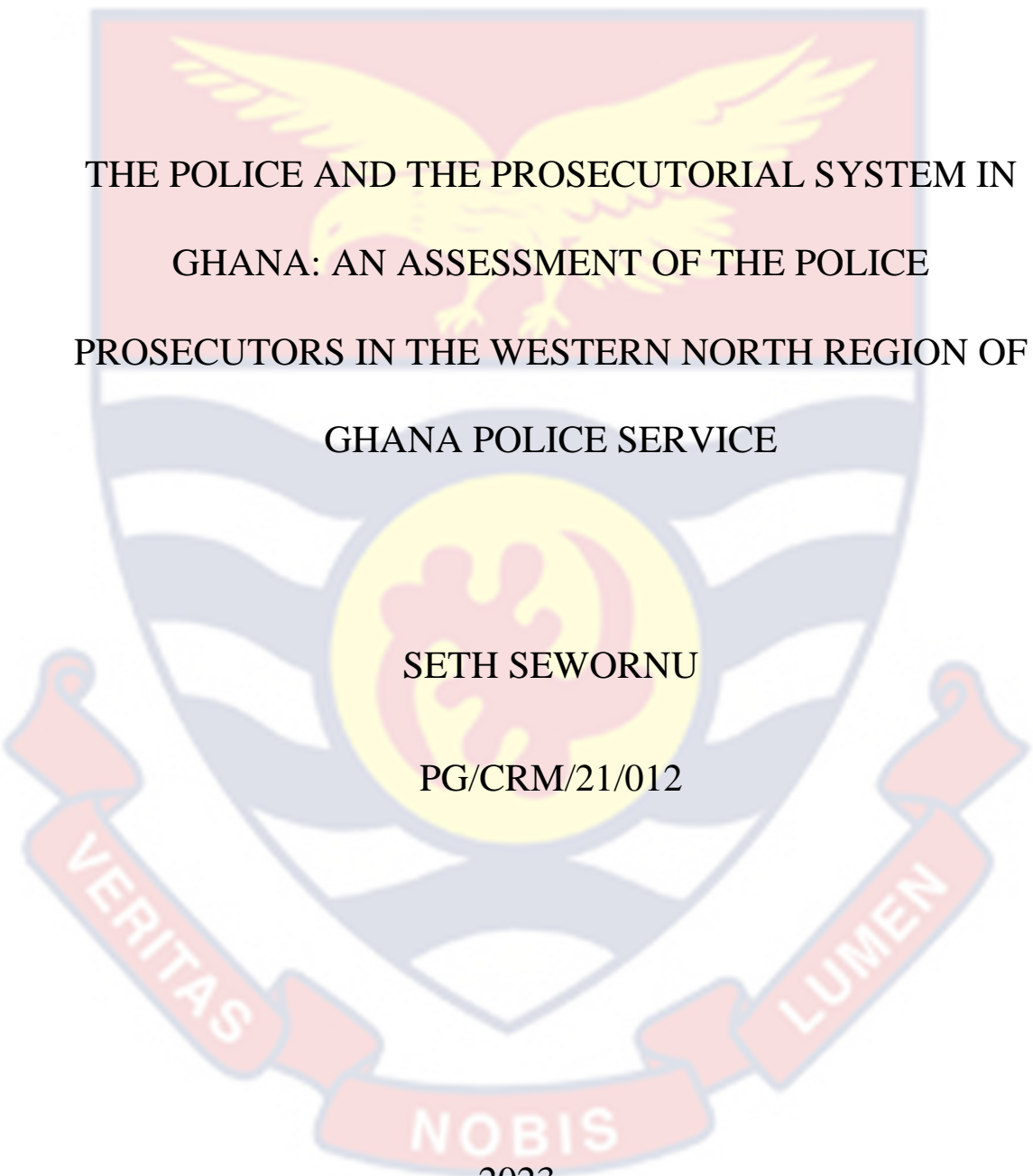


INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY, DISASTER AND
EMERGENCY STUDIES (ISDES)



THE POLICE AND THE PROSECUTORIAL SYSTEM IN
GHANA: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE POLICE
PROSECUTORS IN THE WESTERN NORTH REGION OF
GHANA POLICE SERVICE

SETH SEWORNU

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GHANA: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE POLICE
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GHANA POLICE SERVICE

BY

SETH SEWORNU

PG/CRM/21/012

Long Essay submitted to the Department of Criminology,
Institute for Security, Disaster and Emergency Studies, in partial
fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master of Science
degree in Criminology

NOVEMBER, 2023

DECLARATION

Candidate's Declaration

I, Seth Sewornu, hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my research carried out at the Institute for Security, Disaster and Emergency Studies (ISDES), under the supervision of ACP Benjamin Osei Addae (Esq). I further declare that no part of this dissertation has been presented for a degree at any University or College.

CANDIDATE:

SETH SEWORNU

Sign:

Date:

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the long essay were supervised in accordance with guidelines on supervision of a long essay laid down by the Institute for Security, Disaster and Emergency Studies

PRINCIPAL SUPERVISOR

ACP BENJAMIN OSEI ADDAE (ESQ)

Sign:

Date:

ABSTRACT

Police prosecutors have been part of the prosecutorial system of Ghana since the colonial period. Since the extension of prosecutorial powers to the police in Ghana in the colonial era, police prosecutors have played an enormous role in the functioning of the prosecutorial system in the country. In the Western-North Region of Ghana, there is palpable evidence of the work of police prosecutors in the prosecutorial system. In each district police station in the Western-North Region, there are two police prosecutors except Bibiani and Sefwi Wiawso where there are five police prosecutors each. Despite their enormous contributions to the functioning of the prosecutorial system, police prosecutors in the Western-North Region face a number of challenges that affect their capacity to discharge their duties efficiently. This study examined the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. It measured their capacity against a number of variables – professional competence, educational standard, technological and other logistics. A qualitative method was applied to the study, and the main data collection instruments used were document study, case study, questionnaires and interviews. Primary data from the field were gathered from the various districts in the Western-North Region. The study found that lack of technological capacity and professional competence negatively impinge on the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. The study recommended that police prosecutors in the Western-North Region should be empowered with laptops to advance their work. Furthermore, it recommended that police prosecutors with the qualification to enroll in the universities in Ghana to pursue law programs should be encouraged please.

KEYWORDS

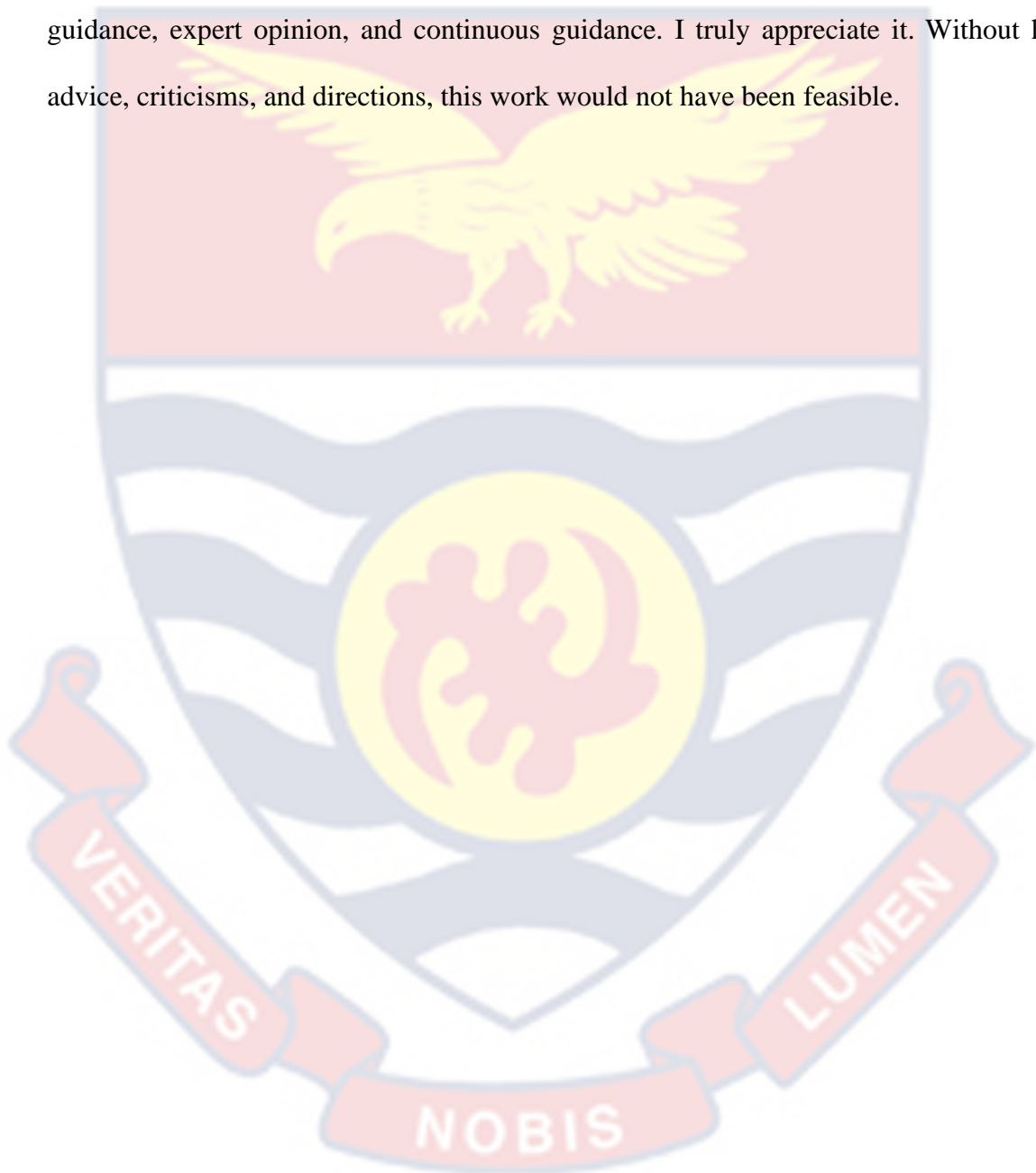
Ghana Police Service

Prosecution



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I would like to thank the Almighty God for his providence and great sustenance throughout this work. My special thanks and foremost gratitude and appreciation go to my principal supervisor, ACP Benjamin Osei Addae (Esq), for his input, professional guidance, expert opinion, and continuous guidance. I truly appreciate it. Without his advice, criticisms, and directions, this work would not have been feasible.



DEDICATION

To my family and all good citizens of Ghana.

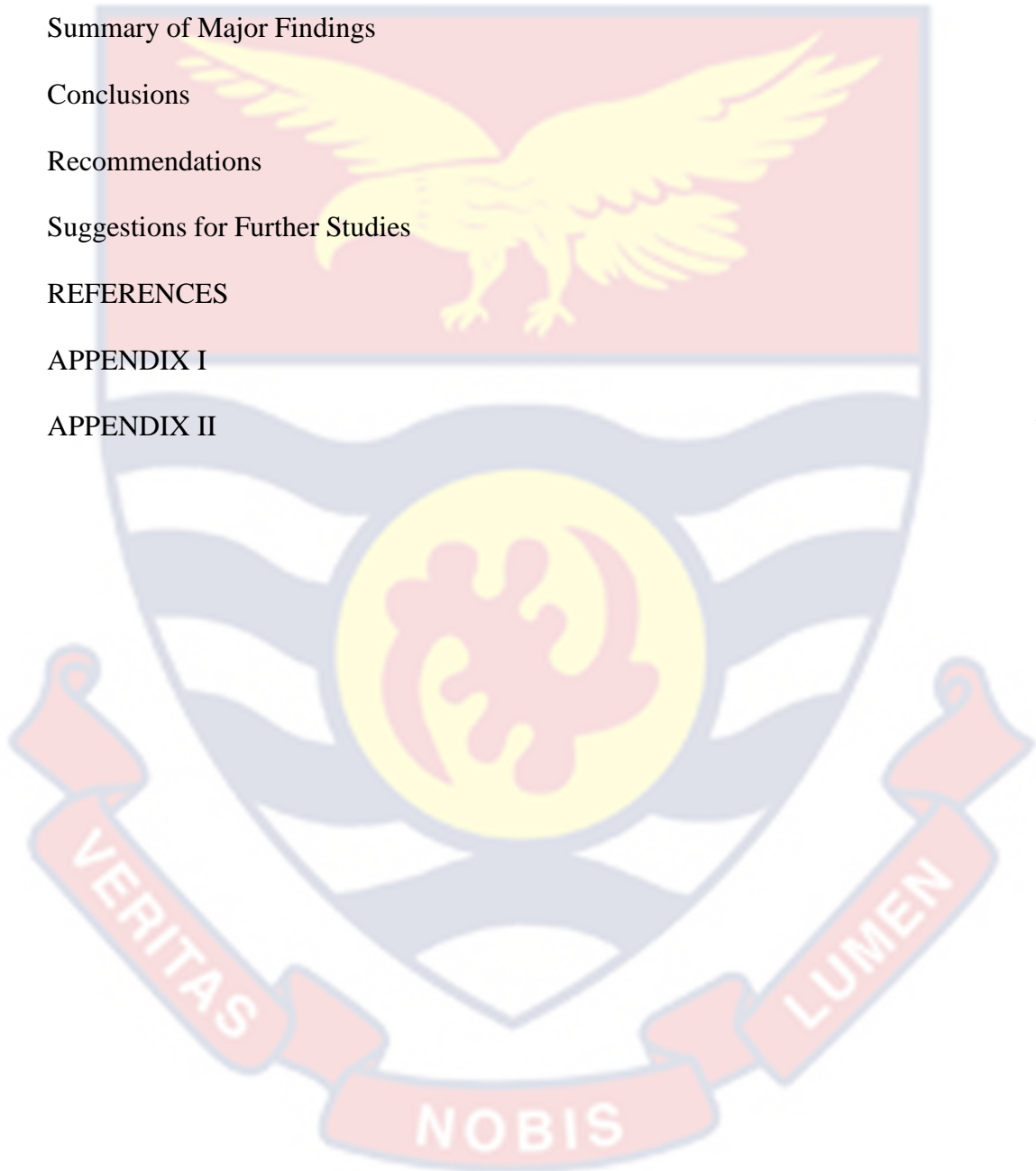


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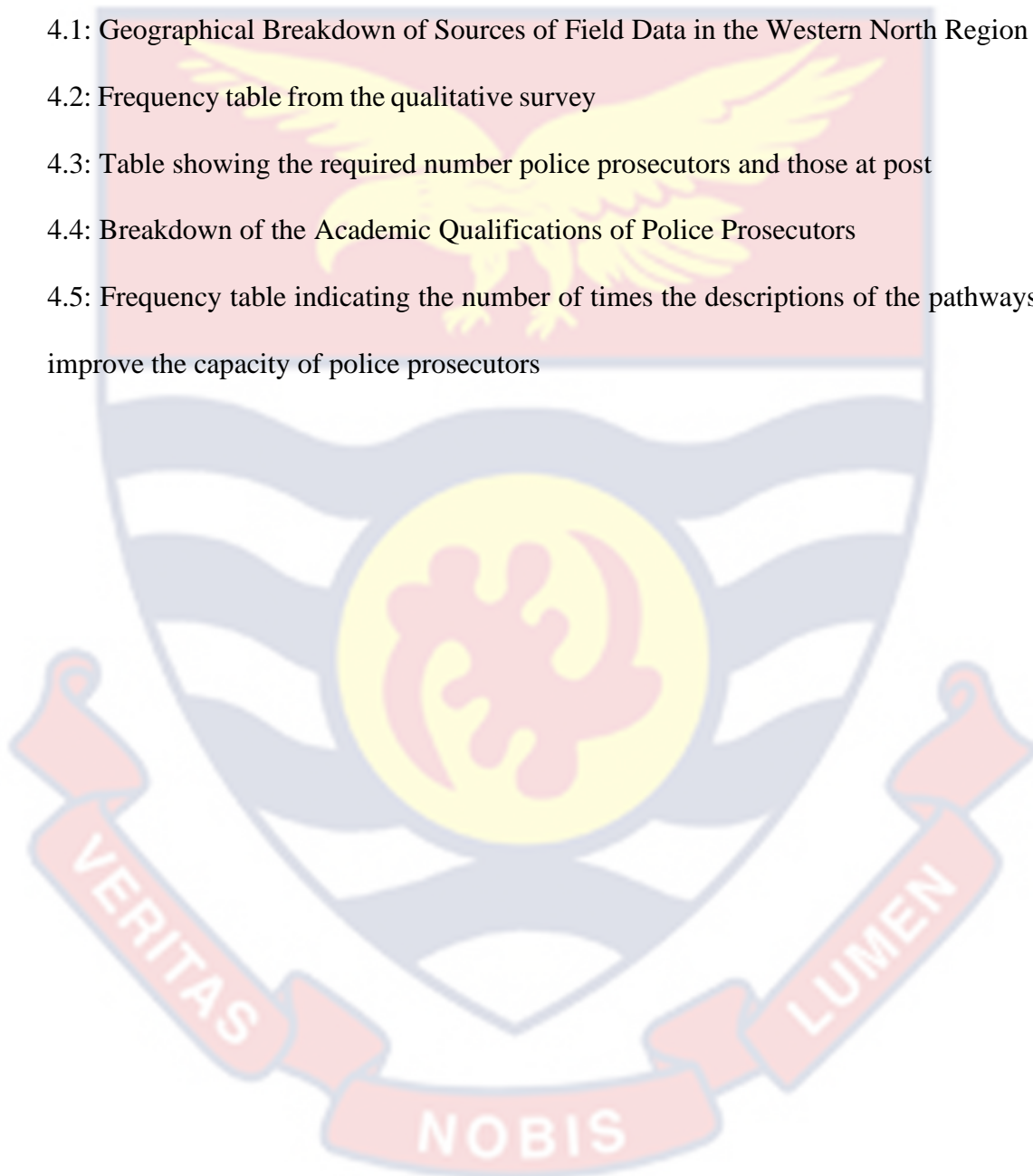
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

GPS – Ghana Police Service



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background Study

The role of the prosecutor in the criminal justice system cannot be underestimated. The prosecutor is an essential agent of the criminal justice system (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2014). Prosecutors perform a number of functions. However, “in most systems, the core functions of prosecutors are the decision to prosecute and representation of the prosecution in court. Core functions in some jurisdictions may also encompass investigating crime, supervision of investigators’ compliance with procedural rules, judicial interim release (“bail”), plea and sentence agreements, diversion of offenders to alternatives to prosecution, victim support, recommendations regarding sentence, the supervision of the execution of sentences and treatment of persons in custody” (UNODC, 2014: 1).

In most jurisdictions, the power to prosecute has been extended to the police. The police play a crucial role in the prosecutorial system in Ghana. Police prosecution was introduced in Ghana by the British colonial authorities in 1876, and has since remained part of the prosecutorial system in Ghana ((Appiahene-Gyamfi, 1995). There is an appreciable literature on the police in Ghana. Some of the focused on the historicity of the Ghana Police Service (Boahen, 1974; Gyamfi, 2012; Tankebe, 2008, Mbowura, 2020; Gyamfi, 2012; Tankebe, 2008; Teku, 1984; Boateng and Darko; 2016); others focused on police professionalism (Appiagyei-Atua, 2007; Quantson, 2006 Adubofour, 2017; Braimah and Mbowura, 2014). Other studies on the Ghana Police Service focused on public trust in the service (Tankebe, 2008, 2010 and 2012), the ability of the service

to fight crime effectively (Boateng, 2015), and public perception of corruption of the Ghana Police Service (Tankebe, 2010; Atuguba, 2017; Addo, 2017). There are also scores of studies on police training – adequacy of facilities and training – and how it impacts on the development and capacity of the police (Mensah and Ayim, 2019; Mensah and Frimpong, 2020; Mensah, 2019; Mensah, 2018; Mensah and Ennin, 2019).

While a plethora of studies on many aspects of the Ghana Police Service exist, there is hardly any existing literature on police prosecution in Ghana. As such, a study on police prosecutors in Ghana will have to make use of an assortment of sources and pieces of evidence. Apart from the work of Adu (2005) that provides insights into the informational need of police prosecutors in Ghana to enable them to execute their functions efficiently (Adu, 2005), there is hardly any literature on the capacity of police prosecutors. It is important to note that the capacity of police prosecutors depends, to some extent, on the availability of the information needed for prosecution and their ability to access and process the information (Adu, 2005). As Adu (2005: 5) rightly puts it, “legal information is an indispensable and vital resource to police prosecutors. Their competencies and professional development depend on the extent to which they understand the law.”

Apart from the availability of information and the ability of police prosecutors to process the information, the capacity of police prosecutors is also dependent on their education. In other words, the capacity of police prosecutors is a function of education. As Adu (2005: 5) pointed out, “it is difficult, if not impossible for [police] prosecutors to prepare a docket without resorting to the Criminal Code, Evidence Decree, Law Reports” and other relevant materials utilized in the legal system in Ghana. Given that education or knowledge is key to enhancing the capacity of police prosecutors, it is imperative to

enhance the capacity of police prosecutors through comprehensive training to enable them “handle complex issues involved in serious crime” (Adu, 2005: 28).

This study seeks to fill the lacuna in scholarship on the Ghana Police Service. It seeks to examine the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana. The study subjects police prosecutors, including their educational capacity to handle prosecutorial matters, information needs and general efficiency of work to critical scrutiny to be able to establish the variables that enhance or inhibit the capacity of police prosecutors in the study area.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Scholars have paid attention to various aspects of the Ghana Police Service. There is a burgeoning literature on the historicity of the Ghana Police Service (GPS) (Boahen, 1974; Gyamfi, 2012; Tankebe, 2008, Mbowura, 2020; Gyamfi, 2012; Tankebe, 2008; Teku, 1984; Boateng and Darko; 2016), and the professionalism of the GPS (Appiagyei-Atua, 2007; Quantson, 2006 Adubofour, 2017; Braimah and Mbowura, 2014), public trust of the GPS (Tankebe, 2008, 2010 and 2012).

There are also scores of literature on the ability of the service to fight crime effectively (Boateng, 2015), public perception of the GPS, (Tankebe, 2010; Atuguba, 2017; Addo, 2017), and police education and training (Mensah and Ennin, 2019; Mensah and Ayim, 2019; Mensah and Frimpong, 2020; Mensah, 2019; Mensah, 2018; Mensah and Ennin, 2019).

However, issues about police prosecutors and the prosecutorial role of the police in Ghana’s judicial system have hardly received scholarly attention. With the exception of the works of Appiahene-Gyamfi (1989) and Amangnya (2017, 2020), that provide some insights into the work of police prosecutors in Ghana, other studies have merely

made anecdotal references to the prosecutorial functions of the police within the larger discourse of the criminal justice system in Ghana.

Despite this neglect of the study of the prosecutorial functions of the police, police prosecutors continue to play an important role in the criminal justice system in Ghana. In fact, the justice system in Ghana would be handicapped without the roles played by police prosecutors. In light of the significant role police prosecutors play in the criminal justice system in Ghana, it is imperative they are given attention in scholarly works. This study seeks to examine the prosecutorial system of the police in the Western-North Region to determine its complexities and nuances. It also seeks to examine the capacity of the police prosecutors vis-à-vis the functions they perform.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the work of police prosecutors to determine their efficiencies or otherwise. It also seeks to ascertain the extent of the gaps in the education and skills of police prosecutors and how such gaps have influenced the efficiency of the work of police prosecutors in Ghana.

1.4 Research Questions

This research is not driven by a hypothesis; it is based on some key researchable and achievable research questions. The research questions are as follows:

- What is the magnitude of the work of police prosecutors in Ghana, and what is their capacity in the execution of their function?
- What variables enhance or inhibit the capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western North-Region?
- To what extent can the capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region be enhanced?

1.5 Research Goals

This research seeks to accomplish several goals. These are:

- To provide analyzed data on the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.
- To provide a narrative on the capacity of police prosecutors to serve as a basis for further academic and non-academic research.
- To provide pathways to improve the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.
- To provide findings on the capacity of police prosecutors.

1.6 Research Objectives

This study is anchored on three main objectives. These are:

- To assess the work of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana, and assess their capacity to execute their functions.
- To analyze the variables that enhance or inhibit the capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western North-Region.
- To examine the pathways that can be undertaken to enhance the capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The study is significant for a number of reasons. First, it contributes to the empirical literature by building scores of knowledge on the capacity of the police prosecutors and the efficiency of their prosecutorial functions of the police in the Criminal Justice system in Ghana. Secondly, it complements the comparative literature on the symbiotic relationship between police prosecutors and investigators in the search for information within the larger discourse of the criminal justice system. By so doing, this study would serve as a basis for future researches to dichotomize and juxtapose the

extent to which the two variables interact in the context of the exigencies in Ghana or in other jurisdictions. Thirdly, by subjecting the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region to critical scrutiny, this study will provide scores of information about the variables that enhance and/or inhibit the capacity of police prosecutors in the study area. The data will be useful material to policy makers to formulate policies that would safeguard or strengthen the capacity of police prosecutors in the region. Finally, as a corpus of scholarly work, this study would be useful to students and instructors in the academia for academic studies.

1.8 Delimitations of the Study

This study focuses on police prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana. Its data and findings do not extend beyond the scope of the study. In other words, its findings cannot be generalized to measure police prosecutors in other regions of Ghana or in places outside Ghana, though the findings can provide a foundation for further research.

1.9 Limitations of the study

Just like any research, there are some constraints to this study. One key constraint is the cost of the study. Due to the thorough research that this study entails, it necessarily placed a high financial cost on the researcher. There is also the problem of time. The duration of the research is relatively short (about six months). Hence, lots of work (research and write-up) have to be done within a short space of time, a situation which is onerous and arduous. The profession of the researcher also posed a problem to the study. As a police officer, the presence of the researcher appeared intimidating to some respondents who knew his profession. As such, some of them were initially reluctant to answer the questionnaires. This made it difficult to readily get people willing to complete

the questionnaires within a short space of time. Despite all these limitations, the quality of the study is assured.

1.10 Definition of Terms

Capacity: As used in this study, the term “capacity” refers to the ability or capability of a person or groups of persons to carry out their mandate successfully and efficiently (Author’s own definition)

Effectiveness: The term “effectiveness” refers to extent or degree to which the discharge of the duties of police prosecutors can be said to be successful when measured in terms of its positive impact or targeted/desired results (Author’s own definition).

Ghana: The name “Ghana” as a country refers to the Republic of Ghana in West Africa (Author’s own definition).

Ghana Police Service (GPS): By the term “Ghana Police Service”, the researcher means the Republic of Ghana’s police service, a body that has the sole mandate of undertaking policing duties and responsibilities (Author’s own definition).

Police Service: The term “police force or service” is used in this study to refer to the institution or body of the state mandated by the laws of a country to carry out duties to maintain law and order, combat crime and to ensure security for the citizenry (Author’s own definition).

Prosecutorial: The term refers to institutions and the conduct of legal proceedings against alleged criminals as part of the processes of pressing a criminal charge (Author’s own definition).

System: This term, as used in this study, refers to a mechanism or an interconnecting network of things, channels and procedures that work together as a complex whole (Author’s own definition).

1.11 Organization of the Study

This study is thematic. It is made up of five chapters. A summary of the chapters is as follows:

Chapter One: Introduction provides an overview of the study, the statement of the problem and the significance of the study. It also delineates the research objectives and research questions that underpin the study. Finally, the chapter spells out the delimits, limitations and organization of the study.

Chapter Two: Literature Review and Theoretical Framework: This chapter reviews the literature on the police in general. It also reviews the literature on the police and police prosecutors in Ghana. Finally, the chapter explains the theoretical framework for this study – the theory of structuration, indicating its scope, strengths, demerits and the suitability of its application to this study.

Chapter Three: Research Design and Methodology explores the instruments that are used to generate data for this study. It explains the qualitative and quantitative methods utilized in this study and throws light on research instruments such as population size, sampling method and all other tools and mechanisms applied to data collection, procession and examination.

Chapter Four: Data Analysis and Discussion: This chapter analyzes and interprets fieldwork data using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. It segregates and organizes data into their component parts to show patterns and findings. The chapter also examines the results of data in the context of existing literature.

Chapter Five: Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations: This is a summary of the study. The chapter also contains major conclusions and recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews the literature on the police and prosecution. The literature review is divided into five sub-divisions, namely, police administration and its functions, public trust of the police, police culture and its impact on the work of individual police personnel, police professionalism, and prosecutorial studies. Another sub-heading on the chapter is deals with the theoretical framework for this study.

2.1 Police administration and its functions

Scholars have either focused on police administration or on the work and functions of the police. The police service as a state institution has been given space in scholarship. As far as scholarship on police administration is concerned, some scholars have argued that the police institution is indispensable (Wilson and McLaren, 1963; Reiss and Bordua, 1967; Bordua and Reiss, 1968). To paint a picture of the indispensability of the police administration, some scholars have provided a dissection of the veritable functions of the police administration to societies (Barton, 1964; Wilson, 1968; Brown, 1969; Reiss, 1971; Van Maanen, 1973; Bittner, 1970; Bowling, 2012) have all been given enough space in scholarship.

Other scholars have used the indispensability “theory” of the police institution to argue that the police service is an active part of the governance architecture of states (Hubert and Mauss, 1964; Hughes, 1971; Bowling and Sheptycki, 2012). In fact, Hughes (1971) stresses that the police service is so key to the governance architecture of states to the extent that states depend on the police to undertake the so-called “dirty work on behalf of the state, and that the execution of this so-called “dirty-work” is done at the

peril of the lives of the police. Hence, the police make selfless sacrifices for the progress of their states (of global police studies have painted a picture of the police as being active in the governance architecture of states (Hubert and Mauss, 1964). In some instances, the selfless sacrifices of the police for the protection of human lives and protections are not confined to the boundaries of their respective states; sometimes, they extend the selfless sacrifices to international levels where they discharge duties for international peace and human security and safety (Bowling and Sheptycki, 2012).

One other key point that has resonated in the argument about the indispensability of the police institution in the governance architecture of states is the argument that the police and the functions they perform are non-negotiable; they are necessary for the functioning of states and for the maintenance of law and order in societies (Janušauskas, 2013). Hence, the functionality of the police service as government institution is ubiquitous in all modern states (Wilson and McLaren, 1963; Reiss and Bordua, 1967; Bordua and Reiss, 1968), and the functions of the police can be said to be complex and diverse (Barton, 1964; Bittner, 1970; Brown, 1969; Bowling, 2012).

These studies did focus on the prosecutorial functions of the police. However, by providing a general assessment of the functions of the police, they give cues for this study to make further interrogations. They provide parameters for this study to examine the extent to which the prosecutorial services of the police in Ghana can be said to be indispensable. Furthermore, the studies provide some benchmarks which can be applied to the functions of police prosecutors to weigh their functions and capacity.

2.2 Public Trust of the police

Scholars on police studies have also focused on public trust of the police service. The thrust of their argument is that there is a direct correlation between the quality of the work of the police and public trust in the service. Poor or low quality of the work of the

police leads to low public confidence in the police service; the high quality of work of the police leads to a high public confidence in the service (Gouldner, 1954; Dowler and Sparks, 2008; Bradford, 2011; Lai and Zhao, 2010; Smith and Gray, 1985; Skogan 1990; Skogan, 1994; Keith, 1993; Bowling and Philips, 2002; Loader 1996; Choongh, 1997; Newburn and Merry, 1990; Waddington, 1993; Ames and Hard, 2003). Though these studies argued that public trust of the police is a function of a number of variables, their studies did not focus on public trust in police prosecutors. Nonetheless, the studies provide cues for this study to examine the variables that shape public trust in police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

2.3 Police culture and its impact on the work of individual police personnel

Mention should also be made of scholarship on police culture in global police studies. These studies discussed the mechanisms, nature, and impact of the occupational culture of the police with a demonstration of empirical links between cultural attitudes and the behaviours of police officers (Paoline, 2003; Paoline and Terrill, 2014; Manning, 2005; Mastrofski, 2004; Waddington, 1999; McCluskey, Terrill, and Paoline, 2005; Paoline and Terrill, 2005; Terrill, Paoline and Manning, 2003). Scholarship on police culture has detailed out the occupational attitudes of the police, known as the traditional view of police culture (Paoline and Terrill, 2014).

The “contagiousness of the police culture” thesis provides a framework for this study to measure the capacity of police prosecutors in the study area to determine the extent to which work and efficiency of police prosecutors is influenced by the culture of the police in general.

2.4 Police Professionalism

One aspect of police studies that has caught so much attention of scholars is police professionalism. Several, but diversified, arguments on police professionalism exist. From a feminist criminologist perspective, police professional is gender-biased. In other words, there is a link between gender and police professionalism (Raganella and White, 2004; Yul, 2015). The proponents of this perspective examined various aspects of female police, including the interplay between the work of police women and their profession, biases against female police personnel, the gender dimensions of stress associated with the police service, police women and law enforcement, violence against police women, among others (He et al., 2002; Goto and Haney, 2009; Wexler and Logan, 1983; Morash and Haarr, 1995; McCarty, Garland and Zhao, 2007; He, Zhao and Archbold, 2002; Brown and Fielding, 1993; Caparini and Marenin, 2004).

The overarching argument of these scholars is that female police personnel tend to be more professional than their male counterparts (He et al., 2002; Goto and Haney, 2009; Wexler and Logan, 1983; Morash and Haarr, 1995). The feminist criminologist perspective provided a broad template for measuring the professionalism of female police personnel. In terms of specificity, the feminist criminologist perspective did not exclusively provide insights of the professionalism of female police prosecutors. Nonetheless, the feminist criminologist perspective on police professionalism is significant to this study. It provides a template to assess the professionalism of female police prosecutors vis-à-vis that of their male counterparts.

One major plunk of the police professionalism thesis is police culture. Scholars have argued that there is a strong correlation between police culture and police professionalism (Mastrofski, 2004; Waddington, 1999; McCluskey, Terrill, and Paoline, 2005; Paoline and Terrill, 2005; Paoline, 2003; Paoline and Terrill, 2014; Manning,

2005). The general consensus of proponents of this thesis is that, by default, the police service has evolved and nurtured its own mechanisms of interactions, attitudes, behaviours and caveats, which have become known as police culture (Paoline and Terrill, 2014; Manning, 1977; Rubinstein, 1973; Skolnick, 1966; Westley, 1970; Bittner, 1970; Brown, 1988; Van Maanen, 1974; Worden, 1995). These cultural traits stimulate and define the operations of individual police personnel and the police service as a whole (Ingram, Terrill and Paoline, 2018). Hence, police professionalism is a function of police culture (Ingram, Terrill and Paoline, 2018). Though the police culture thesis did not specifically provide a link between police culture and efficiency of police prosecutorial services, it provides a framework for this study to examine the exigencies that constitute police culture in the study area to determine their role in the efficiency of the functions of police prosecutors.

One of the variables that have found expression in scholarship on police professionalism provided a link between education and police professionalism. The central argument is that higher education plays a critical role in police professionalism (Shernock, 1992; Bumgarner, 2002; Loftus and Price, 2016; Paoline, Terrill and Rossler, 2015); that non-degree holders have a higher propensity of unprofessionalism while their degree counterpart are likely to be more professional (Shernock; 1992). Indeed, Paoline, Terrill and Rossler (2015) tenaciously hold on to the positivity argument of university education on police professionalism to the extent that they recommend that university education should be set as the qualification for enlistment into the police service. Though some scholars disagree to this thesis (Loftus and Price, 2016), others such as Bumgarner (2002) argued that, though there is no palpable correlation between university education and police professionalism, university degrees have a high tendency and potential of stimulating job satisfaction, efficient job performance and communication, personal

communication skills than non-degree educational standards. Invariably, the positive elements that are associated with university degrees are likely to stimulate efficiency and higher levels of professionalism, if all other things are equal (Bumgarner, 2002). It is significant to note that the studies which formed the basis of education and police professionalism thesis were conducted in jurisdictions outside Africa. It is also significant to note that education-police professionalism did not examine the relationship between education and the efficiency and capacity of police prosecutors. Nonetheless, the education-police professionalism thesis serves as a benchmark for this study to interrogate education as a variable to determine the extent to which education (non-degree and degree educational standards) contribute in influencing and shaping the efficiency and capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana.

Closely related to the education thesis are two hypotheses – the technology-driven police professionalism and training-police professionalism arguments. Central to the technology thesis is that technology enhances police professionalism. It is argued that advanced technologies tend to propel the efficiency and professionalism of the police; low technologies impede the efficiency and professionalism of the police (Tombull and Cakar, 2015; Tombull and Cakar, 2015; Bryne and Marx, 2011). Hence, any argument on the variables responsible for police professionalism must take account of the critical role technologies play in advancing or impeding police professionalism (Tombull and Cakar, 2015; Tombull and Cakar, 2015; Bryne and Marx, 2011).

Similarly, the police training thesis provides a dimension of the role the quality of police training and periodic workshops play in enhancing police professionalism (Sharma and Kurukshetra, 2013; Pannel and Sheehan, 2010). In specific reference to Ghana, some scholars examined how training and periodic workshops as variables contribute to shaping and influencing police work efficiency and professionalism

(Mensah and Frimpong, 2020; Mensah and Ennin, 2019; Mensah and Ayim, 2019; Mensah, 2019; Mensah, 2018). The general consensus of all these studies is that there is a positive correlation between the quality of police training/workshops and police professionalism. A high quality of police training and periodic workshops is highly likely to promote police professionalism than a low quality training/workshop. These arguments painted a general outlook of the relationship between technology and police professionalism on the one hand, and the relationship between police training/workshops on the other. They do not specifically examine the role of technologies, police training and workshops on the capacity, efficiency and professionalism of police prosecutors. Nonetheless, the works are significant to this study. They provide hints for this study to use technologies, training and workshops as variables to measure the efficiency, capacity and professionalism of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

An examination of the variables that influence police professionalism is not complete without space made for the social and economic variables. Some scholars have argued that social and economic variables prevalent in localized or internationalized situations critically influence police professionalism (Aubyn, 2015; Aning, Boege, Brown and Hunt, 2018). Hence, such localized or internationalized variables (for instance corruption, colonial legacies, social pressures, peacekeeping conditions, etc.) can affect the professionalism of the police. In fact, in the specific case of Ghana, some of these variables have been cited as the cause of police partiality (Adubofour, 2017) has questioned the professionalism of the Ghana Police Service (GPS) due to its political partiality. As Adubofour (2017: 6) argued, “Ghanaians perceive the police as lacking political impartiality and that this correlates with low public trust and confidence in the police. These then were associated with low perceptions of police legitimacy” and that “Ghanaians’ desire to cooperate with the police irrespective of these negative

assessments can be attributed to dull compulsion in their attitude towards the police.” Braimah and Mbowura (2014), for instance, blame the unprofessionalism of the police in the Ghana Police Service to unbridled corruption. These studies did not provide a link between the aforementioned variables and the unprofessionalism of police prosecutors. However, the generality of the assertions provides a basis for this study to assess those variables vis-à-vis the professionalism of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

Some studies on police professionalism have focused on mitigating measures against police unprofessionalism. In the particular case of Africa, scholars, having identified colonial legacy as an ingrained variable negatively affecting police professionalism, have outlined measures to mitigate it (Alemika, Ruteeri and Howell, 2018). For these scholars, there is the need for the reshaping of the police institution in post colonial Africa to wean itself of the so-called anachronistic and colonially-minded tendencies (Alemika, Ruteeri and Howell, 2018). Hence, the police in modern Africa must exorcise the ghost of its historical past in order to undergo radical transformation and repacking to make more professional (Alemika, Ruteeri and Howell, 2018 Gyamfi, 2012; Tankebe, 2008, Mbowura, 2020; Gyamfi, 2012; Tankebe, 2008; Teku, 1984; Boateng and Darko; 2016; Aning, 2006& 2015). In the light of the heavy presence and influence of colonial relics on the police, some scholars have argued for the institutionalization of reforms in the police administration in post colonial Africa in order to get rid of the colonially-oriented challenges affecting police professionalism (Rauch and Spuy, 2003; Phillips, 2011). No specific case study was made about the link between colonial legacies and the work of police prosecutors. Nonetheless, these works are significant to this study because they provide a basis to interrogate and assess the professionalism of police prosecutors to determine the extent to which colonial legacies

impugn and impede the smooth operations of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

2.5 Studies on Prosecution

There is a paucity of information on police prosecutors. Despite the enormous roles that police prosecutors play in many jurisdictions, scholars have not paid attention to the role of police prosecutors in the criminal justice system. This sub-section reviews some few available studies on police prosecutors in the criminal justice system.

Bellin (2020) examined the increasing shift in the narratives of prosecutors from one that identified “uncurbed prosecutorial discretion as the primary source of the criminal justice system’s many flaws” to narratives that “increasingly hail broad prosecutorial discretion as a promising mechanism for criminal justice reforms (Bellin, 2020: 1203).” Due to the increasing shift in the narratives, Bellin (2020: 1203) argued for the jettisoning of the “do justice” model and proposes an alternative ‘servant-of-the-law’ theory of prosecutorial behaviour that could place real constraints on prosecutorial excess.” Bellin’s work (2020) focused on the work of prosecutors in the USA; it did not extend to the work of prosecutors in Africa and Ghana. Nonetheless, his work is significant to this study. It provides a basis for this study assess public narratives on the work of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

In specific reference to Ghana, some studies have given insights into the role of police prosecutors in the criminal justice system of Ghana. Appiahene-Gyamfi (1995) examined the alternatives to imprisonment in Ghana with special focus on the criminal justice system. His work only made reference to police prosecutors in the larger context of criminal justice system in Ghana. However, his work is significant to this study because it gives insights into the historicity of the criminal justice system for this study to tap into.

In his work, “An Assessment of the Criminal Justice System of Ghana: Perspectives of Police Prosecutors”, Amagnya (2011) assessed criminal justice system in Ghana from the perspective of police prosecutors to establish “the process involved in prosecution by the police, determine their knowledge level concerning laws they work with, ascertain the level of cooperation of victims, witnesses and defense lawyers, and find challenges of the job of prosecution without legal training” (Amagnya, 2011: 1). His study established that “there are no formal guidelines for police prosecution, especially in pre-trial practice. There is a high level of cooperation from victims and to some extent witnesses” (Amagnya, 2011: 1). His study did not focus on police prosecutors in the Western-North Region, but it is significant to this study because it provides insights into the capacity of police prosecutors and the effectiveness of their work, which is useful to this study.

Adu (2005) examined the information needs and the information seeking behaviour of police prosecutors in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana to determine their capacity to seek information and to analyze its quality and impact of the work of police prosecutors. Adu (2005) established that, though police prosecutors are aware of the various channels of information, and though they have the capacity to assess information, the work of police prosecutors is handicapped by the unavailability of sufficient quality information on crimes they prosecute. Adu’s work (2005) was limited to the police prosecutors’ access to information in the Greater Accra Region; it did not extend to the work of police prosecutors in other parts of Ghana. Besides, his work did not go beyond police prosecutors’ access to information to analyze the work of police prosecutors in entirety. Nonetheless, his work is useful to this study. It gives cues about the role lack of access to information impedes the work of police prosecutors that should be interrogated further in this study.

2.6 The Structuration Theory

This study uses the Structuration Theory (ST) as its theoretical framework. Developed by the British sociologist Anthony Giddens, the Structuration Theory conceptualizes the dual relationship between individuals and society in terms of the duality of agency and structures (Giddens, 1991). The thrust of Anthony Giddens' theory of structuration is that society is made up of human actions and structures, and that an understanding of society should be made in terms of the dualism of human actions and structures, but not in terms of two separate entities. Giddens' ST does not see structures as constraints to human actions. Instead, his theory offers an alternative to the understanding of human behaviour by looking at the society in terms of the dynamic relationship and interplay between human behaviour and structures. Giddens' ST is a combination of the Structuralist theory that explained the socialization of individuals within the social structures, and the agency theory that argues that individuals exercise their free will despite the existence of social structure and that structures are merely products of individual actions. Giddens' structuration is interested in the ontology or existence between structure and agency. As Lamsal (2012: 113) pointed out, "Giddens is more interested in proving the existence of this duality between structure and agency than defining what exactly causes or reinforces its existence." Hence, the "structure and agency cannot be separated; that they are connected to one another in what Giddens has termed as the 'duality of structures'" (Lamsal, 2012: 113). In other words, though human actions created structures and though structures are reinforced by human actions, human behaviour is constrained and defined within social structures (Cloke, 1991).

The application of Giddens' ST to this study is significant for a number of reasons. First, it enables this study to examine the interplay between the structures within which police prosecutors work and the various ways individual police prosecutors

execute their duties within the structures. Second, it enables this study to identify and assess the structures – rules and resources – within which police prosecutors work, and to ascertain the extent to which the structures stimulate and shape their actions. Third, it enables this study to examine the actions of police prosecutors are stimulated by their individual desire and capacity to prosecute crimes in relation to the structures within which they operate.

2.6.1 Adaptive Structuration Theory

Adaptive structuration theory (AST) examines the application and adaptability of technologies to organizations as well as assesses the extent to which organizational structures adapt to technology. This theory was derived from Anthony Giddens' Structuration Theory, and it was propounded by Poole and DeSanctis (1994). AST “addresses issues of human behaviour in the context of technology based on social structure (Sedera and Zakaria, 2008: 3). AST focuses on the receptibility and adaptability of organizational structures to technology, collaborative technology in social structures and their feasibility in advancing the smooth functioning of social structures (DeSanctis and Poole, 1994). In other words, AST “address issues of group interaction with technology as the basis of human activity” (Sedera and Zakaria, 2008: 3).

Unlike the Saturation Theory, the AST does not focus on social structures, rules and relations alone; it focuses on the application of technological resources to human institutions and social structures (Poole and DeSanctis, 1994). Hence, AST underscores the fact that technology and structures are intertwined; one cannot get meaningful manifestations and understanding of social structures without recourse to the application of technology to society and vice versa (Poole and DeSanctis, 1994). Hence, there is a continuous interface between society and technology in which these two variables continue to shape each other.

The application of AST to this study is significant for a number of reasons. First, it will enable this study to examine the extent to which technologies (eg computers, digitalization) have been applied to the work of police prosecutors to enhance their capacity and efficiency. Second, it enables this study to examine the computerization of laws including its application and adaptability to the work of police prosecutors, and to measure its effectiveness. Finally, it enables this study to measure the extent and success of police prosecutors' capacity to utilize technologies in the discharge of their functions.

2.7 Conclusion

The chapter has reviewed the pertinent literature under six sub-headings. The review established that the functions and work of police prosecutors has not received attention in scholarship, though there is a burgeoning literature on police studies. From the literature, it is obvious that the police continue to play a key role in the operations of the state in various ways. Furthermore, the chapter explained the Structuration Theory and showed its application as a theoretical framework for this study.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the research design and method applied to data collection and analysis in this study. It explains all the nuances, procedures, and techniques used in data collection, synthesis, and analysis.

3.1 Research Design

Cresswell and Clark (2007: 58) define research design as the “procedures for collecting, analyzing, interpreting and reporting data in research studies.” As a layout plan, research design identifies and spells out the procedures for data collection and analysis (Grey, 2014). It can be a qualitative, quantitative, or mixed method. This study employed the mixed method research design. Creswell and Plano Clark (2011) opine that mixed-methods research design is a research design that has its philosophical assumptions and methods of inquiry.

This study specifically employed the Sequential Exploratory Mixed Method Design. An exploratory sequential design is a mixed methods study design, where the quantitative phase of data collection and analysis follows the qualitative phase of data collection and analysis (Fetters, Curry, & Creswell, 2013). Sequential Exploratory Design is a mixed methods research design that involves the collection and analysis of qualitative data as the initial phase, followed by the collection and analysis of quantitative data in a subsequent phase (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). The choice of this design was driven by the nature of the research objectives. The study aimed to comprehensively assess the work of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana, analyze the variables influencing their capacity, and examine pathways for enhancement. Given the complexity of these objectives, the Sequential Exploratory Design was deemed

appropriate. The exploratory nature of the design allows for an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. By initially collecting and analyzing qualitative data, the researchers could gain nuanced insights into the daily tasks, challenges, and experiences of police prosecutors. These qualitative findings, in turn, informed the development of structured surveys for the quantitative phase.

3.2 Profile of the Study Area



Map of Western North Region & Western Region of Ghana

According to the Population and Housing Census (PHC) by the Ghana Statistical Service, the population of the Western-North Region stands at 880,921 (PHC, 2021). The Western-North Region of Ghana was carved out of the Western Region in 2019. The Region is bounded to the Southeast, West and Central Region, Ivory Coast, and Ashanti, Ahafo, Bono and Bono East. To the South, the Western-North Region is bounded by the Western Region. The region is divided into eleven administrative districts. The region is essentially dominated by agricultural activities. There are also mining and lumbering activities in parts of the region.

3.3 Population of the Study.

According to the Population and Housing Census (PHC) by the Ghana Statistical Service, the population of the Western-North Region stands at 880,921 (PHC, 2021).

There are eleven Police districts in the Western-North Region. In conservative numbers, there are about five hundred (500) police personnel in the eleven Police districts. Of this number, twenty-eight are Police prosecutors.

3.4 Target Population

The target population of this study includes the twenty-eight Police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. It also includes the court clerks in all the ten district courts and one Circuit court in the region. Others who form the target population for this study include the police commanders of the three (3) Police divisions, thirty-three (33) Police stations, as well as the registrars of the courts in the region. Others include District Chief Executives of the eleven (11) districts in the region, civil society organizations, and residents who have had experiences with criminal proceedings in the Western-North Region. From preliminary interactions with some Police prosecutors, the estimated target population – especially residents that have had direct and indirect experiences with criminal proceedings in the region – is about one percent of the total population of the region, i.e., about 8,810 people. The target population is distributed over all the eleven (11) districts in the region.

3.5 Sampling Size

As part of efforts to ensure that all-embracing geographical responses, respondents for the administration of questionnaires and interviews were chosen from across all the districts in the Western-North Region. In all, ninety (90) respondents were selected for this study concerning practical considerations rather than statistical. Of this number, eighty completed the questionnaire packs, while the remaining ten (10) were selected for one-on-one interviews. Three reasons account for the sample size used in this study. First, the study used a small sample size to enable the research to be able to reasonably and effectively manage the data generated from the field research. Second, a

small sample size is less costly to gather and analyze than a big one. Hence, the small sample size used for this study is intended to limit the cost of data collection and analysis within budgeted figures. Third, as the period for the research is relatively short, it is difficult to use a large sample size that would require long months of field research. In light of the short period for the research, this study found it imperative to use a small sample size.

3.6 Sampling Procedure

Respondents for the administration of questionnaires were selected using a non-probability sampling method. Purposive sampling was employed in this study. Purposive sampling aimed at selecting respondents with in-depth insight into the subject of study was used. Purposive sampling involves a thoughtful and deliberate choice of participants based on the researchers' judgment of who can provide the most meaningful and relevant information for the study (Palinkas, Horwitz, Green, Wisdom, Duan & Hoagwood, 2015). Of the eighty (80) respondents that completed the questionnaires, fifteen (15) were police prosecutors, fifteen (15) lawyers/court registrars, ten (10) workers of CSOs, ten (10) community and/or opinion leaders, five (5) DCEs and twenty-five (25) residents of the region that have directly or indirectly experienced criminal charges brought against them in court by police prosecutors.

Table 3.1 Sample size and breakdown of respondents

Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage to Total Respondents
Police Prosecutors	15	18.75%
Lawyers/Court Registrars	15	18.75%
CSOs	10	12.50%
Community/Opinion Leaders	10	12.50%
Residents	25	31.25%
DCEs	5	6.25%
TOTAL	80	100%

Source: Author's tabulation.

The distribution of the interviewees was based on the willingness to grant interviews. As the interviews were recorded and transcribed some members of the targeted groups showed unwillingness to participate in the exercise. In the light of this, the interviews were limited to ten (10) people across all the categories of the targeted group. The breakdown of the interviewees was as follows: 2 police prosecutors; 2 lawyers/court registrars; 1 CSOs worker; 2 opinion/community leaders; and 3 residents who directly or indirectly experienced criminal charges. The breakdown of the interviewees is shown in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2: Breakdown of the Distribution of Interviewees

Targeted Group	Number of Interviewees	Percentage of Interviewees to the Total Number
Police Prosecutors	2	20%
Lawyers/Court Registrars	2	20%
CSOs Workers	1	10%
Opinion/Community Leaders	2	20%
Residents	3	30%
Total	10	100%

Source: Author's tabulation

3.8 Data Collection Instruments

Three data collection instruments were used in this study – document study, questionnaires and interviews.

3.8.1 Questionnaires

Social scientists use questionnaires for surveys and data collection. (Bulmer, 2004; Creswell, 2003; McGuirk and O'Neill, 2005; Oppenheim, 1992; Parfitt, 2005; Patton, 1990; Sarantakos, 2005). The main instrument for field data was questionnaire. The questions on the questionnaire used in this study were designed to enable respondents to transition from one topic to another smoothly; hence, the questions were arranged in a logical order (Sarantakos, 2005). The questions were divided into subsections such as trust/mistrust of the police, police professionalism, public perception of the police, and remedies of police mistrust and unprofessionalism.

The questionnaire questions were of two types – open-ended and close-ended questions. The reason for making some of the questions close-ended was simple: closed-ended questions are “easy to administer, easily coded and analyzed, allow comparisons and quantification, and they are more likely to produce fully completed questionnaires while avoiding irrelevant responses” (Bird, 2009: 1310-1311). Designing the closed-ended questions was based on the Five-Point Likert scale with the intention of providing options convenient to respondents. The scale measures as follows: 1= strongly agree; 2= agree; 3= I am not sure; 4= disagree; and 5= strongly disagree. In the case of the open-ended questions, the objective was to obtain responses that could not be obtained from close-ended questions as well as give respondents the opportunity or freedom to give spontaneous answers (Oppenheim, 1992).

The validity of the questionnaires as effective research instruments for data gathering was tested in two ways. First, the questionnaires were given to peers to proofread to detect errors, ambiguities, clarity and repetitions in the questions. This enabled the researcher to make corrections where appropriate. Secondly, the corrected questionnaires were subjected to a pilot test on some key police officers and personalities in the study area. There is no gainsaying that pilot testing of questionnaires to determine their validity is crucial and significant to social research (Dikko, 2016; Van Wijk and Harrison, 2013). As In fact, “data collection is a critical stage that requires the researcher to test the instrument of data collection in order to ascertain whether the structure of the questions is appropriate, that they are clear and unambiguous and that they will yield the required information” (Shokani et al., 2018: 41). Pilot testing of the questionnaire enabled the researcher to make corrections and changes in the structure of the questions and sections where appropriate consistent with the general significance of pilot testing (Dikko, 2016; Barbour, 2014; Kim, 2010).

3.8.2 Interviews

Interview, as a field data collection instrument, was used sparingly. Interview questions were unstructured (open-ended). This was intended to give the researcher and the interviewees greater flexibility and freedom in the interview process as far as the planning, implementing and organizing the interview were concerned (Gubrium and Holstein, 2002). The unstructured questions provided latitude for interviewees to elaborate on issues; it also enabled the researcher latitude to ask follow-up questions at the spur of the moment, questions which were not originally part of the interview questions (Dörnyei, 2007: 136).

3.8.3 Document Study

To gather data or written information about the topic of study, the researcher studied a number of documents. This included text books, journal articles, reports, newspaper publications and other monographs. Information from document study formed the core of the information used in the writing of the first three chapters of this research. Two reasons explain why the researcher found it expedient to use document study for this work. First, it is line with the conventions established for researches. Second, one cannot conduct a credible research without the utilization of documents. In fact, documents are said to be credible sources of data for social research (Polit and Hungler 1991, Treece and Treece, 1982). The document study was made at the beginning of the research, and continued alongside field research. Each document was careful studied to understand its context and content in order to be able to properly situate the data in this study.

3.9 Data collection Procedure

Data collection and processing is an important phase of research (Sekaran, 2003; Fowler, 1990). To borrow the words of Shokani et al. (2018: 38), “collection of data is

regarded as the core activity in social research. It is essential to specify the methods to be utilized to generate and record data, and to justify why these methods are considered to be the most appropriate.” Gathering instruments utilized for this study have already been explained above. Suffice it, however, to restate that two main instruments were used for data gathering in this study – questionnaires and interviews. Questionnaires were self-distributed by the researcher as part of the attempts to ensure efficient administration of the questionnaires. Before distributing questionnaires to participants, the researcher made two key pre-questionnaire administration activities.

First, the researcher conducted a mockup survey by talking to a randomize population about the issue understudy to measure the perspectives, views and interests of the population about it. Second, the researcher briefed them on one-on-one basis about the purpose of the research. Those that consented were given the questionnaires to complete. Details (phone numbers, and where necessary, addresses) of participants that consented to complete the questionnaires were taken to enable the researcher to make follow-ups. Participants were given two weeks to complete the questions. Similarly, interviews were personally conducted by the researcher. This was to ensure that the right questions and the follow-up questions that were asked at the spur of the moment were asked without any distortions.

3.10 Data Processing/Analysis

Data from secondary sources – usually written materials online and in textbooks and newspapers – were collected at the beginning of the study and continued throughout the pre-writing and writing stages of the study. Notes from documents and electorate materials were made while the significant materials were downloaded online or photocopied from hardcopies for further examination and for the purposes of references.

Data from questionnaires and interviews (field data) were collected manually, and later subjected to verification to prove their completeness, usability and accuracy. Completed questionnaires were sorted out based on gender, occupation and age groups, and each category was numbered accordingly. Data were later put on Excel Spread Sheet to edit them and check their consistency before utilizing them for qualitative analysis. The editing enabled the researcher to make juxtapositions to determine dichotomies and similarities. It also enabled the researcher to determine the levels of accuracy, legibility, completeness and repetitions that give hints about the biases and dishonesty of respondents. Data from interviews were first transcribed, and later subjected to comparative analysis to determine similarities and differences.

Data gathered from research were subjected to qualitative analysis. Data were analyzed for content to gauge or measure their appropriateness. Overridingly, content analysis was intended to measure the credibility, conformability, dependability, transferability and credibility of data as espoused by Lincoln and Guba (1985).

3.11 Ethical Considerations

Conducting research of this magnitude requires adherence to ethical practices in order to pre-empt the possibility of ethical matters affecting the quality of the work (Babbie and Mouton, 2001). In addition, it was necessary for this research to “protect human dignity, and to promote justice, equality, truth and trust” (Shokani, 2018: 75). Mindful that “unethical research may harm the individual, the institution, and the profession as a whole, and impact upon the future willingness of potential participants to engage in research” (Gorman, 2007:13), the researcher put in measures to protect the privacy of respondents. First, respondents were informed about the academic essence of the research and were assured that their responses would be used for nothing but academic studies. Second, respondents were assured that their privacy and contributions

to this research project would not be revealed to the public and that the confidentiality of their responses and identities was assured. Third, respondents were assured that their participation in the research would not put any risks and dangers on participants on account of their participation in the research. Finally, respondents were given the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the research, and to even pull out of it in the course of the research for personal reasons. These ethical measures helped the researcher, as in the case of ethical adherences in all researches, to protect the rights, well-being, safety and dignity of participants or respondents in the research (Broom, 2006).

3.12 Chapter Summary

This chapter explained the methodology used in this study. It provided insights into the research design. It justified the use of the qualitative method in this study. Furthermore, the chapter explained the sample size and its rationale, the sampling procedure, the instruments used in data collection and their rationale. Finally, the chapter explained the various processes of data collection, data verification and data analysis utilized in this study.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction.

In this chapter, data gathered from the field are subjected to analysis. In doing so, field data would be segregated into component parts, and scrutinized to determine results and/or findings. In addition, the results and findings are discussed in line with the prevailing arguments in existing literature.

4.1 How data was collected

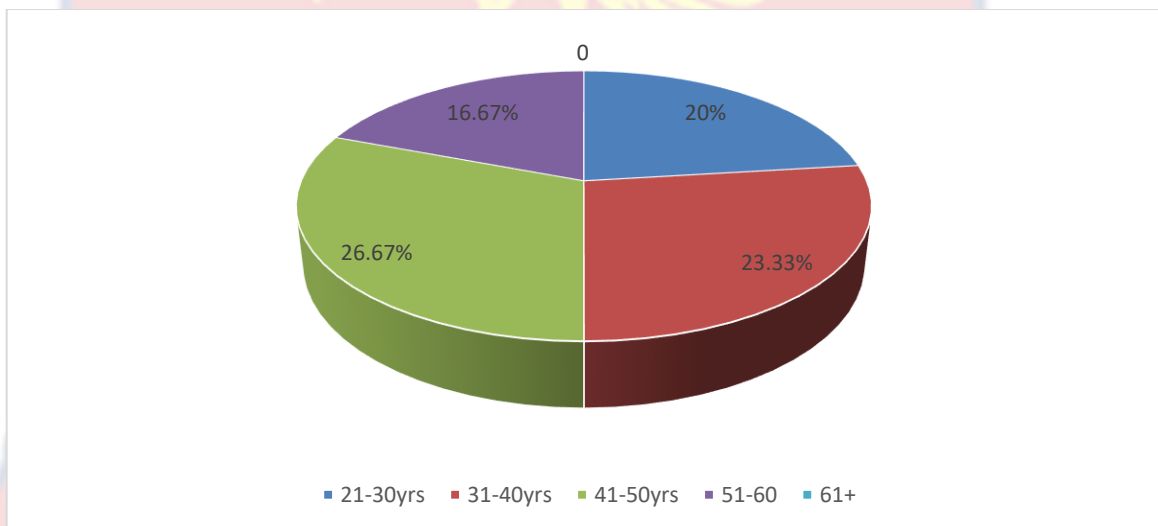
As pointed out in the previous chapter, this study is qualitative. The qualitative method was used in this study because it is deemed the most appropriate method in interpreting various viewpoints of a social phenomenon. This method enables researchers to present issues in their divergent perspectives and complexities. In the light of the advantages associated with the qualitative method, this study used the qualitative method to examine and analyze the experiences and perspectives of respondents on the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western North Region of Ghana.

Data for this study were gathered with the able assistance of field assistants made up of volunteers and paid assistants. In all, data collection from the field took one month. Field data was gathered from ninety (90) respondents, made up of eighty (80) respondents that completed questionnaire packs and ten (10) respondents that were interviewed. Purposive, snowballing and non-probability sampling methods were used to select respondents for the study. The purposive sampling method was used to purposively select respondents with the requisite insights into the subject matter. Based on the interactions with the respondents purposively selected, the snowballing method was used to select other respondents. Purposively selected respondents provided leads and hints about other respondents that were later contacted for the study.

4.2 Sample Characteristics

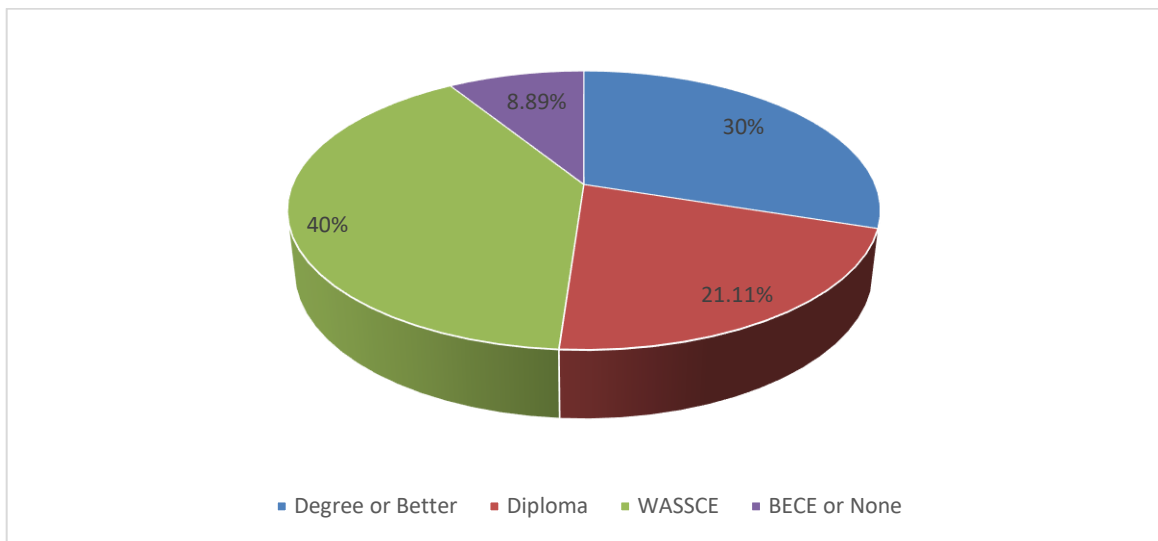
One of the characteristics of the respondents had to do with their age brackets. Of the ninety respondents, eighteen (20%) were between the ages of 21 and 30; twenty-one (23.33%) were between 31 and 40 years; twenty-four (26.67%) were between the ages of 41 and 50; fifteen (16.67%) were between the ages of 51 and 60; and the remaining twelve (13.33%) were 61 years and above. The breakdown of the age brackets of the respondents is shown in Figure 4.1 below.

Figure 4.1: Age Brackets of Respondents



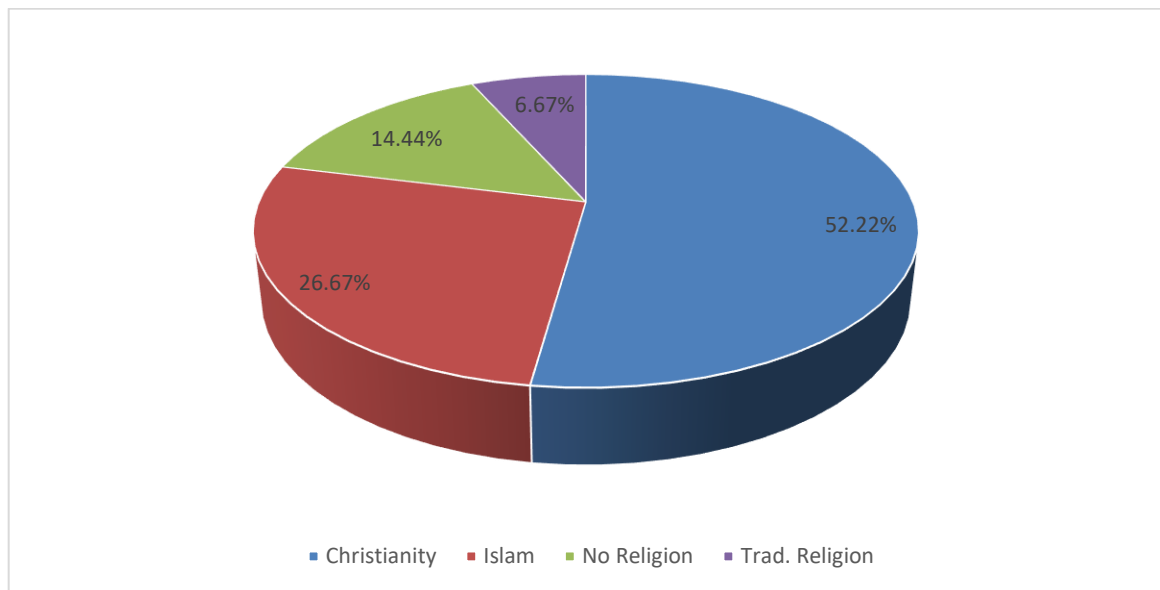
Of the ninety respondents chosen for the study, twenty-seven (30%) had a first-degree or better. A total of 19 (21.11%) were diploma holders, thirty-six (40) had WASSCE, and the remaining eight (8.89%) had BECE, its equivalent or did not have any certificate at all. The breakdown of the educational background of the respondents is shown in figures 4.1 below.

Figure 4.2: Educational Background of Respondents



In terms of gender, a total of fifty-five (61.11%) respondents were males; the remaining thirty-five (38.89%) of the respondents were females. The overt gender imbalance in the number of respondents was accidental. It is not reflective of the gender demography in the region. Rather, it was due to the fact that many of the potential females contacted for the study showed unwillingness to participate in it. On the other hand, more men showed the willingness to participate in the study.

There were religious characteristics of the respondents. A total of forty-seven (52.22%) of the respondents said they were Christians; twenty-four (26.67%) said they were Muslims; thirteen (14.44%) said they did not belong to any religion; and the six (6.67%) said they belong to the African Traditional Religion. The religious background of the respondents is shown in Figure 4.3 below.

Figure 4.3: Religion of Respondents

Geographically, respondents across twelve (12) towns in the Western-North Region. The geographical distribution of respondents was intended to obtain a balance in the complexities of the perspectives of respondents on the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana. The breakdown is shown in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Geographical breakdown of sources of field data in the Western-North Region

District	No. of Respondents
Bibiani	17
Asawinso	7
Enchi	7
Dadieso	7
Juaboso	7
Adabokrom	7

Debiso	7
Sefwi Bekwai	7
SefwiWiaso	10
Sefwi Bodi	7
SefwiAkotombra	7
Total	90

Two reasons explain why Bibiani and Sefwi Wiaso were assigned more respondents than the rest. In the case of Bibiani, it was given seventeen respondents because it is the only town in the Western-North Region that has a Circuit court; the rest of the settlements chosen for study has Magistrate courts. As a town with a circuit court, a higher court than the rest, it is imperative that more respondents are taken from Bibiani. In the case of Sefwi Wiaso, it is assigned ten respondents because it is the administrative capital of the Western-North Region. As the regional capital and with the high perception that there are more court cases in the Magistrate court in Sefwi Wiaso than the rest in the region, it is logical that more respondents are taken from the town.

4.2 Approach used for the analysis of data.

Some key steps were taken in the data analysis stage. First, data were extracted from the eighty questionnaire responses, and retype into a softcopy. Second, the ten interview tapes were transcribed and typed to produce a soft copy. Third, to analyze the two sets of softcopies of the field data, the data were transported into the Atlas.ti software. Fourth, in-vivo codes were devised and applied to the data to analyze them for characteristics and patterns. Fifth, the in-vivo codes were exported to the SPSS to obtain descriptive statistics where necessary.

4.3 Analysis of Data

4.3.1 Nature and Character of the Work of Police Prosecutors

In order to measure the responses of respondents, a question was asked: What is the nature and character of the work of police prosecutors? This question was intended to ascertain the perspectives of the public on the nature and character of the work of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana. To this question, respondents gave varied answers. The responses of the respondents are shown in Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Frequency table from the qualitative survey indicating the number of times the descriptions of the nature and functionality of Police prosecutors in Western North Region

Statement	Frequency of factors mentioned	% of factors mentioned	Rankings
1. Police prosecutorial work is burdensome.	6	7.5	5 th
2. Police prosecutorial work requires a trained mind in critical analysis of issues.	15	18.75	3 rd
3. Police prosecutorial work requires insights into the rudiments of law, especially criminal law and the practical application of its tenets.	20	25	1 st
4. Police prosecutorial work requires police personnel who	8	10	4 th

are mentally tough and unwavering in their positions.			
5. Police prosecutors should be corruption-free personnel since police prosecutorial work is prone to corruption, as corrupt-minded alleged criminals would usually want to bribe their way out.	15	18.75	3 rd
6. Police prosecutorial work requires a high level of professionalism, as any lapses can taint the image of the police profession in general and/or affect the fate of an alleged criminal and the complainant as well	16	20	2 nd
TOTAL	80	100%	

From the above table, respondents were of the view or it is obvious that there is a positive correlation between police prosecutorial work and law. Of the eighty questionnaire respondents, 20 (25%) indicated that police prosecutorial work requires knowledge in the rudiments of law, particularly Criminal procedure Act of Ghana and Criminal offences Act of Ghana. This view was ranked first in the league of the six

variables that were identified of the character and nature of the work of police prosecutors.

Second on the table of the list of descriptions of nature and character of the work of police prosecutors is the view that “police prosecutorial work requires a high level of professionalism, as any lapses can taint the image of the police profession in general and/or affect the fate of an alleged criminal and the complainant as well.” It was mentioned 16 times with a score of 20%. Two descriptions were ranked joint third. One of the descriptions is that “police prosecutorial work requires a trained mind in critical analysis of issues.” The other description of the nature and character of the work of police prosecutors is that “police prosecutors should be corruption-free personnel since police prosecutorial work is prone to corruption, as corrupt-minded alleged criminals would usually want to bribe their way out.” These two views were mentioned 15 times each with a score of 18.75%.

The two least scores (scores with mentions less than 10, and with scores not above 10%) were the following views: that police prosecutorial work requires police personnel who are mentally tough and unwavering in their positions and; that police prosecutorial work is burdensome. These views were ranked 4th and fifth with scores of 10% and 7.5%, respectively.

From the league of the perspectives on the nature and character of the work of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana, as shown in Table 4.1 above, it is obvious that the first four ranked descriptions showed are indicated below:

- Police prosecutorial work requires insights into the rudiments of law, especially criminal law and the practical application of its tenets.

- Police prosecutorial work requires a high level of professionalism, as any lapses can taint the image of the police profession in general and/or affect the fate of an alleged criminal and the complainant as well.
- Police prosecutorial work requires a trained mind in critical analysis of issues.
- Police prosecutors should be corruption-free personnel since police prosecutorial work is prone to corruption, as corrupt-minded alleged criminals would usually want to bribe their way out.

On the other hand, the least ranked descriptions showed about the nature and character of work of police prosecutors are the following:

- Police prosecutorial work requires police personnel who are mentally tough and unwavering in their positions.
- Police prosecutorial work is burdensome.

To gain a deeper understanding of the nature and character of the work of police prosecutors, the researcher analyzed the tapes of the ten interviewees, made up of lawyers, court clerks and police prosecutors. Data from interviews shared similar characteristics with those gathered from questionnaires. Commenting on the character and nature of the work of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana argued: Prosecutorial work is enormous. Police prosecutors play a crucial role in criminal proceedings. They press charges against alleged criminals, and arraign them at court on a charge for prosecution. To successfully carry out these functions requires that the police prosecutor should have insights into criminal law and criminal procedure. This is because the charges to press against an alleged criminal should be grounded in law. It is only when a police prosecutor has a fair familiarity with criminal law that he/she can appropriately apply that to execute his/her duties (Lawyer in Bibiani, personal communication, August 30, 2022).

From the quotation above, it is obvious that there is a positive correlation between police prosecutorial work and law, particularly criminal law. Providing another dimension to this viewpoint, another interviewee argued: Imagine a police prosecutor without any inkling of knowledge of criminal law. Imagine that a police prosecutor ignorant of criminal law pressed wrong charges against an alleged criminal. You can imagine the commotion in court when the attorney of the alleged criminal begins to tear the charges into shreds. Without any shadow of doubt, police prosecutors who do not have any faint knowledge of criminal law are likely to perform abysmally (Police prosecutor in Sefwi Wiaso, personal communication, August 31, 2022).

In short, a law background (either a lawyer or an LLB holder) is key to the profession. Apart from the link between police prosecutorial work and law, there are other views that described the nature and character of the work of police prosecutors. According to a court clerk in pointed out: apart from law and its practical application, the police prosecutor should be professional in his/her duties. Professionalism is the hallmark of the police. The work of police prosecutors is delicate – it transcends beyond the personality of the prosecutor to the lives of other people. The work of police prosecutors affects the lives of alleged criminals and those affected by the activities of the alleged criminals. Hence, a high level of professionalism is needed to discharge their duties efficiently (Court Clerk in Sefwi Wiaso, personal communication, September 4, 2022). One other perspective of the nature and character of police prosecutorial work provides a link between the work of police prosecutors and critical thinking and analysis. According to a court clerk in Sefwi Akomtobra, “it is one thing for a police prosecutor to have insights into the nuances of criminal law, but it is another thing when it comes to critical analysis” (Court Clerk in Sefwi Akomtobra, personal communication, August 8, 2022). A lawyer put it more vividly when he said:

Law is both science and an art. The scientific part deals with the law in relation to cases. The art aspect deals with the application of law to the cases that occurred in daily lives. The application of law requires critical thinking and analysis. That is why some lawyers do well because they are able to critically analyze cases to punch holes in them or to strengthen them. This also applies to the work of police prosecutors. To be able to carry out their work effectively and efficiently, they should be smart and have critical mind. This will help them in the practical application of law to the issues they deal with on daily basis (Lawyer in Bibiani, personal communication, August 25, 2022). According to interviewees, police prosecutors are more likely to be susceptible to bribery than any other unit in the police service. This is because “alleged criminals are more likely to bribe their way out of the grip of the law” (A lawyer in Sefwi Wiaso, personal communication, August 26, 2022). Hence, the police prosecutorial work requires police personnel that would be able to resist varied temptations of bribery and corruption (Police prosecutor in Sefwi Wiaso, personal communication, August 31, 2022).

4.3.2 Capacity of Police Prosecutors in the Western-North Region

To gather the perspectives of respondents on the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region, the researcher posed the question: What is the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana? To critically dissect and analyze the various segments of the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region, the data was segregated into personnel, intellectual and logistic capacity.

Capacity in terms of Personnel

The capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region in terms of nominal numbers is acceptable. Table 4.3 below indicates the distribution of police prosecutors in the various districts in the Western-North Region.

Table 4.3 Table showing the required number police prosecutors and those at post in the Western-North Region

District	No. of police prosecutors required	No. of police prosecutors at post
Bibiani	5	5
Asawinso	2	2
Enchi	2	2
Dadieso	2	2
Juaboso	2	2
Adabokrom	2	2
Debiso	2	2
Sefwi Bekwai	2	2
Sefwi Wiaso	5	5
Sefwi Bodi	2	2
Sefwi Akotombra	2	
Total	28	28

From the table above, it is obvious that each of the districts has its maximum number of police prosecutors it needed. Given the nominal numbers of the police prosecutors in the various districts in the Western-North Region, one can say that the capacity of the police prosecutors in the region is strong. As one police prosecutor put it: When it comes to numbers, we do not have a problem. Each of the districts is operating at the maximum capacity because each district has its maximum number of police prosecutors required at post. So far, we do not have a cause to demand an increase in the

numbers of police prosecutors in the region (Police prosecutor in Sefwi Bodi, personal communication, August 16, 2022).

However, some respondents have raised questions about the capacity of the police prosecutors in the region based on the nominal numbers. A clerk remarked, “though the numbers are good, there is the need for additional ones to ensure that in the event that one of the two police prosecutors (except Bibiani and Sefwi Wiaso) is indisposed, it would not affect the work of the prosecution unit in the district” (Court clerk in Sefwi Bodi, August 16, 2022). Another respondent also argues that it is important for the region to get “at least two or three police prosecutors not assigned to any of the district to be on a standby in Sefwi Wiaso, the regional capital. In the event of critical need in any districts, those police prosecutors on standby could be dispatched to provide temporal support (A lawyer in Sefwi Wiaso, personal communication, August 26, 2022). In short, though the nominal numbers of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region are good, nominal numbers alone do not determine the capacity of the police prosecutors in the region. The efficiency of police prosecutors requires analyses that go beyond nominal numbers.

Professional Capacity and Training

One of the key variables in measuring capacity is professional qualification and competence. From data gathered from the head office of the police prosecutorial unit in the Western-North Region, the professional training and educational background of the police prosecutors in the region is insufficient to warrant an efficient capacity. This indicated in Table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4: Breakdown of the Academic Qualifications of Police Prosecutors in Western-North Region

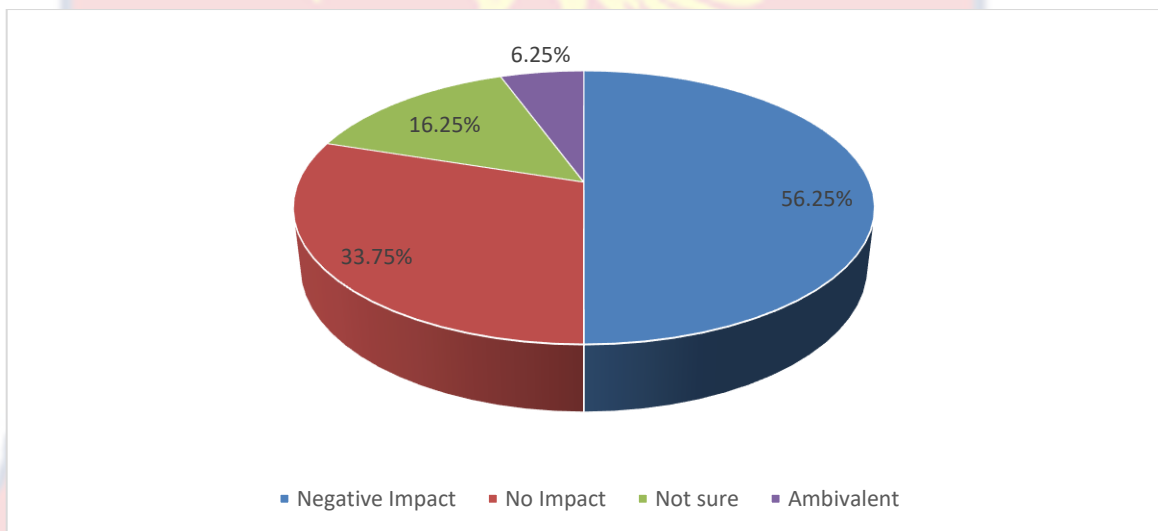
Qualification	Number
Professional Certificate in Law	0
LLB Degree	0
First Degree or better	7
HND/WASSCE/other qualifications	21
Total	28

From the table above, it is obvious that, of the twenty-eight police prosecutors, none is a lawyer or has an LLB degree – not even the head of the regional police prosecution unit. Only seven of the police prosecutors hold a first or second degree. The rest hold other qualifications such as HND and WASSCE. To gain insights into the impact of the educational background of police prosecutor on their capacity in terms of the efficiency of their work, the question was posed: To what extent does the educational qualification of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region impact on their work?

Of the eighty respondents that answered the questionnaires, 35 (43.75%) said there is a link between academic qualification and the efficiency of work of people in general, and that low educational qualification would adversely affect the efficiency and capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. Other responses are as follows: 27 (33.75%) said the educational background of the police prosecutors does not matter. Rather, the efficiency of police prosecutors in the region is contingent on a number of variables such as experience, training through workshops and incentives. Hence, the educational background of the police prosecutors in the region does not affect

their capacity and/or efficiency negatively. A total of 13 (16.25%) said they are not sure whether or not the educational background of the police prosecutors has any impact (negative or positive) on their capacity. The remaining 5 (6.25%) were ambivalent, claiming that the educational background of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region may have positive or negative impact of their work depending on a person's idiosyncrasies. Hence, it is subjective, as different people would analyze it differently.

Figure 4.4: Respondents' view of the impact of educational background on the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region



From the table, it is obvious that respondents hold the view that educational background of the police prosecutors has a profound negative impact on their capacity. To obtain further details about this view, the researcher analyzed the responses of the ten interviewees on this issue. The general view of the interviewees was that low educational qualification of the police prosecutors negatively affects their capacity. As one lawyer puts it: It is difficult to deny the fact that the educational background of the police prosecutors tremendously affects their work negatively. Without a professional certificate and/or a degree in law, it would be difficult for police prosecutors to perform their functions efficiently. No amount of training through workshops can equip police

prosecutors with the knowledge-base to handle their duties effectively than a professional certificate in law or an LLB in law (A lawyer in Sefwi Wiaso, personal communication, August 26, 2022).

Despite the fact that one cannot deny the impact of professional educational background (whether LLB or law certificate) of police prosecutors on their capacity, one cannot equally deny the impact of other variables of the capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. Some respondents provided another narrative of the capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region beyond educational background. According to them, variables such as experience, workshops and incentives are key variables that influence the capacity and/or efficiency of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. As one police prosecutor put it, “experience is key to the performance of police prosecutors.

Knowledge and insights into law are gained over a period of service. In addition, the periodic workshops help to equip police prosecutors with insights in the application of law to enhance our capacity (A police prosecutor in Bibiani, personal communication, August 30, 2022). However, police prosecutors have lamented over the insufficiency of workshops that are organized to help improve their capacity. Others also think that experience is relative, and that without frequent workshops and intellectual supports, experiences may still be insufficient to warrant or support the capacity of police prosecutors in the region. In such situations, “the only assert police prosecutors can rely upon is professionalism. No matter the handicaps, police prosecutors endeavour to discharge their duties as professional as possible” (A police prosecutor in Bibiani, personal communication, August 30, 2022). Apart from experience, workshops and police professionalism, one other variable that influences the capacity of the police prosecutors in terms of efficiency is incentives. According to informants, incentives of

different kinds, including incentives in the form of promotions for meritorious services and financial rewards can go a long way to incentivize police prosecutors to work efficiently. This argument is a double-edged sword, especially financial incentive. This is because “financial incentives in the form of gifts from undisclosed sources or from sources with vested interest in a criminal case handled by a prosecutor can affect the quality of work of the prosecutor. Sometimes, there are rumours that link the shoddy work of a police prosecutor in the prosecution of an alleged criminal to financial packages given to the police prosecutor by a person with vested interest in the criminal case. Hence, the capacity of the police prosecutors in terms of efficiency can be negatively influenced by financial considerations” (A lawyer in Sefwi Wiaso, personal communication, August 31, 2022).

Logistical Capacity

To give another dimension to the narrative on the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region, the researcher sought to investigate the logistical needs of the police prosecutors. To this end, the researcher posed the question: To what extent do the logistical needs of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region sufficient? Answering this question, many of the respondents were unsure of the nature and sufficiency of the logistical needs of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. As a result, the researcher focused essentially on the information received from the police prosecutors. According to the police prosecutors, their logistical needs are not fully met.

One of the key logistical insufficiencies is the non-availability of materials in law that can be of substantial help. Some of such materials are law case guides, and law dictionaries. In addition, there are no law libraries in any of the districts in the Western-North Region. Hence, obtaining law books for references to advance their intellectual capacity is always problematic. Another key logistical need is the unavailability of

computers. Apart from desktops that are used in the offices, the police prosecutors do not have laptops of their own to enable them conduct online research to advance their knowledge and work. Commenting on the unavailability of laptops, a police prosecutor said: Modern-day policing is about the application of technology to the police profession. In this modern technologically-driven age, the use of the internet to obtain information to advance the work of every profession is critical. If police prosecutors have laptops, they can easily download soft copies of law books and materials online to update themselves and learn (A police prosecutor in Bibiani, personal communication, August 30, 2022).

Another police prosecutor lamented about the lack of laptops, arguing, “it is impossible to work at full capacity in this technological era without laptops. Laptops are essential to the work of police prosecutors in general. Laptops can be used by police prosecutors to obtain lots of materials on law (books, articles, cases, etc.) online to advance the quality of our work” (A police prosecutor in Sefwi Wiaso, personal communication, August 26, 2022). To overcome this problem, some of the police prosecutors have resorted to using their android phones to conduct online research to obtain materials in law to advance their intellectual and/or professional capacity. As one police prosecutor noted:

Without official laptops and data for online research, some of us are compelled to acquire our own laptops. However, many of us use our android phones for research, but this is very costly. We buy our own data to enable us undertake the online research. At times, we are unable to undertake the necessary research due to financial problems that make it difficult to get data for research” (Police prosecutor in Sefwi Bodi, personal communication, August 16, 2022).

In effect, one can say that the availability of laptops together with sufficient data is central to the logistical problems that impede the capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. With laptops and data, police prosecutors can get all the materials and information in law online, and would obviously not have the need for a law library.

4.4 Pathways to Improve the Capacity of Police Prosecutors in the Western-North Region

To obtain data about the pathways to improve the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region, the researcher asked the question: What pathways are there to improve the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region? In the analysis of the data in this segment, all the responses of all the respondents (made up of 80 that answered the questionnaires and the 10 interviewed) were lumped together. The reason for this change in approach is due to the fact that the respondents only itemized the mechanisms without any explanations. It was for this reason that the researcher found it appropriate to lump them together for analysis. The pathways identified are indicated in Table 4.6 below.

Table 4.5: Frequency table indicating the number of times the descriptions of the pathways to improve the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

Statement	Frequency of factors mentioned	% of factors mentioned	Rankings
1. Recruit people with LLB and/or professional law certificate into the police service to replace all police prosecutors in Ghana without law background,	47 out of 90	52.22	4 th

including the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.			
2. Promote police prosecutors that have distinguished themselves with excellent and meritorious services.	13 out of 90	14.44	8 th
3. Build and stock libraries with the requisite law books/materials in all the districts in the Western-North Region.	49 Out of 90	54.44	6 th
4. Give scholarships to qualified police prosecutors to study law in the institutions offering law in Ghana.	50 out of 90	55.56	3 rd
5. Equip each police prosecutor in the Western-North Region with a functional laptop and sufficient data to enable them undertake researches on law and criminology online.	80 out of 90	88.89	1 st
6. Period periodic workshops on criminal law to the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.	26 out of 90	28.89	5 th

7. Give financial incentives and data allowances to police prosecutors to enable them undertake their work efficiently.	14 out of 90	15.56	7 th
8. Secure software on law with instructional materials fitted onto laptops for easy use by individual police prosecutors.	52 out of 90	57.78	2 nd

From the table above, the most significant pathway to improve the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region is the provision of laptops with data bundles to the police prosecutors to enable them use the digital platform to advance their work. It was mentioned 80 times. This was followed by the need for the development or acquisition of software that enables the police prosecutors to access materials in law relatively easily. It was mentioned 52 times. Altogether, these two pathways show the need to align the work of police prosecutors with digitalization. The third and fourth pathways identified by the respondents are the following:

- Give scholarships to qualified police prosecutors to study law in the institutions offering law in Ghana.
- Recruit people with LLB and/or professional law certificate into the police service to replace all police prosecutors in Ghana without law background, including the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

These pathways were mentioned 50 and 47 times, respectively. The other four pathways, as shown in the table above, are insignificant. They had low scores.

4.5 Discussion of Findings

The study made a number of findings. These findings are discussed under the same themes below.

4.5.1 There is a correlation between high level of professionalism and the capacity of police prosecutors

The study established that there is a correlation between high level of professionalism of the police and the capacity of police prosecutors. In other words, the study established that the capacity of police prosecutors is a function of the professionalism of the police. Lack of professionalism is likely to negatively affect the capacity of police prosecutors. This finding dovetails into the argument that police professionalism is critical to the conduct and work of the police, and that police professionalism is part and parcel of police culture (Paoline, 2003; Paoline and Terrill, 2014; Manning, 2005; Mastrofski, 2004; Waddington, 1999; McCluskey, Terrill, and Paoline, 2005; Paoline and Terrill, 2005; Terrill, Paoline and Manning, 2003; Brown, 1988; Bittner, 1970; Manning, 1977; Ingram, Terrill and Paoline, 2018; Terrill, Paoline and Manning, 2003; Terrill 2003).

4.5.2 Lack of professional qualification in law impedes the capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region

Professional training is critical to every profession. This study established that the lack of professional lawyers working in the police service as police prosecutors impedes the capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. The study established that none of the twenty-eight police prosecutors is a professional lawyer, not even the regional head of the police prosecution unit in the Western-North Region. This finding is in tandem with arguments in existing literature that established a correlation between police capacity and professional development (Mensah and Ennin, 2019;

Mensah and Ayim, 2019; Mensah and Frimpong, 2020; Mensah, 2019; Mensah, 2018). Though this finding is slightly different from existing argument, it stresses that those with law professional background, who enlist in the police services helps in capacity empowerment when they serve as police prosecutors.

4.5.3 Low educational background impedes the capacity of police prosecutors

The study established that there is a direct correlation between the educational standard of police prosecutors and their intellectual and/or professional capacity. The study established that police with LLB, professional law certificate and degree certificates are more likely to have high intellectual capacity in the execution of their work as police prosecutors than their counterparts who lack such qualifications. This finding is in tandem with arguments in existing literature. Some scholars have argued, for example, that there is a positive correlation between police capacity or professionalism and the educational status of the police personnel (Bittner, 1970; Paoline, Terrill and Rossler, 2015). Given this finding, it is appropriate for police authorities to find ways to overcome the intellectual gap by giving scholarships to qualified police prosecutors to read law in the universities in Ghana. Equally, regular periodic workshops on criminology and prosecutorial functions should be organized for the police prosecutors to improve their intellectual capacity.

4.5.4 Lack of logistics negatively affects the capacity of police prosecutors

The study established that the lack of logistics is a key variable that negatively affects the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. This finding shares semblance with arguments in existing literature. Existing literature establishes a positive correlation between logistics and police capacity and professionalism (Spuy and Röntsch, 2008). The argument is that poor or low logistics negatively affect the capacity and professionalism of the police (Spuy and Röntsch, 2008). This was exactly the case of

the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. Lack of logistics such as laptops, digital technology, law libraries, among others, have negatively affected the efficiency and capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

4.5.5 Lack of computers (laptops) and digitalization affects the capacity of police prosecutors

The study established that computers and digital technology have a substantial bearing on the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. Lack of computers and digital technology to enable police prosecutors to access law documents for study and references has been a major cataclysmic factor that impedes the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. This finding is in line with the argument in existing literature that there is a correlation between technology and police capacity and police professionalism. The argument is that low technologies impede the efficiency and professionalism of the police (Tombull and Cakar, 2015; Tombull and Cakar, 2015; Bryne and Marx, 2011).

The finding is also in tandem with the Adaptive Structuration Theory (AST), which underscores the application and adaptability of technology social phenomena. It argues that there is a continuous interface between society and technology in which these two variables continue to shape each other (Poole and DeSanctis, 1990).

4.6 Conclusion

This chapter analyzed field data about the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. It subjected the data to critical analysis to establish its characteristics and results. The chapter made a number of findings. First, it found that there is a positive correlation between police professionalism and the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. Second, it established that lack of professional qualification in law impedes the capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North

Region. Third, it found that low educational background impedes the capacity of police prosecutors. Fourth, lack of logistics negatively affects the capacity of police prosecutors. Finally, it found that the lack of computers and digitalization affects the capacity of police prosecutors.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The purpose of this study was to examine the capacity of Police Prosecutors in the Western-North Region. It sought to investigate the nature and variables that accounted for the capacity of Police Prosecutors in the region, including pathways to improve it. The research was guided by a number of questions as indicated below.

- What is the nature and character of the work of Police Prosecutors?
- What is the capacity of Police Prosecutors in the Western-North Region of Ghana?
- To what extent do the logistical needs of Police Prosecutors in the Western-North Region sufficient?
- What pathways are there to improve the capacity of Police Prosecutors in the Western-North Region?

This research was essentially qualitative. As indicated earlier in Chapter Three, the researcher used the qualitative method because it enabled the researcher to critically and logically describe, analyze and explain social phenomenon to show cause-effect relationship. For data collection, the researcher used three instruments. First, the researcher used document study as a basis to gather information from monographs to build chapters one, two and three. Second, the researcher used questionnaires to gather data from eighty respondents. Third, the researcher used interviews as an instrument to extract data from ten interviewees. The second and third instruments were used for field data collection. Data collected from the field was subjected to critical analysis, as shown in Chapter Four. The results of the analysis of the data are summarized below.

5. 2 Summary of Findings

5.2.1 *Police prosecutorial work is complicated and requires insight in law*

- Police prosecutorial work requires insights into the rudiments of law, especially criminal law and the practical application of its tenets.
- Police prosecutorial work requires a high level of professionalism, as any lapses can taint the image of the police profession in general and/or affect the fate of an alleged criminal and the complainant as well.
- Police prosecutorial work requires a trained mind in critical analysis of issues.
- Police Prosecutors should be corruption-free personnel since police prosecutorial work is prone to corruption, as corrupt-minded alleged criminals would usually want to bribe their way out.

5.2.2 *The capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region is influenced by a number of variables*

The study established the following:

- The capacity of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region in terms of nominal numbers is acceptable.
- There is a positive correlation between police professionalism and the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.
- Lack of professional qualification in law impedes the capacity of the Police Prosecutors in the Western-North Region.
- Low educational background impede the capacity of police prosecutors.
- Lack of logistics negatively affects the capacity of Police Prosecutors, notably Computers and digitalization affects the capacity of Police Prosecutors.

5.2.3 Pathways exist to improve the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region

The study established that two pathways exist to improve the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

- Police prosecutors in the Western-North Region should be equipped with a functional laptop and sufficient data to enable them undertake researches on law and criminology online.
- Authorities of the Police Service and/or the Government of Ghana should secure software on law with instructional materials fitted unto laptops for easy use by individual police prosecutors.
- Authorities of the Police Service and/or the Government of Ghana should give scholarships to qualified police prosecutors to study law in the institutions offering law in Ghana.
- Authorities of the Police Service should recruit people with LLB and/or professional law certificate into the police service to replace all police prosecutors in Ghana without law background, including the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

5.3 Conclusions

The study made a number of findings. The study established that the work of police prosecutors is enormous and complicated. It requires a lot of research for the Police Prosecutors to update themselves and to be able to apply lessons in criminology to their work. The study established that insights into law are key to the work of Police Prosecutors.

Furthermore, the study found that the capacity of police prosecutors in terms of the number of staff is good. Each of the district police stations operated at maximum

capacity in terms of the number of Police Prosecutors – two each in nine districts and five each in Bibiani and Sefwi Wiaso. However, the study established that the capacity of the police prosecutors in relation to educational capacity was low. None of the police prosecutors holds an LLB or a professional certificate in law.

In addition, the study established that the police prosecutors lack critical logistics to enhance their capacity. No law libraries exist to enable them obtain law materials to enhance their intellectual capacity. More importantly, the study established that police prosecutors in the Western-North Region lack access to digital technology to improve their capacity. They do not have laptops; neither do they have data allowances to enable them undertake research online. Many of them resort to expending a fraction of their meagre salary on the purchase of data to enable them use their smartphones for research online, but this is woefully insufficient.

The study also found that there are a number of pathways to improve the capacity of Police Prosecutors in the Western-North Region. One of the key pathways is to ensure that Police Prosecutors in the Western-North Region are equipped with digital technology. Police Prosecutors should be given functional laptops and sufficient data to enable them undertake researches on law and criminology online. Furthermore, the study established that a software with electronic books, articles, manuals and other relevant law materials is purchased for Police Prosecutors in Ghana in general. This would go a long way to improve the capacity of Police Prosecutors in the Western-North Region. In addition, the study established that scholarships should be given to qualified police prosecutors to pursue law programs in Ghana. Finally, the study established that, Police administration should enlist people with Law or LLB certificates for training and thereafter posted to the various Police prosecutorial units in Ghana.

5.4 Recommendations

This study analyzed the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region. It made a number of findings. To improve police prosecutors' capacity in the Western-North Region, it is important to make some recommendations for implementation. Below are the recommendations.

5.4.1 *Numbers of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region*

Though each of the district police stations has the maximum number of staff in the police prosecutorial unit, no provision is made for emergency situations. In the light of this finding, the study recommends that there should be at least two or three police prosecutors in the Sefwi Wiawso, the regional capital, on standby to be deployed to assist any of the districts in terms of emergency. This would ensure that the work of the district prosecutorial units progress unimpeded in cases of sickness, leaves or other emergency situations of any of the police prosecutors.

5.4.2 *The educational background and intellectual capacity of police prosecutors*

To improve educational and intellectual capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region, this study recommends the following:

- First, periodic workshops should be organized for the Police Prosecutors to boost their intellectual capacity. The workshops should focus on criminology, and should also seek to assess the work of the Police Prosecutors. The workshops should be organized quarterly – once in three months – and should seek to empower the Police Prosecutors with intellectual insight into law and its application to police prosecutorial work.
- Second, Police administration and authorities should seek to target qualified Ghanaians with LLB and professional law certificates for recruitment into the Police Service. After training, such recruits should be posted to police prosecutorial units

across the country to work. This would invariably ensure efficiency in the work of Police Prosecutors.

- Third, existing police prosecutors in the Western-North Region with qualifications to enter into the universities should be given scholarships for further studies. Tertiary education would go a long way to improve the critical analytical skills of the Police Prosecutors. Alternatively, Police Prosecutors with the requisite qualification to read law in the universities in Ghana should be given scholarships and study leaves to do so.

5.4.2 Solving the logistical problems of the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region

This study recommends that law libraries should be established in all the district police stations in the Western-North Region to enable the police prosecutors have access to law books and materials for reference. Where it is difficult to establish law libraries in all the districts, there should be at least two of such libraries in the region – one in Bibiani and another one in Sefwi Wiawso.

Police prosecutors in the Western-North Region should be given adequate access to digital technology. Each of the police prosecutors should be given a functional laptop. In addition, the police prosecutors should be given data or allowances to buy data to enable them conduct researches online. Alternatively, police administrators should secure a software that contains electronic law books, articles, manuals, case studies, etc., to enable police prosecutors access them to improve their capacity.

5.4.5 Pathways to improve the capacity of police and restore police professionalism

Apart from the pathways indicated above to solve the logistical problems which impede their capacity, the study also established other pathways. Key among such pathways are the following:

- Authorities of the Police Service should recruit people with LLB and/or professional law certificate into the police service to replace all Police Prosecutors in Ghana without requisite law background, including the Western-North Region.
- Regular workshops should be organized on law or criminology for police prosecutors in the Western-North Region to improve their intellectual capacity.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Research

This study did not undertake a comparative study of the capacity of Police Prosecutors in the various districts in the Western-North Region. Furthermore, there should be holistic research on Police prosecutors in Ghana. This will unearth numerous challenges or lapses in the work and capacity of Police Prosecutors in Ghana. This will help to bring to fore the local exigencies and nuances of the situation capacity of Police Prosecutors in Ghana. This research will lead to developing Standard operating procedure for all Police Prosecutors in Ghana in accordance with the law to bring uniformity and accountability.

In addition, future researches should seek to measure the extent to which the lack of digital technology impacts the capacity of police prosecutors in Ghana. This would help authorities to appreciate the realities, and to find concrete pathways to deal with the digital menace on the capacity of police prosecutors.

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

INTRODUCTION

I am conducting a research titled “**The Police and the Prosecutorial System in Ghana: An Assessment of the Capacity of the Police Prosecutors in the Western North Region of Ghana Police Service.**” I request some few minutes of your time to for this interview. Please, be assured that your responses would be used for ACADEMIC STUDY ONLY.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality and would not be divulged to any third-party. Data obtained will be used purposely for evidenced-based academic study on the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

TIME

This short survey will between 20 and 20 minutes of your time.

Thank you.

PART I (Bio-data)

1. Gender (Tick)

Male

Female

2. Age Group (Tick ✓)

20-30 years

31-40 years

41-50 years

51-60 years

Above 61 years

3. Educational standard (Tick ✓)

Not educated at all.

Basic Education (BECE)

Middle School Leaving Certificate (MLSC)

Secondary Education (WASSCE/SSCE/O Level/A Level)

Vocational/Technical Education

Training College/Nursing College (Certificate/Diploma/Degree)

University Education (Degree – Undergraduate, Graduate and PhD)

LLB

Professional law certificate

4. What is your profession? (Tick ✓)

Police Prosecutor

Civil/public servant

NGO/CSO worker

Politician

Court Clerk

Traditional Leader

Practicing Lawyer

Court Registrar

Other (specify)

5. Are you an indigene in the Western-North Region? (Tick ✓)

Yes

No

6. For how long have you been staying/working in the Western-North Region? (Tick ✓)

Since I was born.

Less than 10 years.

More than 10 years.

Part II (Police Prosecutorial work and Capacity in the Western-North Region)

7. What is the nature of the work of the police prosecutor?

Statement	Thick [✓]
7. Police prosecutorial work is burdensome.	
8. Police prosecutorial work requires a trained mind in critical analysis of issues.	
9. Police prosecutorial work requires insights into the rudiments of law,	

especially crime law and the practical application of its tenets.	
10. Police prosecutorial work requires police personnel who are mentally tough and unwavering in their positions.	
11. Police prosecutors should be corruption-free personnel since police prosecutorial work is prone to corruption, as corrupt-minded alleged criminals would usually want to bribe their way out.	
12. Police prosecutorial work requires a high level of professionalism, as any lapses can taint the image of the police profession in general and/or affect the fate of an alleged criminal and the complainant as well	

8. Indicate the number of police prosecutors in the following districts. If you do not know, leave it blank.

9.

District	No. of police prosecutors required	No. of police prosecutors at post
Bibiani		
Asawinso		

Enchi		
Dadieso		
Juaboso		
Adabokrom		
Debiso		
SefwiBekwai		
SefwiWiaso		
SefwiBodi		
SefwiAkotombra		

9. In what ways does the educational background of the police prosecutors in the Western-North affect their capacity?
10. What training do police prosecutors in the Western-North Region need to improve their capacity?
11. How often are workshops organized for police prosecutors to empower them intellectually?
12. How would digital technology advance the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region?
13. What are the logistical needs of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region? List them according to the order of importance.

14. What are the key logistical challenges that negatively affect the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region, and why?

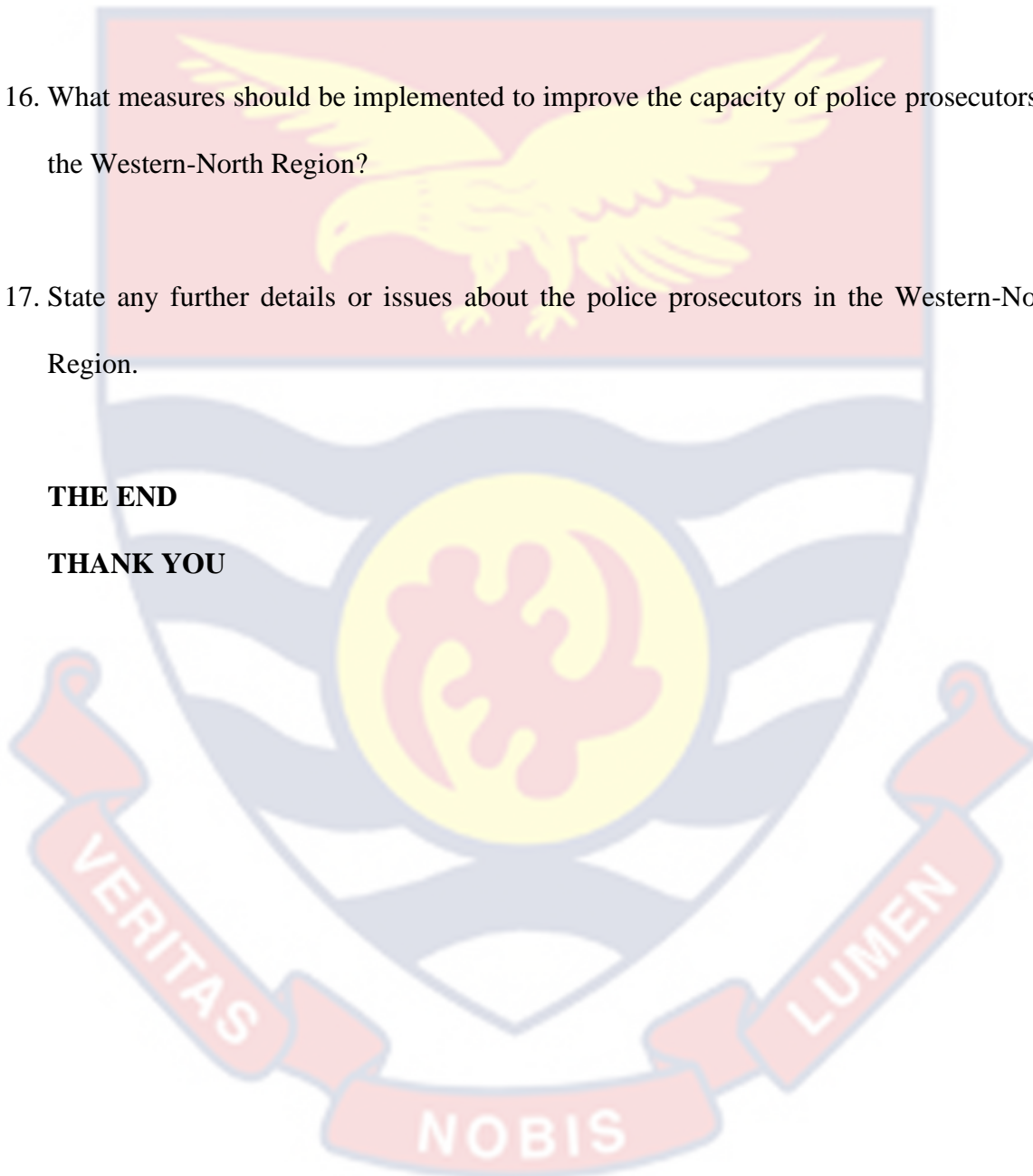
15. How sufficient is your current salary?

16. What measures should be implemented to improve the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region?

17. State any further details or issues about the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

THE END

THANK YOU



APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

I am conducting a research titled “**The Police and the Prosecutorial System in Ghana: An Assessment of the Capacity of the Police Prosecutors in the Western North Region of Ghana Police Service.**” I request some few minutes of your time to for this interview. Please, be assured that your responses would be used for ACADEMIC STUDY ONLY

CONFIDENTIALITY

Information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality and would not be divulged to any third-party. Data obtained will be used purposely for evidenced-based academic study on the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

TIME

This short survey will between 20 and 20 minutes of your time.

PART I (Bio-data)

1. Gender of interviewee
2. What is your age?
3. What is your current educational qualification?

4. What educational qualification did you use for enlistment into the Ghana Police Service?

5. Do you have a law (LLB) degree?

6. Are you a professional lawyer?

Part II (Employment History)

7. What is your current rank?

8. Is your current station your first station when you passed out from police training? If NO, indicate some of the stations/divisions you have worked before.

9. What was your rank when you were posted to your station in the Western-North Region?

10. Apart from your current station, which other police station in the Western-North Region have you worked before?

11. How many police prosecutors are in your station currently?

12. How many years have each of them worked as police prosecutors?
13. On average, how many cases do you handle in a month as a police prosecutor?
14. What other view about your employment history in your current station in the Western-North Region do you have?

Part III (Capacity of Police Prosecutors)

15. What does the work of the police prosecutor entail?
16. What factors influence (negatively or positively) the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region?
17. What training do police prosecutors in the Western-North Region need to improve their capacity?
18. How often are workshops organized for police prosecutors to empower them intellectually?
19. How would digital technology advance the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region?
20. What are the logistical needs of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region? List them according to the order of importance.

21. What are the key logistical challenges that negatively affect the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region, and why?

22. How sufficient is your current salary?

23. What measures should be implemented to improve the capacity of police prosecutors in the Western-North Region?

24. State any further details or issues about the police prosecutors in the Western-North Region.

THE END

THANK YOU.

