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Public Perceptions of Nigeria Police Monetary Bribery in Awka, Nigeria

Benjamin Chukwuka Nnadozie
Walden University

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Walden University

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Benjamin Chukwuka Nnadozie

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Walden University
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Abstract

Public Perceptions of Nigeria Police Monetary Bribery in Awka, Nigeria

By

Benjamin Chukwuka Nnadozie

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
Public Policy and Administration

Walden University
February 2021

Abstract

The Nigerian police are often perceived by the Nigerian public as a very corrupt institution due to reports in the media and direct experiences of police brutality, extortion, injustice, and especially monetary bribery. The refusal to pay monetary bribes to the police has led to loss of lives and a lack of trust in the police. The purpose of this study was to investigate public perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka in Anambra State, Nigeria. The conceptual framework was Novak et al.'s dynamic social impact theory. The research questions focused on understanding how the public perceived police monetary bribery and how these perceptions influenced their attitude and involvement in police accountability mechanisms and democratic principles. The inquiry was made using a qualitative case study design. The purposive sampling technique was used to select a total of 66 Awka residents as study participants. An interview protocol was used to elicit exhaustive responses from the participants, which were processed using QDA Miner and analyzed according to qualitative content analysis. Findings show that participants saw police monetary bribery as ubiquitous, customary, beggarly, and extorting; systemic; indiscriminating of criminals and non-criminals; and to receipt to police services. This study's recommendations emphasize the need to raise the Nigerian government and the people's (a) awareness of how police bribery continues to degrade national and global perceptions of the country and (b) embrace of democratic principles. Hence, a total overhaul of the police institution's ethical foundation may alleviate the monetary bribery culture and all forms of corruption by the Nigeria Police leading to positive social change.

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Dedication

To my wife, Helen Nnadozie, for her unflinching support in bearing most of our family's financial burden and my two unassuming sons, Chukwuka and Chiaghana, for their love and support. I also wish to dedicate this scholarship quest to my late parents, Sir and Lady Daniel Nnadozie for, their love. And to my benefactor Chief Ezediorama from Nkanu, Enugu State, who encouraged me to travel to the U.S. without whom this Doctor of Philosophy would not have been possible because that was his wish.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Entrenched police monetary bribery in Nigeria elicits public perceptions that can render ineffective reforms designed to improve police performance and eradicate corruption in the country. Nigeria scores 25 of 100 points and ranks 149 of 180 in the recent global corruption perception index, which shows how deep corruption has permeated the country's public service delivery (Transparency International, 2020). Police corruption has become so endemic that the average Nigerian citizen believes that the police are synonymous with corruption (Ibrahim, 2015).

Police corruption is problematic for many reasons. First, the police are law enforcement agents charged with the responsibility to uphold the rule of law. Second, their duties of protecting peoples' lives, property, and human rights put the citizens' overall security in their care (Bello & Anigbogu, 2018). Third, enormous powers have been given to the police to enable them to perform their duties (Yahaya, 2018). Therefore, the abuse of powers for personal gains is a significant abuse. Fourth, the police are one of the public service institutions that are mainly in contact with the people (Adedeji & Ibrahim, 2019). In the words of Hartz (1999, as cited in Akpunonu-Ogu, 2014), "the police is [sic] the most visible government institution that people often use to assess the character of the government" (p. 24). Therefore, the failure of the police can be attributed to a failed state. Undoubtedly, police play an essential role in any democratic government. The quality of life of its citizens, in great measure, rests in the police's ability to capably discharge their duty.

The recent phase of Nigeria's democratic dispensation is the third in the history of the country, which began with the former president Olusegun Obasanjo on 29 May 1999 (Ajayi & Ojo, 2014). It is even more critical in the current 21 years of Nigeria's fledgling democracy that the police force perform honorably. Nigerian police have the top ranking as the most corrupt institution with monetary bribery (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017). Drawing from reports of the Human Rights Watch, Akpunonu-Ogu (2014) claimed that "bribery and extortion by the police on traffic duty is the most common and unbearable form of corruption in the force" (p. 42). Police officers responsible for checking vehicle licenses, roadworthiness, and other duties extort money from private and commercial drivers (Nnaeto, 2019). Regarding arrest and prosecution, police demand money from the public, hide illegal files to extort cash, and deliberately delay treating cases to collect bribes (Ibrahim, 2015). Research shows that two out of every three persons who encounter the police paid a bribe to the police in the past 12 months (Transparency International, 2013, 2015). In 2016, the Nigeria Police's Complaint Response Unit (CRU) recovered ₦2.75m kickback from an assistant commissioner of police serving in the Southeast region of the country (Ameh, 2016). Police monetary bribery is widely believed to be the precursor to most other police corrupt practices such as unlawful arrest, brutal treatment, and molestation, among others (Nwaka, 2007).

The United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2019) projected Nigeria's population in the year 2030 at over 262 million people, making it the most populated country in Africa and seventh in the world. Nigeria is geographically,

ethnically, and culturally diverse, inhabited by over 300 ethnic groups speaking over 1000 dialects (Adegbami & Uche, 2015). Though with significant ethnic minorities, Nigeria has three dominant tribes; Hausa and Fulani in the North (predominantly Muslims), Yoruba in the Southwest (half the population Muslims and the other half, Christians), and Igbo in the Southeast (mainly Christians; Kalu, 2010). The unrelenting ethnic hostility and political instability culminated in the Civil War of 1967, which lasted for 3 years, claiming an untold number of lives and properties.

The progress of Nigeria's social, economic, and political milieu are in dilemma situation because of endemic corruption, which the atrocities perpetuated by the police made worse. Pervasive corrupt practices in the country inhibit foreign investors because of their inability to understand the endemic culture and fear of losing their money. With the largest economy in Africa, Nigeria ranks sixth in global oil exports and 10th in the natural gas reserve, which accounts for 90% of earnings and 80% of government revenue (Miller & Kim, 2014). Yet, Nigeria suffers a loss of about 100,000 barrels of oil daily from bunkering, pipelines, and storage facilities, which are ostensibly under government officials' watchful eye (Miller & Kim, 2014). The loss shows the police's inability to provide security of lives and properties, which corruption in the police exacerbates.

Police monetary bribery, a subset of corruption by police or any government official, is obtrusive to economic development. According to Yusuf et al. (2014), there is a direct causal relationship between corruption and poverty. Corruption prevents economic growth by avoiding investments and discouraging tax influx from such investment opportunities, thereby reducing economic growth. Furthermore, according to

Yusuf et al., corruption thwarts funds essential for building the value of public infrastructures such as electricity, roads, potable water supply, and housing. Above all, police bribery undermines law enforcement and the promotion of the rule of law.

Some factors sustain corrupt police practices. One of the main factors is inadequate police accountability. There is the belief among Nigerians that the reluctance to hold offending police officers accountable for their misconduct gives way to police impunity (Karimu & Osunyikanmi, 2012). Indeed, some scholars have asserted that most police accountability mechanisms are weak and that more citizen oversight or social accountability is required (Alemika, 2010; Igbuzor, 2010). Therefore, increasing police accountability became the focus of police reforms in Nigeria from 2004, when the Nigerian government launched the community police initiative to meet the global outlook towards democratic policing. According to the Department for International Development (2010), the foundation of community policing is the democratic principle that the citizens delegate the police to defend their fundamental rights to freedom, justice, and fairness under the rule of law. Thus, community policing is synonymous with democratic policing--where the police operate under the law and are held accountable to the law for their conduct and actions (Abiri, 2011). Keying into this reform initiative, the former inspector general of police, Ibrahim Idris, in his inaugural speech of June 2016, reiterated the plan to lead the Nigeria police on the path to upholding democratic principles in its operations. The inspector general of police stated that the Nigeria police would be strict in their efforts to imbibe the ethics of democratic policing and be an accountable, representative, and responsive law enforcement agent to the people at all times.

The application of democratic principles in police as embedded in the community policing initiative by the Nigerian government has many prospects. Scholars believe it can reduce corruption by increasing police accountability, improving the police-public relationship, and increasing the flow of information between the police and the community, among other things (Chene, 2012; Department for International Development, 2010). Chene holds that citizens' empowerment to participate in planning and evaluating the police's work can help achieve more significant police accountability. By the principles of democratic policing and community policing, partnership and collaboration are required between the citizens and the police to be successful (Okeshola & Mudiare, 2013; Siro, 2016). Therefore, the process will oblige citizens with the responsibility of involvement and participation in achieving police accountability.

To involve the public in police accountability, the inspector general of police launched the Public Complaints Rapid Response Unit (PCRRU) in June 2016. The PCRRU is a medium to which the public expects to forward complaints to police misconduct via phone calls, SMS, Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, Blackberry Messenger, and Email and receive feedback. Despite the citizen's dissatisfaction with the police, there appears to be low interest in reporting police misconduct through the PCRRU. According to the PCRRU's report published by Adepegba (2017), it receives only 822 complaints between the 1st of October and the 30th of December 2016. Of this number, complaints on "professional misconduct" ranked highest with 298 (36.3%) cases, followed by 262 (31.9%) complaints on "demanding money for bail." A statewide analysis of the report shows that Anambra State came 5th with 40 (4.89%) out of the total complaints.

Anambra was below Lagos' 153 (18.3%), Abuja's 130 (15.82%), Rivers' 116 (14.12%), and Enugu's 41 (4.99%). The unfortunate pattern of public reporting shows limited public involvement and participation.

Researches reveal that citizens' negative perception of the police and lack of trust can hamper their involvement in police accountability (Ibrahim, 2019; Ojomo, 2010). There is the notion that the police's perception will impact citizens' attitude and behavior towards the police (Ajayi & Longe, 2015; Abubakar, Othman & Mustaffa, 2017; Wu, 2014). The perception is positive, the attitude and behavior will be positive, but where it is negative, the attitude and behavior also become cynical. However, the Nigerian police's public opinion has consistently been negative (Kpae & Adishi, 2017; Okeshola & Mudiare, 2013; Ajayi & Longe, 2015), invariably affect any success of community-policing initiatives.

Presently, community policing seems not to have yielded the expected results in the 18 pilot states in Nigeria. Although, the Department for International Development (2010) reported positive results, among which are; reduction in police corruption, improved service quality, information sharing, and reduced fear of crime. In Anambra State, there is a higher incidence of different crime forms than other states that were not part of the community policing pilot project (Alemika, 2013). Findings from more current empirical studies in other States showed limited success in improving community confidence, a partnership with the police, and crime reduction (Abubakar, Othman & Mustaffa, 2017; Ajayi & Longe, 2015; Olusegun, 2016; Silo, 2016). Most of these studies

found that issues related to poor perception and attitude of the public inhibit community policing's success and, ultimately, the progress of democratic policing.

Public perceptions of the police as corrupt are born out of some destructive behaviors often exhibited by the police. The most widespread Nigerian police behaviors are corruption (Ajayi, 2014; Ajayi & Longe, 2015). The positive perception of and cooperation with the police is essential to policing and, ultimately, the citizens' quality and development of any democratic state. Notwithstanding, the research literature has not examined how the citizens' perceptions of the police monetary bribery affect their perceptions of and involvement in democratic policing reforms and initiatives. This study was significant in the light of the little success in democratic policing in Nigeria, the increase in police corruption and general corruption, and the present government's anti-corruption posture. The study is also significant in understanding how the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery impact their willingness to uphold democratic principles. Thus, it will help policymakers understand how citizens perceive police work and how to work on these perceptions. The idea will improve the public-police partnership and collaboration needed for democratic policing, police accountability, faithfulness to the rule of law, and police corruption reduction.

There is a summary of the literature related to this work in the background section. The problem statement, the purpose of carrying out the study, the scope, limitations, and delimitations are detailed appropriately in this chapter. There is also an outline of the assumptions that guided this study.

Background

Police corruption is a problem that affects all spheres of Nigerians' social and economic life and the entire nation's development (Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017). Therefore, scholarship and research in this area span verse number of disciplines. It is the endemic nature of Nigerian police corruption that attracts the attention of many scholars in public administration, sociology, psychology, political science, law, development studies, medicine, economics, and education, among other disciplines. Nevertheless, most of the studies are theoretical and position papers.

Although the interest in the public's perception of the police in Nigeria dates as far back as 1988 when Alemika examined the public's perception of Nigeria police using a quantitative approach, there is little achievement in the empirical investigation of citizens' perceptions of police and police corruption. Even less explored are citizens' perceptions of police monetary bribery and consequences of such opinions for community policing initiatives.

Alemika's 1988 research showed a growing but isolated interest in the empirical examination of police corruption perceptions on one hand and community policing perceptions. In public perceptions of the police, some scholars examined public perceptions of factors that influence police corruption and different police corruption forms (Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Ibrahim, 2019; Oluwaniyi, 2011; Olumuyiwa, Popoola & Lawal, 2014). A closely related but different study variable was researched by Ajayi and Longe (2014), which is the public's perception of police corruption and crime

prevention. While Nwaubani, Anyika, and Azuh (2014) examined public perceptions of challenges and strategies for community policing, Siro (2016) explored the reasons for community policing failure in the northern part of Nigeria.

Thus, little or no empirical studies have examined police corruption from the citizens' perspective in Awka, Anambra State. The only study carried out in Awka examined the police's organizational commitment and self-efficacy based on self-report measures. In light of the public's perception of the high incidence of various forms of crimes and community policing initiatives' limited success. There is a need to examine peoples' perceptions of police monetary bribery and how such perceptions might affect their involvement in upholding principles of democratic policing in Awka. Some scholars have argued that there is neglect to the police's perception in Nigeria (Okeshola & Mudiare, 2013), while others held that the solution to police corruption does not only lie in increasing income and facilities alone, which is the focus of most studies and reforms. Instead, there should be a more comprehensive focus on police-community support and involvement approaches (Oluwaniyi, 2011; Civil Society Panel on Police Reform, 2012). The inquiry would trigger new directions in the search for police performance improvement that seeks more involvement of the citizens in police reform initiatives in Nigeria.

This study's relevance lies in its potential to understand how citizens' perceptions of police monetary bribery work to influence public involvement in policy initiatives and how these perceptions can be worked on in the policy realm to improve the public/police

partnership. The expectation is to initiate a connection that will enhance the operations of democratic policing and possibly reduce police corruption.

Subsequently, I discussed problem statement, purpose of the study, research questions, theoretical/conceptual framework, nature of study, definition, assumptions, scope and delimitation, limitations, significance, and finally, the chapter ended with summary.

Problem Statement

Many Nigerians do not perceive the police as a friendly or service-oriented organization that works on their behalf. This is because of the constant harassment, brutalizing of trade unionists and other nationalists, and the torture of persons accused of criminal offenses different from the colonial police (Ajayi, 2014; Bello & Anigbogu, 2018). As a result, many Nigerians do not want to have anything to do with the police (Ajayi, 2014; Bello & Anigbogu, 2018); hence, a communication-relational gap continues to exist between the police and the public. Ajayi (2014) stressed further that this mutual distrust, rather than disappear, continues to grow wider. Therefore, the public's perception of the police is unfriendly, untrustworthy, corrupt, and brutal, and these have created grave problems for police-public relations in crime prevention. According to the 2017 National Corruption Survey, 46.4% of Nigerian citizens have had "bribery contact" (p. 320) with police officers (Khalid et al., 2020). The survey also listed the police amongst top public officers to have the highest number of bribes paid. Based on the survey, 29.7% of all bribes paid to police officers upon a direct request before providing service (Khalid et al., 2020).

The prevailing culture of bribe collection by the Nigerian police has eroded public confidence and trust. In Awka, Anambra State, monetary bribery has led to a lack or breach of trust among the police's residents and identity loss. The people's perception is that the Nigerian police abate crime for pecuniary reasons, and many see “the police as not your friend” (p. 159) as the force purports to be (Akinlabi, 2017). Others also see the police as unfriendly friends and try as much as possible to avoid having dealings with the police. Thus, in the event of a crime, most people resort to self-help instead of involving the police because they believe that they are corrupt (Idumange, 2016). A similar finding could also be gleaned from Bello and Anigbogu (2018) when they revealed that the public perceives the police as corrupt and does not trust the police because of bribery and corruption. In a study by Alemika and Chukwuma (2010), more than two thirds of the respondents had observed the police receiving a bribe, abusing, beating, and kicking citizens. This behavior has also resulted in the police experiencing attempted violence in their relation to the public.

In January 2010, there was uproar in Awka as a police officer allegedly shot a man over refusal to pay ₦20 Naira bribe (Nairaland Forum, 2010). In another development, one secondary school student, Daniel Uwaezuoke, died when a police officer opened fire on a Mitsubishi L300 commercial bus. The bus was transporting the deceased and other passengers to school, and because the driver refused to pay the usual ₦20 bribe at the checkpoint in Ogidi, a suburb of Awka, the police officer shot them (Human Right Watch, 2010). It noted that the police public relations officer of the state only said that the suspect was in custody while investigations were in progress, after

which they would charge the case to court for murder and misuse of firearms, contrary to Force Order 237 of the Police Act. As there was no feedback on the issue and justice tend to be denied, residents of the area became angry and tried carrying out a reprisal attack on the police. However, the traditional ruler's timely intervention and some other influential persons in society saved the situation. Notwithstanding, Onuoha (2007) noted that there were cases of police beaten within the period in Awka.

However, due to loss of confidence and trust, residents of Awka find it hard to entrust their vehicle papers in the police's hands to check for authenticity; instead, they often tend to dodge or offer them the usual ₦20 and go their way. The reason being that even where the necessary papers are complete, the police will intentionally look for one fault or another to incriminate a motorist to collect bribe (Alemika, Cheeseman & Lebas, 2013). Where the person refuses to pay a bribe, he or she may end up in their custody, and that day's activities frustrated. Despite the unrelenting extortions, some Nigerians still give in to police because of the risk of paying a higher amount of money if they are taken to station (Human Rights Watch, 2010). The perception has made some people accept the unethical behavior of offering bribes to the police, making the police see it as a right to extort citizens.

Additionally, there has also been the case of complainants or informants, turned out to be the accused and detained (Human Rights Watch, 2010). The implication is the failure of Nigerians and the persistent reluctance of the public to report crimes. Ibrahim (2015) concisely stated that the police scare many people such that patriotic citizens who report a crime is at times taken as a suspect or extorted using false accusation. Because of

the attendant outcomes regarding the observation by Ibrahim, many citizens may witness a crime but decide to ignore it and remain silent.

Evidence has shown that the police indulge in the shabby act of bribery collection due to some socioeconomic factors like improper remuneration, low salary system or incentives, poor orientation and training, the influence of the superiors to subordinates, and many others (Ibrahim, 2015; Bello & Anigbogu, 2018). They argued that as a result, the Nigerian police became an epitome of multi-corrupt and falsified organizations, which is catastrophic to the effective management of justice and maintenance of law and order. It is pertinent to note here that bribery have ruined the Nigerian police's image and attracted so many derogatory names. According to Olusegun

the police no doubt know that they are not liked by the public, despite the fact that they risk their lives to protect them, at the very slightest opportunity they are booed and geared at by the public calling them derogatory and disgusting names. This dislike or resentment of the police apparently has some bearing on Nigeria Police colonial history. (2016, p. 2)

Another worrisome problem is the low educational level of some recruits. It is hard for a mere illiterate to perform duties that need intelligence, a legal mind, and the ability to grasp and analyze contradictory and conflicting arguments. The Nigeria Police recruitment exercise has been a moneymaking venture for those in charge. Some new hire pays a bribe as much as ₦500,000.00, and above before getting entry into the Nigeria Police (Ajayi & Longe, 2015). Ibrahim (2015) also revealed that some men and officers

of the Nigeria Police equally bribe their superior authorities to work in a place where bribe-taking can be very flourishing. He argued that one has to 'moisture the ground' for those superior officers before such an opportunity can come.

In response to the prevailing culture of bribery amongst the police, there appears to be impunity in consoling one another on the ground of 'esprit-de-corps' (Iwah, 2013); that is, in the spirit of unity or common interest and responsibility. Some police officers on bribery were indicted, charged, and later dismissed, while some were condoled and never sanctioned. The Nigerian Police Watch (2014) published that three police officers were summoned and allowed to go for illegal possession of firearms and collect bribery from a suspected arms dealer. The officers were said to have intercepted an Opel Vectra carrying several AK-47 rifles allegedly belonging to one Chenwan (arms dealer) on September 23, 2012. The report alleges that the accused have negotiated with the trio to collect one AK-47 each and ₦105 000 bribes to set him free. On getting freedom, the dealer hid the rifles and reported to the Special Task Force (STF) on patrol that he had paid ₦105 000 by some police officers at a checkpoint. He led the STF men to the checkpoint, where they eventually arrest the officers with three AK-47 rifles and the cash. The corrupt police officers were subsequently detained, subjected to orderly room trial, found guilty, and dismissed from the force.

On the other hand, Ugwu (2015) noted that Nigerian police denied and never prosecuted its men who allegedly used force to extort foreign currency from a Nigerian citizen returning from Spain. The report revealed that after presenting the necessary vehicle documents at a checkpoint, one of the officers on duty said the papers are not in

order. While the interrogation was still ongoing, another police officer opened the glove compartment and saw some foreign currency notes, which he picked some and accused the man of illegal possession of foreign currency. The corrupt police then asserted that they must take the man to station, and while in the process, the officers left him, entered their vehicle, and drove off. The victim later got to a nearby police station to fill a legitimate complaint, paid the fees, and to date, the police authority has denied knowledge of the officers and dismissed the case as fraudulent.

The widespread corruption and extortion in the Nigeria Police have ruined their image over time. While crime is endemic in all Nigerian society segments (Khalid et al., 2020), it is particularly objectionable to the police because it is their responsibility to prevent and work at its elimination. Bribery and corruption directly relate to poverty as poor people rely on the government's services and, therefore, most likely to be victims or even pay more than their fair share of bribes (Justesen & Bjornskov, 2012). There is a persistent gap in knowledge on how the public envisages and perceives police bribery, which encourages and perpetuates the corruption practice in Awka.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to evaluate public perceptions of Nigeria Police monetary bribery in Awka. I sought to ascertain the nature of police monetary bribery and how police bribery is influencing attitudes of Awka residents towards the police and involvement in accountability mechanisms. Study findings may also help to clarify the relationship between the public and the police, especially in the fight against crime in

Awka. The study findings may also yield knowledge of Awka residents' willingness to fight police monetary bribery and the factors responsible for their willingness, if any.

Research Questions

I developed the following research questions (RQs) to guide this inquiry:

1. How does the public perceive the nature of police monetary bribery in Awka?
2. How are the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka influencing their attitude to and involvement in police accountability mechanisms?
3. How are the public's opinions of police monetary bribery in Awka influencing their attitude to and participation in the advancement of democratic principles?
4. How do the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka impact their approach and community policing involvement?
5. What is the public's perception of their ability and willingness to fight police monetary bribery in Awka?

Theoretical/Conceptual Framework

The public perceptions of police monetary bribery and its influence on attitude to and involvement in democratic policing reform initiatives can be understood using dynamic theory of social impact (Novak et al., 1990). The dynamic theory of social impact is an extension of Latane's (1981) social impact theory. He proposed that a target's (individual's) social impact is a function of the source's (people's) strength,

immediacy, and number. Strength means the salience, power, importance, or intensity of a given source to the target, which may be influenced by the source's status, socioeconomic status, and future power, among other factors; immediacy refers to the source's proximity in space and time and absence of intervening barriers. The number denotes the number of people capable of influencing the individual. Latane' proposed that "an individual will experience more impact – the higher the status, the more immediate the influence and the greater the number of the people affecting him or her" (Latane, 1981, p. 344).

The social impact theory positions the target as the static of individual influences (Harton & Bullock, 2007). Similarly, the dynamic theory of social impact by Novak et al (1990) presents a reciprocal perspective where mutual influences among people are possible. A person under the influence of others can also influence other people. Here the individual (target) and the source are depicted as active participants in socially influencing others. Latane defined social impact as

any of the great variety of changes in psychological states and subjective feelings, motives, and emotions, cognitions and beliefs, values and behavior, that occur in an individual, human, or animal as a result of the real, implied, or imagined presence of action of other individuals. (1981, p. 343)

The dynamic theory of social impact was particularly relevant to this work because sought to ascertain citizens' perceptions of police monetary bribery. Within this work context, the police are the source of the impact; each citizen is seen as a target of

police monetary bribery, while citizens' perceptions are the various subjective feelings or opinions resulting from police monetary bribery. The strength depicted as the enormous powers that the police wield explains the nature and intensity of citizens' perspectives. In light of democratic policing and community policing initiatives, the reciprocal dimension shows the police can be the citizens' social impact target. When citizens constitute themselves as active participants in democratic/community policing reform initiatives using strength, immediacy, and number as their mode of operation to improve community policing, it is possible that police monetary bribery and police corruption in Nigeria may be reduced.

The dynamic theory of social impact provides a framework for understanding how people negatively or positively influence one another. This understanding may be beneficial to the police, the citizens, and public administrators as it offers them the tools for attitudinal and behavioral change. More importantly, it may enable public policy makers and implementers to create a physical and social environment that improves citizens' quality of life and police welfare.

Nature of the Study

I used a case study design to collect data from the sample population for this qualitative inquiry. Qualitative research is a type of scientific study that is useful in systematically predefining a set of procedures to answer questions, gather evidence, and make findings that are not predetermined (Creswell, 2013). A qualitative investigation's power lies in its ability to offer various textual images of the public perception of a specified problem of interest. A qualitative analysis presents an individual opinion on an

issue, which encompasses different behaviors, ways of life, ideas, feelings, and interactions among people (Baxter & Jack, 2008). It has to do with clarifying meaning or action using the narrative technique (Woods, 2015). The method can reveal situation and public interpretation from a wide range of sources. When conducting a qualitative inquiry, it is also of paramount significance to ascertain immaterial features, such as customs, socioeconomic status, gender perceptions, and ethnicity, whose function in the research concern may not be readily visible (Creswell, 2013; Dantzer & Hunter, 2012).

According to Pandey (2009), the qualitative method involves gathering comprehensive data on public opinions, context, and social action processes. Qualitative researchers usually use exhaustive explanations to offer profound insight into the study's interest. Creswell (2013) noted that a qualitative researcher must endeavor to commit enough time to the research process, throughout the multifaceted and prolonged course of data analysis. Qualitative inquiry helps researchers to explore the meaning offered by participants through in-depth analysis. Qualitative inquiry, specifically the use of a case study design, allowed me to illustrate, understand, and clarify the public perception of police monetary bribery in Awka metropolis.

Based on the International Transparency Group (2020) assessment, Nigeria is among the most corrupt countries in the world, and the anomaly possesses a hindrance to the nation's economic development. Police as the linchpin to orderliness in civil societies will constitute a problem if police agencies are guilty of bribery. Alemika and Chukwuma (2000 as cited in Ojo, 2014) said that police bribery contravenes and impugns law enforcement's integrity and jeopardizes public trust. It is problematic if citizens are wary

and do not trust the agency responsible for safeguarding and protecting their lives and properties.

In conducting the study, I wanted to garner an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon. The essence of this qualitative case study of police bribery in Awka was to explore and explain why or how the problem occurred. In support of this assertion, Creswell (2013) stressed that a qualitative inquiry's intrinsic nature provides in-depth knowledge of the issue and allows a researcher to ask investigative questions. By conducting a qualitative case study, I was able to explore the problem in a real-life scenario and gather data from multiple information sources.

Definitions

Bribery: The act of giving anything of value, money, goods, or other forms of remuneration in an attempt to influence a receiver's actions or judgments that the receiver would otherwise not change ("Bribery and Kickbacks," n.d.). Bribery is a particular crime that concerns giving something of significance to achieve an unlawful advantage. In this study, it also includes receiving or offering any unjustifiable remuneration by any person whose standard line of work or dealing has to do with public justice management. Hence, the person committing bribery has manipulated another's conduct and persuaded that person to oppose the established rules of integrity and truthfulness (The Black's Law Dictionary).

Code of conduct: A covenant on behavior principles for a group or society, or a set of general rules and expectations, which is mandatory on any individual who is an employee of a particular organization or firm (Trebilcock, n.d.). It is a set of rules stating

the social norms, standards, obligations of, or proper actions for individuals, parties, groups, or organizations as in the Nigerian Tribunal Act and Code of Conduct Bureau (2004).

Constitution: The fundamental law or laws of a nation or a state that outlines the state's organization by determining the powers and authorities of government between various political units and stipulating the primary law-making and operational ethics of society (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance [IDEA], 2014). The IDEA (2014) further defined a constitution as a set of necessary legal-political instructions that are legitimate and are binding on the populace in the state, comprising ordinary lawmaking establishments. It concerns government institutions' organization and operation, political ideologies, and citizens' rights and hard to alter than universal laws, except by two-thirds majority support or a referendum. As a minimum, it meets the global criteria for a democratic system of government regarding representation and human rights.

Corruption: The manipulation of a position of trust to acquire an improper benefit. It is also manipulating public office or power for self-centered profit or the exploitation of private supremacy about business outside the government's jurisdiction (Transparency International, n.d.). In this context, corruption implies moral deterioration, deprivation, falsification of integrity by bribery, or favoritism. It is the harmful index in Nigeria's developmental strides as a nation (Anti-Corruption Law, 2000 cited by Inyang & Abraham, 2013). The prevalence of corruption affects morality, and it also signifies an

infringement of the law and a threat to the safety of the people (Orole, Gadar, & Hunter, 2014).

Crime: An action against the state or an instance of negligence that is injurious to the public welfare or morals, which the State law prohibits (“WordReference Random House,” n.d.). It is the act or the instruction of a law that is illicit or the omission of responsibility which the public law commands, and that makes the defaulter liable to punishment by that law.

Criminal behavior: A lawbreaker's conduct that leads to and includes the initiation of an unlawful act, which is punishable by the law (Gaines & Miller, 2006).

Democracy: A government's organization in which the people exercise their supremacy directly or indirectly through a method of representation, usually involving a periodically free election (“Definition of Democracy,” n.d.).

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC): The Nigerian law enforcement agency saddled with the responsibility to check, scrutinize, and prosecutes economic and financial crimes. The agency also enforces provisions of other legislation and conventions concerning economic and financial transgressions, including the 1991 Act of Banks and other Financial Institutions, the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Establishment Act of 2004. Furthermore, other offenses Acts relating to finance and misappropriation of funds of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Fundamental rights: The people's alienable rights in a particular entity without presumption or cost, a privilege to anyone being citizens of that society. It is a set of legal

protections in the framework of a legal structure (“Human Rights are Commonly Understood,” n.d.). Such structure is based upon this same set of fundamental or alienable rights as in Chapter IV, Section (33) to (46) of the Nigerian 1999 Constitution. It originates in Nigeria through the Statutes of general application, which received the following English laws (the ‘Magna Carta’ of 1215, the ‘Petition of Rights’ of 1628, and the Bill of Rights of 1689) as a colony of Great Britain.

Human right: A broad spectrum of rights, which individuals or groups are entitled to (For example, citizens, gender) (Apori-Nkansah, 2008). As Apori-Nkansah expatiates further, human rights are privileges or constitutional rights that every person enjoys by being human or a citizen of a particular nation or group. The expressions and establishment of universal human rights are in the body of philosophy, treaties, and customary global laws. However, the UN Bill of Human Rights institutes the universal moral shelter of the rights of citizens. The right comprises the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), UHDR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights), and other international human rights.

In furtherance, the definition of human rights is those rights in the Nigeria constitution and international treaties establish, to which Nigeria subscribes. This context adopts a comprehensive view of human rights, employing it as a standard to the UHDR and the ACHPR (African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights). However, Human Right is the fundamental principle of regard for individuals, based on the underlying assumption that:

1. Individuals are a moral and rational being who deserves the treatment of dignity.
2. Human Right is about ethical and legal procedures that stimulate and protect the recognition of values, identity, and ability to ensure an acceptable standard of living.
3. The primary criterion by which an individual can identify and measure inequality and justice.
4. Those rights relating to the UDHR involve the freedom of development and peace and the right to cultural, social, economic, and political rights.

Inspector general of police: The first law enforcement officer of the Nigeria Police; it is the most high-ranking office in the police service. It is the President of Nigeria's official duty to appoint an inspector general of police (Tukur, 2016).

Law: The principle and procedure established in a community or state by some authority, enforceable to its people, whether in the form of lawmaking or custom and policies, which the judiciary recognizes and enforces (Robertson, 2013). It also refers to any written rule or convention of rules prescribed under the state's supremacy or nation, as by the public in its constitution.

Monetary: A thing that has to do with the money in exchange for another person's service or value.

Perception: The course of action where a human being organizes and interprets conscious thoughts to shape the environment (Robbins, n.d.). It concerns how individuals formulate impressions of and make conclusions about other people. People learn about

other people's feelings and emotions by reasoning the information they acquire from others' physical presentation and verbal and nonverbal communication.

Police officer: A legal member of a police force, with the primary obligation to enforce civil laws, safeguards lives and properties, and make sure people obey the law. The provisions of the Nigeria 1999 constitution establish the Nigeria Police Force.

Roadblock: An embargo placed across a road, mainly of barricades or police vehicles, for blocking or delaying traffic. The primary purpose is to aid the apprehension of a pursued car or inspection for safety abuses. For this study, the roadblock serves as an avenue for police officers to collect bribes from motorists (Human Right Watch, 2010). Consequently, the former IG of Police, Solomon Arase, orders the removal of all roadblocks in Nigeria (Bashir, 2010).

Appendix A contains a list of key abbreviations used in the study.

Assumptions

The study grounds five underlying assumptions. First, the study assumes that understanding police monetary bribery's perception should inform adaptive policies to tackle the problem and enshrine effective police-public relations for successful democratic policing. Second, it assumes that massive human rights and humanitarian law abuses characterize the Nigerian Police, emanating from the prolonged military rule's effects on Nigeria's police administration. Third, it assumes that the prosecution of corruption in the Nigeria Police is critical to upholding democratic principles in the State. Fourth, it assumes that the country's raging criminal activities were due to police monetary bribery's effects on the Nigerian police's effectiveness and proficiency. Fifth, it

assumes that the proper representation of Nigeria Police is necessary to enhance Nigeria's integrity and dignity as a State in the diaspora.

Scope and Delimitations

The inquiry was on the perception of police monetary bribery in Awka. It was interested in knowing how people's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka influence their attitude to and involvement in police accountability mechanisms, the advancement of democratic principles, and community policing. The study interest was also stressed to know the people's perception of their ability and willingness to fight police monetary bribery in Awka. The Nigerian police are widely known for their exploitation of power, brutality and extrajudicial killings, lack of accountability and transparency, secret dealings, and bribery, which continues to devastate the agency's integrity (Adepegba, 2017; Akinlabi, 2017; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017). These examples demonstrate why police corruption is a significant barrier to Nigeria's economic, social, and human progress.

On the one hand, the study was interested in monetary bribery because it is the most visible form of corruption in the police (Al-Muhairi, 2008; Ibrahim, 2019). Police monetary bribery deteriorates public trust in the law itself and is a wrong model to the people (Bello & Anigbogu, 2018); this brings the relationship between the public and police into conflict, hampering the enforcement of legislation and rules. It burdens extra costs on the individuals in the form of bribes, lost time, increased business costs, and other monetary losses. It corrodes police officers' determination, self-esteem, and allegiance to their organization, thereby forming a self-centered climate. Personal profit

becomes the center of interest to police officers than in their obligation to preserve law and order.

Moreover, there is a tendency that a few corrupt officers can trigger the attention of other colleagues to join in reaping the benefits of corruption. Al-Muhairi (2008) noted that even when corruption and economic development run parallel to each other, the consequence is higher costs and economic falsifications. Corrupt officials maintain too many destructive criminal acts and under-maintain justice.

Community policing on the other hand aims to ameliorate crime and conflict by carefully scrutinizing the features of problems in neighborhoods and then applying suitable problem-solving remedies (Cordner, 2010). Therefore, understanding community policing will help reduce crime and police monetary bribery and improve effective policing because it assigns some policing role. Cordner (2010) insisted that community policing officers will become regular figures to community members and become mindful of their daily activities. Hence, this regular presence of the police is an initial move in instituting trust and better service to lessen the fear of crime among the people, which, consecutively, helps create neighborhood safety.

The focus of the study was on Nigerian citizens in Awka who have had bribery experience with the police. This selection's rationale relies on this study's aim, which seeks to examine people's perceptions in Awka on police monetary bribery. The police monetary bribery may involve all classes of individuals. The study targeted those people more likely to frequently be accosted by the police to pay a bribe due to their specific occupation line.

Finally, the conceptual framework for this study, the dynamic theory of social impact, is limited to understanding how people's perceptions influence their ability and willingness to negatively or positively impact social impact. The study is not concerned with the quantitative analysis of the magnitude of the social impact. A possible basis for this study's transferability is because police corruption is a global problem (Transparency International, 2015). The perception of corruption is measurable than to measure corruption directly. Hence, it forms the starting point of nearly all international corruption indices (Olken, 2011). The notion, therefore, gives the study an edge of adequate coverage in its knowledge assessment.

Another potential area is the adeptness of direct observation to measure police corruption. Olken (2011) believes that direct observation is often the best way to evaluate crime. Monetary bribery is the most form of corruption between the police and the people. Olken (2011) further stressed that bribes' collection has relatively little or no shame in most environments. In Nigeria, bribing the police is common and unhidden, except in high-profile cases exposed by the media. However, the highlights above show that this study will make way for further inquiries on the perception of police monetary bribery in other countries of the world where bribery characterizes the police's typical attitude.

Limitations

In Nigeria, issues regarding police corruption attract wailing interests among scholars and international researchers over the years. There is no published empirical investigation on perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka. The study of actual

corruption (nature and extent) is challenging due to police occupational culture's nature. For instance, "code of secrecy" (Sarikaya, 2015, p. 133), inherent to the Nigerian police ethos, informally prohibits reporting incidences of police corruption (Bello & Anigbogu, 2018). The limitation, therefore, hinders the possibility of data collection from police officials themselves on police monetary bribery to know how the police, as individuals, feel about the corruption.

Moreover, the study draws excerpts from Sarikaya (2015), who similarly reports that investigating police monetary bribery by obtaining information about police corruption from the police is challenging. Sarikaya (2015) said that no individual officers have incentives to openly disclose and admit their unethical behaviors; they risk losing their jobs and jeopardize their careers. It is also true for police administrators who want to protect the law enforcement agency's integrity.

The study used a qualitative case study design with the researcher as the principal instrument for data collection, analysis, and interpretation. A researcher would recognize subjectivity and biases in the course of data collection, analysis, and interpretation (Creswell, 2012). Thus, to curtail the likelihood of subjectivity and prejudices, I maintained a sensitive self-consciousness about the tendency for partiality and exercised objectivity throughout the process. The study passed through all peer reviews and member checks, and multiple data sources to validate the research findings.

Participants were selected using a purposive sampling method. The progress of purposive sampling depends on recruiting participants who are familiar and conversant to the study's interest and researcher's familiarity with the population and capability to

choose in that regard (Creswell, 2012). Participants willingly consented to engage in the research without incentive or remuneration of any kind regarding the selected sample population. I established a good relationship with the participants and were adequately informed and engaged about the research's interest to know that every information they offered is confidential. Also, participants choose their comfort time for interviews and exits, while the researcher adjusts accordingly to ensure their cooperation.

Significance

The study focuses on the public's perceptions of the Nigerian police monetary bribery and its impact on community policing. The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is an arm of the judiciary in Nigeria's federal system of government. The research significance is to explore the possibility of the judiciary's dereliction of responsibility for not holding NPF accountable for monetary bribery practices. The outcome of this investigation will add value to scientific knowledge and enhance limited literature on the issue of problems of police monetary bribery in Awka. It will foster an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of policy implementation and acceptance regarding fighting police monetary bribery and corruption at Awka.

Moreover, the court is the primary institution for the protection of the rule of law. Nigerian judiciary bears the responsibility of interpreting the anti-corruption legislation and upholding the law as stipulated in the constitution (Odusote, 2013). It is important to note that Nigerian democracy hinges on a federal system of government. As Odusote (2013) rightly indicated, the responsibility of each branch of government (executive, judiciary, and the legislature) is to function to the dictates of the constitution for the

preservation of democracy. As the custodian of law, the judiciary interprets the law and holds the police accountable, especially when there is a breach of public trust (Smith, 2010).

The study overrides the class and elite analytical model in policy formulation as it concerns the Nigerian Police's operational activities in Awka. The study establishes that relying on the model above in policy formulation has been the reason for failures in various attempts to reform the Nigeria Police towards effective democratic policing. Understanding the public's perception of monetary bribery will help adjust policy formulation preferences towards restructuring the Nigerian police institution.

However, taking cognizance of public perception of police monetary bribery will inform a policy formulation process that will gain wide acceptance by the people of Awka during implementation. The people's external demands should instigate and trigger policy-making decisions and not always the national government's established formal apparatus. The study proffers recommendations that, if policymakers implement, should give residents in Awka a sense of belonging in reforming the Nigerian police operation and make them significant observers in the police reformation process.

Summary

The study's general purpose is to ascertain the public perception of police monetary bribery in Awka, Anambra State of Nigeria, and the degree to which these perceptions influence their attitude and involvement in democratic policing initiatives. The chapter provided a general overview of corruption as a significant problem in stagnating Nigeria's potential economic growth and development. Therefore, police

monetary bribery serves as the synopsis in highlighting the endemic corruption problem hampering law enforcement, especially in police activities worldwide. The study's highlight is to investigate how the prosecution of corruption in the Nigerian police force is critical to upholding democratic principles and the repercussions of police monetary bribery on community policing. The chapter also highlights potential areas to investigate, such as the contributory factors that enhance police monetary bribery and why the police are not accountable for this abnormal behavior. The study envisaged that endemic corruption also characterized the government's judicial arm, an organ designed to interpret the law and the code of conduct guiding the Nigerian Police. The research anticipated that corrupt police officers could influence other colleagues into the same criminality and serious crime if radical and revolutionary actions are not in place.

The conceptual study framework was the dynamic theory of social impact. The rationale for adopting this theory is to describe how police behavior might influence the public and how it might influence the police to improve democratic policing.

The research employed a qualitative case approach to knowing police monetary bribery's perception and narrating the investigation's findings. However, the study participants are purposively selected persons based on their police monetary bribery experience in Awka. Finally, the study explored the government's negligence for not doing much in prosecuting corrupt police officers.

Chapter 2 offered a thorough and comprehensive review of emerging literature that is relevant to this study. In the section, I provided a more in-depth justification for adopting the conceptual framework. I critically analyzed the literature on the dynamic

theory of social impact to better understand this study. The chapter consisted of various past scholarly studies to further bolster the study's purpose, bridge the literature gap, and ground the rationale for investigating police monetary bribery in Awka. Furthermore, in Chapter 2 I explored procedures and blueprints as the primary method of exclusion for choosing the design to best answer the study inquiries.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Introduction

Nigerians often perceive the police as the most corrupt public institution (Ahmadu, 2015; Ikezue, 2015; Idumanje, 2016; Iloani & Jimoh, 2017). The negative perception is due to the police's unabated engagement in activities such as persistent extortion, aiding, and abetting criminals (Akpunonu-Ogu, 2014; Ugwu, 2015). Instances of brutality, extra-judicial killing (Nigeria Police Watch, 2014), inconsistency, low performance, a lack of accountability culture (Alemika, 2010), and most especially, monetary bribery (Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Inyang & Abraham, 2013) also contribute to Nigerians' negative perceptions of the police. Because of these social ills, leaders of successive Nigerian governments have encouraged police-public partnerships for community policing. Yet, these efforts have not yielded the desired result because the people often distrust anything that has to do with the police (Okeshola & Mudiare, 2013; Olusegun, 2016; Siro, 2016). Given the problem, I conceptualized this study to inquire about the public perception of police monetary bribery in Awka, a city in Anambra State, Nigeria. The research purpose was to understand how the public perceives police monetary bribery and how the perception influences their attitude to and involvement in police accountability mechanisms and democratic principles.

In this chapter, I synthesize the literature on public perception of police monetary bribery. The study offers an exhaustive review of police corruption culture generally and, more specifically, the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery's nature. In the chapter, I review extant literature on the impact of the perceptions on the people's attitude

to uphold and be involved in police accountability, democratic, and community policing efforts. I present the conceptual framework and gaps in the current literature, which informed this research. The chapter also includes a synopsis of the research methodology and conclusions.

Literature Search Strategy

In searching for useful information, research, and other scholarly writing for this study, I used Walden University Library database such as EBSCOhost, Academic, Political, and Premier Search, and ProQuest. Also, the use of the Google Scholar search engine provided relevant literature on the issue. The searches were limited to peer-reviewed journals using the search terms Nigerian police corruption (66,100 results), police and democratic principles (1,200,000 results), forms of police bribery in Nigerian police (21,600 results), community policing in Nigeria (39,200 results), Nigerian police accountability mechanisms (28,600 results), impact of police bribery (71,700 results), challenges of Nigeria Police (164,000 results), historical perspective of Nigeria (899,000 results), and citizen's role in combating police corruption (20,100 results).

The inclusion criteria for literature in this study were as follows: (a) peer reviewed journals, (b) organizational-related articles, (c) renowned national newspaper publications, (d) renowned global surveys, and (e) written in English. The literature is discussed under the following subheadings:

- Conceptual Framework
- Impact of Police Corruption on Public Perception of the Police

- Impact of Public Perception of Police Monetary Bribery on the Attitude to and Involvement in Community Policing
- Strength and Weaknesses in the Studies
- The Roles of the Police in the Provision of Security and Dispensation of Justice
- Police Corruption as a Global Problem
- Definitions of Corruption and Police Monetary Bribery
- Definition of Monetary Bribery
- The Nature of Police Monetary Bribery in Nigeria
- Impact of Public Perception of Police Monetary Bribery on their Attitude to and Involvement in Police Accountability Mechanisms
- Impact of Public Perception of Police Monetary Bribery on Their Attitude to and Involvement in the Advancement of Democratic Principles

Conceptual Framework

In this section, I reviewed the literature on the conceptual framework that underpinned the study. It offers insight on the systematic structure that anchored the methods and methodology for conducting this investigation and evaluating the propositions of the conceptual framework.

The dynamic social impact theory offered a framework for examining and understanding the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery and how it influences their attitudes toward and involvement in democratic policing reform initiatives. The dynamic theory of social impact is an extension of Latané's (1981) social impact theory.

The social impact theory explains how the social environment influences individuals. According to Latané, social impact is the social force product operating in a social field or structure. Latané likened this force to physical forces such as light, sound, gravity, and magnetism. The theorist defined social impact as

any of the great variety of changes in physiological states and subjective feelings, motives and emotions, cognitions and beliefs, values and behavior, that occur in an individual, human or animal, as a result of the real, implied or imagined presence or actions of other individuals. (Latané, 1981, p. 343)

Latané proposed that a target's (individual's) social impact is a function of the source's (people's) strength, immediacy, and number. Thus, the theory uses a mathematical equation to describe the social impact source, acting on a target in any social situation as a multiplicative function of strength, immediacy, and number. Strength means the salience, power, importance, or intensity of a given source to the target, which may be indicated by the source's status, socioeconomic status, and future power, among other factors. Immediacy refers to the source's proximity in space and time and absence of intervening barriers. The number means the number of people influencing the individual. Latané proposed that "an individual will experience more impact, the higher the status, the more immediate the influence and the greater the number of the people affecting him or her" (p. 344).

A limitation of the social impact theory is that it does not take cognizance of the mutual influences individuals have on one another. Novak et al. (1990) observed that the

social impact theory recognizes that people are not merely passive recipients in social impact but active participants in shaping the social environment. Nevertheless, the theory does not have the needed mechanisms for considering individuals' common effects on their social environment and the emotional consequences.

The dynamics social impact theory is a response to this limitation. Novak et al. propounded this theory in 1990; it was further expanded by Latané in 1996. The theory expounds on a reciprocal perspective where mutual influences among individuals are possible such that an individual influenced by others can also influence other people (Harton & Bullock, 2007). Here the individual (the target) and the (source) are depicted as active participants in socially influencing others. Therefore, the difference between the social impact as a static and social impact as dynamic attributed to Novak and his colleagues are that

in many real-life situations, social impact is an ongoing chain process of reciprocal and continuing influence among individuals in a social setting. At the same time, a given individual may be a recipient of impact from some and the source of impact for others.

(1990, p. 366)

Latané (1996) made four propositions about this theory. First, individuals differ in some characteristics: cognition, beliefs, attitudes, and values that other society members can influence them. Second, individuals are in a relatively stable geographic space with varying distances. Third, the proportion of social influence that individuals get is a multiplicative function of the strength, immediacy, and number of sources. Fourth, the

interactive and repeated influencing of individuals will lead to self-reorganization (clustering, correlation, consolidation, and continuing variation) of individuals' attributes that socially influence, among other propositions.

Dynamic Social Impact Theory in Previous Studies

The concepts and tenets of the dynamic social impact theory have been very prominent in some studies of social influence; conformity/obedience; and changes in people's attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, and opinions. For instance, Sedikides and Johnson (1990) tested the validity of the three forces of social impact, namely, source strength, source immediacy, and some targets, to check whether compliance to the zookeepers' orders by visitors to the Bronx zone was a function of strength, immediacy, and number. Although all the propositions associated with strength, immediacy, and number were significant, the multiplicative dimension of the theory was not. It was observed that the concept and tenets of strength, immediacy, and the number are used to understand and explain compliance. Similarly, I see this theory as relevant in understanding the public's perception of how police monetary bribery influences their attitude and their roles in democratic policing measures in Nigeria, particularly in Anambra State.

Latané (1996) applied the dynamic theory of social impact to create a culture within a geographic location. He argued that as people engage in reciprocal and recursive interaction and influence each other, a subculture comes into being. Here, culture is seen as "the entire set of socially transmitted beliefs, values, and practices that characterize a given society at a given time" (p. 13). He noted that it is continuously a human creation, to which everyone within the society contributes. Using computer simulations, he

concluded that this theory is useful for understanding how cultures emerge from the day-to-day experiences and interaction between individuals, people, or groups.

Similarly, Harton and Bullock (2007) used the dynamic social impact theory to examine culture creation and change. According to the authors, the theory demonstrates that through communication with neighbors, friends, and coworkers, cultures take form and are altered through a bottom-up process. The theory provides a possible tool for effecting change within the pervasive culture of police monetary bribery in Nigeria.

In a more recent study, Seltzer et al. (2013) applied the dynamic theory of social impact to political science with particular attention to how political attitudes and opinions are created and sustained. Seltzer et al. concluded that the application of dynamic social impact theory enables researchers to gain a deeper understanding on how social processes could influence the attitude of people and the public. In business education, Bako (2013) applied the concepts of source strength, immediacy, and the social impact theory to investigate students' perceptions and the influence of these perceptions on business education choice in the Northeast zone of Nigeria. Findings revealed that the students' perception had a great impact on their career choice of business education.

Criticism of Dynamic Social Impact Theory

Although some scholars have validated all or some aspects of the dynamic social impact theory (See Williams & Williams, 1989; Sedikides and Jackson, 1990, Seltzer, Johnson & Amira, 2013), nonetheless, some scholars argued that the theory fails to address the personality characteristics of target. As it relates to the source's strength, Williams and Williams (1989) concluded from their findings that the source's strength

might not be vital in influencing a change in a target's behavior or getting a target to comply where his/or behavior is intrinsically motivated. Bourgeois (2002) also tested the theory and found that it did not address context and personality related to developing similar patterns or clustering of attitudes within a given geographic context. However, findings by Bourgeois questioned the potency of the immediacy dimension of the theory.

In his work on the dynamic social impact theory and the study of human communication, Fink (1996) criticized the theory for not providing sufficient information in the nature and channels of communication, considering that the theory placed communication at the center of culture creation. Fink argued that some issues on characteristics of message sources and channels, characteristics of receivers that have the attribution of greater message receptivity, the mechanism by which new communication channels (interpersonal and mediated) come to be created, utilized, and altered, among others were not answered.

Relevance of Dynamic Theory of Social Impact

Despite these criticisms and limitations, the dynamic social impact theory is relevant to understanding the public's perception of police monetary bribery and the impact these perceptions may have on the success or failure of democratic policing in Nigeria. It postulates a good idea of social influences on individuals' beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors offered by the concepts of source strength, immediacy, and number and the possibility of creating and altering subcultures.

Some of the dynamic social impact theory's very relevant ideologies to this study are the concepts of strength, immediacy, and number and the social impact's reciprocal

nature. Within the context of this study, the police are the source of the impact; each citizen is seen as a target of police monetary bribery while citizens' perceptions are because of various subjective feelings or opinions arising from police monetary bribery. The strength depicted as enormous powers the police wield and explains the nature and intensity of the monetary bribery crime against the citizens they were meant to protect; the immediacy, which represents the close contact the police usually have to the citizens; and the number, which is the overwhelming proportion of the police, involved in monetary bribery. In light of the democratic and community policing initiatives, police can be the citizens' social impact target. The citizens constitute themselves as active participants in democratic/community policing reform initiatives using strength, immediacy, and number as their mode of operation to improve community policing, reduce police monetary bribery, and police corruption in Nigeria.

The dynamic social impact theory provides a framework for understanding how people negatively or positively impact each other. Understanding the theory is beneficial to the police, the citizens, and public administrators as it offers them the tools for attitudinal and behavioral change. More importantly, it enables public policymakers and implementers to create a physical and social environment that improves citizens' quality of life, the police, and everyone.

Literature Review of Key Variables and/or Concepts

Impact of Police Corruption on Public Perceptions of the Police

Much research has been conducted to investigate police corruption's impact on how the public perceives the law enforcement agency (Abubakar, Othman & Mustaffa,

2017). The Human Right Watch (2010) concluded in their findings that Nigerians see the police as indigent, despicable, and devilish based on testimonies of citizens. Evidence was a trader in Lagos who lamented, “When you have a problem, you should expect the police to help you, to safeguard life and property—but instead, they go the other way” (p. 24). A similar study was carried out in Pretoria Central, South Africa, by Vilakazi (2015), which employed a qualitative design to ascertain how police corruption affects service delivery. The unstructured in-depth interview protocol was used to gather data from 66 participants. The study found that corruption in the police force results in inadequate service delivery and lessened people's morale towards the police. Thus, unabated corruption in the police degrades social conscience, worsens police performance, increases crime, and keeps anti-corruption policies ineffective.

In the same vein, Bello and Anigbogu (2018) carried out mixed methodology research to evaluate the perceived institutionalization of corruption in the Nigeria Police, focusing on Anambra State Police Command. In-depth interview protocol was used to collect qualitative data from six police officers purposively selected as the study participants. Responses revealed that corruption had been a dominant culture in the Nigerian police, which resulted in the public loss of confidence and trust in the agency. It was also disclosed that the established anti-corruption schemes to curb police malpractices are not operative in checking the corruption behavior. It could be drawn from Bello and Anigbogu's findings that the inept attitude of the police in making illegal earnings has become an essential legal responsibility. Hence, police corruption in Nigeria is pervasive and deep-rooted. The findings are also corroborative of the empirical study

by Nte (2011), which showed that the network of corruption influences police corruption in Nigeria Police in the larger society. It means to say that Nigeria's ingrained corruption attitude affects all parts of its structures, including the Nigeria Police.

Another qualitative research by Ahmadu (2015) on police corruption and the State shows that the police represents the most corrupt and dishonest institution in Nigeria. The study further established that the police's corruption had shattered the police's efficiency in law and order maintenance and respect and dignity that should be accorded to the agency. Drawing from Ahmadu's findings, corruption in the Nigeria Police supersedes any empirically found or perceived corruption in all other institution in the country. The finding portrays the Nigeria Police as a very treacherous organization. Also, Onyango (2018) carried out a qualitative study in Kenya to examine the transactional relationships of corruption between motorists and police at checkpoints. The police checking-points promoted bribery transactions between motorists and the police in a mutual sense. Findings further exposed that motorists offer to pay bribes to bypass traffic regulations or establish a cordial relationship with corrupt police while the police are fixated on exploiting the opportunity to accrue illegitimate revenues. The study concluded that police criminal behavior is a systemic and organizational problem and dereliction of collective values other than individual personnel. In the study, Onyango revealed how people enable police corruption by willingly offering a monetary bribe. The bribery transactions show a mutual treaty, which means that the people are not ready to challenge the police misconduct because it makes it easy for them to continue their business without any delay.

Similar to the above finding, the qualitative review by Aborisade and Fayemi (2015) on the nature and control of police corruption also revealed that police corruption is encouraged by social structures and attitudes ingrained in the natural ways of life of the people. As the study concluded, checking police corruption is minimal than widely known because corruption ominously obstructs the rule of law. In the study's line, Oluwaniyi's (2011) qualitative case study on police and the institution of corruption in Lagos State, Nigeria, observed that corrupt police practices are not unrepeatable occurrences. Instead, they are a network of organizational and accentuating issues evaluated better in the cultural, social, economic, and political backgrounds.

Public Perceptions of Police Monetary Bribery and Attitudes to and Involvement in Community Policing

Though findings of the empirical investigation by Reisig and Giacomazzi (cited in Abubakar, Othman & Mustaffa, 2017) suggested that "in forging a meaningful partnership between police and public, attitudes toward the police do not matter" (p. 230). The study showed that citizens' refusal to partner with the police does not have anything to do with their negative perception of the police. In this case, it may be right to take the social, political, economic, and cultural background of the people into consideration on why their negative attitude towards the police does not upset their partnership with the police. The possibility of this finding might be fragile in the Nigerian situation to see the people partnering with the police when they often distrust anything that have to do with the police.

Reisig and Giacomazzi's findings might be similar but do not tally with Transparency International (2013), which showed that a significant proportion of Nigerians (41-60) believe that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption. Further revelation from the report showed that 90% of the study sample indicated the willingness to join an anti-corruption organization than signing a petition, participating in a protest, and using social media. Thus, the public's rejection to sign a petition or participation in protests in the fight against corruption is based on perceived risks. The desire to fight corruption is not the same as trusting the police on community policing partnerships. Lot of studies in Nigeria have established and confirmed that citizens fear to blow the whistle or report any criminal case because of the fear of being victimized in the process or risk grave consequences (Adebayo & Ojo, 2009; Alemika, 2013; Human Right Watch, 2010). One empirical study on police corruption in Serbia reported that citizens are unwilling to report police corruption (Petrovic, Dordevic & Savkovic, 2013).

There is consensus in many other empirical studies that community policing is a partnership between the police and the community to effective policing (Chene, 2012; Department of International Development, 2010; Ibrahim, Saleh & Mukhtar, 2016; Ikuteyijo, 2009; Nwaubani, Anyikwa & Azuh, 2014; Okeshola & Mudiare, 2013; Wu, Sun & Hu, 2015). Community policing requires a partnership between the police and the public to work. Indeed, Yusuf and Tepe (2013) said, "Community policing relies heavily on citizen involvement to identify and solve community problems" (p. 30). Thus, it appears that the wrong perception of the public of the police, which emanates from their

monetary bribery among other corrupt practices, impacts the public's willingness to be involved in the community policing project.

The study by Ajayi and Longe (2015) revealed that people's negative perception of the police is why they lack interest in joining community policing. Collaboratively, scholars (Abubakar, Othman & Mustaff, 2017; Kpae, 2017; Okeshola & Mudiare, 2013) argued that the lack of success in crime reduction since community introduction policing is relative to the public attitude to and perception of community policing in Nigeria. The negative attitude may share the link with the bribery and extortion of money from the public. Okeshola and Mudiare (2013) drew a vivid picture of the situation when they observe that, "Countless ordinary Nigerians are accosted by armed police officers who demand bribes and commit human rights abuses against them as a means of extorting money" (p. 135). Obviously, under this kind of situation, the public may have a negative perception of the police. Kpae highlighted the consequence of this negative perception (2013, p. 52), who asserted that "Partnership between the public and the police in crime-fighting is still unrealistic because of the poor perception of the police."

In light of this problem, community policing and citizens' perception of police monetary bribery impact on their involvement has not received any research attention. An exception is a study carried by Siro (2016) on the reasons for community policing failure. He found that lack of public confidence in the police and lack of professional skills are among the factors. A recent qualitative study by Ordu and Nnam (2017) on community policing in Nigeria also pointed lack of visionary schemes, loss of confidence in the police, the intrusion of political elites in police affairs, and bribery and corruption as

challenges downsizing community policing. Therefore, the public thinks that the government has not been effective in the fight against police corruption in Nigeria (Transparency International, 2020). The perception justifies the need for the public to take up more responsibility in combating police monetary bribery. It appears to be a general opinion that a citizen's willingness to fight police corruption is a powerful instrument for eradicating police corruption (Momoh, 2015). To this end, particularly in Anambra State, it would be insightful to know how the public's perceptions affect their attitude to the community policing reform and their possible involvement in promoting police reform initiatives like community policing in Awka.

Strength and Weaknesses in the Studies

In the area of strengths, the appraised theoretical and empirical studies have exhaustively shed light on the already existing views and findings on police monetary bribery and corruption in general. The knowledge and expositions in the reviewed studies established the rationale for this study, especially on police monetary bribery and corruption as a problem in Nigeria. The studies' revelation established the rationale for police monetary bribery's conceptualization as a current problem worthy of research. The study reiterated that police corruption and monetary bribery are not specific to a particular location but universal. The studies showed contrary findings that help get to the depth of understanding this research focus by considering certain variables that could influence study results. The reviewed studies also influence the construct of this study and methods and methodology formulation in defining a scope that bridges the existing research gap.

On the area of weaknesses, the reviewed studies are conceptualized on four arguments. First, there is a strong focus on police corruption, which is more a universal concept than specific police monetary bribery. Research into police corruption is the primary focus of many inquiries, especially within the Nigerian situation (see Aborisode, 2015; Adeshina, 2010; Ahmadu, 2015; Akpunonu-Ogu, 2014; Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Ibrahim, 2019; Inyang & Abraham, 2013; Onyango, 2018; Khalid et al., 2020). Where we have studies that also seemingly inquired about police monetary bribery in Nigeria, examining the subject's public perception is deficient.

Second, many studies tried to establish the causes of police corruption as a remedy to control the problem but overlooked the critical role of citizens' perception in enshrining democratic policing principles. The increase in police welfare packages does not guarantee effective democratic policing if the police's perception always remains negative. Police accountability cannot be possible if there is no effective and efficient collaboration between the police and the people fighting against all crime forms.

Third, research on the Nigerian police's public perception was merely on police ability to prevent and combat crime, not police monetary bribery as a crime in itself (see Adedeji & Ibrahim, 2019; Adegoke, 2014; Ayamba & Inah, 2017; Edet, 2017; Otubu & Coker, 2008). At the same time, available literature on how citizens' perception of police monetary bribery affects their potential to upholding democratic principles are mostly opinion and position papers that theorized on the impact of general corruption on Nigeria's democracy (See Fatile & Okewale, 2013; Esidene, 2014; Kwasau, 2013). Other literature in this area was merely snapshots of surveys by Transparency International and

Human Right Watch. Thus, there is no existing study on public perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka. The shortcomings called for the need to research the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery and how the perception affects their attitude to upholding democratic policing principles. For this reason, the interest to bridge the gap in public policy and administration in Nigerian literature came into being, necessitating the pioneer honor for this study.

Fourth, researchers have not applied the dynamic social impact theory as a lens for examining public issues of this nature, based on my review of the literature. Based on these weaknesses, this study used a dynamic social impact theory to demonstrate how police monetary bribery affects the people and how people can positively influence the police. This study hopes to help the government design policies that would attract positive conformity among Nigerian police and the public. It also hopes to significantly influence existing literature on police corruption by creating a platform that would initiate further studies on police monetary bribery. The result of this study should proffer solutions that would reduce police monetary bribery and enhance law enforcement in Awka and Nigeria as a whole. This study's implementation should facilitate the people to desist from giving a bribe as a culture. Hence, it would assist the government in policymaking and other critical administrative responsibilities to protect the people and maintain a crime-free environment.

Further on the above-stated shortcomings, a case study design in a qualitative research tradition was used to investigate the public perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka, Anambra State of Nigeria. An in-depth interview protocol and relevant

documents were used as an instrument of data collection. For clarity, I properly outlined compelling reasons for the selection of data collection techniques. I also discussed appropriate measures for a qualitative approach to establish this study's reliability, which later underwent triangulation and crystallization for validity. The interview questions were the same and open-ended for all participants. There were also follow-up interviews, which varied based on the responses from the interviewees. The length of the discussion depended on each participant. The interviews were recorded, but the privacy and confidentiality of participants' responses were ensured. Field notes were also used to take down some critical codified dated responses from participants during interviews.

The Role of the Police in the Provision of Security and Dispensation of Justice

Since 1979, consecutive Nigerian Constitutions have continued to institute the ground for the subsistence of a single Police (Ahmadu, 2015). The provision for establishing the Nigeria Police, Police Service Commission, and Police Council are in the Nigeria 1999 Constitution. Oghi (2013) stated that the Nigerian Constitution outlined the Nigeria Police structure, institution, and operational management. In furtherance, Oghi (2013) revealed that the Act and Regulations (LFN, 1990: 359) also reinforce the police's responsibilities and functions. The law includes such obligations as protection of law and order and control and uncovering of criminal acts. It also encompasses the enforcement of laws and policies under their functions, protecting lives and properties, and duties as empowered by the Act or any other Act within Nigeria.

In the words of Onimajesin (2006), the formal police is the primary and essential criminal justice sub-system. Nigeria Police would offer the basis for the legal structure in

their course of investigations and crime reports. Karimu (2015) equally revealed that the constitution mandates the Nigeria Police to prevent, controls, and detect crime in any part of the country that experiences crime. One way of preventing crime is that the police bear the duty to apprehend the law's violators before the law court. After that, the trial proceeds by the court of law's discretion or judgment (Dambazau, 2007; Ibrahim, 2019). The judiciary is the institution that is empowered to interpret and apply laws to situations involving disputes or disagreement between persons or groups according to the Nigeria's 1999 constitution.

Police Corruption as a Global Problem

The origin of corruption is as early as man's emergence; the account is as ancient as the world. Corruption is also obtainable with Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist cultures (Obayelu, 2007). Corruption goes beyond democratic and authoritarian government alone and in the socialist, capitalist, and feudal societies. On average, about 27% of the global population testified they had paid a bribe of the past twelve months to one of the eight services under investigation by Transparency International (TI) in 2013. The revelation implied that corruption directly influences more than one in four people in the countries under survey.

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) reported in 2011 that police corruption is a global problem. Corruption in the police has been a factor that fuels the need to improve police institutions globally. The notion was further stressed by Bayley and Perito (2011), who asserted that police corruption is a challenge that borders counterinsurgency and peacekeeping operations. Moreover, a revelation by the USIP

showed that police violence and corruption is widespread and impelled a few Afghans to hunt for the support of the Taliban in opposition to their government. In 2010, TI concluded that the police are the fourth most corrupt civic organization in 86 countries after political parties, civil servants, parliaments, and legislature.

The global corruption perception index of the TI (2018) revealed that corruption is adding to a global crisis of democracy. As the report showed further, 113 countries have dropped in their democracy scores since 2006 due to corruption. On the average, sub-Saharan Africa scored 32/100, which is the lowest among all other regions. More so, Bayley and Perito (2011) showed further that corruption is worse in sub-Saharan and North Africa, the Middle East, and the newly free States of the ex-Soviet Union (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, and Ukraine). The author revealed that the World Bank Report in twenty-three countries investigated that the public saw the police as a threat, misery, danger, and destruction rather than an institution that provides assistance or protection.

In 2013, the Greece National Integrity System assessment showed Greece's corruption for about 2500 years ago. In recent times, police corruption in Greece is very high, with 99 percent of its populace believing that corruption in their country is endemic (European Union Anti-Corruption Report, 2014). The previous year to the EU Anti-Corruption Report, TI already confirmed that police corruption in Greece reaches 3.7/5 (TI Corruption Perception Index, 2013).

Meanwhile, data from the 2011 Euro-barometer research places Bulgaria as number one having the most corrupt police institution among other EU member states.

Bulgaria regularly experiences various forms of police corruption, and consequently, her citizens always have a wrong perception of their police. The Bulgarian police's public view has always revolved around corrupt practices and disputes of interest, which has always continued to be a severe issue. The individual experience of ordinary Bulgarians promotes Bulgarian police perception, not merely about political indignity and regular media exposure of police corruption alone (Dzhekova, Gounev, & Bezlov, 2013).

However, in Croatia, the most popular type of street police corruption is accepting bribes. The International Victim Crimes Survey reported that 15 out of 100 study participants admitted giving a bribe within the previous year, paying 44% to police officers (Ivković et al., 2002). In the Czech Republic, the perception of police corruption is in two categories: little daily corruption (e.g., favoritism and bribery) and significant financial corruption, which involves foreign investments needing both state support and subsidy management (Fenyk, 2003).

Until 2010, there were few cases charged against the Austrian Police. Unlike the other Member States of the European Union, there has been a small number of indictments linking to corruption among the Austrian Police (Sarre, Das, & Albrecht, 2004). Similarly, the TI Corruption Perception Index (2011) reported that Austria is at the least corruption levels with 7.8 points among the 16 countries, yet; there are cases of corruption in the country. The Vienna police chief in 2006 indicted for misuse of official power and unlawful collection of offerings from private companies is proof of the increasing level of corruption exploits by the Austrian Police. The event stressed by Euro-barometer data in 2013 emphasizes a new thorn in the law enforcement agency.

Furthermore, Euro Barometer (2013) claimed that in 2011, about eighty percent of Austrian people assert that corruption is prevalent in the country, while it was sixty percent in the year 2009. The 2011 account supersedes the European Union average of seventy-six percent (Euro Barometer, 2013), indicating that police corruption littered the recent years with crimes that include personal disclosure of valuable information, misuse of power, and collection of bribes (Annual Report of BAK, 2011).

However, in Belgium, the level of corruption and similar issues with the police is low. In 2012, police corruption ranking placed Belgium 16 out of 176 of the most corrupt nation (Dzhekova, Gounev & Beslov, 2013). The 2014 EU anti-corruption reported that, outside police-related corruption, the 2013 Special Euro-barometer report shows that the majority (67%) of Belgians suffer corruption in other institutions, connected to the EU standard of 76%. TI Corruption Perception Index reported an investigation restricted to India in 2005 that the police top the list amongst nine public services in the country. However, police corruption is an impediment, with people in abject poverty reporting most repeatedly that the police had forced them to pay bribes (Bayley & Perito, 2011).

Definitions of Corruption and Police Monetary Bribery

The concept of corruption has broad definitions, depending on the context, circumstances, and perceptions in society. Oduma-Aboh defines corruption as the “antithesis of progress and development as it creates political instability, social unrest, and crime-infested environment. It breeds inefficiency, incompetence, mediocrity, unethical values, and other instincts in man such as insatiability, avarice, and meanness” (2015, p. 9). Ojo (2014) contends that corruption creates perceived inequality between

the perpetrator(s) and the people to fulfill a commitment to reward or convey a product or a service. Corruption in Nigeria encompasses avoidance in the tradition of real accountability and transparency, incompetence, pathetic government structures, and unwarranted absorption of powers in the government's executive arm (Imam & Mustapha, 2011). According to Imam and Mustapha, corruption is a shameless act of illegally acquiring and mismanaging public funds and resources.

Ojo (2014) defined corruption as abnormal behavior of public officials that erodes public confidence. According to Ojo, there is a prevalence of complaints against politicians and civil servants that accept bribes and accumulate wealth at public expense. Corruption is an abuse of power when officials engage in abnormal behavior that questions their judgment and contradicts their office oath. Ojo's definition limits the scope of corruption to public servants but exempts other groups, including citizens that encourage or enable the behavior. Understandably, crime does not exist in a vacuum; it takes a cast of characters to perpetrate any form of corruption, including the perpetrator or people in a position of authority and citizens as willing enablers.

As Onuigbo and Eme (2015) asserted, corruption is conduct that swerves from the regular functions of a public responsibility because of personal relationships; these include bribery, nepotism, and misappropriation. However, it is commendable to conceptualize corruption as a broad phenomenon using dynamic logic to have a more comprehensive understanding of the fact as a shared problem. The above two definitions failed to incorporate precisely the determinants of corruption; instead, it emphasizes the means and consequences that are deficient of the categorical variables associated with

corruption as a broader problem. A scientific definition by Petrus van Duyne (2001) sees corruption as

an improbity or decay in the decision-making process in which a decision-maker consents to deviate or demands a deviation from the criterion which should rule his or her decision-making, in exchange for a reward or the promise or expectation of a reward, while these motives influencing his or her decision-making cannot be part of the justification of the decision. (p. 1)

According to Karimu and Osunyikanmi (2012), the Nigerian police have regularly been topping TI's list as its most fraudulent establishments. The police are a body that society cannot do without (Ojo, 2014). As Aremu, Pakes and Johnston (2008) observed, the Nigerian police are the leading corrupt institution in the state riddled with a fraudulent system. Aremu et al. believe there is no particular concept regarding what police corruption entails judging from various assertions. For example, there is the notion that corruption occurs when police accept payment for duty in which there is no obligation to perform. It signifies that any form of unlawful incentives tied to job performance is corruption (Aremu et al., 2008).

Earlier on, Syed (1997) had tried to conceptualize police corruption by giving instances of acts or behaviors that constitute corruption. He noted that an officer who was not arresting an individual for possessing illegal material in exchange for some benefits is a clear illustration of fraudulent behavior under the guise of legitimate police authority. Alternatively, a police chief that commands her/his subordinates to cease from

investigating a suspected illegal activity of a friendly and influential public office holder is also acting corruptly. Miles (2012) believes that the definition of corruption needs to be broad to include moral, social, political, and economic dispensation as parts of the description.

There is also the perception that police corruption is not easy to define because of circumstance and motivation. With the expediency to curb corruption in the societies due to its consequences, the definition is broad and conceptualized to serve a significant purpose, especially in formulating laws (Miles, 2012). For example, to enact an anti-corruption law, a definitive definition is essential to define parameters to avoid arbitrary prosecution and to ensure fairness adjudication. In trial procedures, bribery and nepotism are specific, allowing corruption and, generally, manipulating power for profit-making (Miles, 2010). The definition of corruption requires broadening to accommodate a spectrum of corrupt practices involving a single act of a public official or other people engaged in a breach of trust. In furtherance of many scholars' opinions (Aremu et al., 2008; Khalid et al., 2020; Miles, 2010; Nte, 2011; Ojo, 2014), corruption is not a singular act or behavior; instead, manifolds of negative behavior that breach the trust affiliation of a governance institution.

Many forms of corruption exist in the Nigeria Police, but “bribery” (p. 1) is the most common form (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, n.d.). The New York Human Rights Watch reported in 2010 that armed police officers often accost poor Nigerians to pay bribes and intimidate those who decline with a threat of arrest or physical violence. In Nigeria, it is a common tradition for the police to collect bribes.

Even without requesting, the public approves that giving bribes to the police is a norm. Thus, a large division of the police has come to recognize this as a right (Aremu, Pakes, & Johnson, 2011).

Definition of Monetary Bribery

Ajie and Oyegun define bribery “as a kind of illegal remuneration that occurs in a fixed transaction which includes kickbacks, gratuities, payoff, sweeteners, greasing palms, and scratching of the back” (2015, p. 96). Broadly, the UK Bribery Act (2010) defines bribery as offering or collection of a monetary or another advantage having to do with the indecent performance of a role or a function that the law expects to be impartial or unbiased loyalty.

The Nature of Police Monetary Bribery in Nigeria

Public perception is that corruption among members of the Nigeria Police is very high (Akpunonu-Ogu, 2014; Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Oluwaniyi, 2011). In a study carried out by Oluwaniyi (2011), bribery is a common form of police corruption. The author lamented that the desire to get rich quickly and gain extra income is the primary driver of police corruption. Monetary bribery has become the main form of police bribery in Nigeria. Other countries, such as Serbia, where a study carried out on police corruption, show that most bribery incidences were monetary/cash (Petrovic, Dordevic & Savkovic, 2013).

There appears to be a consensus that police monetary bribery is widespread in Nigeria, endemic, and many. The Nigerian police use such names as “Roadyer [sic],” “particulars,” “appreciation,” and “support” to perpetuate these illegal collections (Inyang

& Abraham, 2013, p. 277). There is a growing belief that refusal to comply with police monetary demands at roadblocks and tollgates could result in motorists' deaths by corrupt police officers (Human Rights Watch, 2010). Human Rights Watch (2010) described Ogbunike tollgate's incidence where a driver declined to hand over ₦60.00 bribe but chose to give ₦20.00 instead. The commercial driver's refusal to comply infuriated the police, who afterward discharge a bullet that claims the driver's lives and three other persons spontaneously while the rest of the passengers on the vehicle scuttle to safety.

Similarly, one driver and passenger were shot and killed in Ita-Odo and Aramoko on June 3, 2004. The driver refused to pay the ₦20.00 that the police officer requested. Similarly, Corporal Adejare Apata discharge gunshots and killed Saheed Aborishade opposite the Nigerian police post, Orogun in Oyo State, to decline to pay an ₦100 bribe on July 12, 2004. Another incident occurred on April 25, 2006, at Onitsha, where a police officer purportedly shot a 22-year-old student in the course of an argument with a motorist who refuses to give a bribe (Human Rights Watch, 2010).

However, some research focuses on how the public perceives police monetary bribery and the nature of police monetary bribery. More attention has been on general police corruption with a tangential focus on people's experience of monetary bribery and extortion by the police. For instance, a CLEEN foundation study in 2006 showed that more than one-third of respondents encounter the police in the previous 12 months; half of them bribed the police to "get out of the problem" (Olori, 2010, p. 24). Recent reports by Transparency International (TI) found that police monetary bribery is widespread in Nigeria. In its 2013 report, 75% or more of the Nigerian's surveyed had paid a monetary

bribe to the police. In the 2015 report, as much as 45% of the public members have paid a monetary bribe to the police within a 12-month period, which was higher than other public offices (TI, 2013; 2015). Indeed, many other studies have identified police monetary bribery as a common form of police corruption in Nigeria (Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Ibrahim, 2019; Olumuyiwa, Kolawole, & Kayode, 2014).

Some scholars examined police monetary bribery's dimension to be a significant motivation for police brutality and victimization (Akpunonu-Ogu, 2014; Dufka, 2010). Akpunonu-Ogu, (2014), citing Human Rights Watch (2010), noted thus, "People who resist or fail to pay (bribe) always face threats from police such as unlawful detention and at times physical assault or extrajudicial killings by the police" (p. 42).

Police monetary bribery occurs at different police contact points with the people, namely, the police checking point, highways, police station, and even people's homes. Police monetary bribery along the road or checking point shows that the police personnel responsible for checking the vehicle and reducing traffic offenses are seen openly collecting money from most vehicle drivers (Akpunonu-Ogu, 2014; Ibrahim, 2015; Onyango, 2018). Adeshina (2010) asserted that superior police officers place their junior staff to purposefully collect money from commercial drivers. According to the author, mounting of unnecessary roadblocks is solely for the single purpose of extorting money; these starving police officers do compel individuals by force to 'settle' them and threaten to shoot those who refuse. Ibrahim (2019) also added that extortion at roadblocks is the most natural and most profitable means of acquiring illegal wealth by the police

throughout the hierarchy. Police monetary bribery also occurs in the office in exchange for one favor or the other.

One such scenario is the police recruitment process. Ahmadu (2015) observed that Nigeria Police recruitment exercise has become a moneymaking venture for those in charge of the affairs. He added further that people pay a bribe as much as ₦500 000 and above before getting entry into the agency, invariably affect the quality of those recruited in the force.

Another aspect of police monetary bribery is in their day-to-day work of handling cases in the office. Many reports have alleged that police demand bribes from suspects to drop investigations (Dufka, 2010; Ibrahim, 2015; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017). Ibrahim presented instances of police monetary bribery at police stations as thus

regarding arrest and prosecution, the police are prominent in their fraudulent act of demanding a monetary bribe from people in the course of their duties and even hide criminal documents to extort money. Police also conceal and impede the file of suspects and bring them out when offered a bribe. (p. 42)

Similarly, the Public Rapid Response (PRR) platform of the Nigeria Police revealed that out of the 822 complaints received from 1st October to 30th December 2016, police demanding a bribe to bail is among the primary complaints 262 (31.87%) (Nigeria Police, 2017). Although the PPR complaints did not break down according to states, Anambra State ranked fifth among the States sent in complaints.

Notwithstanding the various forms and frequency of police monetary bribery, little or no empirical research is available to ascertain how the people perceive these experiences of police monetary and the possible impact of police reform efforts. Investigating public perception is a necessary research agenda since available evidence proves that it affects their behavior, which also applies to the public's perceptions of the police (Chan & Chan, 2012; Elnaga, 2012; Yusuf & Tepe, 2013). For instance, Yusuf and Tepe (2013) found that citizens' who had positive contact with the police expressed more satisfaction with the police. In contrast, the causes of police corruption and monetary bribery have been extensively investigated and discussed (Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Ibrahim, 2019; Nigerian Police Report, 2008; Onwuka, 2011; TI, 2011). A new research line should focus on how the public perceives police monetary bribery and how the perceptions affect the public.

Public Perceptions of Police Monetary Bribery and Attitudes to and Involvement in Police Accountability Mechanisms

Police accountability is crucial for effective policing. In line with this, Walker (2006, p. 22) asserted thus, "Effective accountability is vital to achieving policy goals." The justification for police accountability is the immense power given to the police, which have enormous consequences for the citizens' rights. Also, the police's susceptibility to political, economic, and social pressures to use their power unconstitutionally, the vast resources allocated to the police for their work, and their particular role in safeguarding and protecting human rights. Alemika (2010) also stated

thus, "police accountability mechanisms are to ensure that police powers and resources are used responsively and responsibly for the common good." (p. 7)

There are different conceptualizations of accountability by various scholars. Schedler (1999, cited in Abiri, 2011, p. 17) saw accountability as "expressing the continuing concern for checks and oversight, for surveillance and institutional constraint on the exercise of power." Accountability has to do with placing on organizations the responsibility to get the necessary ability to perform, the duty to provide information, explanation, justification, and the need to take responsibility for unaccountable actions and disciplinary measures (Igbuzor, 2010). According to Karimu and Foluke (2012, p. 250), police accountability is "holding police officers responsible for their actions and inactions and for the adequate performance of their primary duties of crime prevention and control at the same time treating individuals within the confines of the law."

Abiri (2011, p. 17) provided a more concise meaning of police accountability as "the operation of internal and external control mechanisms that ensure that the police perform their job faithfully to the rule of law and the people's civil rights protections." Scholars identified different police accountability types – internal, external, civilian oversight, and social control (Abiri, 2011; Alemika, 2010; Igbuzor, 2010; Karimu & Foluke, 2012). Alemika (2010) identified mechanisms that the public could utilize to report police misbehavior. The internal mechanisms, including the Police Act and Police Regulations; administrative mechanisms such as complaints mechanisms; the Public Complaints Bureau in the Police Public Relations Office. The external accountability

mechanisms are those from external institutions such as the Nigeria Police Council and the Police Service Commission.

Other external accountability mechanisms of the police are the legal frameworks such as the Bureau of Conduct and Tribunal Act, the Penal/Criminal Code. Hence, I briefly discussed these legal frameworks:

The Bureau of Conduct and Tribunal Act: Section (10) forbids any officer serving in the public interest from requesting or collecting any material or financial remuneration based on illegal service (Onuigbo & Eme, 2015). Onuigbo and Eme further revealed thus, “The code of conduct tribunal is empowered to impose punishment which may include vacation of office whether elective or nominated office as the case may be” (p. 16). The punishment is banning from occupying public office and total confiscation of properties that the culprit benefits from corrupt deals.

The Penal/Criminal Code: The Penal and Criminal Codes both have elements of illegalizing fraud. The Criminal Code contains provisions for official and judicial corruption, which is in the form of offenses of bribery and crimes of extortion (Onuigbo & Eme, 2015). According to Onuigbo and Eme, the Criminal Codes under Section (98) and (116) enclose crimes of bribery, and similar provisions in both sections are:

1. The public officer corruptly asks, receives, or obtains or agrees or attempts to receive or obtain a bribe;
2. The act of requesting, receiving, obtaining or accepting or attempting to acquire or obtain the bribe by the public officer must have been in a ‘corrupt’ manner and;

3. The act of offering, demanding, or receiving property or benefit by any public officer or any other person by an act or omission;

The Criminal Code under Section 404(1) a-d of contains the offenses of extortion by public officials, which involve a public officer misusing his office to exploit people for financial gains. Section 114 defines the offense of “corruption in judiciary and individuals who give bribe to any member of the judiciary on the basis of anything already done or omitted to be done or to be done afterward or omitted to be done by him in his judicial capacity is liable to fourteen years imprisonment” (Onuigbo & Eme, 2015, p. 14).

The social control dimension places the media, community organizations, and the public members at the center of police accountability. The assertion was supported by Karimu and Foluke (2012), who stated that those forms of social control mechanisms could enhance the police-community relationship and policing effectiveness. Hence, civilian oversight is similar to a social control mechanism for accountability. Also, drawing from Igbuzor (2010, p. 50), “civilian oversight involves people from outside the police taking a role in calling the police to account for their actions, policies, and organization”; the public has a role to play in this type of accountability.

However, some of the avenues for playing these roles seem not to be in use. The study carried out by Johnson, Johnson and Ifedayo (2013) demonstrated this fact. They adopted a qualitative approach, using an in-depth interview technique to gain information from top Nigerian police officers in Lagos State. The investigation evaluated the structure and operation of the Nigeria police and found that the Nigerian Police Public Relations

Department have platforms that would improve the functions and prevent oppressive tendencies and violence of police against the public. The findings revealed different components of the community policing system, such as Police Community Relations Committees, and others have their base in various locations in Nigeria. According to the study by Ifedayo (2013), there are avenues where people can file complaints of any form of abuse and misconduct by the police or any other unlawful and inhumane act contrary to conventional policing operations. The avenues can also serve as mutual communication and sharing of ideas between the public and the police.

Most researchers argued that Nigeria's police accountability platforms are non-effective (Alemika, 2010; Karimu & Foluke, 2012). Alemika put it very clearly, when he noted, "Nigeria has multiple institutions for holding the police accountable. However, the institutions are weak, inefficient, and uncoordinated" (2010, p. 13).

Alemika (2010) stressed that internal mechanisms are expected to increase citizens' willingness to report police misconducts but rather the mechanisms sew deep mistrust between the police and citizens because of poor implementation and management. External accountability mechanisms have also failed, and Igbuzor (2010) argued for stronger civilian oversight. Igbuzor stated thus, "In light of the external accountability mechanisms' weakness, there is a need to adopt strategies for adequate supervision and police accountability in Nigeria (p. 50). He further argued that civilian oversight's effectiveness depends on public attitude, police cooperation, and political support, among other factors. The author emphasized the crucial role of the public in the success of police accountability.

Successive governments and leaders of the Nigeria Police have expressed desires to make the police force more accountable. One of the recent inspector general of police established seven different platforms. The public can lay their complaints on police behavior, one of which is the Public Complaint Rapid Response Unit (Ibrahim, 2016). Yet, considering the high police corruption incidents in general and monetary bribery, the public has a low report rate. The low report rate might be related to the negative perceptions of police corruption, of which monetary bribery is major.

Inadequate accountability of the police has led to the culture of impunity, which accounts for the high incidence of police monetary bribery. As noted by Abiri (2012), police accountability strengthens and gives credibility to police conduct, performance, and management and restores public trust and confidence in the police. The absence of police accountability produces the opposite effect. Studies carried outside Nigeria show that the citizens feel that there should be greater police control by the citizens in the community (Khondaker, Lambert & Wu, 2013; Lee-Jones & Holmes, 2018).

What is clear from the literature review is that there is little or no research evidence on the public's attitude and involvement in police accountability mechanisms in Nigeria. Similarly, Walker (2006) observed the need for research on citizens' awareness and perception of the police accountability procedures and attitude to the police, among other research areas. I attempted to close this gap in the literature, which is also missing in public policy and public administration in Nigerian literature.

Public Perceptions of Police Monetary Bribery and Attitudes to and Involvement in the Advancement of Democratic Principles

Understanding what democracy means is crucial for an understanding of democratic principles. The concept seem to have defied all attempts at arriving at a unified definition. There has been a series of efforts to categorize the various definitions. Johnson (2000) presented Huntington's classification of the definitions of democracy into three categories based on; sources of authority for government, the purpose served by the government, and the procedures for constituting the government. One standard definition that belongs to the first category is the concept of democracy as "rule by the people" (Huntington, 1991, cited in Johnson, 2000, p. 7).

On the other hand, Villoro presented two perspectives of democracy: democracy as an ideal of political association and democracy as a government system. In the former, democracy means the power of the people, the people being members of the association. In the latter scenario, democracy means a series of rules and institutions that support a power system (Villoro, 1998). The rules and institutions which support this power system, according to Villoro, "equality of citizens before the law, civil rights, citizens' election of their leaders, the principle of needing a majority to take decisions, and the separation of powers" (p. 95).

In summary, democracy is a government system where citizens elect their leaders and are equal before the law; the decision lies in the majority, and there is a separation of power. This definition flourishes in the UN Secretary-General's Report on New or Restored Democracies. It declared democracy as relying on the "freely-expressed will of

the people to establish their own social, cultural, economic, and political systems and their full involvement in all aspects of their lives" (Bassiouni, 1998, p. 5). Ozohu-Suleiman (2016), citing Almond (2004), defined "democracy is a political system in which citizens enjoy some fundamental civil and political rights, and in which their most important leaders are elected in free and fair elections and accountable under the rule of law" (p. 84). Embedded with these definitions, to a small or large degree, are elements of the principles of democracy.

Ejere (2012) used a qualitative method to develop a paper on sustaining public division transparency in contemporary Nigeria. Ejere study revealed the practice of democracy as vital to upholding human dignity and acceptance of responsibility by government officials. According to the research, civil servants realize the position of law when they misuse or abuse their powers to draw common sense to governance. Democracy thrived on and sustained by accountability. The study provided that the fundamental nature of public transparency is to maintain the central democratic ideologies, which means that the rule of law, good governance, and general interest are constant. However, a society established on the foundation of transparency and a good sense of responsibility is mindful of the central objective to work and pursue the public or general interests always.

The judgment of success or failure of any democratic state lies in the extent of applying democratic principles. Although crucial, there has not been much achievement in agreeing to one unified body of democratic principles. For some scholars like Bentham (1998, p. 23), the principles of democracy are in two. First, principles of popular control

and political equality whose realization is dependent on recognizing human rights and, second, establishing democratic political institutions designed to ensure general authorization of public officials, continuing accountability and responsiveness to citizens. According to Bentham, these two principles translate to people having the right and control over decision-making and treating people with equal rights and respect in decision-making processes.

Some researchers have also identified the principles of democracy as "public accountability, large participation, and consent of the governed" (Fatile & Okewale, 2013, p. 130). While conceptualizing the principles of democracy, Bentham (1998) placed public accountability as a necessary ingredient for democratic principles. Fatile and Okewale (2013) saw public accountability as one of the democratic principles but failed to include political equality. The commonality among these scholars is that they highlighted citizens' participation in making decision on matters that concern them. In line with this thought, Bentham (1998, p. 22) noted, "The essential counterpart to the democratic principles of popular control and political equality is thus a publicly active citizen body which is capable of exercising tolerance." Therefore, public accountability will make the citizens fundamental to the success of any democracy.

Citizens of any nation are central to democratic governance. Bentham (1998, p. 23) asserted that "citizens are both the starting point and the focus of the democratic process." He believed that for the citizens to be effective in the democratic process, they need to have; the ability and the willingness to play a part in ordinary affairs, their rights are respected, their equal dignity are acknowledged, and their rights to opinion

recognized. It is the expectation that the police, as an institution within any democratic government, know this.

The police play an essential role in upholding the democratic principles and holding the citizens to such act. Goldstein (cited in Urubulam, 2015) puts it more clearly when he noted that, “The strength of a democracy and the quality of life enjoyed by its citizens are determined in large measure by the ability of the police to discharge their duties” (p. 35). The police are a government institution that the public interacts with daily. Therefore, the manner they conduct themselves has impact on the public.

Urubulam (2015) noted, “The police are the outward civil authority of the power and might of a civilized country; the generality of the public is potentially affected one way or another by their action or inaction” (p. 2). In a democratic society, which has accountability as one of its principles, police accountability is inevitable (Ibiri, 2011). Democratic policing requires that the police “‘operate under the rule of law,’ meaning that the police have a clear obligation to respect the law and comply with its dictates in their actions and activities” (Abiri, 2011, p. 17).

Adebayo and Ojo (2009) expressed explicitly how corruption negatively influences the morals of the Nigerian police and the effect of lasting democracy in Nigeria. The authors also indicated that negative public perception would hinder the police from being useful. Citizens are skeptical about giving the police information, which they may be used to bully the victim into giving monetary bribe. The most significant predicament fighting our thriving democratic system is the extraordinary rise in social unrest in almost every aspects of Nigeria. Adebayo and Ojo concluded that the

political leader should immediately address the unrestrained behavior of the police. More so, mechanisms for democratic consolidation in Nigeria desire better police.

Police monetary bribery reports, intimidation of citizens, and abuses of citizens' rights are frequent in Nigeria (Transparency International, 2020; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017). There are also reports of bribing of the police and security agents with overwhelming amounts to perpetrate election rigging, terrorize citizens and intimidate party officials and other people who are also citizens (Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Ibrahim, 2019; Orole, Gadar & Hunter, 2014; Eme & Okoh, 2009). Hence, people lost confidence in the police, whereas citizens' willingness to participate in the democratic process is one of the core principles of democracy. People are no longer enthusiastic about taking part in the elections and appear indifferent in matters related to holding public officers responsible for their actions. Fatile and Okewale (2013) and Kwasau (2013) corroborated that Nigeria is far from achieving the ideals of democracy because it failed to apply core democratic principles.

Nigeria can improve her practice of democracy following the Universal Declaration on Democracy, which presents democracy (in the no. 2 of the first part on the principles of democracy) as "constantly perfected and always perfectible state or condition whose progress will depend upon a variety of political, social, economic, and cultural factors" ("The Inter-Parliamentary Council," 1997). Suleiman (2016) also supported the argument when he stated that Nigeria's democracy needs a democratization process that puts the people at the center and active participation.

One of the likely means of the public's involvement in the restoration of democracy to governance in Nigeria is through advancing democratic principles (Ajayi & Ojo, 2014). The principles can be pursued by awakening the citizens to their roles by understanding how police corruption, especially the widespread monetary bribery, influences the public attitude and willingness in promoting democratic tenets in the police and in the government. Whereas, no known empirical research has focused on this critical area. Most research studies have been theoretical and opinion papers that examined corruption's effect on Nigeria's democracy (See Fatile & Okewale, 2013; Esidene, 2014; Kwasau, 2013).

Summary and Conclusions

The reviewed literature shows that police corruption is a continental and a global problem, which established the rationale to research public perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka. Studies conducted within the African setting, with particular reference to Nigeria, showed that police monetary bribery is most prevalent and typically occurs at roadblocks. There is no doubt that police extortion at roadblocks in Nigeria has severe repercussions for the police, the public, and the country. People have expressed concerns about the deficiency in the enforcement of law and order. Citizens apportioned the blame to both the government and the formal police for failing in their duties in safeguarding lives, properties, and respect for human dignity.

Currently, terrorism seems to be subversive and the most challenging issue in the country as innocent Nigerian citizens often die in large numbers. The widespread corruption in all institutions blindfolds the government to have a sense of responsibility

to its people; it seems that government officials are only interested in power and looting of public funds. Even though evidence abounds that the Nigerian government never relents to eliminate corruption through policies, but policies made without practical implementation and supervision are vague.

The perception of police monetary bribery in Nigeria is appalling, bringing down the law enforcement agency (police) to Nigeria's least respected institution. The people's view towards the police is not worth the regards meant for those responsible for safeguarding lives and properties. People frown at the slogan 'police are your friend;' instead, 'police is the people's enemy.' In this manner, the people socially construct a negative attitude towards the police and do not cooperate with the law enforcement agency to combat crime.

The literature review implicates corruption in the Nigeria Police as a top down phenomena. It shows that when police leadership exhibits an appreciable degree of commitment and service obligation, other officers learn positive leadership qualities from such efforts. The model will enable the police administration to consider individuals in the force based on their uniqueness and capabilities.

The Nigerian police's applaud steps to tackle corruption within the force need government support to make policies that shoulder these strategies and make them operative. Nigerians need to desist from enabling police monetary bribery and need re-orientation to perfect the implementation of public policies, particularly those that affect bribery and other forms of corruption. Nigerian police officers need adequate leadership training that will help them understand the consequences of corruption. Such programs

should revolve around helping the police leaders and their juniors advance human relations, growing a sense of responsibility to serve, and encouraging discipline within the police and the country. It is imperative to apply effective reformatory policies and programs in the Nigeria Police that would bring patriotism, commitment, openness, and transparency, not just within the Nigeria Police but also in society.

I proposed that the people, the government, and the police have their distinct role in preserving peace, law, and order in Nigeria. The study provided insight for policymakers to understand people's perceptions toward policies and devise better means to design policies that would gain full acceptance by targeted population regarding police monetary bribery in Awka.

Chapter 3 includes information on the study design I used to research public perceptions of Nigerian police monetary bribery in Awka. The chapter includes the qualitative tradition of inquiry, sampling method, population, data collection method, data management, the researcher's role, reliability issue, ethical considerations, data analysis, and participants' protection.

Chapter 3: Research Method

Introduction

I researched public perceptions of police monetary bribery and how it influences the people's attitude to and involvement in democratic policing reforms in Awka. In this chapter, I identify and explained methods I used to accomplish this task. The chapter includes an outline of the research design for this study and the rationale for the choice of the design. The sample size and the basis for its selection are also discussed. I also discuss data collection methods in this chapter, including the research ethics and trustworthiness issues.

Research Design and Rationale

I sought to answer the following RQs:

1. How does the public perceive the nature of police monetary bribery in Awka?
2. How are the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka influencing their attitude to and involvement in police accountability mechanisms?
3. How are the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka influencing their attitude to and involvement in advancing democratic principles?
4. How do the public's perceptions of the police monetary bribery in Awka impact their attitude to and involvement in community policing?
5. What is the public's perception of their ability and willingness to fight police monetary bribery in Awka?

Police monetary bribery is the act of police officer collecting money from a public member as an inducement to perform the officer's official duty or to subvert the law

(Ahmadu, 2015). The endemic monetary corruption is prevalent in the Nigerian police and has been harmful to the country's growth and development (Bello & Anigbogu, 2018). The public's experiences of regular police monetary bribery generate negative impression about the police. In this study, I examined how the public perceived police monetary bribery. Democratic policing reforms are the Nigerian police initiatives geared towards making the police more accountable and compliant with the law. Two of these initiatives are the setting up a more responsive public complaints procedure called PCRRU and the introduction of community policing. Community policing emphasizes a public-police partnership and collaboration in resolving security issues for improved police accountability and community safety (Abubakar, Othman & Mustaffa, 2017).

To investigate public perceptions about police monetary bribery and how it impacts the people's attitude to and involvement in democratic policing reforms, I used qualitative methodology in line with qualitative research tradition. Guba and Lincoln (cited in Gallifa, 2018, p. 12) defined research tradition, "As human constructions, composed of sets of basic beliefs." The two broad research traditions are qualitative and quantitative (Gallifa, 2018). Qualitative researchers attempt to describe human behavior and explain the reasons behind that behavior and to give answers as to what, why, and how an issue exists (Creswell, 2014). This study's principal interest was people's perceptions, experiences, and the sense they make of their life (see Creswell, 2014). Qualitative research is very relevant when a researcher's interest is to have an in-depth subjective understanding of a problem. For this reason, I adopted a qualitative case study

design to achieve this purpose. A case study is one of the research methods in qualitative research (Creswell, 2014).

A case study design helps the researcher to have an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon in a real-life situation (Creswell, 2013). A case study approach was the most suitable for the present inquiry because it targeted the public in a specific group. The design is useful for investigating an individual, an assembly of people, or an event (Starman, 2013). It enables the researcher to broaden the research focus's understanding and drive beyond the surface, using multiple data collection methods (Robson & McCartan, 2017; Sauro, 2015). I adopted a case study design because of this study's need to capture the perception of people on police monetary bribery in Awka based on their direct experiences. The case study design is characterized by an interpretative paradigm that emphasizes an individual's subjective experiences or groups (Starman, 2013). It involves the intensive analysis of individual units like a person, community, or organization.

Moreover, the choice of case study design in this study is its potency of covering research within individual cases, unlike the comparative case method (Starman, 2013). As such, case studies provide researchers with an opportunity to gain a holistic view of the research problem and may facilitate description, understanding, and explanation of a research problem or situation (Baskarada, 2013; Baxter & Jack, 2008; Tellis, 1997). For example, Creswell (2013) also revealed that it helps the researcher to have an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon in a real-life situation. The research design is a comprehensive plan for data collection in an empirical research project. It is a blueprint

for empirical research to test specific study objectives, specifying at least three processes: the data collection, instrument development, and the sampling processes (Bhattacharjee, 2012).

The use of case study design for this study also allowed me to present its findings in descriptive nature. According to Kothari (2004), the descriptive research design is concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual, phenomenon, or group. Kothari posited that studies concerned with specific predictions, the narration of facts, and characteristics concerning an individual, group, or situation are all examples of descriptive research studies. The aim of a descriptive research study is to obtain complete and accurate information. The procedure is carefully planned, including the study techniques for collecting the information. Kothari stressed that several methods (observation, questionnaires, interviewing, and examination of records) with their merits and limitations are available for gaining detailed research data. A researcher may use one or more of these methods.

I strove to eliminate bias and unreliability from the data collection instrument for this study. The interview questions were structured to reflect only existing literature and simplified to a general understanding. Also, the data collection instrument was vetted by me to establish its reliability.

Role of the Researcher

Following the tenets of qualitative inquiry, the relationship between participants and researchers can be principally challenging later as they engage in various investigation phases (Sanjari et al., 2014). Therefore, defining, explaining, and

formulating specific guiding principles are necessary. I consistently worked with the study participants to choose a conducive and familiar environment for the interview sessions. During this process, data collection relied on participants' responses alone to avoid personal input, which would influence bias or render the study result fictitious.

I informed the participants about the study's nature and consistently reassured them of the scientific research principles underpinning the study, such as privacy and confidentiality. According to Crow and Wiles (2008), it is a fundamental ethical practice in all social research to guarantee participants' confidentiality. I guaranteed participants that a suitable arrangement to ensure their responses, reports, exhibitions, and other dissemination forms would not be traced back to them. Such efforts gave the study participants some idea of what to think of the investigation. It intensified the possibility of sincerity, which is also a significant feature in the process of informed consent (Crow & Wiles, 2008).

In line with the research procedure, Creswell (2015) asserted that informed consent logically necessitates smooth relationship between participants and the researcher as the study evolves. According to Holloway and Wheeler (2010), some people find it obligatory to partake in research beneficial to their society. Hence, I appropriately clarified how the study would contribute to scientific knowledge and reduce police monetary bribery and other police corruption forms. I facilitated data collection, maintained a warm, friendly relationship with the participants before interviews.

The participants were informed about the study's purpose, and they rightly consented, which established harmonious relationship throughout the interview period.

The recruited participants are adults from 18 years and above. The adult's sample was chosen to eliminate minors in a sensitive issue as police corruption; it was deemed to enroll experienced police monetary bribery persons. More important was to recruit participants who quickly and appropriately grasp the research's basic ethics and instructions from me. Moreover, study participants were educated on the research design and purpose of the study. I also asked probing questions, paid attention, deliberated, and asked more analytical questions to get to the discussion's in-depth levels. The procedure is in line with the ideology of Gill, Stewart, Treasure, and Chadwick (2008). They prompted that a qualitative researcher aims to build a picture using ideas and philosophies from a wide variety of sources.

Given the above, qualitative inquiry inclines to employ techniques that end in text creation rather than mathematical representation. Hence, the investigator is the primary research tool (Creswell, 2013). The structure of inquiry required proper development and subsequent alteration as the research progressed. As Holloway and Wheeler (2010) asserted, a qualitative investigator cannot rely on existing methods to deal with credibility and bias issues. Speziale and Carpenter (2011) also shared similar views when they corroborated that acknowledging a series of shortcomings in other studies is often an essential component of qualitative research.

Methodology

Participant Selection Logic

Population

The Capital Territory of Anambra State is Awka, with an estimated population of 301,846 comprising both indigenes and non-indigenes (National Population Commission [NPC], 2006). The NPC projected an estimated increase of 347,200 by 2011 (NPC, 2010). Not all the population were eligible for the study because some may not have had an excellent police monetary bribery experience or are minors who do not meet the targeted age. Hence, only those evaluated and confirmed to meet the research demand, following their responses on the socio-demographic questionnaire, were selected for this study.

Sampling Technique

The sample for this study is a total of 66 persons. The participants were selected from different designations at Nnamdi Azikiwe University Community in Awka, the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Awka Market Amalgamated Traders Association (AMATA), and Nigeria Association of Petroleum Station Owners. It also included members of the Nigeria Bar Association, Non-Governmental Organizations, the Nigeria Union of Teachers, and the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN). Moreover, the following (5) persons, President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Chaplaincy of the Awka Catholic Diocese; the Chairperson of (NURTW), and Awka Youth Leader and A Royal Father (Awka Paramount Ruler) were engaged in one-on-one in-depth interviews.

The purposive sampling technique was used to select participants since the case study method emphasizes a limited case rather than a population sample (Sauro, 2015). Purposive sampling also referred to as subjective, judgmental, or selective is a non-probability sampling technique characterized by an intentional attempt to achieve representative samples by containing a set or common area in a sample. Besides, Oliver (2016) sees purposive sampling as when a researcher decides individuals to include in a sample because they possess the exceptional knowledge or capacity or are prepared to contribute to the research process. For this reason, the study relied on the judgmental/purposive sampling technique to select samples for this study.

The rationale for adopting purposive sampling was to eliminate the risk of recruiting samples that are not ideal for this study. Therefore, participants who met the research criteria were selected after their sociodemographic responses were evaluated and confirmed to meet the research demand. Although police monetary bribery is a common problem in Awka, the occupational role or designation of a person also influences how they encounter the problem. For example, the experience of private motorists, commercial transport workers, market traders, academics and students, transport associations' leadership, lawyers, related NGOs, and similar categories were participants for the study.

Criteria for Participants' Selection

The researcher selected 66 participants based on the principle of maturity and, more importantly, their profound police monetary bribery experience in Awka. The prerequisite (maturity and experience) in the area of interest are variables that can

influence an individual's perception and value or extent of research. The research objective only aimed at recruiting participants that would make meaningful contributions in response to the research questions that this study proposed. Thus, the choice of participants in Awka is for the two most significant reasons.

First, Awka, the capital territory of Anambra State, houses the State Police Command, one Area Command, a Central Police Station, and a reasonable number of police divisions and posts, which suggest an arguable police presence in the area. It was, therefore, hypothesized that residents of Awka would have excellent experience of police monetary bribery since many types of research on the problem (Adepegba, 2017; Ahmadu, 2015; Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Human Rights Watch, 2010; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017) have established the frequency and unapologetic manner of the crime by the Nigeria Police.

Second, the Igbo people, of which Awka is among, are very diligent and popularly known for their commerce successes (see Orugun & Nafiu, 2014). This fact is evident in the considerable number of commercial establishments in Awka, the famous Eke-Awka market. More so, a significant number of people in Awka are engaged in a series of commercial activities. The possible problems that enmesh in such human social interactions and the influx of people in their various commercial dealings are, therefore, lucrative assets for the police to perpetuate the crime of monetary bribery. Corruption does not exist in a vacuum, and it requires two or more individuals to execute. The observable scenario and problems of police monetary bribery in Awka and police corruption prompted this study. In a similar thought, Ivkovic et al. (2002) stressed the

exclusive role that peoples' presence plays in flourishing police corruption. Thus, an investigation into police monetary bribery would be much value, making democratic policies and policing initiatives for Awka residents and beyond. For example, individual researchers and international organizations' reports (Human Right Watch, 2010; Transparency International, 2018; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017) revealed several incidences of police monetary bribery, which led to several unfortunate events such as loss of lives and properties, assaults, and citizens' bullying. For this reason, more participants within the confines of professional and commercial activity were sought and recruited for this study. The methodological consideration was to help in proffering solutions that can alleviate the problem and improve democratic policing.

Rationale for Sample Size

The study participants were purposively selected through an informed consent letter that contained an introduction to the research and its interests. The selected 66 participants are considered sufficient to achieve data saturation and detailed analysis of police monetary bribery. The principle and criterion on which this study selected its study participants produced the data saturation on public perceptions of police monetary bribery and implications for democratic policing in Awka. The sample representative's saturation is evident in the study participants' similar responses, which do not differ. Even if more participants were recruited to get more data, it would be a repetition of the existing ones. The sample size is the total number of selected participants or respondents representing a population. At the same time, saturation is when the sample size is enough to produce detailed data on a subject of inquiry, which will not differ even if more

samples are added (Creswell, 2013). Police monetary bribery is stereotypical, especially in the Nigerian milieu, because the manner that police use to collect bribes is customary.

Instrumentation

The primary sources of data collection for this study are the interview protocol and documents. The instrument mentioned above molded the appropriate strategy for deriving useful data for the study. The choice for the data collection tools are justified as follows:

Interview

The interview was an interrelation concept in which an interviewer possessed verbal questions to elicit responses from the interviewee. Tandem with the interview concept, Onwuegbuzie, Leech and Collins (2010) also emphasized the importance of voice and nonverbal communications during interview sessions. As the authors further stated, facial expressions and hand gestures help clarify the meaning and interpretations of spoken words. Apart from the face-to-face interview mode described by Onwuegbuzie, Leech, and Collins, a researcher can also interview over the phone or computer terminal using video conferencing technology (Annum, 2016). In this regard, consented participants were interviewed using the face-to-face method.

I used a semi-structured interview technique to collect data from the participants. This approach's choice is because semi-structured and unstructured interviews in qualitative research are seen as the primary forms of interviews, enabling an interviewer to determine when and how to ask questions that engage the interviewee in a discussion (Edwards & Holland, 2013). For this reason, Jacob and Furgerson (2012) hinged the

success of interviews on the uniqueness of the interviewer's skills. Therefore, only experienced and trained interviewers can dig deep into lived occurrences, discover research participants' viewpoints, and realize the nuance in stories.

The interview is an interaction between the interviewer and people or an interaction between the interviewer and one person. Robson and McCartan (2017) observed, "Interviews can take place in a group as well as one to one" (p. 293). There are apparent differences in the conceptualization of an interview between the interviewer and one person. While Robson and McCartan described it as "one to one" interviews, other scholars called "individual" or "one-on-one" interviews (Edwards & Holland, 2013, p. 40; Alshengeeti, 2014, p. 40).

I formulated the interview protocol to guide this study interview. An interview protocol includes a listing of interview questions. It expands the professional attitude of questioning and preparing procedures before and after the gathering (Jacob & Furgerson, 2012). Therefore, based on this idea, the interview protocol was adopted as the primary data collection instrument to elicit useful responses from this study participants. The concept guided me on how and when to engage participants in an analytical discussion on the subject of inquiry. The interview protocol offered an ample opportunity for participants to substantially describe their experiences and feelings about police monetary bribery.

The choice for the data collection instrument (one-on-one interviews and documents) on the subject matter is based on some peculiar reasons. First, a semi-structured interview allowed the research participants to remain focused on the issue at

hand while providing their perspectives on the issues. Second, the use of documents provided perspectives devoid of participants' biases. Finally, a combination of one-to-one interviews and document analysis served as a triangulation of evidence reinforcing the findings' credibility (Yin, 2009).

Documents

In general, documents are useful text-based used in research (Robson & McCartan, 2017). Therefore, I sought many relevant and recent documents to validate the research problem, support the research findings, and better understand the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery. In the context of qualitative research, Creswell (2014) see qualitative documents as public documents (newspapers, minutes of the meeting, official reports) or private documents such as individual's journals and diaries, e-mails, among others. In the context of police-public interaction in Awka, recent legitimate information on the public's perception of the police monetary bribery and its impact on police accountability, democratic principles, community police, and the public's willingness to fight police monetary bribery were sought and used. The used related news clippings and other collected documents were from approved vendors and their legitimate websites.

I created the study's interview protocol to ensure its originality and adeptness in answering the proposed research questions. The applied scientific procedures for producing the research instrument (member checks and peer reviews) established its absolute validity and reliability for this research purpose. The validity and reliability of any research project rely primarily on the instruments' suitability in meeting the research

demand. The researcher critically examined the instruments to verify the scope to which it was liable to provide the desired outcome.

Procedures for Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection

After successfully drafting and gaining approval for the data collection instrument, the interviews were singlehandedly carried out by me to establish the study participants' confidentiality trust. The choice of this idea was to fulfill the ethical promise of keeping participants' responses confidential.

The researcher reassured participants that their responses are only for academic purposes, and the interviews were conducted in the participant's friendly environment. The process built rapport between me and the participants and fashioned a friendly environment for the interview sessions. Participants were informed that they might choose not to answer some or all questions or may decide to exit the interview session without any consequence. The audio recorder was used to tape interview responses, of which the interviewees were earlier informed and consented. Each one-on-one interview lasted for at least 30 minutes. A verbatim transcription was done on all the interview responses, which was later fine-tuned, reported, and analyzed as the study findings. A total duration time of two months was used for the research fieldwork, including the follow-up interviews.

Some of the documents and newspaper clippings were from 2017 to 2020 collected from legitimate vendors and others accessed from authentic websites. The choice for the proposed period is because recent information will better illustrate the

current nature of police monetary bribery in Nigeria and evaluate the public's perception, which in this research focus.

Data Analysis Plan

Method of Data Analysis

Qualitative content analysis was used to analyze the research data. As with most social research methods, there is no one generally agreed concept of qualitative content analysis and the steps involved in carrying out qualitative content analysis. Hsieh and Shannon (2005) defined qualitative content analysis "as a research method for the subjective interpretation of the content of text data through the systematic classification process of coding and identifying themes or patterns" (p. 1278). The scholars identified three approaches to qualitative content analysis, namely; conventional (also called an inductive method), where the analyst generates categories from the data; a directed approach, which can be called deductive method, uses predetermined categories from theory to identify instances of the categories in textual materials and reporting the proportion of occurrence of the categories. The third approach is the summative approach, which has two phases; phase one begins with a search for specific words either by computer or by hand. Goes beyond this is the first such that latent content analysis refers to the interpretation phase by interpreting the content to discover the underlying meanings of the words for the content.

Schreier (2012, p. 6) opined that qualitative content analysis is a method for systematically describing the meaning of qualitative facts under different coding frames. However, Schreier did not categorize qualitative content analysis into different

approaches like other scholars but rather distinguish between building coding methods, which she called concept-driven, and data-driven approaches. It is, therefore, akin to Hsieh and Shannon's (2005) conventional and directed approaches to qualitative content analysis and Mayring's structuring and inductive category formation aspect of the reduction method.

On the other hand, Mayring (2014) defined qualitative content analysis as a mixed-methods data analysis approach that involves a qualitative step in assigning categories to text and a quantitative step in working through many text passages and analyzing frequencies of categories. Mayring, on his part, identified four methods of qualitative content analysis. These include; reduction, explication, structuring, and mixed methods. Each of these four methods has two forms except the mixed methods approach that has three.

The reduction method, which included summarized and inductive category formation, aimed to reduce the textual material by bringing out its essential aspects. On the other hand, the explanation does not aim to reduce the material but enhance understanding of the text's interpretation by bringing in additional contextual materials accompanied by comment and illustration. In this approach, I used a narrow context analysis approach, which involved bringing additional materials within the textual material being analyzed to explicate or adopt a comprehensive context analysis where additional texts are not from the textual material being analyzed. There was also a structured approach, which aimed to filter out particular aspects of the material through pre-determined ordering criteria or assess the material according to specific criteria. The

two forms of structuring are nominal deductive category assignment and ordinal deductive category assignment.

The term nominal and ordinal was similar to nominal and ordinal levels of measurement in quantitative data analysis. The third qualitative content analysis method, the mixed method, involves combining methods to answer research questions. Mayring highlighted three types of mixed methods, namely; content structuring/thematic analysis, type analysis, and parallel procedures. The parallel procedures combine both deductive and inductive categorization system. Mayring did not present the parallel procedures' steps but did provide the inductive and deductive methods where the inductive method was presented as an 8-step procedure and deductive a 7-point procedure.

However, what Mayring (2014) classified as parallel procedures, a type of mixed methods, Schreier (2012) categorized as two strategies for building the coding frame in the 3rd step of his 8-step procedure for qualitative content analysis. Indeed, Schreier (2012) observed that it was rare in qualitative content analysis to create a coding frame that was purely concept-driven (i.e., deductive) or purely data-driven (i.e., inductive). On the other hand, an earlier presentation of the deductive qualitative content analysis steps, which Hsieh and Shannon (2005) called directed approach, summarized in three significant steps. All the steps are presented in table 1.

Table 1

Summary of Steps in Qualitative Content Analysis by some Authors

S/N	Mayring (2014) (Inductive)	Mayring (2014) (Deductive)	Schreier (2012) Qualitative content analysis	Hsieh & Shannon (2005) Directed Qualitative Content Analysis
	The research question, theoretical background	The research question, theoretical background	Deciding on the research question	Identify key concepts or variables as initial coding categories using existing theory or prior research.
	Establishment of a selection criterion, category definition, level of abstraction	Definition of the category system (Main categories and subcategories) from theory	Selecting the required material	Determine operational definitions for each category
	Working through the texts line by line, new category formulation or subsumption	Definition of the coding guideline (definitions, anchor examples, and coding rules)	Building a coding frame	Code data: Using either of two strategies*
	Revision of category and rules after 10-50% of texts	A material run-through, preliminary coding, adding anchor examples and coding rules	Dividing materials into units of coding	Analyzing and presenting findings. Evidence can be presented by showing codes with exemplars and by offering descriptive evidence
	Final working through the material	Revision of categories and coding guideline after 10-50%	Trying out the coding frame	
	Building the leading categories if useful	Final working through the material	Evaluating and modifying the coding frame	
	Intra/inter-coder agreement check	Analysis, category frequencies, and contingencies interpretation	Main analysis	
	Final result, evaluation, frequencies, interpretation		Interpretation and presenting findings.	

*1st Strategy steps: read and highlight; code the highlighted section, and give a new code to any section that cannot be categorized with the initial coding scheme. The 2nd strategy steps: coding immediately with initially predetermined codes; identify uncategorized

data, and analyze afterward to determine whether they represent a new category or a subcategory of existing code.

The differences between Mayring, Schreier, and Hsieh and Shannon's qualitative content analysis steps were summarized. What constituted the beginning of the analytic process, the number of steps involved in building a coding frame/category system, and whether or not to pilot test and evaluate the quality (coder agreement/reliability) of the coding frame/category system.

In the light of the differences, lack of consensus, and the fact that qualitative content analysis as a method of data analysis (Mayring, 2014), the following procedures were conceptualized and used as the method of qualitative content analysis for this study;

1. Preparing material for analysis
2. Building a coding frame /coding scheme
3. Trying out (coding) and Evaluating the coding scheme
4. Main analysis
5. Interpreting and presenting findings

Appendix B provides information on the codes that emerged from data analysis.

Preparing Materials for Analysis

I used transcribed verbatim interviews for this study derived from the taped interview with all the participants. Verbatim transcription is the method of writing out the taped interview using the participants' words such that the fillers and pauses are not omitted (Mayring, 2014). The length of each of the interview transcripts varied as the length of individual participant's responses varied.

Building a Coding Scheme/Frame

The coding scheme or frame contained the categories, the subcategories or codes, and the coding guidelines to guide coders to code the qualitative data—the coding scheme was built on predetermined codes and categories. The initial categories and their respective codes were created in line with the literature's research questions and theoretical framework. Subsequently, they were modified given the familiarization with the research data.

Evaluating the Coding Scheme

The coding scheme for this study was evaluated using two of the interview transcripts. The process involved reading and coding the segments of the interview transcripts and documents using the codes in the coding scheme. As Gibbs (2002) opined, coding enables an investigator to summarize and synthesize the data's happenings. Coding was used in the process of categorizing and sorting data. A code was assigned to appropriate segments of a text that captured the essence of that particular code. Code “is often a word or short phrase that symbolically assigns a summative, salient, essence-capturing, and evocative attribute for a portion of a language-based or visual data” (Saldana, 2009, p. 3).

The trial coding was done by two coders – the researcher and a trained research assistant. Some of the initial codes were modified while an inter-coder agreement was calculated. The percentage agreement was 77.8%, which was an excellent inter-coder agreement. Given that material being analyzed requires some level of interpretation, the value obtained was considered acceptable.

Main Analysis

The primary analysis consisted of reading and coding by assigning the trial-tested initial codes to text segments in the interview transcripts or the documents. The QDA Miner version 5 was used for the analysis of this research data. The researcher set up interviews and documents in two different projects. The coding unit was any meaningful unit, such as sentences or paragraphs. Each interview and documents were given equal attention in the coding process.

Interpreting and Presenting Findings

The results presented as frequencies and percentage of code occurrence in tables according to each researched question. Instances of the codes were illustrated using texts from the interview transcripts and documents for better understanding.

Issues of Trustworthiness

Positivists regularly criticized the qualitative study's reliability because concepts of reliability and validity in qualitative research are not suitable to address biases in the same way as naturalistic endeavors (Creswell, 2016). Nevertheless, Creswell argued that scholars on research methods have illustrated how qualitative researchers can solve problems dealing with these issues and respond directly to reliability and validity in their qualitative research. In this context, the issue of trustworthiness is demonstrated under the following headings using inter-coder agreement and reliability; transferability, credibility, confirmability, and dependability.

Credibility

Macnee and McCabe (2008) defined credibility as the extent to which one can build confidence in the certainty of research findings. Credibility ascertained a study's results characterized unbiased information from participants' responses and was an accurate explanation of the interviewees' exceptional understanding. Credibility involved determining that the result of the investigation be realistic. It relied more on the data gained from the study than the quantity of data from research. There are several strategies to weigh the accurateness of findings, such as triangulation by different analysts. Relying, therefore, on the credibility procedure, the research findings were subjected to triangulation by using various qualitative methods (such as an interview with participants from diverse groups in the society and recent documents on the subject of inquiry). The interview protocol and all other materials and procedures for finding appropriate participants who gained consent to join in this study were validated and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Walden University, which established the credibility of this research findings and treatment of the study participants.

Transferability

Transferability is the transfer of a qualitative study to other environments with another set of participants – it is the explanatory counterpart of generalizability (Anney, 2015). Trochim (2006) defined transferability as the extent to which an inquiry's outcome can be universal to a similar situation or condition. Given this scientific philosophy, eligible residents from 18 years and above were recruited from specific categories in Awka to research public perception of police monetary bribery in the area. The

participants were selected across various designations such as motorists, lawyers, traders, business, civil and public servants, academics and students, related NGOs, and property owners. The choice of the selection is that they are more likely to be accosted by the police to pay a bribe or have worthy experience of the phenomenon. The critical evaluation of the samples' socio-demographic data revealed how suitable they meet the research criteria, and persons with perceived suitable experience were selected as participants for this study. Therefore, this research findings' transferability is possible if a similar category of persons used in this study was used elsewhere. Transferability is possible, especially within the Nigerian situation, because police monetary bribery takes a similar form of action in the society (Ahmadu, 2015; Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Micah, 2017). Hence, the use of this research design and careful implementation of its procedures in another setting should result in a similar end.

Dependability

The conventional qualitative view of reliability is on the supposition of repeatability or replicability. Mostly, it borders on whether a study will achieve a similar outcome even when the study observes a thing more than once (Trochim, 2006). Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2011) noted that 'dependability' means respondents are appraising the results and the clarification and suggestions to ensure that they all have the support from the study participants' data. Dependability guarantees that the research findings are unswerving and yield the same result during replication, measuring the standard that conducts, analyzes and presents the research. In line with this ideology, a comprehensive account of each study procedure was described to help other researchers replicate similar

inquiries and obtain a similar outcome. The wide-ranging account of this study design and procedures will assist other researchers in investigating a similar problem.

Confirmability

In qualitative studies, Anney (2015) maintained that every researcher conveys an exceptional view of the research. It necessitates complete exposure of the findings upon which is the basis for all interpretations or the accessibility of the assessment results. Confirmability is the extent to which other researchers can substantiate or agree with the inquiry results (Anney, 2015). Anney, citing Tobin and Begley (2004), defined confirmability as “concerned with establishing that data and interpretations of the findings are not figments of the inquirer’s imagination, but clearly derived from the data” (2015, p. 279). It is, therefore, a way to check a researcher’s bias in a study. Other researchers can discover the truth of a case by examining the original study’s data. For this reason, each of the work done in this research passed through ethical self-check approved by Walden University IRB, including plagiarism check software like Grammarly and Turnitin. Further to confirmability, this study is open to an audit trail, reflexive journal, triangulation, and appraisal by scientific communities.

Ethical Procedures

Research participants are critical to the success of the study. Participants for this study were appraised via their socio-demographic responses to check whether they meet the research criteria. Eligible participants were then contacted and given a letter of introduction and consent form to voluntarily decide whether they would like to join the study without any incentive, remuneration, or favor. The study participants returned the

forms and consented to join the study and, in conjunction with me, decided on a convenient time and venue for the interviews. Then, I crafted quality time to further educate the participants on the research's specific purposes and how the study aimed to add value to society. Participants were also reassured continuously of the scientific ethics guiding the study to protect their identity and responses as confidential. Based on the research's intensity nature, free psychological services were put in place to assist participants overcome emotional or psychological issues during the interview. Each participant was informed of their right to decide whether to respond to any of the interview questions. They were also informed of their right that they might leave the interview session at will without any consequences. In this research, all ethical procedures were critically screened by the University Institutional Review Board (IRB) and approved before use to ensure appropriate scientific procedures.

In a further implementation of the scientific research ethics guiding this study, recorded responses, materials, and information from the participants were kept confidential in my personal lock for safety and protection. I alone had access to the documents and files in the personal locker to guarantee and avoid a breach of confidentiality trust of this study. Only the research supervision committee got copies of the participants' interview responses and documents because of their supervisory role and was sent through the appropriate channel alone.

Summary

The research purpose was to inquire about the public perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka by clarifying the following questions: How does the public

perceive the nature of police monetary bribery in Awka? How the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka influenced their attitude to and involvement in police accountability mechanisms? How does the public's perception of police monetary bribery in Awka affect their attitude and involvement in advancing democratic principles? How the public's perceptions of the police monetary bribery in Awka influenced their attitude to and involvement in community policing?

The Transparency International report of 2020 ranked Nigeria 149 out of 183 countries, making it be among the most corrupt economies in Africa and globally. Corruption is simply the manipulation of official power for personal advantage. This study added value to the existing literature on police corruption, especially monetary bribery. It is hoped that this study result will assist the Nigerian Police Service Commission, Ministry of Police Affairs, the Judiciary, and other related government institutions to eliminate the problem and improve police-public partnership for democratic community policing initiative.

According to the National Population Commission report in 2006, the overall population of Awka is 301 846 with a projection of 347 200 by the year 2011. The 66 participants from a different category of designations were selected as ideal for a qualitative inquiry. I adopted a qualitative case study design and selected participants through a purposive sampling technique. The criteria for selection are adult age and experience of police monetary bribery. I targeted people with a better experience that would add to the richness of data on the problem. The criterion was to eliminate the risk of recruiting minors for a sensitive issue as police corruption.

The inquiry was about finding appropriate answers to the proposed research questions using a qualitative approach case study method. I also played a very active role as the primary source of data collection. The socio-demographic questionnaire was first distributed to sampled residents of Awka to ascertain eligible participants for this study. Appraisal of the socio-demographic responses of samples in Awka revealed potential participants for this study. Based on this revelation, however, eligible participants were selected and contacted to gain their consent for this study. Consented participants declared their interest in joining the study without incentive, remuneration, or favor of any kind. I liaised with the participants to choose their comfort time and venue for the interview. All ethical procedures and informed consent materials used in this study were approved by the IRB and were implemented accordingly.

The methods of data collection were the interview protocol and current related documents. The data collection tools' rationale was to apply techniques that would elicit quality and comprehensive data on the inquiry purpose without personal input or bias. A digital audio recorder was used to tape responses during the interviews, of which the interviewees knew and consented. The fieldwork/interviews took a total period of two months. The study data was processed using QDA Miner version 5, and results were analyzed using qualitative content analysis. Each of the study findings was discussed under their specific research questions to establish the synergies.

The study design and all ethical considerations were carefully administered as approved, establishing its credibility and transferability. However, modeling this research design, including all ethical issues and categories of participants in similar contexts,

should yield comparable results. The research dependability was also established through the detailed explanation and clarification of every segment of this study. More so, participants' responses and data were kept confidential with the researcher alone except the supervisory committee that received the raw research data to establish its confirmability. The confirmability of this study, findings are open to the audit trail, peer review, reflexive journal, triangulation, and appraisal by scientific communities.

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction

Chapter 4 includes the data analysis and findings of this study. The purpose of this inquiry was to investigate the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery and how these perceptions influenced their attitude to and involvement in democratic policing reforms in Awka. I sought to answer the following RQs:

1. How does the public perceive the nature of police monetary bribery in Awka?
2. How are the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka influencing their attitude to and involvement in police accountability mechanisms?
3. How are the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka influencing their attitude to and involvement in advancing democratic principles?
4. How do the public's perceptions of the police monetary bribery in Awka impact their attitude to and involvement in community policing?
5. What is the public's perception of their ability and willingness to fight police monetary bribery in Awka?

I interviewed 66 participants who were purposively selected because they are adults and had experienced police monetary bribery in Awka. The participants were interviewed one-on-one by me alone at a location chosen by the participants for their protection and confidentiality. In my view, the interview environment was comfortable,

the atmosphere was warm and lively, and the process was successful. The overall interview period for the 66 participants took about 2 months. I used an in-depth interview protocol to elicit information from the study participants (see Appendix C). An audio recorder was used to tape responses from each of the participants.

Data Analysis

I used the qualitative data analysis software QDA Miner Version 5 in the analytic process. I imported all 66 interview transcripts into the software, and I used deductive and inductive qualitative analytic methods in coding and interpretation. In the first approach, which consisted of the deductive approach, I entered the initial codes into the QDA Project. It began with reading and coding by assigning the trial-tested initial codes to text segments in the interview transcripts as contained in the initial codebook. Subsequently, I adopted the inductive approach to capture the richness of the data. It was done by generating categories and codes as new ideas emerged from the participants' narratives (see Appendix B). I identified major codes/subthemes for each RQ. All principal codes are distributed as follows: RQ1 has six codes, RQ2 has five codes, RQ3 has six codes, RQ4 has two codes, and RQ5 has two codes, making 21 significant codes.

The coding unit was any meaningful unit, such as sentences or paragraphs. I gave equal attention to each interview transcript during the coding process. After the coding process, the code frequencies and retrievals were extracted from the software using the coding frequencies and retrieval features. Afterward, I manually reorganized the codes according to frequency and percentage of code coverage among participants. The process enabled me to identify important themes. Codes that covered less than 10% of the 66

participants were not considered essential themes or subthemes; I presented the codes and themes in tables according to the RQs. I illustrated instances of the codes/themes using excerpts from the interview transcripts for better understanding.

I carefully transcribe all recorded interviews accordingly and kept them in my personal lock. I strictly adhered to the research methodology in selecting participants for this study. The committee chair was notified at the end of the fieldwork and presented with the evidence, all of which was intended to establish the credibility of this research.

I structured the interview protocol based on the knowledge I gleaned from the literature review as it applies to police monetary bribery in Nigeria, especially in Awka. I did not encounter any problem using the approved interview protocol. The proper implementation of this study methodology in selecting and interviewing participants in lieu of the research committee approval validates the transferability of this research. The data collection instrument was dependable, based on its success in eliciting worthwhile responses from the participants.

The study participants did not differ in their perception of police monetary bribery in Awka. In their responses, I observed that the Nigerian police have a stereotypical or standard way of perpetuating the crime of monetary bribery. Therefore, a similar study may establish the confirmability of this research.

Results

Research Question 1

RQ1 was, How does the public perceive the nature of police monetary bribery in Awka?

Table 2

Frequency and Percentage of Occurrence of Codes and Themes on the Nature of Police Monetary Bribery in Awka

Category/ Theme	Code/Subtheme	Frequency of codes	Number of participants	Percentage of participants (%)
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Monetary bribery – Pervasive	49	44	71
	Monetary bribery – customary and systemic	41	31	50
	Money bribery - Begging at highways/roadblocks and streets	25	22	35.5
	Monetary Bribery - Extortion through intimidation	20	13	21
	Monetary Bribery – Indiscriminating of lawbreakers and the innocent	17	11	17.7
	Monetary bribery – Means to police services	8	8	12.9
	Monetary bribery – Consensual	4	3	4.8
	Monetary bribery - not pervasive	2	2	3.2

Table 2 shows the most dominant theme and subthemes related to participants' perceptions of the nature of police monetary bribery. The nature of police monetary bribery was an overarching theme, while the significant subtheme was monetary bribery, which was perceived as pervasive. It was followed by the perception of customary, systemic begging at highways/roadblocks and streets; extortion through intimidation; indiscriminating lawbreakers and the innocent; and monetary bribery as the public's means to police services.

I identified six major subthemes associated with the nature of police monetary bribery from the participants' narratives of their experiences of police monetary bribery in Awka in Anambra State. These are

- Police Monetary Bribery as Pervasive
- Police Monetary Bribery as customary and Systemic
- Police Monetary Bribery as Police Begging at Highways/Road Blocks and streets
- Police Monetary Bribery as Police Extortion through Intimidation and force
- Police Monetary Bribery Indiscriminating of lawbreakers and the Innocent
- Police Monetary Bribery as Means to Police Services

Each of the six identified themes is discussed in order.

Police Monetary Bribery as Pervasive

The pervasiveness of police monetary bribery was the most dominant theme in the study. The theme suggests that police monetary bribery was widespread and prevalent in the highways, roadblocks, streets, and police stations in all parts of Awka. Describing the

prevalent nature of police monetary bribery, one of the participants stated that seeing police officers collecting money from people both on the highways and streets of Awka is a frequent occurrence. So, it is very pervasive [Interview Transcript 18]. One of the participants described the pervasiveness of police monetary bribery from his experience and observation of others' experiences in Awka in these words

bribery is pervasive in the Nigeria Police. For instance, I was excavating sand in front of someone's compound. The person reported me to the police and accused me of possessing illegal firearms and being a robbery kingpin. During the investigation, they found that I was innocent. Still, I was bailed with the sum of thirty-five thousand Naira (₦35,000). This is how police operate in Awka and all over the country. [Interview Transcript 22]

The participants' overwhelming perception was that police monetary bribery was widely practiced by most police, making it almost impossible to differentiate the good and bad police. The prevalence of the problem was quantified by one of the participants who said that police monetary bribery is widespread in Awka. If he were to rate its occurrence on a scale of 100%, he would rate it 90% [Interview Transcript 61]. One of the consequences of the prevalence of any negative behavior was that it becomes customary. It is depicted by the theme discussed in the subsequent section.

Police Monetary Bribery as Customary and Systemic

Another significant pattern identified from the participants' narratives of their experiences and that of others on police monetary bribery in Awka was that it had

become a common practice to the degree seen as a custom that has permeated the police hierarchy. Most of the participants described this in different ways. For instance, one of them said taking bribes is routine and normal for the police here in Awka, and it has happened frequently that the people themselves have well-grown used to it [Interview Transcript 27]. Another participant described how police monetary bribery was customary. The participant said that commercial bus drivers know the rules. On sighting any police checkpoint, they slow down and hand-in the money. Those who refused to cooperate are parked by the roadside and delayed. [Interview Transcript 11]

These illustrate how police monetary bribery has become a way of life. It went beyond those at the checkpoints and highways, including the hierarchy of the police. It showed how institutionalized the issue is, as demonstrated by the narratives of the participants. Some of the participants linked the monetary bribery by the police to the leadership of the police force. One of them emphasized that the impunity with which the police officers demand bribe simply shows their superiors are aware of what they do on the road [Interview Transcript 1]. However, another participant provided a more substantial dimension of police monetary bribery's systemic nature. The interviewee stressed that police leadership is not just aware of the widespread police monetary bribery but they are the engineers of the crime itself. Presenting this perspective, the participant said

bribery is part and parcel of the police system in Nigeria. Senior officers' attitude gives a powerful impression that they benefit from what the junior officers do, especially on the highway. One may

not be entirely wrong to say that the senior officers send the junior ones to engage in monetary extortions. [Interview Transcript 12]

The perception of police monetary bribery as systemic or institutionalized featured strongly in the narratives of many participants of this study. One of the participants particularly emphasized that bribery has become institutionalized among the rank and file of the Nigerian police [Interview Transcript 57]. The systemic nature of police monetary bribery implies that concerted efforts must be made to curb the menace in Awka, particularly Nigeria. This participant's perspectives show why this is so

police monetary bribery has become a custom here in Awka, and what worries me more is the boldness they use in collecting the money. I am sure that those at the police's topmost positions get their share of the extortions and bribes. That is why they do not want to do anything about it. [Interview Transcript 49]

Police Monetary Bribery as Police Begging at Highways/Road Blocks and Streets

The nature of police monetary bribery as police begging at highways/roadblocks and streets was a recurring perception held by many participants. This theme portrays the idea that the public perceives the police exhibiting a beggarly behavior by demanding a bribe in their daily interactions with the public. The participants in their narratives captured this behavior. One of them said police are always begging and asking for money and other items on the highways... Even when they are not supposed to collect money, you will see them begging and asking for money for 'pure water' (sachet water) [Interview Transcript 3]. The above stated notion of police monetary bribery was

presented in even a less dignifying manner by another participant who simply reported that they encounter police every day at several roadblocks. They (police) are always there to collect money. So police officers are now beggars on the streets. [Interview Transcript 1]

Other participants' illustrated this theme by showing some of the beggarly language and manner the police demanded money. One of them said Nigerian police made use of language that is typically appealing in nature, such as, "find something for us" and "give us something to take pure water (sachet water) [Interview Transcript 56]. Other participants gave further examples of the beggarly language such as "Oga wetin you carry? Give us money for water nah, and we have been standing here for a long time, oga anything for your boys?" [Interview Transcript 11]. The statement simply means what are you carrying? Please give us money for water, we have been here for a long time now, please give something (money) to your guys.

Another participant also describes the beggarly attitude of the police. According to the narrative, police justify collecting bribes at roadblocks on the fact that they have been standing at the road for a long time and under the sun just to protect citizens [Interview Transcript 20]. These illustrate the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka as begging for money and police as beggars using subtle and beggarly language to collect money.

Monetary Bribery as Extortion by Physical Intimidation and Force

This theme depicts the public's perception of police monetary bribery's nature as collecting money from the citizens by applying physical threats and assaults. A

participant said to succeed in extorting money from people the police employ every tactic at their disposal including force and intimidation [Interview Transcript 31]. A participant presented the notion of police monetary bribery in a more elaborate manner

here in Awka, I have had many ugly experiences with the police on roadblocks. They are always out to collect money from people, especially drivers. Even when you have your papers complete and have not committed any crime, they still demand ₦20, ₦50, and ₦100 from you. If you are unwilling to cooperate, they will slap and beat you up because they carry guns and are in a uniform. [Interview Transcript 10]

Another form of the threat the police exerted on the public was threatening them to visit the police station. It is particularly threatening because people feared being taken to the police station since it signifies a more pressing issue to be avoided at all costs. One of the interviewee stated that police also use threat of taking victims to their station just to intimidate and extort money. People avoid going to police stations because doing that often means being delayed and paying more money. [Interview Transcript 18]

Apart from threats of sending innocent citizens to the police station, unlawful detention was perceived as another form of intimidation used to extort money from the people. In the words of a participant

motorists are frequently detained and endure harassment and threats by the police until they or their family members negotiate payment for their release. Moreover, when confronted with their

immoral acts of extorting money, it escalates into a more severe case. [Interview Transcript 6]

Police Monetary Bribery as Indiscriminating of Lawbreakers and the Innocent

Perceptions of Police monetary bribery in Awka unveiled a theme that presents the nature of police monetary bribery as indiscriminating of lawbreakers and non-offenders. It portrays police practice of monetary bribery as knowing no boundary between lawbreakers and the innocent. The practice of collecting monetary bribe from offenders and non-offenders alike was highlight by a significant proportion of the participants. In the words of one of the participants

mostly, they would stop you and ask for money. Sometimes they will ask for your papers. Nevertheless, whether your papers are complete or not, they will still demand money from you. They just look for any slightest opportunity to collect money from you.

[Interview Transcript 10]

Another participant presented a more severe dimension of this random collection of money from lawbreakers and non-offenders related to free criminals. The participant described by saying that

police go as far as setting criminals free if the latter can pay a certain amount of money. In addition to taking bribery to free criminals, police also collect money from innocent people of any crime. They want money; that one is guilty or innocent matters little to them. [Interview Transcript 29]

Similar to the above scenario, it was the criminalization of the innocent just to collect monetary bribe. A participant expressed another exceptional view. He said in police stations, both the innocent and the guilty are arrested and charged exorbitant amounts for bail. According to him, it is a regular occurrence and it is the reason that people hate the police. [Interview Transcript 12]

One of the consequences of this random collection of monetary bribery from criminals and innocent was public dislike of the police as another participant confirmed the public image of the police in Awka is terrible. This contributed by their quest for money irrespective of whether the person they are demanding this money from is guilty or not. The more dangerous part is that the police, on occasions, go as far as collecting bribes to set known criminals free even when they are caught by the masses and handed to the police. It only encourages these criminals to carry on their crime fearlessly. [Interview Transcript 25]

Police Monetary Bribery as Means to Police Services

The theme, police monetary bribery to police services, portrayed bribery to get the police's expected services. This dimension to police monetary bribery could be illustrated by one of the participant's positions that police in Awka request for money for virtually everything, which includes performing their legitimate functions [Interview Transcript 52]. It suggests that monetary bribery was the means of accessing any service from the police force in Awka. One such service that the police should render without charging

any money is bailing someone held in the police custody to determine a case. Police habitually collect money before making a release. In describing the situation, a participant noted that

in theory, citizens are told by the police that bail is free, but in practice, they charge money for any legitimate service they provide, including bails. The unfortunate thing is that there is no specific amount for bails. They will first look at your pocket to determine the amount to extort from you. [Interview Transcript 13]

A participant also expressed personal experience by saying

police tell us that bail is free, but I have never seen where someone goes to their station and is released free of charge. A friend of mine was arrested some time ago, and we paid ₦5000 to secure his release. Police did not bother to conduct any investigation. They just arrested him, when they finally discovered that he was innocent, they asked him to pay ₦5000. [Interview Transcript 7]

Another participant reiterated the views expressed by other participants above.

The interviewee stated that people are charged exorbitant prices to bail themselves and their loved ones from police detentions. He said he has been a victim on many occasions. [Interview Transcript 23]

Research Question 2

RQ2 was, How are the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka influencing their attitude to and involvement in police accountability mechanisms?

Table 3

Occurrence of Codes and Themes on How Public Perception of Police Monetary Bribery Influences their Attitudes and Involvement in the Police Accountability Mechanism

Category/Theme	Code/Subtheme	Frequency of Codes	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participants (%)
Public poor relationship with the police	Poor relationship	35	33	53.2
	No Trust and confidence in the police	13	8	12.9
	Fairly good	4	4	6.5
	Good/Friendly relationship	2	2	3.2
Public unwilling to report matters to the police due to lack of trust	Unwilling to report matters to the police	34	33	53.2
	No trust - Unwilling to report matters to the police	8	8	12.9
	Willing to report matters to the police	5	5	8.1
Public's Lack of awareness of and Faith in Police Accountability	Not aware of institutions/mechanisms to check police	44	42	67.7

Institutions/Mechanisms	No faith in existing institutions/mechanism	20	19	30.6
	Aware of institution/mechanisms to check police	6	6	9.7
The public perceive existing police accountability institutions/mechanisms as ineffective	Police accountability institutions/mechanisms are not effective	12	12	19.4
	Police accountability institutions/mechanisms are effective	5	5	8.1
Weakened public willingness to be involved in Police accountability	conditional willingness to be involved	20	20	32.3
	Hopeless - Cannot do anything	20	18	29
	Unconditional Willing to be involved police accountable	20	13	21
	Conditions:			
	Provide medium of public-police communication	6	6	9.7
	Use of CCTV and cameras to monitor police	2	2	3.2

Permit citizens to use a camera	1	1	1.6
Government to intervene first	3	3	4.8
Dismiss bad policemen	2	2	3.2
The readiness of the authorities to act	1	1	1.6
Improve police salary	1	1	1.6

Table 3 shows the most dominant theme and subthemes related to the influences of police monetary bribery on the participants' attitudes to and involvement in the police accountability mechanism. I identified five themes and subthemes on the subject. These are

- Poor relationship with the police due to monetary bribery
- Public unwilling to report matters to the police due to lack of trust
- Public's lack of awareness of and faith in police accountability institutions/mechanisms
- Public perceive existing police accountability institutions/mechanisms as ineffective
- Weakened public willingness to be involved in police accountability

Poor Relationship With the Police Due to Monetary Bribery

The poor relationship between the public and police was a recurring theme in the participants' narratives. This theme suggests a perceived antagonistic relationship between the police and the public, devoid of trust. One of the participants stated thus the relationship is antagonistic. One is usually scared of sighting police on the road because they are always out to extort something from you. In fact, due to their attitude, people do not believe their slogan that the "police is your friend," instead, the police are the people's enemy. [Interview Transcript 10]

Another was so clear to single out that police misbehavior was responsible for the poor relationship existing between the public and the police. The participant said that from the look of things, the relationship between the police and the people in Awka is not cordial. It is the result of the wrong attitude of the police towards their job. [Interview Transcript 28]

Some participants pointed to the police's general attitude as the cause of the antagonistic relationship between the police and the public. Some other interviewees were explicitly pointing to monetary bribery by the police as the leading cause. One of them particularly noted that public-police relationship is very poor because of the constant extortion by the police [Interview Transcript 57]. Majority of the participants' narratives on the different dimensions of the unfriendly relationship between the public and the police suggest that the public has negative perceptions of and attitudes to the police.

Lack of Trust and Confidence in the Police

Trust and confidence are essential for the public to work with the police to secure life and property. Another dimension to the poor relationship between the police and the public was the public's lack of trust and confidence in the police. The idea could be gleaned from these words by a participant

the public relationship with the police is that of suspicion and skepticism. Mutual suspicions and lack of trust because bribery makes people who have had a concern with police hopeless, and they are not having confidence in the police a bit. [Interview Transcript 62]

While pointing out the issue of lack of trust and confidence in the police, another participant also stressed the negative consequences of the poor relationship with the public. He stressed that trust is earned but police's attitude has created distrust resulting in a very poor relationship with the people. [Interview Transcript 26]

While reiterating the absence of public trust and confidence in the police, one interviewee also asserted that members of the public might resort to fend for themselves because of lack of trust and confidence in the police in this statement

the relationship between the police and the people in Awka is quite irritable, the people do not trust the police and vice versa, so it is challenging. People now resort to safeguarding themselves because they are not sure of the police's protection. [Interview Transcript 33]

Public Unwilling to Report Matters to Police Due to Lack of Trust

This theme portrays that due to a lack of public trust in the police, they were unwilling to report the police matters or cases. Another was description offered when a participant said people refuse to report cases to the police because of the doubt that people already have about police. In very few instances, people go to them as a last resort. [Interview Transcript 23]

Talking from personal experience with the police, one of the participants linked police monetary bribery/corruption and lack of trust to his unwillingness to report matters to them even when they should. The participant said the nature of relationship between the police and the people in Awka is full of mistrust and that is why they never considered reporting any case to the police because of the gross level of corruption in the system. [Interview Transcript 32]

There has been a clear connection among police monetary bribery, lack of trust in the police, and the public's unwillingness to report cases to the police generally, my experience with the police, both on the highways and in their stations, is based on public extortion. This is why people avoid going to the police whenever they have problems. This avoidance increases injustice and oppression of the underprivileged. [Interview Transcript 17]

The public's default perception seems that the police's involvement in any form is to extort money. The preconceived belief leads to poor relationships and a lack of trust in

the police, leading to unwillingness to report police's issues. As was described in more details by a participant

the relationship between the people and the police is one of mutual suspicion. It is not a reassuring relationship, and it is not a trustworthy relationship. People suspect the police, and police suspect the people. Sincerely, the police are not usually my first option when a problem comes up because you find yourself spending more than probably the problem itself. Going to the police is unnecessary; it is like putting yourself through what I consider both psychological and economic stress. [Interview Transcript 34]

Public's Lack of Awareness of and Faith in Police Accountability

Institutions/Mechanisms

A dominant pattern identified from the analysis of participants' views unveiled a lack of awareness of police accountability institutions/mechanisms and lack of faith in the institutions/mechanisms. In terms of awareness of police accountability institutions/mechanisms, majority participants indicated they are not aware of it. One participant indicated that she is not aware of any institution that is responsible for checkmating police abuse of office [Interview Transcript 18]. A participant also said he is not aware about police accountability structures except police day-to-day interactions on the road [Interview Transcript 28]. These suggest that some residents in Awka think all police does is to accost people at highways, roadblocks, and streets either to arrest

criminals or ask for a bribe. They seem to have little or no knowledge about other structures in the Nigeria Police that perform other responsibilities.

Responses from participants showed that most are unaware of the institutions and mechanisms but doubt the effectiveness of the mechanisms set up to make the police accountable. One of the participants claimed that if such accountability department exists, there wouldn't have been this brazen corruption in the system [Interview Transcript 1]. In similar vein, another participant rightly indicated that there would have been some visible efforts to curb the recklessness of the police if an operational anti-corruption mechanism is in place [Interview Transcript 13]. In a more elaborate discussion, another participant replied

I don't really know if there is any. Past and present Inspector Generals of Police have announced at different times that they were sending out a special police squad to dismantle roadblocks and arrest officers collecting bribery. They have implemented these on many occasions. However, roadblocks usually reappear. There is no follow up on the strategy; that is what I think is the problem. [Interview Transcript 11]

Apart from the public's lack of awareness of existing institutions and mechanisms for police accountability, there is a lack of faith in the system entirely. The lack of faith echoed in the responses of many respondents. One interviewee said they cannot trust any anticorruption scheme in the police even if when they exist because it is the same corrupt police that would be overseeing its affairs [Interview Transcript 15]. Another participant

reinforced the lack of faith in the accountability systems and argued that why corruption in the police would be so pervasive when there are existing anticorruption schemes in the police [Interview Transcript 30]. Another interviewee stated thus

I am not aware of any institutional provision to check police misconduct. However, I do believe that even if such an institution exists, it will not be effective because the police hierarchy is aware of what happens on our roads but decided to turn blind eyes to it because they are beneficiaries of the corrupt system. [Interview Transcript 28]

These showed that police monetary bribery's persistence had made the public doubt police accountability institutions/mechanisms and such institutions' capacity to produce positive change in the police.

Public Perceive Existing Police Accountability Institutions/Mechanisms as Ineffective

The theme depicted the public perception of existing police accountability institutions' ineffectiveness and mechanisms due to pervasive monetary bribery. This notion was noted by majority of the participants who were aware of the existence of police accountability mechanisms. One of them confirmed to know some of the existing mechanisms but questions its effectiveness [Interview Transcript 13]. Another participant reiterated this

I cannot remember the name, but I know there are units in the police that help check the police's excesses. Considering that

things keep getting worse, it is difficult to believe that those units have been effective. [Interview Transcript 29]

Mentioning the institution in charge of police affairs, one of the participants described it as ineffective in reducing police misbehavior and corrupt practices. He said the police service commission is there to regulate police behavior but their legal obligations are not serious, just a mere paper work. [Interview Transcript 34]

In the light of the perceived ineffectiveness of police accountability institutions and mechanism, one of the ways of calling the police to order, such as reporting the police to the superiors or appropriate bodies, was seen as ineffective. A participant corroborated thus

reporting police misbehavior is not useful because you often find out that action is hardly ever taken against such officers. I have seen cases of the police maltreating civilians and telling them that they cannot do anything. I think there is this feeling of being untouchable by the police. [Interview Transcript 25]

Some participants reiterated this same position. Speaking on this same issue, a participant said

reporting police misbehavior to their superiors would have been the best, but because the whole system is corrupt, it is a waste of time. I think the government should put structures in place to enforce existing anticorruption laws and make misconduct punishment costly to bear. [Interview Transcript 39]

Majority of the participants disapprove that they will report police bribery or criminal conduct to the police. Hence, the public's perceptions weaken their willingness to be involved in police accountability and reform.

Weakened Public Willingness to Be Involved in Police Accountability

The theme weakened public willingness to be involved in police accountability depicts decreasing public readiness to be involved in pursuing police accountability due to their perceptions of the police monetary bribery. It could be understood better by some discussion of subthemes associated with this central theme.

Conditional Willingness to Be Involved Police Accountability. Some of the participants expressed their willingness to join in police accountability on the basis of police' readiness or the government to meet certain conditions. Some of the conditions created doubts about the public's actual readiness to make the police accountable. In the line of this thought, a participant asserted thus

my willingness will be dependent on the willingness of the police to fight monetary bribery in their system. If they are not willing, then I do not see the reason why I should stick out my neck for an institution that is not ready to do its job. [Interview Transcript 62]

Another interviewee's willingness was tied to the provision of modalities for pursuing police accountability and reliability of police

yes, I will be willing to play a role in fighting police corruption if there is a blueprint from reliable sources within the police on how that can be achieved. I also believe the clear-cut strategy will repair

the police's battered image and convince more people of the need to cooperate with the police in securing our communities.

[Interview Transcript 11]

Similar to the above view, another stated a condition related to the police being unreliable in protecting informants. One of them expressed willingness to fight police monetary bribery and make the police accountable for their actions if there are mechanisms in place to protect the identity of informants [Interview Transcript 45]. Police leadership's readiness to act on reports by the public was also given by some participants as a necessary condition for their willingness to be involved in pursuing police accountability. Presenting his opinion, the participant said reporting a corrupt member of the police without the collaboration of their superiors is a waste of time. She declared her willingness to collaborate in ending police corruption if the superiors are willing to start taking action against the erring police officers [Interview Transcript 39].

Participants' willingness to be involved in pursuing police accountability was on the condition that the government should enact policies that would empower individuals to monitor, snap, and video police officers while on duty without repercussions. In the words of one of the interviewees

my willingness to participate in fighting police monetary bribery in Awka is based on the condition that the governments would make policies that would enable private individuals to take pictures and make video clips on the police activities without being harassed.

[Interview Transcript 33]

There was a feeling of loss of hope that individuals cannot do anything to make the police accountable due to police monetary bribery's pervasiveness and systemic nature. As was expressed by one of the interviewees, stopping the Nigerian police from taking bribes is not possible because the problem has eaten so deep into the system [Interview Transcript 20]. Another participant voiced a similar sentiment and noted that there are governors and police commissioners in all the states of the federation, and it is their responsibility to reform the police. As an individual, he said he can do little or nothing to make the police accountable. [Interview Transcript 1]

However, police accountability is unattainable and beyond what should be hoped for in Awka was reiterated by several participants. One said, looking at the rot in the system, he thinks it is almost impossible for the police in Nigeria to become accountable anymore [Interview Transcript 28]. Another interviewee concluded that there is nothing she could help because corruption is widespread [Interview Transcript 58]. Although the theme of hopelessness emerged as prominent in participants' narratives, some participants expressed unconditional willingness to be involved in police accountability in Awka.

Unconditional Willingness to Be Involved in Police Accountability. Some participants expressed a willingness to be involved in police accountability without any condition attached. When asked whether they are willing to be involved, one of the participants consented that she is very willing [Interview Transcript 58]. Another interviewee also agreed to contribute whatever is required to bring about positive police reform [Interview Transcript 14]. A similar contribution was also made by one of the

participants when he said individual and collective safety is dependent on how we work to keep the society safe [Interview Transcript 2]. One of them pointed how to help in bringing about police accountability. The participants said a person that stands on his or her rights and refused to offer bribe to the police is simply working to enforce police accountability principles [Interview Transcript 2].

Research Question 3

RQ3 was, How are the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka influencing their attitude to and involvement in advancing democratic principles?

Table 4

Frequency and Percentage of Occurrence of Codes and Themes on How Public Perception of Police Monetary Bribery Influences their Attitudes and Involvement in Advancement of Democratic Principles

Category/Theme	Code/Subtheme	Frequency of Codes	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participants (%)
Negative Influences of public perceptions	Perception has an impact	29	26	41.9
	Perception of the absence of democratic principles	15	15	24.2
	Public held down by Fear	8	7	11.3
	Public unwilling to participate in voting	11	7	11.3
Perceptions have no impact on Public attitude and willingness	Public Willing to promote democratic principles	35	32	51.6
	Public perception has no impact	15	13	21.0

Table 4 reveals the most dominant theme and subthemes related to the influences of police monetary bribery on the participants' attitudes to and involvement in advancement of democratic principles. I identified two significant themes and six sub-themes that are specific to this inquiry. They are

Negative Influences of public perceptions

- Perception has an impact
- Perception of the absence of democratic principles
- Public unwillingness to be involved in voting
- Public held down by fear

Public Perceptions have no Impact on Public attitude and Willingness

- Public perception has no impact on attitude and current behavior
- Public willing to promote democratic principles

Negative Influences of Public Perceptions

The central theme captures the various perceptions of the negative ways the public's perception of police monetary bribery and widespread corruption impact them. The four subthemes discussed in the subsequent paragraphs depict negative public perceptions.

Perceptions Negatively Affect Willingness and Action. The public's perceptions concerning police monetary bribery showed that a significant proportion believes that their perceptions influenced the general willingness to take actions or take actions on matters related to democratic principles in Awka. Another participant said police authority supports their members to collect bribe and extort the people. According to him,

he is not sure of protection if he report to the police. So what is the essence? [Interview Transcript 49]

One of the Interviewees' discouragement from engaging in actions to promote democratic principles in Awka stems from the fact that police through which democratic principles should be promoted still request for money to perform their duties. One of the participants stressed further by saying this

for the police to discharge their constitutionally mandated duty, they will still demand money from the people. I have been in such a situation before. You have to fuel their vehicle. So their attitude affects my willingness in the advancement of democratic principles. [Interview Transcript 2]

Another dimension of the impact of the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery on their willingness to take actions that would promote democratic principles in Awka borders on the psychological impact of this behavior on the people. Expressing this, a participant said police's attitude affects her willingness because she cannot be fighting for the advancement of democratic principles while the law enforcement agent is subverting the law [Interview Transcript 39].

Perception of the Absence of Democratic Principles Due to Police

Misbehavior. This subtheme portrays the public's perception of the non-existence of democratic principles in Awka in particular and Nigeria in general due to their perception of police misbehavior. The assertions are gleaned from the narratives of the participants. One of them stated this

in Nigeria, everybody is not equal; some people are more influential than others. This inequality is most obvious in the police's attitude, who worship the rich but use the power of guns to persecute and intimidate poor citizens indiscriminately. [Interview Transcript 12]

The subtheme was further supported by another participant's statement, who reiterated that Nigeria professes to be a democratic State in theory but does not live democratically in practice, exemplified by the unequal treatments that police give to the poor and the rich [Interview Transcript 23]. With specific reference to the rule of law as one of the democratic principles, another participant not only acknowledged the absence of the rule of law but attributed its absence to both the activities of those in government offices but, more significantly, the police. She said

in Nigeria, people do not follow the rule of law. Even those in government that should uphold the law are continually breaking the law. As a law enforcement institution in Nigeria, the police are directly implicated in this culture of lawlessness. [Interview Transcript 17]

Statement by another interviewee further shows corroborative support we say everybody is equal before the law in this country, but some people are more than others in practice. Our leaders, in collaboration with the police, do not respect these principles. That is why the country is almost lawless. [Interview Transcript 38]

An essential aspect of democratic principles is political participation, which is also seen as endangered based on participants' perceptions of police misbehavior. Based on the interview responses, perceptions of police misbehavior is also a factor in the low participation of the public in voting. In the words of one participant, Nigeria as a country is not favorably disposed towards the implementation of democratic principle. Take, for instance, during elections; police intimidate electorates to rig election mainly in favor of ruling party [Interview Transcript 58]. The perceived lack of democratic principles due to police misbehavior could be the reason that people are not willing to actively participate in elections, which is an essential component of democratic principles.

Public Unwilling to Be Involved in Voting. There is a perception that the public shows little to no disposition of participating in voting, which is a vital aspect of democratic principles. An overwhelming majority of the participants said police corruption affects one's willingness to discharge individual's civic responsibilities such as voting. This happens especially when people see police intimidating electorates to compromise election [Interview Transcript 3]. The same view also elaborated upon by a participant that presented some of the ways that police intimidation works during elections to discourage people

people look very foolish when they try to do the right thing because dubious people easily get their way through by offering a bribe. For instance, during elections, it is so disheartening to see police backing hoodlums to steal ballot boxes. With all these

things happening, I do not think I can vote anymore. [Interview Transcript 50]

Another interviewee also reinforced the views above as thus yes! It affects me, and I will not lie. Why should I vote when things will turn out how corrupt police and politicians want it and not how it ought to be? What is the need to stand in the queue and under the sun to vote when you know the ballot box will be snatched and the result manipulated in favor of unpopular candidates? [Interview Transcript 2]

Although some participants show that they were currently being affected by police misbehavior, some other narratives point to potential effects

I am not saying I will stop voting now, but I might stop in the future if things continue this way. When citizens during an election are not sure of their security, they may feel like ‘...what if I go there and do not return, all because of voting; this leads one to reconsider a lot of things. [Interview Transcript 4]

Public Held Down by Fear. This subtheme portrays the debilitating effects of public perceptions of police monetary bribery as instilling fear in the people's hearts. This fear, in turn, affects their involvement in advancing democratic principles. It was asserted by one of the participants as thus

the dire consequences of reporting a crime to the police make people scared of them. Imagine a person is charged to pay some

amount of money to investigate a case that the person reported. It is even scarier when a whistleblower sometimes becomes the victim because it involves a superior person or one that can offer a worthy bribe. [Interview Transcript 15]

Pointing to the impact of fear on people's turning out for voting was captured by this participant as thus

it can also affect a person in terms of coming out to vote because when the police are compromised, they may not secure the election's environment, and our lives will be in danger. I did not vote in the last general election because of fear that my life may be at risk if I go out to vote. [Interview Transcript 3]

The perceptions of police monetary bribery and intimidation usually accompany it as barring people from most forms of involvement in overt practices that relate to promoting democratic principles. A participant said

the negative perception of the police influence my decision to vote because the manner that police intimidate people make me to avoid them at all cost. Irrespective of the that I love to learn more of my rights and stand by it, yet, I fear that my life might be at risk, so I cannot do anything. [Interview Transcript 46]

Even more frightening and impactful was a direct experience of killing an innocent by a police officer due to conflict arising from monetary bribery. To buttress the assertion further, one participant said police wickedness is affecting her negatively when

she witnessed a young man that was shot by the police at Agu Awka because the victim refused to offer bribe. What if that person is the breadwinner of his family? Please, it is affecting me negatively. [Interview Transcript 16]

Public Perceptions Have No Impact on Public Attitudes and Willingness

Some public members show how their perceptions of the police monetary bribery had influenced their attitude and involvement in advancing democratic principles in Awka. Majority of the interviewees said their negative perceptions about the police do not affect their attitude and willingness to promote democratic principles in Awka. This theme can be portrayed clearly by discussing the two subthemes associated with it.

Public Perceptions Have No Impact on Attitudes and Current Behavior. This subtheme describes the notion held by some participants that their perceptions of the police misbehavior do not in any way influence their attitudes and behaviors towards the promotion of democratic principles in Awka. Based on this perspective one of the participant said, I do the right things; I vote during elections, obey traffic rules, and do all the things I need to do, not minding police's bad attitude [Interview Transcript 1].

Another interviewee made a similar expression that corrupt police attitude does not have any negative influence on they should carry out their duties as Nigerian citizens [Interview Transcript 10]. One also stressed that doing the right is the best. So police corruption has nothing to do with my perception of the police [Interview Transcript 20]. These excerpts demonstrate the many perceptions that some participants expressed, suggesting that their notions of police monetary bribery currently do not influence their attitude towards democratic principles or advancement in Awka.

Public Willing to Promote Democratic Principles. Another dimension to the expression of lack of impact of police misbehavior on attitude and democratic principles advancement in Awka is the expression of a positive attitude toward democratic principles and willingness to promote democratic principles by many participants. These expressions go beyond current behaviors to future intention to take positive actions to promote democratic principles. The notion also aligns with the statement expressed by another participant who stated very positive attitude towards upholding democratic principles. The participant said he should keep the law and be involved in the democratic process as a patriotic citizen [Interview Transcript 34].

While the former participant focused on the general democratic process, this participant emphasized the equality dimension of democratic principles as thus

I am a fan of equality. Suppose the need arises for me to promote these principles, I definitely will. In that case, I am willing and ready to do that which I have been doing in time past despite the bad experiences that I have had in the course of standing up for my fundamental human right. [Interview Transcript 27]

Some participants expressed their positive disposition to democratic principles by merely stating their willingness to promote the democratic principles discounting their negative perceptions and experiences of the police misbehavior. It was further stressed by a participant who said despite the series of experience of police misconducts, she is still prepared to work towards bettering the situation [Interview Transcript 46]. Another participant reiterated this willingness in these words

I am willing to promote these [democratic] principles as much as I can because I believe that all hands must be on deck to achieve a secure and peaceful society. Corruption in the police is not enough reason to give up on our national obligation to maintain peace, unity and progress. [Interview Transcript 31]

Research Question 4

RQ4 was, How are the public's perceptions of the police monetary bribery in Awka impacted their attitude to and community policing involvement?

Table 5

Frequency and Percentage of Occurrence of Codes and Themes on How Public Perceptions of Police Monetary Bribery Influence their Attitudes and Involvement in Community Policing

Category/Theme	Code/Subtheme	Frequency of Codes	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participants (%)
Perceptions have no Impact on Attitude and Willingness of Public	Willing to be involved	39	38	61.3
	positive attitude	32	31	50
	perception has no negative impact	12	12	19.4
Perceptions Negatively Impact the Public's Attitude and Willingness	Perception has Negative Impact	12	12	19.4
	Not willing to be involved	11	11	17.7
	Not supportive	8	8	12.9

Table 5 indicates the most dominant theme and subthemes related to the influences of police monetary bribery on the participants' attitudes to and involvement in community policing. I identified the following two main themes from the interview transcripts' analysis: perceptions have no impact on the public and perceptions negatively impact public's attitude and willingness.

Perceptions Have No Impact on Attitudes and Willingness of Public

Some participants' responses depicted that the public's perceptions do not impact their attitude towards community policing and their willingness to be involved in community policing partnerships. Some of the subthemes that explain the main themes include perceptions that have no impact, public willingness to be involved in community policing, and positive public attitude to community policing. These are discussed more extensively in subsequent sections.

Perceptions Have No Negative Impact Public. It shows participants' views that their perceptions of the police monetary bribery do not impact them negatively. A participant said

police monetary bribery is never affecting my attitude and willingness to see that community policing is operational and efficient; community policing is for our own good. I am determined to have a better Nigeria and community policing is the way to go and my support is 100% guaranteed. [Interview Transcript 1]

Another participant echoed that it does not impact her attitude because she is someone who is so interested in personal and environmental security [Interview Transcript 46]. The desire to live in a secure environment was shown to be an overarching motivation for the favorable disposition to community policing, superseding any negative perception the public may have of police misbehavior. This participant's statement summarized this more succinctly stated that even though his perception of the police is bad, yet, he does not mind partnering with them for a secured and safe environment [Interview Transcript 2].

Public Willing to Be Involved in Community Policing. This subtheme portrays the people's readiness to be involved in community policing partnerships to improve policing in Awka. It was expressed in this manner by one of the participants who agreed that he is willing to be involved in any partnership that will eradicate out monetary bribery and extortion in the Nigeria Police [Interview Transcript 38]. Participants provided several reasons for the willingness to be involved in community partnership. One of them said she is 100% willing to participate in the public and police partnership because she believes in community policing and think that the latter cannot succeed without the former [Interview Transcript 44]. Another participant identified security of lives and property as motivation for his willingness to partner with the police on community policing initiative. He said supporting the initiative is not a problem so long the security of life is assured [Interview Transcript 32]. Another interviewee corroborated when she subscribed to the idea of community policing. According to her, security should

be everybody's business and should not be left to the Nigeria Police alone [Interview Transcript 46].

Furthermore, a participant indicated both willingness and how he will demonstrate his willingness. He said one of the ways he can express his support for community policing is by paying my security levies [Interview Transcript 34]. One other participant also expressed willingness to be involved in community policing even though he never stated how he can contribute the initiative's success. [Interview Transcript 42]

These demonstrate that no matter the motivations willingness or how the public wishes to be involved, there was a significant willingness among the public to be part of the community policing initiatives in Awka.

Positive Public Attitude to Community Policing. This theme suggests that the public likes and supports community- policing initiatives in Awka, as demonstrated by the significant proportion of participants that expressed different positive attitudes. A participant described a positive attitude to community policing when he said community partnership is commendable because residents are closer to each other and their efforts will certainly complement the Nigeria Police in securing the environment [Interview Transcript 1]. Another participant expressed a favorable disposition to community policing

community policing is a welcome development, and I think every well-meaning resident of Awka should appreciate it because community police are easier to reach and are also familiar with the

terrain, and this makes policing work easy and efficient. [Interview Transcript 25]

In stating their positive attitude to community policing, some of them identified the benefits they believe such an initiative has as it relates to security in the country. Thus, one of the interviewees said he was thrilled when the government introduced community police because they are closer to the people than usual police. He said community police have a lot to contribute in fighting the current spate of insecurity in the country [Interview Transcript 56]. Further restatement of the benefits was indicated by one participant who said community policing will undoubtedly enhance police's relationship with the people because community police are members of their respective communities. They are trusted because their closeness encourages synergy between them and the local community. [Interview Transcript 35]

Another participant reiterated the notion that community policing is a means of improving security: He said community policing is a good idea and will go a long way in minimizing insecurity in our communities when fully implemented [Interview Transcript 27].

Perceptions Negatively Impact the Public's Attitude and Willingness

This central theme reveals that police monetary bribery's perceptions hurt the public's disposition and willingness to be involved in community policing initiatives in Awka. The perception is explained under three subthemes discussed in subsequent sections.

Perceptions Negatively Impact the Public. The interviewees show how their perceptions of police monetary bribery negatively impact them and the community policing initiatives in Awka. One participant said her bad perceptions of the police have negative influence on willingness and attitude. According to her, the willingness is not there because she does not trust the police [Interview Transcript 3]. This statement suggests a two-part causal link; the police's flawed perceptions resulting from their monetary bribery lead to mistrust of the police, leading to the public's unwillingness to participate in the police community project.

Another participant presented a more detailed account of how perceptions impact the public's attitude and willingness

it is highly damaging and has greatly reduced the morale community vigilantes. This is because when community vigilantes arrest a person, they hand over such suspect to the police. The police will then use the opportunity extorts the suspect that they are most likely to release afterwards. [Interview Transcript 17]

Another participant restated this same view:

police monetary bribery waters down the efforts of community policing. For instance, take a situation where the community police arrest a hoodlum and hand him over to the police only to hear that the police have collected money and set him free. It could be very disconcerting. [Interview Transcript 50]

These statements demonstrated the negative impacts public perceptions of the police monetary bribery have on their attitude and willingness to participate in community policing. A participant's statement seems to summarize everything there is a negative name already attached to the Nigerian Police because of their criminal attitude; a negative one at that. Even those who are not corrupt are already seen as corrupt, just because of the same uniform they put on. Due to this negative mindset, people already have heard enough about the police; I would not like to do anything with them. [Interview Transcript 5]

This conclusive statement by a participant reinforced the other notions when she said that "police behavior is not giving us hope at all to co-operate with them" [Interview Transcript 13]. Hence, the public's lack of optimism of unexampled police behavior further distances the relationship between them.

Public Unwilling to Be Involved in Community Policing. Public willingness to be a part of the community policing initiative suggests their readiness to be part of the plans and activities for ensuring a law abiding and safe environment. However, this theme depicts the public's unwillingness to part of this initiative in Awka. One of the participants succinctly demonstrated his unwillingness when he said "I am not willing to please; I do not need their policing stress" [Interview Transcript 5]. Participant 5 mentioned stress as reasons for the unwillingness to support community policing, and another reason was based on the erroneous notion that such partnerships were restricted to the police. One interviewee also asserted thus "I don't think I am willing to get

involved because I am not a police officer [Interview Transcript 50]. For another, fear for his life appeared to be a factor in the willingness to be involved in police-community partnerships “I am not willing to participate in such partnership because to live long and better, I must avoid certain things.” [Interview Transcript 28]

Public Not Supportive of Community Policing. Although majority of the participants had an optimistic disposition towards community policing, few had a negative attitude to the initiative. Those in this category provided some reasons for their negative attitude of which ineffectiveness of the partnership was identified. One of the participants think it is an effort in futility as anybody in Awka can testify that community policing has never made any difference [Interview Transcript 62]. One of the factors for adjudging community policing as ineffective could be gleaned from the opinion expressed by another participant. He said such partnership is not worthy because it increases crime rate by giving the responsibility of securing the people to the very criminals. In my opinion, such a partnership will worsen the situation [Interview Transcript 10].

Other factors that accounted for the negative attitude to the idea of community policing was described in these words by another participant. According to her the concept of community policing is okay. Still, I do not think it is the best for Awka at the moment because everybody knows everyone. Some persons may take the advantage of that little power to intimidate and harass others. [Interview Transcript 58]

Research Question 5

RQ5 was, What is the Public's perception of their ability and willingness to fight police monetary bribery in Awka?

Table 6

Frequency and Percentage of Occurrence of Codes and Themes on Public Perceptions of Their Ability and Willingness to Fight Police Monetary Bribery

Category/Main theme	Code/Theme	Frequency of Codes	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participants (%)
Public willing to fight police monetary bribery	Unconditional Willing to fight	20	20	32.3
	Conditional willingness to fight:	14	13	21
	Conditions:			
	Government support	12	12	19.4
	Security of Informant	5	5	8.1
	Support of police authorities	3	3	4.6
	Sensitize public not to give bribe	3	3	4.8
Human and material resources	3	3	4.8	

	Hotline should be provided	1	1	1.6
	Backing by International bodies	1	1	1.6
	Not willing to fight	4	4	6.5
	Not willing due to fear	5	4	6.5
Collective capacity for the fight against police monetary bribery	No capacity to Fight - collective ability needed	20	19	30.6
	No capacity to fight	5	4	6.5
	Has the capacity to fight	4	4	6.5

Table 6 displays two major themes of public willingness to fight police monetary bribery and collective capacity to fight against police monetary bribery.

Public Willing to Fight Police Monetary Bribery

This theme portrays the public's willingness to fight police monetary bribery. The willingness either came without any conditions or with conditions attached. These will be illustrated in the discussion of the subthemes below.

Unconditional Willingness to Fight. The public's willingness to fight police monetary bribery in Awka was significant without any conditions. Some of the participants' statements could illustrate the eagerness to fight monetary bribery. One of the interviewees said he is 100% willing to join forces with other willing citizens to

eliminate police monetary bribery in Awka. I want the police to be the friends of the people, not their enemies, as portrayed [Interview Transcript 10]. The statement reinforced the firmness expressed by another participant when he expressed that he is 100% willing to fight police monetary bribery to tooth and nail [Interview Transcript 49]. One interviewee said he is willing to do anything possible to stop police monetary bribery [Interview Transcript 54]. Another one said he very willing as long as police bribery will be put to a halt [Interview Transcript 45]. A similar view was also expressed by one participant when he said he is very willing to participate and ensure that things are going well in the society [Interview Transcript 61].

Despite expressing this will without any reservations, a participant described how the willingness would be translated into actions that will transform the current state of things

I will fight police monetary bribery by keeping to the rules and doing things as they should be done. If I become an example to others and more people follow in my footsteps, you will realize that gradually things will begin to get better. [Interview Transcript 25]

One other interviewee voiced the willingness to fight as well as the medium through which the fight would be pursued. He expressed his willingness to fight police monetary bribery through the help of the media. He said he will never remain silent about issues of police misconduct [Interview Transcript 30].

Conditional Willingness to Fight. There is a conditional expression of willingness by public members that would trigger willingness. One of the participants said

I am willing as long as the right platform for doing that is available. He also noted that he cannot do it all alone and asked that all the good citizens in the State and the country at large should make it possible to end police monetary bribery [Interview Transcript 1].

Moreover, another interviewee corroborated when he indicated his willingness and said he is expecting police authorities to show some level of seriousness [Interview Transcript 49]. The leadership and the police force, and the government featured more in the conditions

people's willingness depends on the police leadership's readiness to partner with the public; they are willing to work with the people. If police misconduct is reported and justice prevails at the end, then I am sure the people would want to do more. If the police command is not co-operating, people will not buy into it.

[Interview Transcript 62]

Regarding the conditions linked to the government, a participant said she is willing, but her willingness depends on the readiness of the government to encourage such efforts [Interview Transcript 9]. The statement by another participant echoed the same statement when he said protection from the government against intimidation by the

police is very important if he should decide to be an informant that reports police monetary bribery [Interview Transcript 10].

These demonstrated other conditions related to providing a medium of reaching the police and response by the police

I am willing to fight police monetary bribery if there will be swift response to reported cases of corrupt officers. The support I need is a valid response to my complaints because if that does not happen, then my reporting would be a waste of time. [Interview Transcript 44]

Provision of surveillance equipment and enactment of favorable policies for the public surveillance of the police will also provide a condition that needs to be in place for public willingness to fight police monetary bribery

I am willing to fight this problem in Awka. I also feel that cameras and chips should be attached to their uniforms and patrol vans.

There should also be policies that could enable private individuals to take pictures and make video clips around the police without being harassed. If these are in place, I think I would willingly and readily fight police monetary bribery. [Interview Transcript 33]

The support of an international organization that guarantees security was also some of the conditions upon which willingness to fight police monetary bribery would be guaranteed

I am very willing to fight to reduce this [monetary bribery] to the barest minimum in Awka. We also need international backup and adequate security for protection because speaking out on these things might be a threat to our lives. [Interview Transcript 29]

Collective Capacity for the Fight Against Police Monetary Bribery

A collective capacity is essential for a positive result in the fight against police monetary bribery as it was commonly mentioned by a significant proportion of the participants. One of them said individuals cannot fight police corruption. What is required here is collective action [Interview Transcript 2]. Collective action was shown to be beyond just the public as individuals or as a group but included the police hierarchy and the government. A statement by a participant captured the message

individuals do not have the power to fight this; it will end in futility. It can only work if the superiors are willing to co-operate. Another support I need is for the government to brace up to handle police monetary bribery in Awka. [Interview Transcript 39]

There is a need for the government to build the capacity for effective action against police monetary bribery in Awka, as was reiterated by another participant

it is not for me alone or just one person to do. It depends on the government taking decisive actions towards this evil called bribery by the police. If I am to do it alone, it is like pouring water on a store. [Interview Transcript 46]

Summary

I subjected the 66 interview transcripts to qualitative content analysis. The findings of the study show that

- The nature of police monetary bribery as perceived by the public could be described as pervasive, customary, and systemic, begging at highways/roadblocks and streets; extortion through intimidation and force, indiscriminating of lawbreakers and the innocent; and means to police services.
- Poor relationship with the police exists because of public unwillingness to report matters to the police due to lack of trust, public lack of awareness, and faith in police accountability mechanisms. The public perception of existing accountability mechanisms as ineffective and weakened public willingness to be involved in police accountability are the possible ways public perceptions of police monetary bribery influence their attitude to and involvement in accountability.
- Perceptions of police monetary bribery negatively impact the public as the public perceives democratic principles as absent mainly due to police misbehavior; the public was afraid and unwilling to participate in voting impact on attitude and involvement in advancing democratic principles. However, there was a notion among many participants that police monetary bribery perceptions do not impact public attitude and willingness to be involved in advancing democratic principles.

- Perceptions of police monetary bribery have no impact on the public's attitude and willingness to be involved in community policing. The people have a positive attitude and are willing to be involved. However, there might be a negative impact of perceptions on attitudes and willingness to be involved in community policing.
- The public was willing to fight police monetary bribery but needs the collective capacity to fight police monetary bribery in Awka.

The following topics are discussed in Chapter 5: the study's findings, implications for social change, recommendations, and potential areas for further research.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Introduction

The aim of this study was to offer an in-depth understanding of how the people in Awka of Anambra State, Nigeria, perceive the nature of police monetary bribery and how these perceptions impact their involvement in upholding police accountability, democratic principles, and community policing. The choice of the research topic was pertinent due to the frequent public indictment of the Nigerian police, which has become more pronounced in recent times and is evident in current newspaper publications, research, and citizens' interpersonal discussions (Adepegba, 2017; Akinlabi, 2017; Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Idumange, 2016; Iloani & Jimoh, 2017; Inyang & Abraham, 2013; Nnaeto, 2019; Nte, 2011; Transparency International, 2020; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017). It is very common to see Nigerian police collecting monetary bribe from citizens, especially at roadblocks. To this end, I sought to answer five RQs.

The contents of this chapter are organized into three sections. The first section includes a presentation of the study findings. In the second, I unveil the implications of the findings for social change and provide some recommendations. The last section includes suggestions for potential areas that need further research. The discussion of findings is organized according to major themes derived from each RQ as follows:

- how the public perceived the nature of police monetary bribery in Awka,
- how the public's perceptions are influencing their attitude to and involvement in police accountability measures,

- how the public's perceptions are influencing their attitude to and involvement in the advancement of democratic principles,
- how the public's perceptions are impacting on their attitude to and involvement in community policing, and
- how the public perceives their ability and willingness to fight police monetary bribery in Awka.

Interpretation of the Findings

Discussion of Findings for Research Question 1

RQ1 concerned the public's perceived nature of police monetary bribery in Awka.

The finding of this study reveals diverse public perceptions on the nature of police monetary bribery. The findings show that the public sees police monetary bribery as pervasive, customary, systemic, a beggarly attitude, extortion, indiscriminating, and a gateway to earn police services.

Pervasive, Customary, and Systemic Nature of Police Monetary Bribery

The pervasive, customary, and systemic nature of police monetary bribery was the most dominant perception of police monetary bribery held by participants in this study. It indicates that police monetary bribery is widespread in different public encounters with the police as well as cultural and institutionalized. These findings align with the previous findings by Transparency International (2013, 2015) and the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (2019), which show that two out of every three persons who encounter the police pay a bribe to the police. The findings also corroborate the empirical

study by Bello and Anigbogu (2018), whose respondents in Anambra State argued that police corruption has been institutionalized.

This experience can impact the behavior of the public towards the police. Yusuf and Tepe (2013) noted that people who have had a negative encounter with the Police see the police as their enemy, while those whose encounter was positive tend to have a definite notion of the Police. The public's experience of the Police is mostly negative.

Beggarly and Extorting Nature of Police Monetary Bribery

The study findings further reveal that the police often exhibit a beggarly attitude and extort the public in other instances. The findings also present a contradictory nature of police monetary bribery. However, narratives from the participants show how the public experience these two sets of criminal behaviors. The public negative perceptions that Nigerian police are beggars are derogatory to the police institution as a law enforcement and crime prevention agency. The negative public view is destructive in the attempts to enshrine community policing because the police are perceived as useless and hungry people whose means of survival depend on monetary bribery and extortion from the public. Karimu (2015) stressed that such degraded police might aid and abet criminals.

Apart from the police's beggarly posture, the study also exposed police monetary bribery's extorting nature. Incidents of this behavior have been commonly reported (Abubakar et al., 2017; Akpunonu-Ogu, 2014; Micha, 2017; Okeshola & Mudiare, 2013; Onyango, 2018). The reports show that innumerable people have their human rights abused in many ways associated with monetary bribery through beating, jailing, and even

killing if they refuse to give a bribe or cannot give bribe. People are compelled to comply with fear for their life.

Indiscriminating Nature of Police Monetary Bribery

This study unveiled the indiscriminating nature of police monetary bribery. Participants' responses reveal police collection of money from suspects, criminals, and innocent people. The study findings agree with the findings reported by other scholars (Dufka, 2010; Ibrahim, 2015), who noted that the police collect money from criminals and suspects to conceal their files and cases. Although monetary bribery is unacceptable behavior, the lack of fairness by subjecting innocent citizens and criminals and suspects to the same treatment makes it even more unjust and agonizing to the victims. Similarly, Nigeria Police Watch (2014) and Network on Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN) & Open Society Justice (2010) reports show evidence of police brutalizing and extra-judicial killing of Nigerians. The reports corroborate Nigerian police's involvement in monetary bribery, misappropriation and embezzlement of public funds, and unlawful arrest and detention, killings, and many other human right abuses.

Police Monetary Bribery Is Perceived as a Ticket to Police Services

One of the findings on the nature of police monetary bribery is that police monetary bribery is a means of gaining access to police services. As participants stressed that offering some reasonable amount of money to the police is the only access to police services. This finding is in line with the previous observation by Ibrahim (2015) that police demand money from the public, hide criminal files to extort cash, and deliberately delay the treatment of cases to collect bribes. These strategies force the public to pay

bribes to get the police to do something regarding their cases or reports. This singular act negates the police's constitutional role as public servants and as an agency that provides the security of life and protection for all. The service delivery becomes available to those with the most money, which is detrimental to the poor and the oppressed.

Discussion of Findings for Research Question 2

RQ2 concerned how the Public's perceptions are influencing their attitude to and involvement in police accountability measures.

The findings of this study suggest that the following are some of the negative ways public perceptions of police monetary bribery impact public attitude and involvement in police accountability in Awka.

Poor Relationship With and Lack of Trust in the Police Due to Monetary Bribery

Participants' negative perceptions of police monetary bribery influenced their relationship with the police, which impacted their trust in the police and their willingness to report matters to them. This perception of the public is in tandem with previous observations (Adebayo & Ojo, 2009; Ojo, 2014) that police bribery casts doubt on law enforcement's integrity and jeopardizes public trust. Police bribery also results in the public being skeptical about giving information to the police (Adebayo & Ojo, 2009; Ojo, 2014).

Public's Lack of Awareness of and Faith in Police Accountability

Institutions/Mechanisms

Findings show that most of the participants are not aware of the various accountability institutions or mechanisms to hold the police accountable. The negative

perceptions that people holds about the police might be the reason they lack interest in police accountability mechanisms.

Public Perceive Existing Police Accountability Institutions/Mechanisms as Ineffective

The negative public perceptions of police monetary bribery as pervasive, customary, and systemic are the reason participants to think that accountability mechanisms are not effective. The finding aligns with the conclusions drawn by other scholars (Alemika, 2010; Bello & Anigbogu, 2018; Karimu & Foluke, 2012) that Nigeria has multiple institutions for holding the police accountable, but the institutions are weak and inefficient. A conclusion could be that these mechanisms' inefficiency and effectiveness could have contributed to the public's lack of awareness of their existence and the weak willingness to be involved in police accountability.

Weakened Public Willingness to be Involved in Police Accountability

Findings show that there is a weak public willingness to be part of the police accountability process. Therefore, it is doubtful that members of the public would report any police misconducts when they think that nothing would come of it; it is because of this reason that most people keep away. It could be why there was a low incidence of police misconduct reporting revealed in the nationwide PCRRU January 2017 report. Only 822 complaints came from the public from the 1st of October to the 30th of December 2016. It demonstrates people's lethargy on police accountability matters despite the massive police monetary bribery incidents, which could be explained by a lack of confidence in the police accountability mechanisms and structures.

It is in line with a previous observation by Brown (2002) that police's negative public perceptions lead to distrust of the police. The distrust, which emanates from police's negative perceptions, explains why police accountability mechanisms are not utilized by the public (Ifedayo, 2013). This specific study finding is similar to the problem earlier reported by Alemika (2010), who argued that the presence of effective accountability mechanisms should elevate citizens' willingness to report police misconduct. Still, because of the deep mistrust between the police and the citizens, those mechanisms are not adequately used.

Discussion of Findings for Research Question 3

RQ3 concerned how the public's perceptions are influencing their attitude to and involvement in the advancement of democratic principles.

The findings of this study suggest that the negative public perceptions of police monetary bribery influence people's attitude to and involvement in the advancement of democratic principles in Awka.

How the Public's Perceptions are Influencing their Attitude to and Involvement in the Advancement of Democratic Principles

The study found that the negative perceptions of police monetary bribery held by the Public contributed to their attitude and involvement in advancing democratic principles by their perception of the non-existence of democratic principles in the country, fear, and unwillingness to be involved in voting.

When these findings are juxtaposed with Bentham's (1998) position, citizens' effectiveness in uplifting any nation's democratic principles depends on respect for

human rights, acknowledgment of equal dignity for all, and recognition of people's right to an opinion. It is easier to see why the nature of Police monetary bribery as perceived by the Public can engender feelings of the non-existence of democratic principles among the public and fear and the unwillingness to vote. The absence of democratic principles in the treatment of members of the Public reported by Eme and Okoh (2009), and perpetuation of rigging using the Police and the violence that makes the Public both afraid for their life and unwilling to participate in the democratic process.

Discussion of Findings for Research Question 4

RQ4 concerned how the public's perceptions are impacting on their attitude to and involvement in community policing.

Findings reveal that the negative public perceptions of police monetary bribery has more impact on people's willingness in partnering with the police for successful community policing in Awka than it is not.

How the Public's Perceptions are Impacting Their Attitude to and Involvement in Community Policing

There was a mixed perception by the public on how their perception of police monetary bribery impacts their willingness to be involved in community policing. While some believe that their perception affects them negatively, others feel otherwise.

Despite the negative perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka, most participants have a positive attitude towards community policing. As most of the participants stated, community policing is the major viable means of eradicating police monetary bribery in Awka. Most of the participants expressed a willingness to be

involved in community policing. The finding agrees with the optimism expressed by many scholars (Ibrahim, Saleh & Mukhtar, 2016; Ikuteyijo, 2009; Nwaubani, Anyikwa & Azuh, 2014; Okeshola & Mudiare, 2013) that community policing is a partnership between the police and public that is expected to lead to effective policing in the society. The favorable disposition towards community policing involvement contrasts with the findings reported by Kpae (2017), which suggests that the public partnership with the police in battling crime is unlikely to happen because of negative perceptions of the public about the police.

The theme of the negative impact of monetary bribery on acceptance of community policing was expressed among participants due to the public's lack of trust in the police. Similar findings by Siro (2016) showed that the primary factor for community policing's failure was a lack of public confidence in the police. Hence, most citizens do not trust the police because of the long police monetary bribery culture, which subsequently affect their partnerships in community policing.

Discussion of Findings for Research Question 5

RQ4 concerned how the public perceives their ability and willingness to fight police monetary bribery in Awka.

Majority of the participants think little or nothing significant would be achieved in the fight against police monetary bribery because it is more of institutional problem rather than individual personnel issue. So their involvement might be useless except the government and police institution are actually ready to eradicate the problem.

Public's Perception of Their Ability and Willingness to Fight Police Monetary Bribery in Awka

This study found that the public showed some willingness to fight police monetary bribery. This study agrees with a previous study by Transparency International (2013), which suggested that most people are willing to fight police corruption but indirectly and collective ways such as joining an anticorruption organization, participating in a protest, using social media than signing a petition. Notwithstanding, the finding is contrary to the report by Petrovic, Dordevic and Savkovic (2013), which revealed that Serbia citizens are unwilling to fight police corruption. The willingness to fight corruption or monetary bribery may depend on the nature of the public's role in the fight against police corruption and the public's actions. As could be seen from this study, a significant number of participants' willingness was dependent on several conditions, which are grounded on confidentiality trust and protection from later being victimized.

Another important finding is that people lack the individual capacity to fight police monetary bribery and call for collective capacity to fight the problem in Awka. This finding contradicts previous research by Transparency International (2015), which established how a significant proportion of their participants think that ordinary people can fight corruption in Nigeria. Rather, participants' responses in this study revealed a contrast view as they think that individuals need institutional support to fight police monetary bribery in Awka. The indifference could be related to the public's perception of police monetary bribery as massive and systemic, lack of trust in the police, fear for lack

of protection by the government, and exposure to threat and intimidation by the Police, among other things.

This study conforms to the conceptual framework's theorization, dynamic social impact theory. The theory postulates that changes in a person's state of mind, feelings, physiological conditions, perceptions, and behavior are social influence outcomes. As Harton and Bullock (2007) observed, the theory suggests "that culture is created and shaped by local social influence" (p. 321). According to the assumptions of the dynamic social impact theory, the corrupt use of the police's enormous powers to extort a monetary bribe from citizens and other forms of injustice often creates a negative sensory impression in victims about the police. The fact is evident in many interviewees' attitudes that declared their unwillingness to partner with the police for effective community policing or participating in police accountability mechanisms. Even though some participants gave their support to join in the fight against police monetary bribery and corruption, their negative perception of the Nigerian Police as an epitome of multi-corrupt institutions remains valid. Many participants think it is impossible to purge the Nigeria Police of corruption; the perception is what the dynamic social impact theory posits as social influence outcomes. The study result showed that police monetary bribery had become a norm, which is why people often distrust anything that has to do with the police perfectly explains the position of the theory. It is obtainable to conclude by this study found that there is no Awka resident, especially the category of participants used in this study, without the negative perception of the Nigeria Police as a very corrupt institution. The result of this social impact, according to the dynamic social impact

theory, is based on the monetary bribery crime that the police unconcealed and practiced without consequence.

Recommendations

The following recommendations from the findings are made for further research:

The Public's weakened disposition in police accountability through reporting police misconduct presents a possible future research arena. There is a need to ascertain ways to improve the Public's disposition towards holding the Police accountable for their misconduct. To this end, future research could examine public preferred police accountability channels and mechanisms.

One of this study's findings showed that police monetary bribery's contradictory nature and both beggarly and extorting and intimidating, thereby exposing two opposing natures of the Nigerian Police – the amiable and non-violent and the intimidating and violent. Future research could examine the socio-psychological factors associated with the Police's monetary bribery behavior to understand ways to reduce police monetary bribery and provide the Police some protective resources against the behavior.

Qualitative methods may not sufficiently identify the impact of police monetary bribery. Hence a combined qualitative and quantitative (mixed methods) could be adopted in the future study to elicit both the quantitative and qualitative impacts of police monetary bribery on the Public and the Police.

Implications

This study's findings have several implications for social change institutions such as law enforcement agencies, the government, Non-government Organizations, religious

organizations, social groups/networks, and public members. Some of these implications are as follows.

Law Enforcement Agencies

The findings that show the public perception of police monetary bribery's nature indicate that this perception emanates from their day-to-day encounter with the Police. It calls for less physical contact between the Police and members of the public. The police hierarchy needs to restructure and re-organize its operational mechanisms to reduce the number of daily encounters the Police have with the Public if it sincerely wants to redeem its image and public trust. It could be achieved by using surveillance technologies and information and communication technologies to mediate its interaction with the Public.

The Police need to regain the confidence of the Public by enhancing its accountability structures and mechanisms through enforcing punishments for police monetary bribery as well as for other police misconducts. To regain respect depends on the government's consciousness of its integrity and image and the fact that the Police mirrors that integrity and image.

The finding of this study also implicates the judiciary; hence it lacks the backbone to administer justice without fear or favor. The lack of faith in the Police is also to a lack of faith in the judicial system. If the judicial process in Nigeria is dependable, members of the Public could be disposed to file suits against the Police and hope for a quick process and fair hearing. The lack of fair hearing and delays that characterize the judicial process contributes to public members' hopelessness on police accountability and law enforcement matters.

The Government

The Nigerian Police Force is a government agency for enforcing the law. The government has a central role in bringing about positive change in the police's law enforcement role. Undoubtedly the Police are "the most visible government institution that people often use to assess the government's character" Hartz (, 1999 cited in Akpunonu-Ogu, 2014, p. 24). To regain respect depends on the government's consciousness of its integrity and image and the fact that the Police mirrors that integrity and image. In partnership with concerned agencies, the Nigerian government and police administration may seek and adopt methodologies that other prosperous nations have used to defeat police corruption while taking the Nigerian political, economic and social contexts into cognizance. Lee-Jones and Holmes (2018, p. 2) revealed, "the cases of Hong Kong, Georgia, and Singapore, showed how determined police administrations, continuous political commitment, and an anti-corruption approach with alliances between the public, private and civil society sectors, can make a huge difference in the anti-corruption reform effort." The Nigerian Police is a government agency for enforcing the law. The government has a central role in bringing about positive change in the police's law enforcement role.

Consequently, this assessment is hugely damaging, as reported in this study and other studies and opinions (Aremu et al., 2008; Karimu & Osinyikanmi, 2012, 2008), the government is massively implicated. The assertion is in line with the participants' perception that the condition for involvement in police accountability and the fight against police monetary bribery depends, to a large extent, on the government. It is

rightly so because the government is the machinery for making laws and policies and enforcing them.

There is the need to restore the public lost confidence and trust in the Police by the government's sincere desire to reform the Police. Police reform has been long-standing rhetoric by successive governments. There has been politicizing of police reform by many regimes, explaining the lack of previous policy reforms. Some of the government's areas that need real reform include; the police recruitment process riddled with bribery and employment of unqualified and incompetent people, police accountability structures and mechanisms, police leadership, and technology adoption in policing. The government should ensure that erred police personnel receive heavy sanctions based on the level of crime. Such punishment should be shared for general information through the media to take note of existing staff and the public. The idea of informing a member of the police is for personnel to imbibe the consciousness of the new order that corruption is no longer possible in the system while informing the public is to show that the police anti-corruption scheme also extends to them. The idea will help to ensure that every Nigerian citizen participates in the established democratic principles.

The Public needs policies to protect them from police victimization by the promulgation of law to permit the use of cameras and other technologies to monitor and report the Police; and policies for the protection of informants of police misconduct.

There is also the need to gain data and information for evidence-based policies to improve the Police by establishing a police research institute, which could be within

universities and outside the university system. The government needs to grant the Police some level of independence to reduce the interference by the ruling party and politicians.

Opposition parties play a significant role in check-mating the ruling party. There is a lack of strong opposition parties despite the existence of what seems like a two-party system. Having an opposition party should be a strong voice in providing oversight that will decrease police monetary bribery.

Nongovernmental Organizations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or civil societies are known to bring about transformation in society. The study finding confirmed the TI UK report in 2011-12, which showed very little involvement of citizens and civil societies in police accountability mechanisms. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or civil societies are known to bring about transformation in society. Lee-Jones and Holmes (2018, p. 9) also stated thus, "Civil society organizations, including media organizations, can play an important role in police reform efforts." In the past, civil society has played a vital role in raising awareness of corruption scandals and driving reform. Civil societies should enthusiastically engage in the fight against police monetary bribery to aid the government and police efforts refurbishing the Nigerian police. In Nigeria, such groups as the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project have been conducting surveys and publicizing data and information on various social ills, including police corruption. Other civil societies need to contribute to the fight against police monetary bribery in many ways. One of which could be in re-orientation and sensitization of the Public and the Police. Another could be in leading peaceful protests as a collective action, which is an

indication that the public desires change. This kind of action can lead to policy change and reforms within the Police that would drastically reduce police monetary bribery. A very recent example is the massive protests ignited by George Floyd's death in the police's hands in the United States and the END SARS protest against police brutality in Nigeria. However, many citizens claimed the Nigerian ENDSARS protest to have been bastardized and attacked by the ruling government. Thus, an effort to fight police monetary bribery is futile if relevant bodies, especially the government that should ensure the elimination of corruption, are deep in corruption themselves.

Religious Institutions/Leaders

Religion has a role to play in altering the diverse nature of police monetary bribery in Nigeria. Again, religion has a strong influence on adherents' lives, and most of the people involved in these acts of corruption belong to a religion that condemns acts of corruption (Tom & Bamgboye, 2017). Most Nigerians are either Christians or Muslims. Therefore, it is surprising to see that despite the overwhelming number of churches and mosques, including several religious doctrines in Nigeria, the country continues to wax stronger in corruption that even the global corruption index rates the country very high. From the participants' revelation in this study, one begins to wonder if religion in Nigeria has any reasonable impact on the people's perception towards corruption or whether it is the widely accepted religions themselves that approved the people's corruption personality and involvement. The Nigerian socio-political stance that is also deeply rooted in religion appears not to have any meaningful impact on the leaders' political attitude towards corruption. The assertion is evident in the regular media reports on how

Nigerian leaders misappropriate and embezzle public funds concurrently. Simultaneously, citizens engage in many illegal deals, including monetary bribery, political thuggery, cybercrime, procurement, and distribution of fake products, obtained by a trick in business. It may be right to claim that the Nigerian religious bodies are also riddled with corruption. Therefore, if the Nigerian religious organizations are to be truthful in their service to the acclaimed top supernatural being, their anti-corruption responsibilities must first be executed within its primary jurisdiction to be sufficiently extended to the people and the government. Religious leaders need to condemn police monetary bribery in words and in action to discourage both the giver and the receiver. It would go a long way in promoting democratic principles and improving community policing and police accountability mechanisms.

Religious leaders and groups also have a role to play in the re-orientation and sensitization of the Public. The study findings showed a lack of awareness of the police accountability structures and mechanisms; religious leaders and groups can help create awareness in this area and sensitize adherents to their rights. Their focus should go beyond miracle crusades and programs that seemed to have no impact in reducing police monetary bribery and widespread corruption in the country. Therefore, religious leaders need to condemn police monetary bribery in words and in action to discourage both the giver and the receiver.

This study's findings speak to the complacency, culture of silence, and fear in Nigerian society. By the nature of democracy, people have the right to be heard. Therefore, Nigerians need to move away from believing that they cannot make a

difference as an individual, which holds them down. To achieve this, individuals need to call up their religious teachings that beckon adherents to stand by the truth, speak up for the truth or die for the truth. The Nigerian constitution safeguards human rights, especially the freedom of speech and peaceful protests as protective resources against complacency, the culture of silence and fear in the fight against police monetary bribery. The quality of leaders reflects the kind of people that elected them. The public's role cannot be ignored because police monetary bribery does not happen in a vacuum. The people are active participants in the police monetary bribery process. The availability of ICT and social media could also create police monetary bribery consciousness and a tool for police accountability. Some people are already using it. It can draw both human rights agencies and the international community's attention to police monetary bribery issues and other related police misconducts.

Individuals/Members of the Public

This study's findings speak to the complacency, culture of silence, and fear in Nigerian society. By the nature of democracy, people have the right to be heard. Therefore, Nigerians need to move away from believing that they cannot make a difference as an individual, which holds them down. To achieve this, individuals need to call up their religious teachings that beckon adherents to stand by the truth, speak up for the truth or die for the truth. The Nigerian constitution safeguards human rights, especially the freedom of speech and peaceful protests as protective resources against complacency, the culture of silence and fear in the fight against police monetary bribery. Many kinds of literature have established that motorists willingly offer to pay a bribe to

influence relationships with corrupt police personnel or avoid delay because of their default status (see Onyango, 2018).

The availability of information communication technology and social media could also create police monetary bribery consciousness and a tool for police accountability. Some people are already using it. It can draw both human rights agencies and the international community's attention to police monetary bribery issues and other related police misconducts.

Conclusion

This study aimed to ascertain the nature of police monetary bribery in Awka and how police bribery influences attitudes of Awka residents towards the police and involvement in accountability mechanisms and democratic principles based on the perceptions of Awka residents.

It was found that the residents of Awka perceived police monetary bribery as pervasive, customary, systemic, beggarly and extorting, indiscriminating of criminals and non-criminals, and as a ticket to police services.

Perceptions of police monetary bribery's nature impact the Public's attitude to police accountability and willingness to be involved in pursuing through lack of trust in the Police, poor relationship with the police, perception of existing police accountability mechanisms as ineffective, and undependable. The public's attitude to and involvement in upholding democratic principles is impacted by perceptions of police monetary bribery's nature through engendering the Public's perceptions of the absence of democratic principles, fear, and unwillingness to engage in the democratic process such as voting.

Furthermore, police monetary bribery's nature has different impacts on the public's attitude and willingness to be involved in community policing. While the impact was negative for some, other attitudes and willingness remained optimistic despite their negative perceptions.

This study established the public's willingness to fight police monetary bribery, their lack of individual ability to fight, and desire for collective capacity and action. Therefore, the need to speak conscience into the Nigerian government and the people to embrace the rudiments of real democracy is paramount. A total overhaul of the police institution's ethical foundation to alleviate the monetary bribery culture and all forms of corruption by the Nigeria Police should be an instantaneous policy with high priority.

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Appendix A: List of Abbreviations Used in the Study

DSIT	Dynamic Social Impact Theory
IGP	Inspector General of Police
IRB	Institutional Review Board
LFN	Laws of the Federation of Nigeria
PCRRU	Public Complaints Rapid Response Unit

Appendix B: Preliminary and Emerging Codes

Category	Code	Count	% Codes	Cases	% Cases
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Consensual	5	0.6%	4	6.5%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Beg and extort money on highway/roadblocks	7	0.9%	5	8.1%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Police monetary Bribery-supported by high ranks	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	A bad experience	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Monetary bribery - not pervasive	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Monetary bribery - Pervasive	49	6.3%	44	71.0%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Monetary bribery normalized/ police culture	19	2.4%	19	30.6%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Supported by the superior	4	0.5%	3	4.8%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Monetary Bribery by Force and intimidation	10	1.3%	8	12.9%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Police collect money from non-offenders	8	1.0%	8	12.9%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Bribed to provide legitimate duty	8	1.0%	8	12.9%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Police collect money from offenders/accused	9	1.1%	9	14.5%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Language - no words, exchange of hands	2	0.3%	2	3.2%

Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Language used - subtle	29	3.7%	28	45.2%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Language used - harassing/threatening words	15	1.9%	14	22.6%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery\Reason	poor salary	14	1.8%	14	22.6%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery\Reason	Harsh condition	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery\Reason	Greed	6	0.8%	6	9.7%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery\Reason	Road Users'/people's impatience	5	0.6%	4	6.5%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery\Reason	Bribery - Police culture	5	0.6%	5	8.1%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery\Reason	Maintain police vehicles	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery\Reason	Wickedness	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery\Reason	Corruption in the system	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability	Do not report cases to police	11	1.4%	11	17.7%

Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability	Report only life-threatening cases	3	0.4%	3	4.8%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability	Report cases to police	5	0.6%	5	8.1%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability	Reporting cases to Police-the last option	19	2.4%	19	30.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Not aware of institutions/mechanisms to check police	39	5.0%	37	59.7%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Aware of institution/mechanisms to check police	13	1.7%	13	21.0%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Beliefs there is none	2	0.3%	2	3.2%

Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Available mechanism - effective	5	0.6%	5	8.1%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Reporting police misbehavior - not effective	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Hopeless	3	0.4%	3	4.8%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Not sure	3	0.4%	3	4.8%

Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Available mechanism - not effective	8	1.0%	8	12.9%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability	Refusing to give bribe	6	0.8%	6	9.7%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability	Police accountability - Government role	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability	Police accountability - legal practitioners' role	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability	Using social media to expose them	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability	Reporting police misbehavior	9	1.1%	9	14.5%

Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability	Being law-abiding	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability	Not individual but collective action	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability	Cannot do anything	13	1.7%	13	21.0%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability	Police refused to take a bribe	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability\Condition for role	The medium of public-police communication	6	0.8%	6	9.7%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability\Condition for role	Use of CCTV and cameras	2	0.3%	2	3.2%

Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability\Condition for role	Better salary	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability\Condition for role	conditional willingness to play a role	4	0.5%	4	6.5%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability\Condition for role	Citizens permitted to use the camera	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability\Condition for role	Government intervention	3	0.4%	3	4.8%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability\Condition for role	Dismiss bad policemen	2	0.3%	2	3.2%

Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public Role in accountability\Condition for role	The readiness of the authorities to act	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public willingness	Monetary bribery massive- Can do nothing	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public willingness	Not willing to be involved in police accountability	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Public willingness	Willing to pursue police accountably	19	2.4%	19	30.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Nature of Public-police relationship	Poor relationship	31	4.0%	30	48.4%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Nature of Public-police relationship	Fairly okay	7	0.9%	7	11.3%

Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Nature of Public-police relationship	suitable for lawbreakers - poor for the law-abiding	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability\Nature of Public-police relationship	Good/Friendly relationship	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Perception has no impact	20	2.6%	17	27.4%
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Willing to promote democratic principles	33	4.2%	32	51.6%
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Supports democratic principles	4	0.5%	4	6.5%
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Absence of democratic principles	16	2.0%	16	25.8%
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Willing - with support of influential people	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Perception drives action	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	perception affect willing/action	18	2.3%	16	25.8%

Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Not willing to promote democratic principles	3	0.4%	3	4.8%
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Unattainable	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	It has a negative impact	3	0.4%	3	4.8%
Impact of perception on community policing\Attitude to community policing	positive attitude	32	4.1%	31	50.0%
Impact of perception on community policing\Attitude to community policing	Not supportive	8	1.0%	8	12.9%
Impact of perception on community policing\Attitude to community policing	Police lack manpower	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of perception on community policing\Attitude to community policing	Not aware of community policing	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Impact of perception on community policing\Willingness to be involved in public-police partnership for effective community policing	Willing to be involved	39	5.0%	38	61.3%

Impact of perception on community policing\Willingness to be involved in public-police partnership for effective community policing	Not willing to be involved	5	0.6%	5	8.1%
Impact of perception on community policing\Willingness to be involved in public-police partnership for effective community policing	International back-up	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of perception on community policing\Willingness to be involved in public-police partnership for effective community policing	Cannot do much	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Impact of perception on community policing\impact of perception of monetary bribery	perception of police MB has no impact	13	1.7%	13	21.0%
Impact of perception on community policing\impact of perception of monetary bribery	Perception Impact willingness	11	1.4%	11	17.7%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery	Partial willingness	2	0.3%	2	3.2%

Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery	Not willing to fight	4	0.5%	4	6.5%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery	conditional willingness	5	0.6%	5	8.1%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery	Willing to fight	21	2.7%	21	33.9%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\conditions	Provision of the right platform for communication	4	0.5%	4	6.5%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\conditions	Improve police salary				
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\conditions	Fight corruption within	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\conditions	Put cameras and chips on police vans	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\conditions	Policies to permit capturing and videoing police behavior	1	0.1%	1	1.6%

Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\conditions	The readiness of the authorities	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\conditions	The readiness of other members of the public	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Setting up a public complaint unit accessible to the public	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Remove bad eggs in the police	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Introduction of state policing	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Improved recruitment based on integrity	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Not giving bribe	8	1.0%	8	12.9%

Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Using social media	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Planting cameras to monitor police	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Reporting police bribery	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Government setting up a body to monitor police	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Government taking action on culprits	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Government protecting informants	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\How it can be achieved	Reorganization of the policy by Government	1	0.1%	1	1.6%

Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Support needed	Ensure Security of Informant	5	0.6%	5	8.1%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Support needed	Government support required	12	1.5%	12	19.4%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Support needed	Financial support	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Support needed	Sensitize public not to give bribe	3	0.4%	3	4.8%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Support needed	Support of the authorities needed	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Support needed	Human and material resources	2	0.3%	2	3.2%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Support needed	Hotline should be provided	1	0.1%	1	1.6%

Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Support needed	Collective support of government and everyone	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Ability to Fight	No capacity to Fight - collective ability needed	3	0.4%	3	4.8%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Ability to Fight	Has capacity to fight	7	0.9%	7	11.3%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Ability to Fight\Condition	Government protection-intervention	5	0.6%	5	8.1%
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery\Ability to Fight\Condition	Responding to complaint about any police	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Other suggestions	Improvement of police monitoring unit	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Other suggestions	Review police salary	4	0.5%	3	4.8%
Other suggestions	Good police monitoring system	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Other suggestions	Dismissal of corrupt police officers	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Other suggestions	Re-orientation/training of the police	4	0.5%	4	6.5%

Other suggestions	Establish Police Research Institute	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Other suggestions	Reform the police force	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Other suggestions	Improve recruitment process	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Other suggestions	Re-orientation of the masses	3	0.4%	3	4.8%
Police performance of their duty	perform on the average	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Police performance of their duty	Police perform poorly	7	0.9%	7	11.3%
Police performance of their duty	Police performs well	1	0.1%	1	1.6%
Police performance of their duty	Police unjust in handling cases	1	0.1%	1	1.6%

Coding retrieval

Category	Code	Case	Text
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Beg and extort money on highway/roadblocks	INTERVIEW 1	They mount roadblocks in pretense to protect the people but rather request money from private and commercial buses. I think the issue of roadblocks should be stopped or seriously checkmated. They only start there to make money from people without fear. It merely means that their superiors are aware of what they do on the road.

Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Police monetary Bribery-supported by high ranks	INTERVIEW 1	They only start there to make money from people without fear. It merely means that their superiors are aware of what they do on the road
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	A bad experience	INTERVIEW 1	So the experience is a bad one.
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Beg and extort money on highway/roadblocks	INTERVIEW 1	As a Nigerian citizen living in the country, I ply the high ways every day, and there are roadblocks everywhere. They (police) are always there to collect money. So police officers are now beggars on the street.
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Monetary bribery - Pervasive	INTERVIEW 1	At all the roadblocks in Awka, the police officers collect money daily. So it is a regular occurrence. Collecting money and causing traffic on the roads.

<p>Nature of Police Monetary Bribery</p>	<p>Beg and extort money on highway/roadblocks</p>	<p>INTERVIEW 1</p>	<p>It is simple when they stop your car, you wind down the car window, and the officer begins to smile at you and start asking questions. Ordinarily, he should not ask and do his job and allow the person to go; instead, they start begging you for money by saying, "Oga find something for us." However, for the commercial buses and tri-cyclists, it is a rule then, they must give them money. Before the drivers get to the checking points, they will bring out the money waiting to deliver. Immediately that is done, they will hit their car and ask the driver to move. Generally, the police have turned themselves into beggars in the street who extort money from the people.</p>
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Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Monetary bribery normalized/ police culture	INTERVIEW 1	I think it is in their nature. Because for a sincere and ready to work, you give your best and not standing on the road and extorting money from people. It just seems as if they are trained on her to collect money from the public. When a good man/woman joins the police, they come out corrupt after their regular training. They train them on the skill on how to extort money from the people. Also, I think this starts at the top. The bosses encourage them to do so because they give them returns after their daily work. So it is a police culture, so to say
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Supported by the superior	INTERVIEW 1	Also, I think this starts at the top. The bosses encourage them to do so because they give them returns after their daily work. So it is a police culture, so to say.
Nature of Public-police relationship	Poor relationship	INTERVIEW 1	Generally, to some people, the relationship with the police in Awka is good because they have criminal tendencies. However, to others who do not have such in mind, the relationship is not good. For those without a driver's license, police are their friend because they can always pay as little as 50 naira or 100 naira, and they will be let go.

Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability	Reporting cases to Police-the last option	INTERVIEW 1	Question: Whenever there is a problem, do you consider reporting it to the police? And why do you do so? Response: Well, the type of police we have here is nothing to write home about. When you have a problem and report it to the police, you have to get ready to spend money. However, because one does not have to take laws into their hands, they reluctantly report it to the police even when much would not come out of it. So I do not take laws into my hands. I would instead report to them.
Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Not aware of institutions/mechanisms to check police	INTERVIEW 1	Question: Are you aware of any institution/mechanisms used to check the police against bribery or punish them whenever they misbehave? Response: Well, I do not know of any, because if there is, we would not have this wanton and brazen open corruption we have in the system. If they start from the top, their bosses are aware of what they are doing. The bosses encourage them to extort money because of the returns they get.

Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Beliefs there is none	INTERVIEW 1	Question: Are you aware of any institution/mechanisms used to check the police against bribery or punish them whenever they misbehave? Response: Well, I do not know of any, because if there is, we would not have this wanton and brazing open corruption we have in the system. If they start from the top, their bosses are aware of what they are doing. The bosses encourage them to extort money because of the returns they get.
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Supported by the superior	INTERVIEW 1	It starts from the top; their bosses are aware of what they are doing. The bosses encourage them to extort money because of the returns they get
Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Not aware of institutions/mechanisms to check police	INTERVIEW 1	There are bodies set up to check its members' excesses in every institution, organization, or establishment. To control their behaviors, punish members when they go out of order or reward good behaviors. So the police will not be an exception. I really cannot remember the institution or mechanism set up to do that job, but definitely, there will be one.

Public Role in accountability	Cannot do anything	INTERVIEW 1	Question: In what ways do you think you can make the police accountable for their behaviors at Awka? Response: We have governors in every state; we have commissioners of police domiciled in each state. So the commissioner of police for Anambra State, his office is in Awka. Funny enough, when you want to pass the road in front of the police headquarters at Anambra Awka, where the commissioner's office is when a motorist gives the money before you are allowed to pass. So it is from the top, the boss is aware of what is happening. As an individual, I can do little or nothing in making the police accountable for their behavior.
Public willingness	Monetary bribery massive- Can do nothing	INTERVIEW 1	Question: How willing are you to do that? Response: I am an individual, so in a country of over a 200million people, what can I do? I am not even a police officer. It is just for the unscrupulous officers that unfortunately are in the majority, and it would not be easy to get rid of them from the police force.
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Perception has no impact	INTERVIEW 1	I always do the right things; I vote during elections, obey traffic lights, and do all the things I need to do, not mind the police's attitude.

Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Willing to promote democratic principles	INTERVIEW 1	Question: If the need arises for you to promote these principles in Awka, how willing are you to do so? Response: I am very willing to come out and ensure that the right thing is done, but as I said earlier, corruption needs to be tackled from the top. A single individual can do little.
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Perception has no impact	INTERVIEW 1	Question: Would you say your perception of the police misbehavior (monetary bribery) impacts your attitude and willingness? Response: No, a person who always does the right things at the right time will hardly be influenced by the attitude of the police. It is already in me to do the right thing.
Attitude to community policing	positive attitude	INTERVIEW 1	Question: As part of efforts to improve police accountability through police-public partnership, community policing was introduced; Awka was one of the cities it was pilot tested. Please tell me what your attitude is to such partnerships? Response: The partnership is a good one; it puts police people closer to the people, so they tend to complement the effort of the Nigerian police force in securing lives and properties.

Willingness to be involved in public-police partnership for effective community policing	Willing to be involved	INTERVIEW 1	Question: How willing are you to participate in such a partnership for effective community policing. Response: I am very willing as long as the terrible officers will no longer be a part of the community.
impact of perception of monetary bribery	perception of police MB has no impact	INTERVIEW 1	In what ways would you say your perception of the police misbehavior (monetary bribery) impacts your attitude and willingness to such a partnership? Response: It is not impacting my attitude and willingness in any way because I am determined to have a better Nigeria. State police is the way to go, and my support is 100% guaranteed
Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery	Willing to fight	INTERVIEW 1	Question: Having competent, efficient, and reliable police are crucial to the security of lives and properties, as well as harmony and progress in our society. How willing are you to fight police monetary bribery in Awka? Response: I am willing as long as the right platform is there. It cannot just be me, but all the good citizens in the state and the country at large should come out and make this possible.

conditions	Provision of the right platform for communication	INTERVIEW 1	Question: Having competent, efficient, and reliable police are crucial to the security of lives and properties, as well as harmony and progress in our society. Question: How willing are you to fight police monetary bribery in Awka? Response: I am willing as long as the right platform is there. As long as the right thing is done. It cannot just be me, but all the good citizens in the state and the country at large should come out and make this possible
How it can be achieved	Remove unscrupulous officers from the police	INTERVIEW 1	Question: Please can you explain possible ways you think it can be achieved? Response: By sending the bad ones out of a job. Through the creation of state police who are well known. The recruitment processes should be enhanced. Those with integrity should be recruited. Those who have the people's welfare at heart should be taken in the job.
How it can be achieved	Introduction of state policing	INTERVIEW 1	Question: Please can you explain possible ways you think it can be achieved? Response: By sending the bad ones out of a job. Through the creation of state police who are well known. The recruitment processes should be enhanced. Those with integrity should be recruited. Those who have the people's welfare at heart should be taken in the job.

How it can be achieved	Improved recruitment based on integrity	INTERVIEW 1	Question: Please can you explain possible ways you think it can be achieved? Response: By sending the bad ones out of a job. Through the creation of state police who are well known. The recruitment processes should be enhanced. Those with integrity should be recruited. Those who have the people's welfare at heart should be taken in the job.
Ability to Fight	Has capacity to fight	INTERVIEW 1	Question: How well do you think you have the ability to achieve this? Response: very well as long as the leaders are willing to deal with the offender or those who default when reported to them.
Condition	Responding to complaint about any police	INTERVIEW 1	Question: How well do you think you have the ability to achieve this? Response: very well as long as the leaders are willing to deal with the offender or those who default when reported to them.
Support needed	Ensure Security of Informant	INTERVIEW 1	The only support I need is that when I eventually report a corrupt officer to the governor or the state government, I need to assure that my safety is guaranteed.

Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Monetary Bribery by Force and intimidation	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: Please share your experience on police interaction with the public related to such contexts as highway/traffic/roadblocks and handling cases in a police station in Awka. Response: Well, in Awka, where I stay, I have had few police experiences at roadblocks, when they stop vehicles for stop and search. They try to collect money from people, from the drivers. Even when your papers are complete and have no crime and not committed anything, they tend to stop you and collect N20, N50, and N100. Moreover, if you tell them you will not give them, they will just beat you, slap you because they are the force men; they are on uniforms. They try to harass you. I have not had good experiences; they terrorize us on the highway when you do not give them bribes.</p>
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Monetary bribery - Pervasive	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: We see and read about police receiving bribes and extorting money from the people; how much does that happen here in Awka? Response: It happens severally, even on the shortest trip you can ever think of. You will see police officers' art at every point collecting money from drivers.</p>

Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Police collect money from non-offenders	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: Please explain how police extort money or collect bribes from people in Awka?</p> <p>Response: Sometimes, you will not even commit anything; they will stop you and ask for money. They will just stop you, sometimes they will ask for your papers. They look for any little opportunity to collect money from you.</p>
Nature of Police Monetary Bribery	Police collect money from offenders/accused	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: Please explain how police extort money or collect bribes from people in Awka?</p> <p>Response: Sometimes, you will not even commit an offense; they will just stop you and ask for money. They will just stop you, sometimes they will ask for your papers. They look for any little opportunity to collect money from you. Moreover, maybe even if you commit a crime or did what is wrong, instead of taking you to the station to follow due procedures, they will want you to give them money so that you will not be taken to the police station with them. That is what they do; they collect small fees like N10, N20, to cover up your crime for you.</p>

<p>Nature of Police Monetary Bribery</p>	<p>The language used - subtle</p>	<p>INTERVIEW 10</p>	<p>Question: Describe the pattern of behavior and common languages used by the police to collect a bribe or extort money from people in Awka? Response: Some of the languages they use when they stop you will tell you "Oga, find us something na" give us something na, you see we dey under sun na." If you do not want to give them, they will not allow you to go. They will tell you to park your vehicle and say "If you no give us, we go to the station," and you know most people, they do not want trouble, they do not want to go to the station, because once you go to the station, it is their colleagues that are still there. They will prolong the issue for you. They use harassing words.</p>
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Reason	poor salary	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: Why do you think the police collect bribe or extort money from the people in Awka?</p> <p>Response: Well, you know everything is survival of the fittest. They just want to make enough money. Their job is not easy, protecting the lives of citizens. Sometimes, they are always there; from morning till night, they always protect us, protect the roads, and everything. So, sometimes they might want to eat and fend for their families. Their salaries might not be enough to fend for them. It is not like fancy like it, I am sure they do not even like it but what can they do</p>
Nature of Public-police relationship	Poor relationship	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: How would you describe the nature of the relationship between the police and the people? Response: The relationship is antagonistic. They have made people believe in their motto that “police is your friends” because of their acts and all that. When you see the police, you get scared and nervous because you know they will ask you for something, even when you are with nothing, you have to find a little thing for them. There is no cordial relationship between the police and the people in Awka.</p>

Impact of police monetary bribery on attitude and accountability	Reporting cases to Police-the last option	INTERVIEW 10	Question: Whenever there is a problem, do you consider reporting it to the police? And why do you do so? Response: Well, I consider reporting to them, because sometimes they might help and I know that if I have money, if I give them money, the usual bribe they want, they will attend to my problems first. So, most times, we still have some God-fearing police who do their work diligently without bribes and other stuff. I will consider reporting to them, no matter what. "At all at all, na him bad pass."
Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Aware of institution/mechanisms to check police	INTERVIEW 10	Question: Are you aware of any institution/mechanism used to check the police against bribery or punish them whenever they misbehave? Response: Yes, I know of a police monitoring unit that is used to check the police, because I have had experiences when I see police on the way and they are trying to collect bribes from people, and once they see those people (monitoring unit), you see them running away, trying to put off their uniforms so they will not recognize them. I know they have the institutions that use to check them

Awareness of accountability institutions or mechanism	Available mechanism - effective	INTERVIEW 10	Question: if Yes, can you mention the ones you know, and how do you see their effectiveness and efficiency? Response: As stated above, I know some. They are useful in discharging their duties because I have seen police locked behind bars to collect bribes and ensure that any police officers do not have cash. If any cash is seen on you, it will be known that you collected a bribe. The officer will be reprimanded.
Public Role in accountability	Refusing to give bribe	INTERVIEW 10	Question: In what ways do you think you can make the police accountable for their behaviors at Awka? Response: mm, maybe when they ask for bribes, and I do not give them. I stand for my rights as a citizen when I did not commit any crime and will not give in to their demand.
Public Role in accountability	Using social media to expose them	INTERVIEW 10	Question: In what ways do you think you can make the police accountable for their behaviors at Awka? Response: mm, maybe when they ask for bribes, and I do not give them. I stand for my rights as a citizen when I did not commit any wrong and want to give you bribes. Moreover, if it is for me to record, I will post it on social media to learn their lessons and stop their evil acts of collecting bribes from people.

Public willingness	Willing to pursue police accountability	INTERVIEW 10	Question: How willing are you to do that? Response: Yes, I am. I am not scared of the backlash that comes with it.
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Perception has no impact	INTERVIEW 10	Response: As a citizen of Nigeria, I carry out my civic duties. I do not allow the police officers' attitudes in Awka to influence me or my crucial duties. I do what I want to do because of my nation and not because of their attitudes.
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Willing to promote democratic principles	INTERVIEW 10	Question: if the need arises for you to promote these principles in Awka, how willing are you to do so? Response: I am very willing to do so. Very willing
Influence of perception on attitude to Democratic principles	Perception has no impact	INTERVIEW 10	Question: Would you say your perception of the police misbehavior (monetary bribery) impacts your attitude and willingness? Response: No, it is not. Question: How? Response: My perception of the police misbehavior will not impact negatively on my attitude and willingness because I am a patriotic citizen of Nigeria, and I will do the right thing

Attitude to community policing	Not supportive	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: As part of efforts to improve police accountability through police – public partnership, community policing was introduced. Awka was one of the cities it was pilot tested. Please tell me what your attitude is to such partnerships?</p> <p>Response: No, I would not say I like such a partnership because it increases crime and bribery because those (community police) started from where the Nigerian police stopped. Theirs is even worse because even in communities where they are supposed to take charge of things, they even cause more problems. Their bribery is too much. I am not in support of it, and it is not meeting the needs of why it is set up.</p>
Willingness to be involved in public-police partnership for effective community policing	Willing to be involved	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: How willing are you to participate in such a partnership for effective community policing? Response: Yes, I am willing to</p>
impact of perception of monetary bribery	perception of police MB has no impact	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: In what ways would you say your perception of the police misbehavior (monetary bribery) impacts your attitude and willingness to such a partnership? Response: No, it is not impacting my attitude</p>

Public's willingness and ability to fight police monetary bribery	Willing to fight	INTERVIEW 10	Response: I am 100% willing to fight police monetary bribery in Awka. I want it to stop, and I want people to see the police as our friends. I want them to portray that motto to us and not collecting bribes.
How it can be achieved	Setting up a public complaint unit accessible to the public	INTERVIEW 10	Question: Please can you explain possible ways you think it can be achieved? Response: Well, personally, one of the solutions I think can solve the police monetary bribery in Awka is by creating a panel or institution that everyone will able to run to and make complaints, reporting police officers collecting bribe, and when you know you did nothing and is being accused wrongly, you can go there to report bad attitudes of any police officers so that they can be probed and charged to court and even get jail/sentence
Ability to Fight	No capacity to Fight - collective ability needed	INTERVIEW 10	Question: How well do you think you have the ability to achieve this? Response: I do not have what it takes because I cannot do this alone. It is supposed to be a collective movement.

Support needed	Government support required	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: What forms of support do you think you require?</p> <p>Response: Well, I think I need support from the government, that is, local government, state government, so whenever the police force is harassing me, I can be able to run to them without any intimidation or fear, and that there will be the solution to my problems. So, I need support from the government</p>
Support needed	Financial support	INTERVIEW 10	<p>Question: What forms of support do you think you require?</p> <p>Response: Well, I think I need support from the government, that is, local government, state government, so whenever the police force is harassing me, I can be able to run to them without any intimidation or fear, and that there will be the solution to my problems. So, I need support from the government. I need money too because many people are willing to do this, but are scared. When they are given money, they will come out in mass to talk about this issue.</p>

Other suggestions	Improvement of police monitoring unit	INTERVIEW 10	Question: Is there any other thing you would like to add to this? Response: The police monitoring unit and those establishments created to monitor them need to do better so that they will always be scared and have it at the back of their minds that people are monitoring them when they collect bribe and other illegal acts
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Appendix C: Interview Guide

Research Question One: “How does the public perceive the nature of police monetary bribery in Awka?”

1. Please, share your experiences on police interaction with the public as it relates to such contexts as highway/traffic/roadblocks and the handling of cases in police stations in Awka?

PROBE

- i. How did you get to know these?
2. We see and read about police receiving bribes and extorting money from the people; how much do these happen here in Awka?

PROBE

- i. Please, explain how police extort money or collect bribes from people in Awka?
- ii. Describe the police's behavior pattern and common languages to collect a bribe or extort money from people in Awka?
- iii. Why do you think the police collect bribe or extort money from the people in Awka?

Research Question Two: “How are the public's perceptions of police monetary bribery in Awka impacting on their attitude to and involvement in police accountability mechanisms?”

1. How would you describe the nature of the relationship between the police and the people?

PROBE

- i. Whenever there is a problem, do you consider reporting it to the police?
And why do you do so?

2. Are you aware of any institution/mechanism used to check the police against bribery or punish them whenever they misbehave?

PROBES

- i. If yes, can you mention the ones you know and how you see their effectiveness and efficiency?
 - ii. If no: We have seen, read, or heard about how some police officers were dismissed or punished due to their criminal activity involvement; how do you think that became possible?
3. In what ways do you think you can make the police accountable for their behaviors at Awka?

PROBE

- i. How willing are you to do that?

Research Question Three: “How are the public's opinions of police monetary bribery in Awka influencing their attitude to and participation in the advancement of democratic principles?”

1. Democratic principles have to, among other things, do with citizen participation in the nation's democratic process, political equality, and every citizen (including the president) is accountable to the law (The rule of law). What is your present attitude toward these principles?

PROBES

- i. If you need to promote these principles in Awka, how willing are you to do so?
- ii. Would you say your perception of the police misbehavior (monetary bribery) impacts your attitude and willingness?
- iii. How?

Research Question Four: “How the public’s perceptions of the police monetary bribery in Awka are impacting on their approach to and involvement in community policing?”

1. As part of efforts to improve police accountability through police-public partnership, community policing was introduced. Awka was one of the cities it was pilot tested. Please, tell me what your attitude is to such partnerships?

PROBES

- How willing are you to participate in such a partnership for effective community policing?
- In what ways would you say your perception of the police misbehavior (monetary bribery) impacts your attitude and willingness to such a partnership?

Research Question Five: “What is the public's perception of their ability and willingness to fight police monetary bribery in Awka?”

1. Having competent, efficient, and reliable police is crucial to the security of lives and properties and harmony and progress in our society. How willing are you to fight police monetary bribery in Awka?

PROBES

- Please, can you explain possible ways you think it can be achieved?
- How well do you think you have the ability to achieve this?
- What forms of support do you think you require?

The focus will be to get views of the public perception of police monetary bribery.