsibility and good policies with 29.2 per cent each. Candidate's trustworthiness came as the 3rd reason why respondents voted for a particular candidate or party.

The results of the study showed a very high majority (89.7%) of respondents expressed their willingness to vote in the forthcoming Presidential election as against 4.3 per cent who said they were not prepared to vote in the forthcoming Presidential election. Prominent among the reasons for the unwillingness on the part of some respondents to vote in forthcoming Presidential election were; failure by governments over the years to live up to expectation (41.8 %); having no interest in voting/my vote does not count (19.2 %) among others. The three most important reasons assigned for the willingness to vote in the 2016 Presidential elections; to exercise my civic responsibility (33.5%), to change government in power (21.5 %) and good policies and development projects (17.2 %).

Regarding those who said they would not vote in the forthcoming Presidential elections, two main factors stood out to influence them to change their minds and vote.. These are Divine intervention 38.4 per cent and Improvement in my standard of living 23.3 per cent.

The results also showed that as high as 87.9 per cent of respondents were willing to vote in the forthcoming Parliamentary election as against 6.0 per cent who were not ready to vote. A total of 6.1 per cent were undecided as to whether they will vote or not. Those who said they were not willing to vote in the forthcoming Parliamentary elections put up one main reason which was Candidates/MPs had disappointed them (47.1%). Two main reasons assigned by those who were willing to vote in the forthcoming Parliamentary elections were; for development to continue/for my MP to continue with his/her work 34.6 per cent and also as a civic responsibility 26.9 per cent.

The study revealed that a majority of the respondents (58.6%) were willing to vote for a woman as President of the nation whereas 41.4 per cent said they were unwilling to vote for a woman as a President of the nation. For the majority who said they were willing to vote for a woman as President of the nation, the main reason assigned was Gender equality/Equal opportunities.

Regarding the presence of a woman Parliamentary aspirant in the constituencies, majority of respondents (58.8%) had no knowledge of a presence of a woman Parliamentarian candidate in their constituency whilst 25.3 per cent also indicated the affirmative. 15.9% had no knowledge on the presence of a woman Parliamentary candidate in their constituency. The results of the study showed that as high as 67.6 per cent of respondents would be willing to vote a woman as MP for their constituency as against 32.4 per cent who answered to the contrary. For the 67.6 per cent of respondents who expressed their willingness to vote for a woman as MP in their constituencies, their reasons were: Women can do better/bring development to the constituency (22.5%). Innate characteristics of women (compassion, care, sympathy and good managers) are good for leadership, (10.6%) and Women empowerment/increase women representation in Parliament (9.9%) among others. For those who would not vote for a woman as an MP, their main reasons were; Women in high positions tend to be arrogant, disrespectful and proud/ dislike women leaders (5.3%).

The study ranked 16 issues of concern to the Ghanaian voter and subsequently categorized them into Upper Group issues comprising 1st – 3rd ranked issues. The Middle Group also comprised 4th – 11th ranked issues and the Lower Group issues ranked 12th – 16th. The study revealed that the three most important issues of concern to the respondents were Education, Health and Employment in that order of importance. Thus the study showed that the three issues have maintained their positions for two consecutive elections years i.e. 2012 and 2016. For the Middle Group issues, Agriculture came first, followed by Energy and Economy. The Lower Group Issues presented Social Services and Taxes and Tariffs as the two leading issues in that group. A close examination of the regional rankings also revealed the same pattern as the national pattern in relation to the 1st – 3rd important issues, except Upper West region which had its third ranked issue as Agriculture.

The study found out the specific critical issues that the respondents expected Government as well as Parliamentarians to address concerning the first three (1st – 3rd) ranked issues. The critical issues the respondents wanted government to address under education included; reduction in the cost of accessing education especially tertiary education, government must ensure that SHS and basic education were of high quality, truly free and compulsory as well as the provision of adequate educational materials and facilities, employ better qualified teachers and restoration of allowances of teacher trainees. The others included better conditions of service for teachers, sponsorship of brilliant but needy students.

On the issue of health, the principal issues the respondents wanted government to address were; the numerous issues affecting the National Health Insurance Scheme and the provision of adequate healthcare facilities among others.

Regarding the issues on employment, the respondents wanted government to address these principal issues: create more employment, build more industries to create jobs for the teeming youth, take issues bordering on unemployment in the country seriously, lift the embargo on public sector employment among others.

The respondents' expectations of Parliamentarians in relation to addressing the specific critical issues under the first three ranked issues were assessed in the study. Consequently, on Education, respondents wanted their MPs to facilitate and provide scholarship for students in their constituencies, ensure that schools in their constituencies had the required educational materials among others.

On health, the results showed the critical specific issues the respondents wanted their MPs to address. These critical issues included MPs to critically address the issues of the National Health Insurance Scheme among others.

Employment was the third ranked issue of importance to the respondents. The respondents wanted their MPs to address employment matters relating to lobbying for/facilitating the setting up of industries to create more job opportunities in their constituencies and championing issues that reduced the unemployment situation in the country.

Regarding the respondents' expectation of the Electoral Commission (EC) to conduct free, fair and credible elections, the results showed that 66.5 per cent of respondents believed the EC to conduct free, fair and credible elections. The study revealed that majority of the respondents from all the regions trusted the EC to conduct free, fair and credible elections. The regional distribution of the respondents' confidence or otherwise in the EC to conduct free, fair and credible election revealed that Volta region topped the list, followed by Upper East and Northern regions. It could be observed that the high confidence in the EC to conduct free, fair and credible election was consistent throughout the regions as it ranged between 84 per cent and 55 per cent with the least being 55 per cent as recorded in the Ashanti region.

Several reasons were assigned by the respondents who believed the Electoral Commission would conduct free, fair and credible elections. Prominent among the reasons was that the Electoral Commission could be trusted/ good reputation of the Electoral Commission / based on the Electoral Commission's track record and competent staff (64.0%). For those who said they did not trust the Electoral Commission to conduct free, fair and credible elections, the main reason they put forward was the Electoral Commission was not credible/Electoral Commission was corrupt (51 %).

The study results showed that some 38.3 per cent of respondents would like to see some changes in the electoral system of Ghana and critical among the changes suggested were; a call for a new voter register /address the issues of the voter register (22.5%).

The study also investigated the knowledge of respondents on spoiled and rejected ballots. The data revealed that majority of respondents (58.1%) knew what a spoiled ballot was. Another 64.1 per cent of respondents also knew what a rejected ballot was. The respondents who indicated they knew what a rejected ballot was defined same and prominent among the definitions were: intentional or unintentional thumb-printing of two boxes (48.6%), mistakenly making an inked mark in two or more boxes (19.9 %) and when a ballot paper does not carry the stamp or a required identification symbol of the Electoral Commission (15.1 %). The data again showed that majority of respondents (69.5%) proffered intensive public education on how to fold a ballot correctly as a measure for reducing rejected ballots.

The survey showed that respondents acknowledged that one of the setbacks to democratic stability was election related violence. Thus in the opinion of 42.9 per cent of the respondents, the adequate resourcing of the NCCE to carry out civic education activities across the length and breadth of the country was the best way to prevent election violence. Another segment of respondents (22.9%) also believed that deployment of more security personnel at all polling stations during elections was also another way to prevent election related violence among others.

On how to prevent election related violence at the constituency level, many of the respondents 39.5 per cent posited that the NCCE should be well resourced to carry out intensive civic education in all the 275 constituencies throughout the country.

On the overall assessment of how well Ghana is growing her democracy, in terms of respect for human dignity, 42.0 per cent of the respondents said they were satisfied as against 27.2 per cent who answered the contrary. Also on how well Ghana is growing her democracy in relation to freedom of speech, 38.1 per cent indicated that they were satisfied, 35.5 per cent of respondents also said they were very satisfied whilst 7.6 per cent of respondents answered they were very dissatisfied. The study results again revealed that on how well Ghana is growing her democracy in terms of citizens being alive to their civic responsibilities, 37.3 per cent of respondents said they were dissatisfied, whilst 34.9 per cent also said they were satisfied. Assessing the practice/observance of rule of law as

a measure of how well Ghana is growing her democracy, the results showed that 32.7 per cent of respondents revealed that they were satisfied whilst 31.7 per cent also said they were dissatisfied. On the overall assessment of improvement of the living conditions of Ghana as a proof of how well Ghana is growing her democracy, 38.9 per cent of respondents posited that they were very dissatisfied, 28.2 per cent also said they were dissatisfied whilst 21.9 per cent intimated that they were satisfied.

As to how to safeguard Ghana's democracy, 35.9 per cent of the respondents believed that the defence of the Constitution/good governance/free and fair elections/participation in governance or decision-making at all levels are the sure way of safeguarding the democracy of Ghana. Another 23.7 per cent of respondents suggested education of citizens on their rights and responsibilities as the way to safeguard Ghana's democracy and the promotion of civic education/tolerance/respect/love and unity were believed to also be safeguards to Ghana's democracy.

7.3 Conclusion

Ghana's democratic growth has come far since the inception of the Fourth Republic in 1993 is significant especially within the West African sub-region. The country's democratic agenda has therefore seen a steady progress and growth towards national development and peace evidenced by six (6) successive elections as well as peaceful transitions from one elected government to another. The nation continues to discharge her democratic and constitutional rule in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity and has become a beacon of hope to the rest of the nations of the West African Sub-region and for that matter the whole of Africa. These notwithstanding, the nation is faced with some challenges in the area of the development of political parties and their activities, polarisation of the Ghanaian populace and isolated incidents of election violence, many of which have resulted in legal contests over election results.

As the country begins a new period of vigorous political and electioneering campaigns by the various parties, it is important to remind and encourage political parties and functionaries to uphold the peace and tranquillity in the country and to see the need to conduct issue-based campaigns devoid of vitriolic attacks on personalities or political opponents.

In conclusion, the Commission makes the following observations.

1. Lack of public awareness and appreciation in ICT as a tool for national development. Empirical evidence abounds that ICT is a driving force in the transformation of low income and developing countries to middle income status and Ghana cannot afford to be left behind in this drive towards development

2. Lack of appreciation by the citizenry on the role of members of Parliament as lawmakers and not infrastructure developing agents.
3. Lack of public interest in multi disciplinary sports as a tool for national development.
4. Increased appreciation of the Ghanaian electorate in the role and participation of women in government and decision making.
5. The first three ranked issues - Education, Health and Employment - for the second time running underscores the need for political parties to effectively articulate their plans and policies on how these issues would be addressed in their manifestoes. It further reinforces the need for government elect in 2016 to prioritise plans and policies to address these issues in a sustainable manner.

The study would make available the findings to the Government, Parliamentarians, Political Parties, Policy Makers and Security Agencies among others, the various issues of concern to the voter. It is the hope of the Commission that this will help to engender issue-based and healthy campaigns towards a peaceful election in 2016 and afterwards.

The study further serves to enhance the work of the NCCE in carrying out civic and voter education in order to better inform and equip Ghanaians as they go to the polls on December 7, 2016.

This study will enrich citizens' participation in governance by holding duty bearers accountable to their expectations.

REFERENCES

- Andrews J and Inman K. (2009). Vote Choice in Africa's Emerging Democracies. Paper prepared for the 2009 meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Baneseh. A (2013): How the Supreme Court judges ruled in the election petition, Retrieved from <https://www.modernghana.com/news/487157/how-the-supreme-court-judges-ruled-in-the-election-petition.html> .
- Brenya, Asamoah and Alhassan, 2015: Electoral Systems and Antagonism in Politics: A Case Study of Ghana; Asian Journal of Social Sciences and Management Studies, 2015, 2(2): 64-69
- Election 2012: Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter by the NCCE; March 2012
- Erdman, G. (2007). The Cleavage Model, Ethnicity and Voter Alignment in Africa: Conceptual and Methodological Problems Revisited. GIGA Working paper No 63, Hamburg: German Institute of Global and Area Studies.
- Ghana Elections 2008: 2010 Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Ghana, 2010.
- King, 2000: Electoral Systems. Retrieved from http://faculty.georgetown.edu/kingch/Electoral_Systems.htm
- Okyere, (2014): Spoilt ballots affect democratic choice. Retrieved from <http://www.graphic.com.gh/news/politics/spoilt-ballots-affect-democratic-choice-lecturer.html>
- Opinion Polls on Issues of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter in Election 2008 by the NCCE; April, 2008
- Posner, D.J., Simon D.J., (2002). Economic Conditions and Support in Africa's new Democracies. Comparative Political Studies. 35, 313-336.
- Ruxin Josh (2009) A Beacon of Hope in Sub-Sahara Africa. Retrieved from http://www.google.com.gh/client=ms-alps-full_h532_a1-2009+article+on+ghana%27s+democracy.
- The 1992 Republican Constitution of Ghana.
- Youde, J. (2005). Economics and Government Popularity in Ghana. Electoral Studies 24(2005) 1-16.

METHODOLOGY

The study was designed as a representative nationwide sample survey. All the existing two hundred and seventy-five (275) constituencies in the country were covered with varied number of questionnaires ranging from twenty (20) to thirty (30). In all 7,470 questionnaires were administered by 275 research assistants. A confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of 2 was applied. The study covered eligible voters who were selected by a simple random selection technique, and also by the application of the Household Selection Kish Grid and Respondents' Selection Kish Grid. The data collection spanned a period of four days. Processing of the field data was carried out at the NCCE Head Office.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The study was conducted nationwide covering all the 10 administrative regions of Ghana. All the 275 constituencies were also involved. The distribution of questionnaire per constituency was based on the 2010 Population and Housing Census regional population percentage share. Regions ranked 10 percent and above had thirty (30) questionnaires each. Those regions ranked below 10 percent but not less than five (5) percent were allocated twenty-five (25) questionnaires, while regions ranked below five (5) percent were given twenty (20) questionnaires. As a result, Ashanti region, Greater Accra region, Eastern region and Northern region had thirty (30) questionnaires per constituency. For constituencies within Brong Ahafo, Western, Central and Volta regions, they had twenty-five (25) questionnaires each. Constituencies in the Upper West and Upper East regions were each allocated twenty (20) questionnaires. All eligible voters formed part of the prospective respondents for this survey. To ensure that females who make up more than 50.0 per cent of Ghana's population were adequately covered, research assistants were impressed upon to administer 40 per cent of their questionnaires to women. Research assistants were also specifically tasked to reach out to at least one PWD within the constituency.

SAMPLE SELECTION

The study was a nationwide sample survey, where every individual had an equal chance of being selected. The household was the primary sampling unit for this survey and respondents who qualified to be interviewed were individuals who were eighteen (18) years and above. The Household Selection Kish Grid was used to select households based on a specified interval of three and five for rural and urban areas respectively. The respondent Kish grid was also used to select one respondent from each household.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

A semi structured questionnaire was developed and used to capture the primary data. It entailed both closed and open ended questions. The questionnaire covered the demographic information of respondents, such as the sex, highest attained educational level, and their occupational status among others. Respondents' voting history, willingness to vote during the forthcoming national elections as well as the main issues they would like government and their members of parliament to address were all captured in the questionnaire.

APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

QUESTIONNAIRE

TITLE: "ELECTION 2016: MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE GHANAIAN VOTER"

(PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE TREATED WITH UTMOST CONFIDENTIALITY. CONSEQUENTLY YOU NEED NOT PROVIDE YOUR NAME)

NAME OF INTERVIEWER.....

PLACE OF INTERVIEW.....

CONSTITUENCY.....

REGION.....

DATE OF INTERVIEW.....

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF RESPONDENTS

1. Sex:

- i. Male ii. Female.....

Status:

- i. PWD..... ii. Non- PWD.....

2. Age:

- i. 18-20..... ii. 21-30.....
 iii. 31-40..... iv. 41-50.....
 v. 51-60..... vi. Over 60.....

3. Educational Background (Highest Attainment):

- i. No Formal Education
 ii. NonFormal Education.....
 iii. Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS etc.)
 iv. Secondary (SHS, Voc. etc.).....
 v. Tertiary (Poly, Univ., College of Education, etc.).....
 vi. Any Other (specify).....

4. Occupation:

- i. Student..... ii. Farmer/Fisherman...
 iii. Trader..... iv. Civil/Public Servant...
 v. Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.. vi. Teacher/Lecturer.....
 vii. Unemployed.....
 viii. Artisan (specify)
 ix. Any Other (specify).....

5. Marital Status

- i. Single ii. Separated iii. Widowed
 iv. Married v. Divorced vi. Any Other (specify).....

6. Religious Affiliation

- i. Christianity.... ii. Islam..... iii. African Traditional Religion.....
 iv. Any Other (specify).....

SECTION B: VOTING HISTORY AND WILLINGNESS TO VOTE

7. How many times have you voted in presidential elections since 1992?
 i) Nil... ii) 1... 2... 3... 4... vi) 5... vii) 6...
8. a) Did you vote in the last presidential and parliamentary elections?
 i) Yes... ii) No...
- b) If **no**, give one reason for your answer
- i. Indispose at the time of voting.....
 - ii. Lost of Voter ID card.....
 - iii. Was not yet of voting age.....
 - iv. Just did not want to vote.....
 - v. Any Other (specify).....

If yes to Question 8 answer Question 9, otherwise go to Question 10

9. a) Why did you vote for the particular candidate or party? (rank your three most important reasons) 1 = first most important, 2 = second most important, 3 = third most important.
- i) They had good policies and programmes.....
 - ii) To exercise my civic responsibility.....
 - iii) To change the government in power.....
 - iv) Because we are from the same ethnic, religious or social background
 - v) The party or candidate can be trusted.....
 - vi) Any Other (specify).....
- b) Will you vote for the same party you voted for in the 2012 elections?
 i) Yes... ii) No... iii) Undecided....
10. a) Will you vote in the forthcoming presidential elections?
 i) Yes... ii) No... iii) Undecided....
- b) Please give one reason for your answer.

- c) If No or Undecided, what will make you vote in the forthcoming presidential elections?

11. a) Will you vote in the forth coming parliamentary elections?
 i) Yes.... ii) No... iii) Undecided.....

b) Please give one reason for your answer.

.....

c) If No or Undecided, what will make you vote in the forth coming parliamentary elections?

.....

12. a) Will you vote for a woman as President of the Nation?

i) Yes... ii) No...

b) Give one (1) reason for your answer

.....

13. Is there a woman parliamentary aspirant in your constituency?

i) Yes... ii) iii) Don't know....

14. a) Will you vote for a woman as MP for your Constituency?

i) Yes... ii) No...

b) Give one reason for your answer

.....

SECTION C: MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE VOTER

15. Which of these areas are of importance and concern to you and should be addressed by political parties in Election 2016?

(PLEASE RANK 1 – 3)

- i. Women and Children.....
- ii. Education.....
- iii. Health.....
- iv. Housing.....
- v. Security.....

- vi. Employment.....
- vii. Youth Development.....
- viii. Corruption.....
- ix. Social Services (Sanitation, KVIPs, Water)....
- x. Agriculture.....
- xi. Economy (inflation, weak currency, standard of living).....
- xii. Energy (Electricity, Oil and Gas).....
- xiii. Sports.....
- xiv. Roads & Infrastructure.....
- xv. Taxes & Tariffs.....
- xvi. Information and Communications Technology
- xvii. Other [please specify]

16. What specific critical issue do you want **Government** to address concerning the issue ranked first?

1st Ranked (Specify).....

17. What specific critical issue do you want your **Parliamentarian** to address concerning the issue ranked first?

1st Ranked (Specify).....

18. What specific critical issue do you want **Government** to address concerning the issue ranked second?

2nd Ranked (Specify).....

19. What specific critical issue do you want your **Parliamentarian** to address concerning issue ranked second?

2nd Ranked (Specify)

.....

.....

.....

20. What specific critical issue do you want **Government** to address concerning the issue ranked third?

3rd Ranked (Specify).....

.....

.....

21. Which specific critical issue do you want your **Parliamentarian** to address concerning the issue ranked third?

3rd Ranked (Specify).....

.....

.....

SECTION D: GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN GHANA

22. a) Do you believe the Electoral Commission (EC) will conduct free, fair and credible elections?

i) Yes... ii) No... iii) Don't know..

b) Give one reason for your answer.

.....

23. a) Would you like to see some changes with regards to the Electoral system of Ghana?

i) Yes... ii) No... iii) Don't know....

b) If yes, what change would you recommend?

.....

24. In your opinion what is the best way to prevent election violence?

- i. Institutions such as NCCE must be empowered to do more public education...
- ii. Put more security personnel at polling stations.....
- iii. Religious bodies must continuously educate their congregants on the need for non-violence.....
- iv. The media should use their pages and air time to educate citizens on the need for non-violence.....
- v. Chiefs must educate their subjects on the need for non-violence during the election.....
- vi. Political parties should adhere to the code of conduct for political parties.....
- vii. Other [specify].....

25. In your opinion in what ways can we prevent election violence in our constituencies in the forthcoming elections? [mention 1]

.....

26. What is your overall assessment of how well Ghana is growing her democracy?

Where: 1- Very Satisfactorily 2- Satisfactorily 3- Unsatisfactorily
 4- Very unsatisfactorily 5 – Don't know

Elements of Democracy	1	2	3	4	5
Respect for Human Dignity					
Freedom of Speech					
Citizens being alive to their Civic responsibilities					
Rule of Law					
Improvement in living conditions					

27. In your opinion how can we safeguard (protect) our democracy?

.....

28. Do you know what a spoiled ballot is?

i) Yes...

ii) No...

iii) Don't know....

29. Do you know what a rejected ballot is?

i) Yes...

ii) No...

iii) Don't know....

b) If yes, what is a rejected ballot?

i. Intentional or unintentional thumb-printing of two boxes.....

ii. When a ballot paper that does not carry the stamp or a required identification symbol of the Electoral Commission.....

iii. Mistakenly leaving an ink mark in two or more boxes.....

iv. Mistakenly touching a ballot paper with an inked finger while folding it or putting it into the ballot box.....

v. Any other (specify).....

.....

c) if Yes, how can you prevent a ballot from being rejected?.....

Previous Research Conducted by The NCCE

Research on Public Perception on the Performance of the Fourth Republic	-	1995
Research on Public Attitude Towards Voters Registration Exercise	-	1996
Research on An Assessment on the Performance of the District Assemblies	-	1997
Research on Assessment of the Performance of the Second Parliament of the Fourth Republic	-	2000
Research on Civic Knowledge Among the Youth of Ghana	-	2002
Research on Cultural Practices Affecting Women’s Rights in Ghana	-	2004
Research on Opinion Poll on Issues of Concern to the Voter	-	2004
Research on Fact Finding on Child Labour in Ghana (2)	-	2006
Research on An Evaluation of the Social Auditing Programme of the NCCE	-	2006
Research on An Assessment of Citizens Participation in Local Governance (2)	-	2007
Research on Evaluation of the Direct Community Contact Campaign (DCC) on the Re-denomination of the Cedi (Volume 1,2 and 3)	-	2007
Research on Opinion Poll on Issues of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter in Elections 2008	-	2008
Research on An Assessment of the Performance of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic	-	2009
Research on Assessment of NCCE role in Election 2008	-	2009
Research On Exit Poll on the introduction of the new 2 Bank GH¢ note	-	2010
Research on Witchcraft and Human Rights of Women in Ghana	-	2010
Research on Election Conflict in Ghana: A Case study of Constituency By-Elections	-	2011
Research on The Role of Women in Traditional Governance In Ghana: A case study of the three Northern Regions	-	2011
Research on Matters of concern to the Ghanaian Voter	-	2012
Research on Child, Early and Forced Marriage	-	2014
Assessing the Effectiveness of Parliament in Ghana’s Democracy	-	2015
Assessing the Effectiveness of District Assemblies in Ghana’s Democracy	-	2015
Assessing the Effectiveness of the Media in Ghana’s Democracy	-	2015

OUR WORK

The NCCE delivers quality civic education to all Ghanaians and works towards strengthening Ghana's democracy in the following thematic areas:

- Education on the Constitution of Ghana
- Democracy Education
- Education on Human Rights
- Promoting Peace building and Conflict Resolution
- Promoting Children's Rights
- Promoting Political and Religious Tolerance
- Promoting Inclusiveness and Participation of Marginalized Groups (eg. women, people with disabilities, etc)
- Education on Sustainable Management of the Environment
- Voter Education
- Research and Studies on Democratic Development

The NCCE uses its underlisted flagship programmes and platforms to enhance its activities in communities and schools across Ghana:

- ANNUAL DEMOCRACY LECTURE
- ANNUAL CITIZENSHIP WEEK
- ANNUAL CONSTITUTION WEEK
- GHANA CONSTITUTION GAME/QUIZ COMPETITION
- SOCIAL AUDITING PROGRAMMES
- COMMUNITY DURBARS
- DIALOGUE SERIES
- CIVIC EDUCATION CLUBS

E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF NCCE HEADOFFICE /REGIONAL OFFICES

Head Office (Accra)	–	info@nccegh.org
Ashanti Region (Kumasi)	–	ashanti@nccegh.org
Brong Ahafo Region (Sunyani)	–	brong-ahafo@nccegh.org
Central Region (Cape Coast)	–	central@nccegh.org
Eastern Region (Koforidua)	–	eastern@nccegh.org
Greater Accra Region	–	greateraccra@nccegh.org
Northern Region (Tamale)	–	northern@nccegh.org
Upper East Region (Bolgatanga)	–	uppereast@nccegh.org
Upper West Region (Wa)	–	upperwest@nccegh.org
Volts Region (Ho)	–	volta@nccegh.org
Western Region (Sekondi - Takoradi)	–	western@nccegh.org

** NCCE has 216 District Offices Nationwide*

Social Media Presence:



nccegh



nccegh



nccegh1

You Tube nccegh



020 40 66002

020 40 66000

Website:

www.nccegh.org