

**ATTITUDE OF NIGERIA POLICE TOWARDS CRIME SUSPECTS  
A STUDY OF ASABA METROPOLIS IN DELTA STATE**

**BY**

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## **DECLARATION**

I declare that this is an original dissertation carried out by me in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Delta State University, Abraka.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Egbon Ejimeh Daniel**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## **CERTIFICATION**

We the undersigned certify that this dissertation was written by Egbon, Ejimeh Daniel, Mat No. PG/13/14/222485. It is adequate in scope and content.

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**Prof. Christian Ewhrudjakpor**  
Dissertation Supervisor

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**Dr. B.O. Akpomuvie**  
Head of Department

## **DEDICATION**

This dissertation work is dedicated to God Almighty, the giver of all wisdom, knowledge and understanding for his provision, mercies and support throughout the period of this study.

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**Egbon Ejimeh Daniel**

## **ABSTRACT**

The study basically explores the attitude of the Nigeria Police to Criminal Suspects in Asaba metropolis. Cross sectional research design was employed and the questionnaire instrument and interview guide was adopted for the elicitation of data from a sample of 400 respondents selected by simple random sampling method. The study participants are members of the public and criminal suspects in three police cells, all in Asaba metropolis. The data so collected were analyzed using frequencies and percentages, while the hypotheses were tested with the chi-square statistical tool. The findings of the study revealed that the public exhibits negative reactions to the police because of their attitudes to criminal suspects; that the police mete differential reactions to criminal suspects, and that the reaction of the public to the attitude of the police is that of lack of confidence and trust. The researcher therefore recommends that there should be proper functional education, training and retraining of police officers so as to inculcate right ethics and philosophy of policing in them.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Title Page.....	i
Declaration.....	iii
Certification .....	iv
Dedication .....	v
Acknowledgement.....	vi
Abstract.....	vii
Table of contents.....	viii

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 Statements of the Problem.....	6
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	8
1.4 Hypotheses.....	8
1.5 Scope of Study .....	9
1.6 Significance of the Study.....	9
1.7 Operational Definition of Terms .....	11

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

2.1 History of Police and Community Violence in Nigeria.....	12
2.2 Public Hostility Towards Police.....	14
2.3 Public Awareness and Police Activities.....	15
2.4 Differential Attitude of Police.....	18
2.5 Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Police of Crime Suspect.....	23
2.6 Education and Crime.....	29
2.7 Penal and Criminal Code.....	30
2.8 Summary of Literature.....	32
2.9 Theoretical Framework .....	34

## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHOD**



3.1	Research Design.....	38
3.2	Population of the Study.....	38
3.3	Sampling Size and Sampling Technique.....	39
3.4	Research Instrument.....	41
3.5	Procedures for Data Collection .....	42
3.6	Method of Data Analysis.....	42
3.7	Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument .....	42

**CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS OF DATA AND  
DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

4.1	Presentation of Data.....	44
4.2	Test of hypothesis.....	51
4.3	Discussion of Findings.....	57

**CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1	Summary.....	62
5.2	Conclusion.....	64
5.3	Recommendations .....	65
5.4	Contribution to Knowledge .....	66
5.5	Suggestions for Further Studies.....	67

**References**

**Appendix**

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

There are several accounts of the evolution of the Nigerian police force. However, all the researchers agree that the origin of the police in Nigeria revolves around the coercive activities of the colonial government which needed a brutal machinery to deal with restive natures in order to facilitate economic and political exploitation of the over 250 ethnic nationalities whose amalgamations were completed in 1914 to create Nigeria (Opara, 2000).

The British colonial Government established police forces to protect its interests. These forces were reportedly made-up of alien men who were strangers to the communities they were deployed to police. An example was the Lagos constabulary also known as the Hausa Guards, because the initial one hundred men who were recruited into it were from the Hausa - Fulani ethnic nationality.

Between 1930 and 1960 when Nigeria had her independence, not much changed both in the purpose and, structure of the Nigerian police force under colonial rule. In the words of Opara (2000) the colonial police acted like hostile troops occupying an enemy country rather than a force constituted by or for the people for their collective and individual security. The only significant development in the police force prior to independence was the recruitment of the first set of women into the police force in 1956.

The attitude of the Nigerian Police towards crime suspects has been described as negative. They have been accused of brutality, corruption, political repression and partisanship, failure to protect life and property, failure to curb public disorder without inflicting unnecessary injury, causing avoidable killing of citizens and without escalating protests into riots (Alemika, 2000). It has also been found that Nigerian police brutality of crime suspects is not uniform, but according to their social-economic status. (Dambazau, 2012). The Nigerian police force rather than being a service group; friend of the people, and agents and servants of the community, has turned itself into a repressive arm of the government, body guards of the powerful in society, and serves as a hand maid of oppressive, irresponsible and corrupt governments (Adeniyi, 2013). This brutality can be explained in terms of colonial origin of the Nigerian police and prolonged military rule. 57years of independence and 17years of return to democratic rule, it is expected that the attitude of the Nigerian police towards crime suspects should have changed.

When Nigeria gained political independence in 1960, there were expectations that the police would be re-organized and reoriented from a colonial occupation force to serve the people. This did not happen. The parties that were elected into government found it more convenient to retain all colonial structures of coercion in dealing with the people. Therefore, instead of a major re-organization of the police to serve and protect Nigerian people, what was witnessed was a ceremonial oath transferring allegiance of the Nigerian police force from the British crown to the federal republic of Nigeria and change of their former crests bearing the symbol of

the British crown to the Federal Coat of Arm. All other features of the colonial police that made them widely feared and despised under the; colonial' government were left untouched (Opara 2000).

The implication of the forgoing is that the Nigerian police force has developed a negative attitude towards Nigerians, especially crime suspects. Studies have shown that the police treat crime suspects with brutality. Others have also stated that police brutality is not uniform across the populace. Rather they treat crime suspects differentially according to their levels of education and income. (Daudu, 2008).

### **1.1.2 NIGERIA POLICE AS PUBLIC INSTITUTION**

The Police force in Nigeria and all over the world is an important agent of the society for the maintenance of Law and Order. The Police force also has the onerous duty of crime prevention, investigating and detecting of crimes and criminals, as well as the prosecution of criminals. However, the effectiveness of the police as law enforcement agency depends largely on its relationship with members of the public.

The cordial relationships that exist between the Police and the public will, to a large extent assist the police to discharge its duties efficiently and diligently. However, in Nigeria, the relationship between the Police and the public has been described as hostile and characterized by mutual distrust. According to Alemika (1993) Nigeria Police more than other agencies of criminal justice administration and crime control in Nigeria has been persistently criticized by the public, mass media, Police review panels and scholars as repressive, corrupt, and inefficient.

Continuing Alemika asserts that the Nigerian Police has been variously criticized for eroding the liberty, freedom, security, human rights and welfare of the citizens. They have been criticized for non-observance of the rule of law and for poor performance of their tasks of preventing, investigating, detecting and prosecuting crimes. They are also accused of quickly suppressing human rights activism and struggles for socio-economic and political -justice and democratization.

On the other hand, the Nigerian Police officers and men of the force view themselves as performing their legal and constitutional responsibilities of checking and controlling criminal activities, as well as bringing criminals to book in most cases through brutality. But in the attempt to control these criminal activities, the police violate the fundamental rights of the people they are supposed to protect, especially through intimidation, harassment, extortion and bullying, torture, threats and even killing. To buttress this point, Adeyemi (1998) observes that apart from prescribed detention, the law also provides for the use of minimum force by the Police when the occasion arises. At times, even members of the judiciary would say, "go, go and get confession from him tooth and nail", or go and deal with him until he confesses" when it suits them. As such, criminal policing and prosecution procedure, as well as human rights defense and practice, are reflective of the decadence or otherwise seen in the society.

Whenever the Police use force for improper purposes, unnecessarily or premature, wrongly directed or excessive in nature and intensity, such action falls into police brutality. In most cases, the police perceives the Nigerian public as those

to be helped and protected because of their ignorance and at the same time as those to be exploited to make up for their poor remuneration. It will suffice to quote Haler (1977) assertion that in a democracy, police agencies are charged with the difficult task of enforcing laws and protecting lives and property. Yet, they must guard against infringing upon those individual rights that are protected under a democratic form of government. At times, these duties and responsibilities seem to conflict. The Nigerian public perceives the police as the government police rather than agents and servants of the community. The development and use of the Police as body guards (personal servants) by the rich and affluent men in society attest to this fact. However, the New Inspector General of Police, Solomon Arase, has condemned this practice and threatened to sack erring officers.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

By reasonable expectations, there ought to be a significant shift in the attitude of the Nigerian police towards crime suspects, the enthronement of civil democratic rule on May 29, 1999 is one strong factor that should have made the treatment of crime suspects by the police to have improved, thus the study examined what the attitude of the police is since the return of democratic rule in 1999 and its effect on crime control in Asaba Metropolis.

However, in Nigeria, the relationship between the Police and the public is not normal. The attitude of the public to the police has been described as mutually distrustful, hostile and not very encouraging. The Nigerian police however, operate

against structural, institutional or organizational constraints that are fundamentally crippling, and which tend to account for the conduct, and performance, of the Police in the country. The political terrain is saturated with oppressive laws and regimes. The economy is perennially mis-managed and looted by the nation's rulers, business organizations and foreign enterprises. There was therefore serious deficit of legitimacy for the successive governments. The legal, economic' and political systems are in constant peril due to underlying injustice. The police that are charged with controlling threats to these systems cannot but share their legitimation deficits (Alemika 2000, Danbazau 2012).

The problems of the Nigerian police are also organizational, inadequate personnel, materials and other resources (Timbee 2011). The Nigerian police force is reduced to a mere appendage of government operating as an instrument of violence deployed against opponents, especially critical anti-authoritarian groups in society such as "progressive" students, labor activists intellectuals, journalists, human rights activists, and other advocates of democracy, rule of law, socio-economic justice and equity, and prudence and probity in the management of the nation's economy. These conditions created and maintained a wedge between the Police and the public in Nigeria (Alemika, 1993, Timbee 2011).

A Police force that serves as a handmaid of oppressive, irresponsible, irresponsive and corrupt governments cannot but be the target of the public ridicule and hostility. Consequently in the country, the police and the public organize themselves into hostile camps. Alemika (1993) noted that the Nigerian police force

faces the challenge of restoring the sense of trust in terms of the relationships that exist between the body and the public. He opined that it is important for the police to cultivate a sense of discipline towards the perception of the police authority as being a service group rather than a repressive arm of the military government.

### **1.3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The general objective of this study is the examination the attitude of Nigeria Police towards crime suspects, as well as its implications on crime control in Asaba metropolis. Other specific objectives include:

- i. Find out whether the socio-economic factors of crime suspects influences police attitudes towards them in Asaba Metropolis
- ii. Examine whether the educational level of crime suspects influence the way Nigeria Police treat them in Asaba Metropolis
- iii. Investigate whether public awareness vary on police treatment of criminal suspect in Asaba Metropolis
- iv. Examine whether the attitude of Nigeria Police have influence crime control in Asaba Metropolis

### **1.4. HYPOTHESES**

**H<sub>01</sub>**: There is no significant relationship between crime suspect's socio-economic conditions and police attitudes towards them in Asaba Metropolis

**H<sub>02</sub>**: There is no significant relationship between crime suspect's educational level and the way Nigeria Police treat them in Asaba Metropolis



**H03:** There is no significant relationship between public awareness and police treatment of criminal suspect in Asaba Metropolis

**H04:** There is no significant relationship between attitude of Nigeria Police and crime control in Asaba Metropolis

## **1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The study explored and assessed the attitude of the police towards crime suspects in Asaba metropolis with a view to identifying its implications on crime control. It covered the time frame of 2000 to 2015, a decade which has witnessed a lot of police activities and programmes designed to combat and control crimes. Some of these programmes include “operation sweep”; “operation fire for fire”; “operation flush”; “To serve and protect with integrity”, “operation purge”; and “anti-crime patrol”.

Finally, it also studied a selected sample of crime suspects in police division cells and the general public in Asaba metropolis. Asaba, the state capital of Delta State, currently have 3 police divisions and the state police Headquarters.

## **1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The study explored the attitude of the police to crime suspects in Asaba metropolis and its implication on crime control.

The study was significant in the following ways: Theoretically, it added and contributed to the existing literature on police activities in the area. It served as a

base in which policy formulators and administrators will find very useful in their policy formulations and implementations practically, the study went a long way to bridge the gap between the police and the public and restore a sense of security and confidence.

An appreciation of how criminal suspects are treated by the police is a clue to understanding police compliance level with the rule of law. Again appreciation of the police awareness level of how such suspects should be treated is an important indicator of how in-service training in this regard should go. If the study results in a change in attitude of the police to crime suspects it must have a relevant in improving police community relationship. This can aid in crime control in Asaba Metropolis.

## **1.7 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**ATTITUDE:** Attitude is a predisposition or a tendency to respond positively or negatively towards a certain idea, object, person, or situation.

**CRIME CONTROL:** All procedures undertaken by the police to reduce the incidence of crime in the society.

**CRIME SUSPECTS:** A crime suspect is a person suspected of wrong doing, one whose conduct is presumed to have violated the criminal code of a country but is deemed innocent until the contrary is proved beyond reasonable doubt a law court.

**BRUTALITY:** This is the use of excessive and/or unnecessary use of force beyond what would be necessary in order to handle a situation.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter reviewed some relevant literatures which were discussed under the following subheadings;

- History of Police and community violence in Nigeria
- Public hostility towards the Police
- Public awareness and Police activities
- Differential attitude of the Police
- Socio-economic factors affecting Policing of crime suspect
- Education and crime
- Penal Code and Criminal Code

#### **2.1 HISTORY OF POLICE AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA.**

Violence has been a recurring problem in Nigeria since colonial rule. The British colonial government established police forces in the territory and organized them as constabularies and Para-military forces. The forces were employed, in various colonial wars and punitive expeditions. They were also used in maintaining the exploitation and repression of labor. In some of these cases, the police used "Batons, rifles, and revolvers" to suppress, maim and kill persons who opposed colonial rule and policies. Because of the incessant repressive deployment of police

against workers during colonial era, Tamuno (2000) stated that the police earned the displeasure of some trade union leaders and members, a factor which did not promote good public relations as far as workers were concerned.

The frequent use of police to scuttle, disperse and break "strikes led to the killing of twenty-one (21) miners and fifty (50) workers wounded during the Enugu colliery strike in Iva valley massacre in 1949 (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2000). The colonial government deployed the military and police to suppress the Aba women's riot of December, 1929 to January, 1930 in the Eastern part of the territory. This resulted in the death of fifty-five (55) women and serious injury to more than fifty (50) women.

The police action to quell the Tiv riot of 1960 led to the killing of 19 civilians, while 83 were injured. These instances indicate that the police forces in colonial Nigeria employed violence in the maintenance of colonial exploitation and oppression. In the final analysis, police behavior including violence in contemporary Nigeria has been recognized to be a legacy bequeathed to Nigeria by the British colonial administration. For Alemika and Chukwuma, (2000) have posited that the history of police in Nigeria shows that the various forces were structured to regulate and regiment the indigenous people and facilitate their exploitation. The earlier police forces were organized as mercenary units and employed in several punitive expeditions to maim and kill belligerent natives, and to burn and loot obstructionist villages.

## **2.2 PUBLIC HOSTILITY TOWARDS POLICE**

The primary obstacle of the task of police officers in civil disorders has been intense public hostility towards police activities in urban ghettos. Daudu (2008), opined that police brutality and harassment of innocent Nigeria Citizens, is another obstacle to the prospects of the Nigeria Police in guaranteeing security of lives and property, law and Order. Both the prevalence of strong public disapproval of police conduct in areas that experience riots and the presence of police officers are precipitating events appeared to be more than coincidental. The most appropriate strategy for ending civil disorders, like many other problems relating to urban violence and police activities eventually must be resolved by political decisions. Perhaps studies of major riots have yielded information concerning some issues such as ghetto assessment of riot control measures that might assist civil and police officials in making this determination.

From the foregoing review and analysis, it is discernable and observable that there exists a wide gap between theory and practice. The problem may be attributed to the wrong foundation, structure and conceptualization of the Nigerian police force as well as the police perception of the police authority force and role. The Nigerian police force rather than being a service group; friend of the people, and agents and servants of the community, has turned itself into a repressive arm of the government, body guards of the powerful in society, and serves as a hand maid of oppressive, irresponsible and corrupt governments. As such, they cannot but be the target of public ridicule and hostility. Therefore, the Nigerian police force faces the challenge

of restoring the sense of trust and confidence to the relationships that exist between the police and the public if crime control has to be achieved (Klinger, 2004).

### **2.3 PUBLIC AWEARENESS AND POLICING ACTIVITIES**

A major reorganization of law enforcement agencies according to Hahn (1976) might provide policemen with the active public support that they need for the effective performance of their duties. To successfully fulfill their responsibilities, the police force may be required to place increasing emphasis upon community service activities rather than to launch isolated or limited departmental programs for improving police public relations. Similarly, police officers cannot depend solely upon a general climate of favorable perceptions; they must also gain public respect and confidence. Unlike the tasks of many governmental bureaus, the law enforcement functions of police departments cannot be directly and immediately responsive to public opinion (Klinger, 2004). Although police practices might not be made directly responsive to changing community opinions, however, they can be responsible to public sentiments.

In other words, police departments like all other political agencies must be accountable to the public for their policies and actions. Police officers must be both amenable to public scrutiny and susceptible to the impact and direction of the people acting through their elected representatives. Hahn (1976) further states that fundamentally, police departments are a local extension of relatively remote political institutions, and even though their responsibilities cannot be precisely limited to the

duties outlined for them in the statutes, they must be guided" and controlled by responsible political leadership.

As an extended arm of governmental authority, the only effective means of ensuring that the police force will be responsible to the people therefore is through the political process. One important method of increasing the accountability of police departments is by expanding their accessibility to public desires and requests for community services (Lawton, 2007). In addition however, efforts might be launched to lower the rigid wall that has separated politics and the police. According to Hornby (1985) the police is defined as a body of men and women, or a department of government constituted to maintain law and order.

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 section 214 - (1) stipulates that there shall be a police force for Nigeria which shall be known as the Nigerian police force, and subject to the provisions of this section, no other police force' shall be established for the federation or any part thereof. By this provision of the constitution, the police are responsible for the maintenance and sustenance of public safety, as well as the guaranteeing of the security of property, life, and public order (Lawton, 2007).

A fulfillment of this statutory responsibility is reinforced by other enabling laws. One of such laws is the police act which in section 4 gave details of the duties of the police thus: prevention and detection of crime; the apprehension of offenders; preservation of public peace, protection of life and property; the enforcement of all

laws and regulations with which they are directly charged with; control and regulation of motor traffic.

Within the African cultural background, the African has endeavored to protect himself and his property based on his social control mechanism. This goes to say that the check on social wrongs has its origin on the African traditional religious, beliefs. This social mechanism was nevertheless not lacking in Nigeria. And this provided rudimentary policing activities, a function that met the needs of crime, prevention, detection, control and for the punishment of offenders.

This role provided a high level of social security and protection for man and his property. Thus Oputa (1974) further asserts that our indigenous religion has that strong moral code and that of supernatural sanctions that were both able to keep the old village society morally clean and free from crime. Then, there were no police force but rather, it was a supernatural sanction of their religion that policed the primordial Nigerian village society - Universal brotherhood would undoubtedly tend to reduce crime. Folorunso (1989) further argues that the act of policing in Nigeria is an age long development that cannot be over exaggerated. He asserts that the primitive man though had no organization known as police force, but when he started food gathering, he would not allow any body to invade or to infringe on what belongs to him. This, to an extent is some form of policing activities (Lawton, 2007). Rudimentary efforts of traditional officials in collaboration with variously organized kind of authorities such as the lineage heads, Emirs, Obas, Obis, Enogie etc. provided a strong criminal justice system which were under the control of the traditional rulers.



These groups constituted the organs of social control which were later consolidated by the colonialists.

#### **2.4 DIFFERENTIAL ATTITUDE OF POLICE**

Poplin (1978) states that a criminal first contact with the criminal justice system is with the police. The police can exercise tremendous discretion in deciding who to arrest and who not to arrest, even though it is clear that a law has been violated. Accordingly, Membere (1982) argues that by law, the police is obliged to enforce all laws and lawful commands, even if it offended the fundamental right or liberty of the citizen or was blatantly designed to silence or oppress those opposed to the government. He concludes that the only place such a citizen could enforce his constitutional right is the court of law. Detention in the police cells prior to prosecution frustrates the accused person. Reid (1979) holds that such detention aggravates the human reactions/ aggression; regression with dependency; resignation, fixation or obstinate clinging to deviant patterns which are frequently connected with a long history of prior frustration. Moreover, after being detained for a period of time along with others before being finally set free, one may likely put or practice what one has learnt or acquired from the co-suspects. The implication of this may be that the suspect may be prone to violent aggression than when he had not experienced detention (Lum, 2010a).

The relativism in the determination of what constitutes criminal offence reflects the discriminatory pattern of the Nigerian criminal justice administration. One's class position and the material possession of the person involved is usually

evaluated and considered, Alemika (1990) observes that most criminological literature reveal unconventional crimes are more likely to be committed by those in position of power, cost the society far greater harm and loss than conventional offences usually committed by the poor. Olusanya (1996) stipulates that some of these crimes highly perpetrated and always go unpunished are corruption, contract scams, over - invoicing, embezzlement favoritism and partialism (Lum, 2010a). The conventional ones that are usually dealt with are those that relate to the lower class such as petty stealing/theft, store/house breaking, cheating, criminal assault, etc. The reason for the involvement of the poor in such petty crimes includes the fact that our society is structured in such a way that there are extremes of wealth and poverty, with the vast majority of us in the second category. Gyong (1990) points out that criminal victimization are not only on the increase but are assuming a very complex character, as it appears to affect not only individuals and their personal belongings but public and private enterprises as well (Lum, 2010b).

Alemika (1990) posits that notwithstanding the enormous progress and growth of Nigerian criminal justice system, it can still be summarized as intimidation, brutalization, and incarceration of the poor. In other words, the detention systems in the Nigerian by the police and prisons have been grossly abused, and used as an oppressive and suppressive instrument. He states further that in the colonial time, detention was enforced as part of the designs of the British to ensure the attainment of their economic and commercial interests, they were therefore, and instruments to keep in check all those who resisted colonial domination and

exploitation. In the post-colonial days, it has meant a substitution of indigenous exploiters and oppressors for the British (Miller, 2011). Nothing much has changed since independence as class distinction has come to replace the racial discrimination. Hence the use of the police force against the poor and the materially excluded people and detention as instrument of oppression of this group of people continued unabated. He finally asserts that the police and the legal system (courts and the prisons) have functioned as instruments for stamping out all manners of agitation against oppression, exploitation and injustice in the nation.

Reid (1979) states that detention is not only ineffective in reducing recidivism among inmates, and its dehumanizing characteristics, but also the fact that it may also strengthen the detained person's inclination towards crime. Reckless (1961) stipulates that the act of policing, as well as detention and interrogation is favorably disposed to the powerful and those in-authority who use their class position in determining policing strategies of crime prevention, detention and prosecution (Miller, 2011). This is why those in authority jump the process of criminal justice. He goes on to confirm that the criminal law categories are ideological construct designed to victimize only some criminal behaviors, usually those more committed by the relatively powerless, and to exclude others, usually those frequently committed by the powerful. As such, crime, criminality and criminal justice are discriminatory in that the acts that are criminally committed by the powerful are usually concealed, waved aside pretentiously as if it is never happened, where as those committed by the less privilege are usually exaggerated and definitely

punished. In addition, Daudu (2008) has it that the police lack integrity. In his words “ the police as far as am concerned is a disgrace to Nigerians, they commit terrible things....imagine police will kill an innocent person and claim the following day that he/she was found stealing” (Moskos, 2008).

Going further, Reckless (1979) says what an accused person goes through in order for the police to elicit information from him is inhuman, callous and brutal. That we still punish primarily for vengeance or to deter, or in the interest of a "just" balance of accounts between "deliberate" evildoers, on the one hand, and an injured and enraged society on the other. We do not yet generally punish or treat as scientific criminology would imply, namely, in order to change antisocial attitudes into social attitudes. Garland (1990) believes that punishment is not just an instrument of control; it is also an expressive institution, a cultural performance. Policing like punishment is embroiled in and animated by a set of cultural mentalities. He states further that policing communicates meaning and plays its part in the creation of culture. The accused person detained in the police cell often has different kinds of socialization. It is argued that no single Socialization principle diverts relationships. Maccoby (1991) maintains that instead, interactions are guided by a varied set of socialization rules. Different relationships are organized around distinct socialization tasks, so each relationship requires its own unique cannon. Perhaps, one of the most common descriptions of law enforcement duties is encompassed by the concept of social control. According to Halin (1970) policemen are often regarded primarily as officials who administer significant restrictions upon human behavior. As a

result major emphasis is placed upon the coercive impact of police operations. According to this view, the task of imposing authoritative limitations upon public activities may be the principal function and the defining characteristics of police practices (Moskos, 2008; Neighborhood Scout. (2014)).

However, the actions of police officers reflect only one of three apparent methods by which social control is applied to public behavior. Initially, social conduct frequently is guided or restrained by personal discipline. The individual may exert limitations upon his own actions that ultimately contribute to the perpetuation of orderly and predictable social life. In general, those internal restraints are regarded as psychological forms of social control. Secondly, personal interactions may be governed by often subtle and sometimes unspoken social conventions. Those rules may include established traditions, as well as norms or mores. The primary obligation to administer the laws that are originated by government leaders is bestowed upon policemen. Therefore, unlike the restrictions that arise from psychological or sociological origins, the rules that are enforced by policemen seem to be closely related to major political institutions and principles.

The social control imposed by law enforcement officers, therefore appear to denote a distinctively political component of the broad range of influences that may guide or direct social activity. Although the operation of psychological and sociological, as well as political restraints may constitute the basic prerequisites for a viable political community, the authoritative regulations upon human conduct administered by the police seem to be especially critical for the survival of the state.

Perhaps the basic framework of any society can be found in the provisions of its criminal code. The definition of types of behavior that are to be prescribed as well as those that are to be regarded as tolerant or appropriate may be one of the most fundamental prerogatives of the body politic.

In a critique of this perspective, Halin (1970) 'notes that the behavior defined as criminal are more likely than not the behavior of the poor and politically less skillful members of the polity'. In addition, contact between police officers and the public is not uniformly distributed throughout society. The types of offences that normally require police intervention are crimes that are most prevalent among lower class sectors of the population because they are the primary targets of the social controls imposed by policemen.

## **2.5. SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING POLICE OF CRIME**

### **SUSPECT**

Section 4 of the Police Act No 23 of 1979, specified the functions of the Nigeria Police Force as: the Police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of crime, apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the protection of life and property, and due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged, and perform military duties within or without Nigeria as may be required of them by, or under the authority of this or any other Act. According to Critchley (1978) the police was founded to deal with social problems. However, the

following are some of the factors militating against the efficiency of the police as required by these provisions of this Act (Nigeria Constitution, 1999).

**Inadequate equipment:** The police lack modern equipment to effectively combat crime in Nigeria. A former Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, in 2008 observed that infrastructural facilities and the much needed equipment are in short supply in the police force. Vehicles, communication equipment, scientific tools for investigation, intelligence gathering control equipment are grossly inadequate. Less than 5% of policemen in the States and Federal Capital Territory have walkie-talkie for communication during patrols (Paoline, & Terrill, 2007). Less than 20% of the Police Stations have telephones to respond to distress calls from the public during emergencies. In terms of vehicles, about 5% of the commands have one or no lorry and other operational vehicle. The situation has not really changed till now. According to Michael Askew, retired Superintendent, Metropolitan Police, at a training workshop for senior officers of the Nigeria Police in Uyo “Inadequate funding can hamper Police efforts in Nigeria. If they do not have the necessary tools to work; you will be providing room for what will aid corruption in the sector (Sun, & Triplett, 2008). The police officers in UK and Nigeria do the same job, they want to save the community, deal with crime, terrorism but the difference is that there is great infrastructure in the UK, every officer has a radio, have access to vehicles, petrol but here, a police officer does not even have enough money to put petrol in the police cars. The basic job is the same but Nigeria has less resource that is needed on the ground... inadequate resources and infrastructures have made the Police less

effective, and is responsible for the corruption experienced in the force... government must rise to the responsibility of providing sufficient resources to make the Nigeria Police effective in fighting crime as well as efficient in service delivery” (Tyler, & Fagan, 2008).

**Lack of motivation for the police:** Motivation is a serious factor as far as efficiency in any endeavour is concern. Motivation goes a long way to encourage a worker to work to maximum capacity. There are policemen who have been on the same rank for fifteen (15) years. It is a fact that less than 25% of the policemen in Nigeria have Barrack accommodation. Also a visit to some of the barracks will reveal the sorry state of the barracks. Some of the barracks are in various states of dilapidation and squalor and are in dire need of renovation to make it habitable for decent conditions of living for the policemen (Sun, & Triplett, 2008). Also, Sulaiman Musa noted in a Saturday column of Weekly Trust, 4-10 March 2006, page 48 that “the Nigeria police cannot be said to be functional. Apart from the fact that they are underfunded and reduced to mere object of degradation with meagre salaries, they also have to operate in less habitable places as offices in addition to poor shelters (barracks)... Our police are demoralized and yet they are the ones assigned the tedious and dangerous jobs of patrolling our highways, chasing armed robbers, fishing out criminals, as well as restoration of peace... And are quick to blame them once they perform below our high expectation; unmindful of the condition under which they have to operate. Though this has improved slightly over the years, but much more still needs to be done in order to motivate the rank and file of the police (Sun, & Triplett, 2008).



**Lack of co-operation from the public and negative perception of the police:**

Crime prevention and control is a collective responsibility. The police cannot do it alone. But the vast majority of Nigerians do not believe in the saying that ‘police is your friend’, either because of past experience with police or for some other reasons known to them. The public perception of the police in Nigeria has greatly affected the level of support given to the police in combating crime. As a result of this, many refrain from giving valuable information which could have helped to checkmate crime to the police. Public participation is very important in assisting the police to achieve the desired effective crime prevention and control (Paoline, 2004).

**Poverty:** According to Oxford Dictionary of Sociology, poverty is a state in which resources, usually material but sometimes are lacking. Poverty in absolute terms refers to a state in which the individual lacks the resources necessary for subsistence. In other words, poverty is the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money. Absolute poverty or destitution refers to the deprivation of basic human needs, which commonly includes food, water, sanitation, clothing, shelter, health care and education (Miller, 2011). Relative poverty is defined contextually as economic inequality in the location or society in which people live. Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one’s life.

Poverty may also be understood as an aspect of unequal social status and inequitable social relationships, experienced as social exclusion, dependency, and diminished capacity to participate, or to develop meaningful connections with other people in society (Klinger, 2004). The poverty level in Nigeria is very high and this has resulted in an increase in criminal activities. Many have taken up to crime to make ends meet and as a result, the police are over-stretched both in personnel and equipment (Klinger, 2004).

**Unemployment:** In Nigeria, the unemployment rate is worrisome. It has consistently increased in the last few years. Recently, a former presidential aspirant in Nigeria, Pat Utomi, wonders why Nigeria experiences rising rate of unemployment despite its rating as one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Unemployed youths are readily available for anti-social criminal activities that undermine the stability of society. The rising rate of unemployment has further affected the effectiveness of the police to combat crime. The police are most time overwhelmed with the enormity and frequency of crime committed. Because unemployment readily creates a large army of potential criminals, effective policing has remained a mirage in Nigeria.

**Family breakdown:** The role of the family in maintaining a stable and crime free society cannot be over-emphasized. The increasing rate of family marriage breakdown and its attendant effect on the children and the society at large has become ticking time-bomb because it has given rise to increase in criminal activities by the children of the broken homes (Engel, 2005). For Iain Duncan Smith, UK Work and Pensions Secretary, “it is important that we recognize the role of marriage in building

a strong society, especially if we want to give children the best chance in life. Children from broken homes are nine times more likely to commit crimes than those from stable families (Klinger, 2004). Seven out of 10 offenders come from broken homes... According to the Centre for Social Justice estimate, the direct cost of family breakdown is up to £24billion...but research indicated that the extra costs brought about by the effects of broken homes could quadruple that figure... This is not some abstract debate. Family life affects all of us – what happens on our streets; in our communities; and in our economy. What you learn from a very early age has a great deal to say about the person you will eventually become and the life you lead."

**Bribery and Corruption:** The Nigeria police is well known for its rottenness as many of the police officers are known to be corrupt. Bribery and Corruption are twin cankerworms that have eaten deep into the fabrics of the Nigerian society. The police are known not to be exempted from this reckless orgy of financial ignominy. Funds released to the police are known to have been diverted into private pockets. Also, criminals are known to usually bribe their way through and escape the long arm of justice. This has led to the increase in criminal activities since the criminals know that the police could be bought at a price (Klinger, 2004). Arrested criminals are back on the streets again the next day if they or their god-fathers can negotiate and pay an agreed sum. This has greatly affected the effectiveness of the police in crime prevention and control in Nigeria.

## **2.6. EDUCATION AND CRIME**

Criminological literature concerning the relationship between crime and education has primarily focused on how education can cause or prevent delinquent or criminal behavior (Gottfredson, 2002). Within this discussion there is an interest in understanding criminal justice and how we arrive at decisions of guilt and innocence. In order to understand the complexity of criminal justice decisions, criminologists have to consider what extralegal factors affect these decisions. Justice decisions are made through a process that is aimed at determining whether or not the suspected offender is culpable. Research has stated that culpability is attributed to a suspected offender when they have committed an act that shows insufficient concern for how their actions will affect the rest of society (Alexander, 2000). In these cases, the suspected offenders who impose risk on others without just reasoning are often ostracized for being callous or indifferent (Alexander, 2000). Extralegal factors often play a role in ascribing whether or not a suspected offender is deemed as culpable. Researchers have found that extralegal factors often affect the decisions of police officers, parole boards, judges and jurors (e.g. Schlesinger, 2005; Peterson, Krivo and Hagan, 2006 & Maruna, Matravers and King, 2004). Of these extralegal factors, race and gender are shown to have the most significant effect on decisions of many police officers, parole board members, judges, and jurors in regards to the incarceration of suspected and convicted offenders (Maruna, Matravers and King, 2004). When you consider what has been found concerning the effects of race and gender on criminal justice decisions, it is reasonable to assume that other extralegal factors, such as the offender's level of educational attainment, could also influence

decisions of guilt or innocence. Unfortunately, little research has been conducted on whether or not the educational attainment of suspected offenders has any effect on decisions regarding their culpability. That being said, the research that has been done does give some evidence to support the idea that highly educated suspects are perceived differently than less educated suspects.

## **2.7. Penal and Criminal Code**

The Nigeria Penal and criminal code as documented under the laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 in Chapter 5 sub chapter 22- 28 outline the responsibility of the criminal and expectations of citizens before conviction.

Crimes suspects who are Ignorance of the law does not afford them any excuse for any act or omission which would otherwise constitute an offence, unless knowledge of the law by the offender is expressly declared to be an element of the offence.

A Person is not criminally responsible, as for an offence relating to property, for an act done or omitted to be done by him with respect to any property in the exercise of an honest claim of right and without intention to defraud.

Subject to the express provisions of this code relating to negligent acts and omissions, a person is not criminally responsible for an act or omission, which occurs independently of the exercise of his will, or for an event which occurs by accident. Unless the intention to cause a particular result is expressly declared to be an element of the offence constituted, in whole or part, by an act or omission, the result intended

to be caused by an act or omission is immaterial Unless otherwise expressly declared, the motive by which a person is induced to do or omit to do an act, or to form an intention, is immaterial so far as regards criminal responsibility.

A person who does or omits to do an act under an honest and reasonable, but mistaken, belief in the existence of any state of things is not criminally responsible for the act or omission to any greater extent than if the real state of things had been such as he believed to exist.

The operation of this rule may be excluded by the express or implied provisions of the law relating to the subject.

Subject to the express provisions of this code relating to acts done upon compulsion or provocation or in self-defence, a person is not criminally responsible for an act done or omission made under such circumstances of sudden or extraordinary emergency that an ordinary person possessing ordinary power of self-control could not reasonably be expected to act otherwise.

Every person is presumed to be of sound mind, and to have been of sound mind at any time which comes in question, until the contrary is proved. A person is not criminally responsible for an act or omission if at the time of doing the act or making the omission he is in such a state of mental disease or natural mental infirmity as to deprive him of capacity to understand what he is doing, or of capacity to control his actions, or of capacity to know that he ought not to do the act or make the omission.

A person whose mind, at the time of his doing or omitting to do an act, is affected by delusions on some specific matter or matters, but who is not otherwise entitled to the benefit of the foregoing provisions of this section, is criminally responsible for the act or omission to the same extent as if the real state of things had been such as he was induced by the delusions to believe to exist.

## **2.8. Summary of Literature**

This study which is set to examine the attitude of Nigeria Police towards crime suspects in Asaba metropolis has review selected literature on differential police attitude such as hostility and brutality of the police towards crime suspects, public awareness and the corresponding policing activities, crime suspect education and their treatment by the police and the several socio economic factors affecting policing crime suspects.

Daudu (2008) claim that police brutality and harassment of innocent Nigeria Citizens, is another obstacle to the prospects of the Nigeria Police in guaranteeing security of lives and property, law and order while Klinger, (2004) opine that Nigerian police force faces the challenge of restoring the sense of trust and confidence to the relationships that exist between the police and the public if crime control has to be achieved. On police public awareness, Hahn (1976) when there is upmost support of the public that the police tend to perform better than when they lack the support. Hahn (1976) further states that fundamentally, police departments are a local extension of relatively remote political institutions, and even though their

responsibilities cannot be precisely limited to the duties outlined for them in the statutes, they must be guided" and controlled by responsible political leadership

On police differential attitude towards crime suspects, Poplin (1978) states that a criminal first contact with the criminal justice system is with the police. The police can exercise tremendous discretion in deciding who to arrest and who not to arrest, even though it is clear that a law has been violated. Accordingly, Membere (1982) argues that by law, the police is obliged to enforce all laws and lawful commands, even if it offended the fundamental right or liberty of the citizen or was blatantly designed to silence or oppress those opposed to the government. He concludes that the only place such a citizen could enforce his constitutional right is the court of law. Detention in the police cells prior to prosecution frustrates the accused person. Reid (1979) holds that such detention aggravates the human reactions/ aggression; regression with dependency; resignation, fixation or obstinate clinging to deviant patterns which are frequently connected with a long history of prior frustration. Based on the socio economic factors affecting policing crime suspect, reviewed literature highlighted police inadequate equipment, police poor motivation, poor public-private cooperation, unemployment, poverty and broken home among the crime suspect are the mitigating factors against effective policing of crime suspects.

Finally, review on educational factor affecting the treatment of crime suspects reveals that most educational studies focus on delinquency and little or no studies



have been done on how crime suspect's educational level affects how the police treat them.

## **2.9. THEORETICALFRAMEWORK**

### **CONFLICT THEORY**

Conflict theory has its origin in the work of Max Weber. Weber rejected Karl Marx's (1818 -1883) view that the division between the owners and non-owners of property was the only significant division between groups in society. He argued that there are numerous divisions within the two basic classes depending upon the market situation of individuals (Weber, 1978, first published in the 1920s). He suggested that people could be divided by their status situation and political interests as well as by their economic positions. "Parties could be formed on the basis of status groupings or classes, but it was also possible for them to cut across class or status groups. The attitude of the Nigeria Police towards criminal suspects is one of the exercises of legitimate power against a "subject-class". The police behave authoritatively towards the criminal suspects in a kind of "master-servant" relationship status grouping-leading to conflict. The criminal suspect see the police as "they" protecting the political or elite class and "us" the poor class. Against this background, conflict theory provides a better platform to understand police attitude towards criminal suspects.

According to conflict theory, inequality exists because those in control of a disproportionate share of society's resources actively defend their advantages. Power

is the core of all relationships, which is gained through economics, and such powers are used to control the apparatus of the state, including the police and Judiciary.

This study can be aptly situated within the conflict perspective. This is due to the inequalities within the Nigerian social structure which is differentiated into classes which though cannot be concretely be bourgeoisie and proletariat, but clearly visible . There also exists considerable injustice which has generated inequalities in the distribution of wealth, political and social power. And the police was created since colonialism solely to maintain this, also, since Nigeria was incorporated into the capitalist world economy with its past military and repressive regimes, the social injustice within the country produces conflicts that must be suppressed to ensure law and order. More to this, in Nigeria, is the situation where more than one quarter (120,000) of the total Nigeria Police are attached to the rich and powerful. However, the order by the 18<sup>th</sup> Nigeria inspector general of Police, Solomon Arase, to reduce the number of Police personnel attached to politicians and private individuals.

Alemika (2000), He further states that political and economic power holders control the government and institutions that suppress threats against their prevailing political and economic system and arrangements. Examples of such institutions are the police, courts, prisons etc. Alemika, (1990) He therefore argues that the police were not created to serve society or the people, but to serve some parts of society and some people at the expense of others. The variations in attitudes towards the police reflect the differential services rendered by the police to different segments of society. Police roles vary across societies with different political and economic

organizations. For instance, it has been argued by Bowden (2000) that the roles of police include the "repression of the poor and powerless in order to protect the interest of the rulers".

Moreover, Alemika and Chukwuma (2000) have also asserted that in capitalist societies, the main function of the police has been to protect the property and wellbeing of those who benefit most from an economy based on the extraction of private profit. The police were created primarily in response to rioting and disorder directed against oppressive working and living conditions. More facts to the discriminatory attitude of the Police were summarized by Reckless (1961) who stipulates that the act of policing, as well as detention and interrogation is favorably disposed to the powerful and those in-authority who use their class position in determining policing strategies of crime prevention, detention and prosecution. This is why those in authority jump the process of criminal justice. He goes on to confirm that the criminal law categories are ideological construct designed to victimize only some criminal behaviors, usually those more committed by the relatively powerless, and to exclude others, usually those frequently committed by the powerful. As such, crime, criminality and criminal justice are discriminatory in that the acts that are criminally committed by the powerful are usually concealed, waved aside pretentiously as if it is never happened, where as those committed by the less privilege are usually exaggerated and definitely punished.

This is therefore, the nature of the police and public relations as well as general attitude, of the police towards criminal suspects in Nigeria.



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This chapter highlights the method and procedure to be use in the research i.e. the research design, population of study, sample size and sampling technique, instruments of data collection, validation of instrument, procedure of data collection and method of data analysis.

#### **3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN**

The research design adopted for this study is cross sectional design, where questionnaires were administered using survey technique. The cross sectional design is chosen because of its effectiveness in seeking the views of people about issues that concerns them. It is also useful not only for describing existing conditions but also reflects the result of the whole population under study using a sample of the population, relatively inexpensive and takes little time to conduct. (Blend 2001)

#### **3.2 POPULATION OF THE STUDY**

This study was conducted in Asaba Metropolis, the Capital of Delta State, situated in Oshimili South L.G.A. Asaba is predominantly an urban area. Being a Capital City, residence of Asaba are mainly Civil servants and Private sector workers and as such their major occupation and profession are mainly found within the public sector. The city is divided into four major towns, which are; Asaba Town, Awai, okwe and Oko and is located along the bank of the River Niger. It has an area of 500 square kilometers and a population of 150,032 as at the 2006 census (NPC, 2006).

The four (4) major towns have four police divisions. The total population of 150,032 comprises of the police, crime suspects and the general population.

### 3.3 SAMPLING SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Sampling is generally associated with survey research. It is the scientific method of obtaining representative data that is from a given population of study. The sample size of this study comprise of members of the Public (most especially those who have been victims of police differential attitude and who have their relations under police custody), the police and criminal suspects themselves in the four police divisions in Asaba Metropolis of Delta State. The actual sample size was calculated using Taro Yamane (1964) formula for sample size determinant to arrive at approximately 400 sample size. The sample size determinant criteria are given below

$$n = \frac{P}{I + Pe^2}$$

Where:      n      = Sample  
                 P      = Population  
                 I      = Constant  
                 e      = Error limit (0.05)

Given the fact that the scope of this study is Asaba metropolis, the 400 sample was drawn from the four major towns in the study area. 100 questionnaires were distributed to each town. Out of the 100 questionnaires administered in each town a fixed number of 14 and 23 questionnaires were respectively distributed to the police division to elicit responses from crime suspects and policemen while 63 civilians

were administered questionnaire to. Therefore, the distribution of respondents is given below:

**Table 3.1: Distribution of Respondents**

<b>Categories of Respondents</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Each town</b>
<b>Criminal Suspects</b>	56	14
<b>Policemen</b>	92	23
<b>Civilians</b>	252	63
<b>Total Population</b>	400	100

*Source: personal compilation, 2017*

The sampling technique adopted for this study is the purposive sampling techniques. The choice of this technique is based on the fact that the individual selected for the study are known and there is an underlying interest in the selected groups.

### **3.4 RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

The instrument adopted in eliciting data for this study is the questionnaire instrument. The questionnaire was structured in such a way that questions which are regarded as ambiguous, misleading or vague were avoided. (Modood 1999)

Generally, the questionnaire was designed in such a way that the questions were brief, precise, concise and easy to understand by the respondents. The questionnaire contained some structured fixed alternative questions from which respondents choose only one right answer. The questionnaire was made up of five (5) sections. While section A, which is on social demographics, deals with information often regarded as

respondent personal or demographic data which includes; age, sex, education qualification, etc, Section B of the questionnaire focused on arising questions on criminal suspects socio-economic conditions and police differential attitude towards them. Section C of the instrument dwells on criminal suspects' education and police treatment. Section D questions will be designed to lay emphasis on the variation of public awareness on police treatment of criminal suspects while Section E focused on police attitude and crime control. Aside the five (5) sections, the questionnaire will further be segmented into three (3) i.e. according to the different categories of respondents. Part one of the Questionnaire was administered to the general public, Part two was administered to the police while part three was administered to the criminal suspects

### **3.5 PROCEDURES FOR DATA COLLECTION**

Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data consist of data gathered through a well-structured questionnaire instrument. The questionnaires were administered to the respondents personally by the researcher. Four hundred (400) of the questionnaires will be administered in total. Furthermore, the secondary source of data collection was employed which include text books, journals, magazines/ newspapers, works from libraries, government documents and information downloaded from the internet.

### **3.6 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**



The data obtained was analyzed using statistical tables, frequencies and percentages. The Chi-square ( $X^2$ ) test was used to test for stated Hypothesis.

### **3.7 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

The Validity of every research instrument depends on the reliability of that instrument. The face and content validity of the item questionnaire instrument was confirmed by the researcher's supervisor after going through them and making necessarily amendments.

To test the reliability of the research instrument, the questionnaire was administered to a pilot group. The Test- Retest Statistical method was used to establish the reliability of the questionnaire instrument. Five Percent of sample size population was use to conduct the pilot survey test and a re-test was also carried out using the 5 % sample size population after 2 weeks of the initial test. Scores derived from both test was correlated to find the stability of the rank order of the individual respondents over a period of time, using Spearman's Rank Correlation Co-efficient Formula. The value of the correlation co-efficient Of 0.67 is more than 50% and it means that the rank order is stable and the questionnaire instrument is reliable for the research.

**CHAPTER FOUR**  
**PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

**4.0. Introduction**

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of data gathered from the field through the use of structured questionnaire. A total of 400 questionnaires were administered to respondents comprising of 400 respondents in Asaba Metropolis. Out of the 400 questionnaires administered to respondents, only 365 questionnaires were returned completely and accurately filled while the other 35 questionnaires, though returned but, was not accurately filled. It was on the basis of the 365 questionnaire that the researcher presented analyzed data and discussed the findings of the research.

**4.1. Presentation of Data**

Under the presentation of data, results were presented in the following tables starting with the socio demographics of the respondents

**Table 4.1: Response Rate Distributions**

<b>Categories of Respondents</b>	<b>Administered</b>	<b>Retrieved</b>
<b>Criminal Suspects</b>	56	51(91%)
<b>Policemen</b>	92	87(95%)
<b>Civilians</b>	252	227(90%)
<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>365 (91%)</b>

*Source: Fieldwork, 2017*

Table 4.1 shows the response rate distribution of respondents. Out of the 400 questionnaires administered 365 (91%) questionnaires were retrieved. Out of the 365, 51 of the respondents came from criminal suspects in the police custody, 87 of them were Policemen while 227 of them were from the general public.

**TABLE 4.2: SOCIO DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE RESPONDENTS**

		Civilians		Crime Suspects		Police		Total	
Sex of Respondents	Male	105	46.3%	39	76.5%	61	70.1%	205	56.2%
	Female	122	53.7%	12	23.5%	26	29.9%	160	43.8%
	Total	227	100.0%	51	100.0%	87	100.0%	365	100.0%
Age of Respondents	18-37	33	14.5%	17	33.3%	20	23.0%	70	19.2%
	38-57	63	27.8%	19	37.3%	41	47.1%	123	33.7%
	58-77	63	27.8%	10	19.6%	17	19.5%	90	24.7%
	78 and above	68	30.0%	5	9.8%	9	10.3%	82	22.5%
	Total	227	100.0%	51	100.0%	87	100.0%	365	100.0%
Educational Qualification	FSLC	23	10.1%	4	7.8%	14	16.1%	41	11.2%
	WAEC/SSC/NECO	89	39.2%	21	41.2%	29	33.3%	139	38.1%
	NCE/ND	39	17.2%	7	13.7%	10	11.5%	56	15.3%
	Degree/HND	56	24.7%	18	35.3%	32	36.8%	106	29.0%
	Others	20	8.8%	1	2.0%	2	2.3%	23	6.3%
	Total	227	100.0%	51	100.0%	87	100.0%	365	100.0%

*Source: Fieldwork, 2017*

Table 4.2 shows the demographic distribution of the 365 respondents that took part in the survey. 56.2% of them were male while 43.8% of them were female. Across the categories of respondents the percentage of male (76.5%) was higher among crime suspects while the percentage of female (53.7%) were higher among the general population. The age distribution shows that the age of the respondents were unevenly distributed as 33.7% were between the ages of 38-57 years, 24.7% were in

the ages of 58-77 years, 22.5% were above 78 years and 19.2% were between 18-37 years of age. Across the categories of respondents the percentage of the police (47.1%) was higher among those in 38-57 years. The crime suspects (33.3%) dominated the age bracket of 18-37 while the general public had a higher age bracket for those in 58-77 years and 78 years above. Educational qualification of the respondents shows that 38.1 % had WAEC and equivalent, 29% had first degree certification, 15.3% had NCE and equivalent, 11.2% have First School leaving certificates while 6.3% had others academic qualifications. Across the categories of respondents, the police had more of FSLC (16.1%) and First Degree (36.8%). The general public had more of NCE (17.2%) and other certifications (8.8%). The crime suspect had more of WAEC and equivalent (41.2%).

**TABLE 4.3: CRIME SUSPECTS SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND POLICE DIFFERENTIAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEM**

	SD		D		A		SA		Total	
The Nigeria Police are partial on the way they treat criminal suspects	13	3.6%	18	4.9%	81	22.2%	253	69.3%	365	100.0%
Police detention of crime suspect varies according to their status in the society	8	2.2%	33	9.0%	142	38.9%	182	49.9%	365	100.0%
The repressive attitude of the police to criminal suspects increases frequency of crime commission	12	3.3%	36	9.9%	76	20.8%	241	66.0%	365	100.0%
Those who are able to bribe the police receives lesser detention in the police custody	10	2.7%	25	6.8%	153	41.9%	177	48.5%	365	100.0%
Nigeria Police does not do proper and thorough investigation before they conduct arrest and label citizens suspects	10	2.7%	71	19.5%	117	32.1%	167	45.8%	365	100.0%

Nigeria police are predisposed to arresting to less privileged complainants and witnesses at the crime scene invent	21	5.8%	40	11.0%	124	34.0%	180	49.3%	365	100.0%
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Source: *Fieldwork, 2017*

Table 4.3 shows respondent’s opinion on the influence of crime suspects socio-economic conditions on police differential attitude towards them. The result shows that respondents collectively agreed that police are partial on their treatment of criminal suspects in their custody (69.3%). The partiality in police treatment of crime suspect vary on the procedure for police detention i.e. they detain criminal suspect according to varying socio and economic conditions they face (49.9%). Crime suspects societal conditions promotes police repressive attitude towards them and because they considered themselves in a disadvantaged position, the frequency of crime commission tend to increase among crime suspects (66%). Police differential attitude towards crime suspects is pronounced on the eagerness of most crime suspect being able to bribe their way through the criminal justice process as respondents claim that those who are able to pay bribe receives less detention and treatments from the police (48.5%). The police differential attitude discourages police proper and thorough investigation before they conduct arrest or prosecute criminal suspects (45.8%). This informs why respondents strongly claimed that Nigeria Police are predisposed to arresting the less privileged in the society because they see them favoring crime due to their economic deficiency (49.3%). By implication, it can be summed up that the police differential attitude towards crime suspects is influenced

by the prevailing socio-economic condition criminal suspect face in Asaba Metropolis.

**TABLE 4.4: CRIME SUSPECTS EDUCATION AND POLICE TREATMENT**

	SD		D		A		SA		Total	
Criminal suspects should be treated according to their educational qualification	14	3.8%	85	23.3%	97	26.6%	169	46.3%	365	100.0%
Most of the detainees in the police custody are less educated	12	3.3%	17	4.7%	109	29.9%	227	62.2%	365	100.0%
The Nigeria Police do not give preference to educated Nigerians when conducting arrest.	14	3.8%	68	18.6%	81	22.2%	202	55.3%	365	100.0%
There is usually a separate detaining cell blocks for the educated and the non educated	16	4.4%	23	6.3%	110	30.1%	216	59.2%	365	100.0%
Educated suspects are not detained and tried from the prisons	15	4.1%	38	10.4%	79	21.6%	233	63.8%	365	100.0%
The non educated are not granted immediate bail when they are suspected for committing crime	16	4.4%	67	18.4%	91	24.9%	191	52.3%	365	100.0%

*Source: Fieldwork, 2017*

Table 4.4 shows the extent police treatment is influenced by the level of criminal suspect education. Questions raised on this section were all strongly agreed upon by the respondents. Specifically, 46.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that the level of educational attainment of criminal suspect influences how the police treat them when in the police custody. Respondents strongly agreed (62.2%) that most of the police detainees are the less educated ones. This is true as the educated will seek for the services of lawyers or tell the police of their right as citizens. Respondents agreed that the police give separate detaining blocks/cells to both the educated and less educated (59.2%) and more often educated are never detained and tried by the police

as it is will the less educated. By implication, the finding reveals that criminal suspect education strongly influences police differential attitude towards treating crime suspects.

**TABLE 4.5: VARIATION IN GENERAL AWARENESS ON POLICE TREATMENT OF CRIME SUSPECTS**

	SD		D		A		SA		Total	
Police brutality on criminal suspects' results to public hostility to the police	31	8.5%	63	17.3%	109	29.9%	162	44.4%	365	100.0%
Police sometimes take tips (bribe) and fail to effect arrest and prosecution	18	4.9%	39	10.7%	84	23.0%	224	61.4%	365	100.0%
Because criminal suspect are over tortured or under tortured, the right and required guitness to prove them guilty may not be necessary derive from them.	94	25.8%	99	27.1%	63	17.3%	109	29.9%	365	100.0%
Criminal suspect refuse giving of the information because they see the police as corrupt as themselves.	59	16.2%	108	29.6%	107	29.3%	91	24.9%	365	100.0%
The lack of confidence in the ability of the Police by the public has affected their performance.	84	23.0%	98	26.8%	123	33.7%	60	16.4%	365	100.0%
The perception of corruption in the Police have caused innocent to people to jailed	52	14.2%	115	31.5%	119	32.6%	79	21.6%	365	100.0%

*Source: Fieldwork, 2017*

Table 4.5 shows the variation among respondents on their awareness of police differential attitude towards the treatment of crime suspects. Respondents vary on their awareness of police treatment of crime suspects. The result shows that less than 50% of respondents strongly agreed that the general public hostility for police is cause by how they treat crime suspects. Respondents were indifference on whether

the police sometime take bribe before the arrest or prosecute as 61.4% affirmed that they take bribe to arrest and prosecute crime suspects. On the question whether the level of police treatment have help to generate the required proof for guilty, only 29.9% claimed that the over-torturing and under-torturing of crime suspects affects the extent police could generate proof of guilty of crime suspects. Respondents also collectively agreed that crime suspects always refuse to give the police information because they see the police as corrupt (54.2%) and the lack confidence in the ability of the police by the public affects the police performance. (50.1%). By implication, the result reveals that the Nigerians have a differential awareness on police treatment of crime suspects.

**TABLE 4.6: POLICE ATTITUDE AND CRIME CONTROL**

	SD		D		A		SA		Total	
Criminal suspects should not be tortured to get information from them if crime control could be more effective	40	11.0%	56	15.3%	132	36.2%	137	37.5%	365	100.0%
The police should attend to the medical needs of the criminal suspects in their custody, this would make suspects willing and able to assist them in crime control	35	9.6%	59	16.2%	159	43.6%	112	30.7%	365	100.0%
The hostile nature of the Police personnel on criminal suspects hinders the effective operation of the Police.	56	15.3%	82	22.5%	117	32.1%	110	30.1%	365	100.0%
The perception of corruption in the Police have slow down the Criminal Justice System	47	12.9%	59	16.2%	166	45.5%	93	25.5%	365	100.0%
The perception of corruption in the Police has freed Criminals d from criminal charges.	39	10.7%	68	18.6%	158	43.3%	100	27.4%	365	100.0%



The perception of corruption in the police has Increase the public discontentment and des-credibility in the police operation	62	17.0%	59	16.2%	149	40.8%	95	26.0%	365	100.0%
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Source: *fieldwork, 2017*

Table 4.6 shows police attitude toward crime suspects and the police ability to control crime. The result shows that torturing criminal suspect to get information is really not the effective way to control crime in the society (37.5%). Respondents collectively agreed that police should turn good attitude toward criminal suspects such as attending to suspect’s medical needs because this will facilitate the process of getting useful information for crime control (30.7%). Respondents also agreed that the hostile nature of the police personnel on criminal suspects hinders the affective operation of the police (30.1%) and the perception of corruption in the police have slow down the criminal justice system (25.5%). Police attitude towards corruption, taking bribes from criminal suspects has freed most criminal from crime charges (27.4%) and has increased public discontentment and des-credibility in the operation of the police. By implication, police differential attitude have influenced the extent of crime control in Asaba metropolis

## 4.2. Test of hypothesis

The study tested the following hypotheses to find out whether the hypothetical statements is accepted or rejected. The chi-square statistical techniques was used to test the below hypotheses with a significant level 0.05 ( $P < 0.05$ )

### Decision Rule

If the calculated  $X^2$  value is higher than the critical (table)  $X^2$  value or the P-value of the result is lesser than the significant level (0.05), reject the Null Hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) and accept the Alternative Hypothesis ( $H_1$ ). On the other hand if the calculated  $X^2$  value is lesser than the critical (table)  $X^2$  value or the P-value of the result is higher than the significant level (0.05), accept the Null Hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) and reject the Alternative Hypothesis ( $H_1$ ).

Decision Rule		Decision	Significance (Conclusion)
If Cal $X^2 >$ Crit $X^2$	Pvalue $<$ 0.05	Reject $H_0$ Accept $H_1$	This shows the test is significant
If Cal $X^2 <$ Crit $X^2$	Pvalue $>$ 0.05	Accept $H_0$ Reject $H_1$	This shows that the test is not significant

However there are cases where the test result and P-value is less than 0.01. This shows a 99% confidence level on the test result with 1% error margin. This means that the association between variable is highly significant.

### Degree of Freedom (DF)

Non-Parametric statistics of chi-square degree of freedom is:

$$DF = (C-1)(R-1)$$

Where C= Number of Column

R= Number of Row

Note: The DF for each hypothesis varies with the number of questions combine to test the hypothesis. This implies that there may be no uniform DF in this study as is seen below.

### **Critical (Table) X<sup>2</sup> Value**

The critical X<sup>2</sup>value was obtained from the statistical table and the following criteria were use to obtain the value.

$$\text{Critical X}^2\text{value} = DF \alpha 0.05 \text{ (2-tailed)}$$

Also, the critical X<sup>2</sup>value for each hypothesis varies with their DF for each hypothesis.

### **Hypothesis one**

Ho: There is no significant relationship between socio-economic status of crime suspects and the police treatment of criminal suspect

Hi: There is a significant relationship between socio-economic status of crime suspects and the police treatment of criminal suspect

In testing this hypothesis responses, to the questions on the socio-economic status of crime suspects and the police treatment of criminal suspect as shown in table 4.3 were considered appropriate to test this hypothesis.

**Table 4.6: Chi-square result on socio-economic status of crime suspects and the police treatment of criminal suspect**

<b>Comparison</b>	<b>DF</b>	<b>Cal X<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Crit X<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>P-Value</b>	<b>Remark</b>
socio-economic status of crime suspects and the police treatment of crime suspect	15	130.800	24.99579	0.000	Significant

*(P<0.05) Significant Level (P<0.01\*)*

The test of hypothesis one shows that socio economic status of crime suspects has significant relationship with police treatment of crime suspects ( $X^2 = 130.800$ ,  $df=15$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). This by implication means that the status of crime suspect affects how the police treat them when they are arrested.

**Hypothesis two**

Ho: There is no significant relationship between educational level of crime suspects and police treatment of crime suspects

Hi: There is a significant relationship between educational level of crime suspects and police treatment of crime suspects

In testing this hypothesis, responses to the questions on the educational level of crime suspects and police treatment of crime suspect as shown in table 4.4 was considered appropriate to test this hypothesis.

**Table 4.7: Chi-square result on educational level of crime suspects and police treatment of crime suspect**

Comparison	DF	Cal X <sup>2</sup>	Crit X <sup>2</sup>	P-Value	Remark
educational level of crime suspects and police treatment of crime suspects	15	100.678	24.99579	0.0000	Significant

*(P<0.05) Significant Level (P<0.01\*)*

Hypothesis two shows a test of significant between educational level of crime suspects and police treatments of crime suspects. The result shows a not significant results ( $X^2 = 100.678$ ,  $df= 15$ ,  $p=0.000$ ) which is that there is a significant relationship between educational level of crime suspects and police treatment of crime suspect. Thus implies that the education of crime does really influence how police treats them which in their custody

### **Hypothesis three**

Ho: There is no significant relationship between public awareness level and the police treatment of crime suspect

Hi: There is a significant relationship between public awareness level and the police treatment of crime suspect

In testing this hypothesis, responses to the questions on public awareness level and the police treatment of crime suspect as shown in table 4.5 was considered appropriate to test this hypothesis.

**Table 4.8: Chi-square result on public awareness level and the police treatment of crime suspect**

Comparison	DF	Cal X <sup>2</sup>	Crit X <sup>2</sup>	P-Value	Remark
public awareness level and the police treatment of crime suspect	15	308.872	24.99579	0.000	Significant

*(P<0.05) Significant Level (P<0.01\*)*

The test of hypothesis on public awareness level and the police treatment of crime suspects reveals that there is a significant relationship between public awareness level and the police treatment of crime suspects ( $X^2 = 308.872$ ,  $df = 15$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ). This implies that the public is critically aware of police treatment of crime suspects.

#### **Hypothesis four**

Ho: There is no significant relationship between police brutality of crime suspects and public hostility towards police

Hi: There is a significant relationship between police brutality of crime suspects and public hostility towards police

In testing this hypothesis, responses to the questions on police brutality of crime suspects and public hostility towards police as shown in table 4.6 were considered appropriate to test this hypothesis.

**Table 4.9: Chi-square result on police brutality of crime suspects and public hostility towards police**

<b>Comparison</b>	<b>DF</b>	<b>Cal X<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Crit X<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>P-Value</b>	<b>Remark</b>
police brutality of crime suspects and public hostility towards police	12	43.758	24.99579	0.000	Significant

*(P<0.05) Significant Level (P<0.01\*)*

The test of hypothesis four shows that the brutality of the police on crime suspects significantly relates to public hostility towards the police ( $X^2 = 43.758$ ,  $df= 15$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). This implies that the nature of police brutality on crime suspects significantly affects the level of public hostility towards the police. This prevents the co-operation between the police and the public.

#### **4.4 DISCUSSION OF FINDING**

This study examined the attitude of the police to the criminal suspects and its effect on crime control in Asaba metropolis. The data analyzed in the previous section of this chapter indicates among many findings that the public exhibits negative reactions to the police because of their attitudes to criminal suspects.

Firstly, criminal suspects are treated according to the age, and educational qualification and the repressive attitude of police to criminal suspects increase the

frequency of crime commission. The study also reveals that criminal suspects should not be tortured to get information from them if crime control could be more effective and police brutality on criminal suspect's results to public hostility to the police. Where Brutality is needed by the police, they should attend to the medical needs of the criminal suspects in their custody to enable criminal suspect give useful information to assist in crime control and police taking of bribe prevent the effective crime control process. These findings concur with the previous studies as Alemika (1990), Alemika (2000), Alemika and Chukwuka (2000), and Folorunso (1989). However, this study made findings which challenged that of Nweze (1990) which suggests that the public co-operates with the police except when the member of the public is the criminal suspect or his/her accomplice.

Another discovery made by this study was on the area public hostility with the police on how they treat criminal suspects. The study reveals that the hostile nature of the police on criminal suspects hinders the effective operation of the police and grow the lack of confidence in the ability of the police by the public which affects police performance. The argument of the distrust in the police is that corruption in the police system has caused innocent to be jailed and the accused free from jail and because criminal suspects are over tortured or under tortured the right and required quietness to prove them guilty does not drive them and the criminal suspects refusal to give information becomes a problem. Police corruption have slow down the criminal justice system and caused increased public discontentment and dis-



credibility in the police operation. The police attitude on crime control is negative because the public sees the police as responsible for the problems of crime control in the society. This finding again, is congruence with earlier findings such as Alemika (2000) and Nweze (1990)

The study further reveals that the pattern of police treatment of criminal suspects is critically not supported by the public. This was shown as the study supports the fact that criminal suspects are seriously tortured by the police to get information from them and attitude of the police towards criminal suspects and convicts is bad revealing that criminal suspects and convicts are not given medical attention even after torturing to obtain relevant information. Irrespective of age, gender and educational level, the treatment police gives to suspects does not change. This is why the public usually isolates and stigmatize police officers and their families due to poor attitude to criminal suspects and their low performance level. This finding is not congruence with earlier findings such as Alemika (2000) and Nweze (1990) which states that socioeconomic and demographic factors play roles in the police differential attitudes to suspects and differential attitudes come in the form of failure to effect arrest and prosecution in the event of having collected tips from a criminal suspects; in the area of detention, while some of the suspects are locked up in the police cells, some others who may have committed more serious crimes.

Again, the study reveals that the police are criminally minded and corrupt which affects their ability to protect the citizens and due to the level of public hostility to the police, the public usually does not co-operate with the police through giving useful information. Nweze (1990) found a similar situation and further found that the suspects kept behind pay some money. The study also found the rich and the powerful enjoy the benefit of bail and that some suspects are tortured and brutalized while others who committed similar offence or more serious ones are not tortured or brutalized.

In the test of hypotheses, the study reveals the following

The socio economic status of criminal suspects has significant relationship with police treatment of criminal suspects. This by implication means that the status of criminal suspect affects how the police treat them when they are arrested. The repressive attitude of the police to criminal suspects not minding the age and sex of criminals increases frequency of crime commission, just as found by Main (1970), Folorunso (1989) and Alemika (2000).

Educational level of criminal suspects does significantly influence police treatments of criminal suspects. Thus implies that the education of criminal does really affect how police treats them which in their custody.

Hypothesis on public awareness level and the police treatment of criminal suspects reveals that there is a significant relationship between public awareness

level and the police treatment of criminal suspects. This implies that the public is critically aware of police treatment of criminal suspects. This finding concurs with many earlier studies (Alemika and Chukwuka, 2000; Folorunso, 1989 and Membere, 1982).

Brutality of the police on criminal suspects significantly relates to public hostility towards the police. This implies that the nature of police brutality on criminal suspects significantly affects the level of public hostility towards the police. This prevents the co-operation between the police and the public. As earlier capture, Nweze (1990) found a similar situation and further found that the suspects kept behind pay some money. The study also found the rich and the powerful enjoy the benefit of bail and that some suspects are tortured and brutalized while others who committed similar offence or more serious ones are not tortured or brutalized.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS,

#### 5.1 Summary

Basically, this study endeavours to explore and examine the attitude of the police towards criminal suspects in order to discern its implications on crime control in Asaba Metropolis in particular and Delta State in general. To effectively achieve this, a carefully, designed questionnaire are administered to respondents who are members of Landlords Association, members of vigilante groups, serving police officers, and criminal suspects in police cells, all in Asaba Metropolis. It is our firm belief that if our recommendations are implemented, they would improve and enhance police efficiency and effectiveness with regards to crime control. On this note, this study reveals the following findings;

- i. Criminal suspects are treated according to the age, and educational qualification and the repressive attitude of police to criminal suspects increase the frequency of crime commission. Irrespective of age, gender and educational level, the treatment police gives to suspects does not change. This is why the public usually isolates and stigmatize police officers and their families due to poor attitude to criminal suspects and their low performance level. Therefore, the socio economic status of criminal suspects has significant relationship with police treatment of criminal suspects.

- ii. Criminal suspects are usually tortured to get information from them and it affects crime control and the effectiveness of the police. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between public awareness level and the police treatment of criminal suspects.
- iii. Police brutality on criminal suspect's has resulted to public hostility for the police and when police brutalized criminal suspects, they do not pay medical attention to them while in the police custody and getting useful information to assist in crime control is always difficult in that situation. The hostile nature of the police on criminal suspects hinders the effective operation of the police and grow the lack of confidence in the ability of the police by the public which affects police performance. Therefore, the public is critically aware of police treatment of criminal suspects and the nature of police brutality on criminal suspects significantly affects the level of public hostility towards the police.
- iv. Taking of bribe by the Nigeria Police has prevented the effective crime control process. Corruption in the police system has caused innocent to be jailed and the accused free from jail and because criminal suspects are over tortured or under tortured the right and required quietness to prove them guilty does not drive them and the criminal suspects refusal to give information becomes a problem.
- v. Police corruption have slow down the criminal justice system and caused increased public discontentment and dis-credibility in the police operation and

police attitude on crime control is negative because the public sees the police as responsible for the problems of crime control in the society.

- vi. The police are criminally minded and corrupt which affects their ability to protect the citizens and due to the level of public hostility to the police, the public usually does not co-operate with the police through giving useful information. In the test of hypotheses, the study reveals the following

## **5.2. Conclusion**

It is true that Nigeria police is an important agent of the society for the maintenance and securing of public safety and order and their onerous duties of crime prevention, investigating and detecting of crimes and criminals, as well as the prosecution of criminals is not doubtable. As a process of achieving these duties, a cordial relationship ought to exist between the police and the public to a large extent that will assist the police to discharge its duties efficiently and diligently. However, what we see and experience as the duties and responsibilities of the Nigeria Police is far from the aforementioned. The treatment giving to criminal suspects is dehumanizing and provoke public discontentment of the police activities in the protection of all and order. This study therefore, conclude that Nigeria Police Agency should rethink on mitigating the brutalizing means of coercing criminal suspects to confess and even when brutality is needed, suspects should be given medical attention to reduce the side effect on them.

## **5.3. Recommendations**

Based on our research findings and conclusion, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Prevention they say is better than cure. In this regards, the police should adopt preventive measures rather than proactive systems where some innocent citizens are arrested, detained and treated as criminals without prosecution. To make the preventive measure work, the police should embark on effective foot and vehicular patrols to effectively deter and debar criminals from carrying out their nefarious activities.
- ii. Suspected criminals under police .detention and custody should be decently treated. And in doing so, the mutual respect of the police will be reciprocated in as much as the police should be-courteous in dealing with the people. Moreover, it will be proper and just for the police to see and regard detention as last resort Monitoring people from their residences could be a better way of detention or possibly house arrest.
- iii. The idea of giving preferential treatments to some elites criminal suspects and degrading others should be discourage by the Nigeria Police Force. A suspect is a suspect irrespective of their sex, age and educational qualification as well as their economic status.
- iv. The police should recruit and train more competent hands in order to properly cover all nooks and crannies of the cities where criminal activities are more prevalent. Moreover, the police should recruit highly educated citizens who

could develop ideas ahead of criminals. The force should get rid of those uneducated members of the force who hold tenaciously to mode of operation that are not functional.

- v. The police should be organizing seminars, and workshops to discuss the current operational strategies as the society is now in computer age.
- vi. The police should also Launder their battered and negative image as well as become more efficient and effective so as to win back public confidence and trust.
- vii. Government should also pay compensation to those innocent victims of police detention and brutality who after their preliminary investigations, are cleared. The compensation will enable them feel and realize that they have been unjustly treated and sense of belonging restored.

#### **5.4. Contribution to Knowledge**

This study has contributed to knowledge in the following ways

The study has advocated for criminal suspects, not yet convicted, to be treated fairly by the Nigeria Police Force

The study has unveil the discrimination in the Nigeria Police Force where those that are economically advantaged are given a flexible judicial process of conviction when caught in crime and those who are economically disadvantage are told to face the music squarely.



The study has enlightened the public that corruption is a major factor contributing to the police disaffection for disadvantaged crime suspects.

### **5.5. Suggestions for further studies**

Following the findings from this study, this study has proffer the following suggestions for further studies

- i. Further studies should be conducted on how corruption affects police treatment of Criminal suspects
- ii. Further studies should be conducted on how police retraining will affect police treatment of criminal suspect
- iii. This particular studies should be replicated in other states in Nigeria and with an increase in the sample size.

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## **APPENDCES**

### **QUESTIONNAIRE ON POLICE ATTITUDE TOWARDS CRIMINAL SUSPECTS**

Department of Sociology and  
Psychology,  
Faculty of Social Sciences,  
Delta State University  
P.M.B. 1 Abraka, Delta State.

Dear Respondents,

#### **LETTER OF INTRODUCTION**

The researcher is a post graduate student of sociology in the department of sociology and psychology, Delta State University, Abraka. He is currently concluding a research project titled:

Police Attitude towards Criminal Suspects:  
(Study of Asaba Metropolis in Delta State)

We seek your indulgence to kindly answer the attached questions as precisely as possible. All information given will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

EGBON Ejimeh Daniel

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON POLICE ATTITUDE TOWARDS CRIMINAL SUSPECTS**  
(For the General Public)

**SECTION A:**

**Social Demographic Information**

Please indicate your answers by ticking  the appropriate box of your choice.

1. Sex: Male( ) female ( )
2. Age: 18-37 years( ) 38-57 years( ) 58-77 years ( ) 78-Above ( )
3. Educational Qualification: FSLC ( ) WAEC/SSC/NECO ( ) NCE/ND ( )  
Degree/HND ( ) Others ( )

**SECTION B:**

**Criminal Suspects socio-economic conditions and police differential attitude towards them**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	The Nigeria Police are partial on the way they treat criminal suspects					
	Police detention of crime suspect varies according to their status in the society					
	The repressive attitude of the police to criminal suspects increases frequency of crime commission					
	Those who are able to bribe the police receives lesser detention in the police custody					
	Nigeria Police does not do proper and thorough investigation before they conduct arrest and label citizens suspects					
	Nigeria police are predisposed to arresting to less privileged complainants and witnesses at the crime scene invent					

**SECTION C**

**Criminal Suspects education and police treatment**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Criminal suspects should be treated according to their educational qualification					
	Most of the detainees in the police custody are less educated					
	The Nigeria Police do not give preference to educated Nigerians when conducting arrest.					
	There is usually a separate detaining cell blocks for the educated and the non educated					
	Educated suspects are not detained and tried from the prisons					
	The non educated are not granted immediate bail when they are suspected for committing crime					

**SECTION D**

**Variation in general awareness on police treatment of criminal suspects**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Police brutality on criminal suspects' results to public hostility to the police					
2	Police sometimes take tips (bribe) and fail to effect arrest and prosecution					
3	Because criminal suspect are over tortured or under tortured, the right and required guiteness to prove them guilty may not be necessary derive from them.					
4	Criminal suspect refuse giving of the information because they see the police as corrupt as themselves.					
5	The lack of confidence in the ability of the Police by the public has affected their performance.					
6	The perception of corruption in the Police have caused innocent to people to jailed					



**SECTION E**  
**Police attitude and crime control**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Criminal suspects should not be tortured to get information from them if crime control could be more effective					
2	The police should attend to the medical needs of the criminal suspects in their custody, this would make suspects willing and able to assist them in crime control					
3	The hostile nature of the Police personnel on criminal suspects hinders the effective operation of the Police.					
4	The perception of corruption in the Police have slow down the Criminal Justice System					
5	The perception of corruption in the Police has Criminals freed from criminal charges.					
6	The perception of corruption in the police has Increase the public discontentment and discredibility in the police operation					
7	Police detention of suspects irrespective of their ages impedes effective crime control					

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON POLICE ATTITUDE TOWARDS CRIMINAL SUSPECTS**  
(For the Police)

**SECTION A:**

**Social Demographic Information**

Please indicate your answers by ticking  the appropriate box of your choice.

1. Sex: Male ( ) female ( )
2. Age: 18-37 years( ) 38-57 years( ) 58-77 years ( ) 78-Above ( )
3. Educational Qualification: FSLC ( ) WAEC/SSC/NECO ( ) NCE/ND ( )  
Degree/HND ( ) Others ( )

**SECTION B:**

**Criminal Suspects socio-economic conditions and police differential attitude towards them**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Police are not partial on the way they treat criminal suspects					
2	Police detention of crime suspect varies according to their status in the society					
3	Police attitude towards criminal suspects increases frequency of crime commission					
4	Those who are able to bribe the police receives lesser detention in the police custody					
5	The Police does not do proper and thorough investigation before they conduct arrest and label citizens suspects					
6	The police are predisposed to arresting to less privileged complainants and witnesses at the crime scene invent					

**SECTION C**

**Criminal Suspects education and police treatment**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Criminal suspects are treated according to their educational qualification					
	Most of the detainees in the police custody are less educated					
	Police do not give preference to educated Nigerians when conducting arrest.					
	There is usually a separate detaining cell blocks for the educated and the non educated					
	Educated suspects are not detained and tried from the prisons					
	The non educated are not granted immediate bail when they are suspected for committing crime					

**SECTION D**

**Variation in general awareness on police treatment of criminal suspects**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Police brutality on criminal suspects' results to public hostility to the police					
	Police sometimes take tips (bribe) and fail to effect arrest and prosecution					
	Because criminal suspect are over tortured or under tortured, the right and required guiteness to prove them guilty may not be necessary derive from them.					
	Criminal suspect refuse giving of the information because they see the police as corrupt as themselves.					

	The lack of confidence in the ability of the Police by the public has affected their performance.					
	The perception of corruption in the Police have caused innocent to people to jailed					

**SECTION E**  
**Police attitude and crime control**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Criminal suspects should not be tortured to get information from them if crime control could be more effective					
2	The police should attend to the medical needs of the criminal suspects in their custody, this would make suspects willing and able to assist them in crime control					
3	The hostile nature of the Police personnel on criminal suspects hinders the effective operation of the Police.					
4	The perception of corruption in the Police have slow down the Criminal Justice System					
5	The perception of corruption in the Police has Criminals freed from criminal charges.					
6	The perception of corruption in the police has Increase the public discontentment and discredibility in the police operation					

7	Police detention of suspects irrespective of their ages impedes effective crime control					
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**QUESTIONNAIRE ON POLICE ATTITUDE TOWARDS CRIMINAL SUSPECTS**  
(For criminal suspects)

**SECTION A:**

**Social Demographic Information**

Please indicate your answers by ticking  the appropriate box of your choice.

1. Sex: Male( ) female ( )
2. Age: 18-37 years( ) 38-57 years( ) 58-77 years ( ) 78-Above ( )
3. Educational Qualification: FSLC ( ) WAEC/SSC/NECO ( ) NCE/ND ( ) Degree/HND ( ) Others ( )

**SECTION B:**

**Criminal Suspects socio-economic conditions and police differential attitude towards them**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	The Nigeria Police are partial on the way they treat criminal suspects					
2	Police detention of crime suspect varies according to their status in the society					
3	The repressive attitude of the police to criminal suspects increases frequency of crime commission					
4	Those who are able to bribe the police receives lesser detention in the police custody					
5	Nigeria Police does not do proper and thorough investigation before they conduct arrest and label citizens suspects					
6	Nigeria police are predisposed to arresting to less privileged complainants and witnesses at the crime scene invent					

**SECTION C**

**Criminal Suspects education and police treatment**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Criminal suspects should be treated according to their educational qualification					
	Most of the detainees in the police custody are less educated					
	The Nigeria Police do not give preference to educated Nigerians when conducting arrest.					
	There is usually a separate detaining cell blocks for the educated and the non educated					
	Educated suspects are not detained and tried from the prisons					
	The non educated are not granted immediate bail when they are suspected for committing crime					

**SECTION D**

**Variation in general awareness on police treatment of criminal suspects**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Police brutality on criminal suspects' results to public hostility to the police					
	Police sometimes take tips (bribe) and fail to effect arrest and prosecution					
	Because criminal suspect are over tortured or under tortured, the right and required guiteness to prove them guilty may not be necessary derive from them.					
	Criminal suspect refuse giving of the information because they see the police as corrupt as themselves.					

	The lack of confidence in the ability of the Police by the public has affected their performance.					
	The perception of corruption in the Police have caused innocent to people to jailed					

**SECTION E**  
**Police attitude and crime control**

S/No	Questions	Responses				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Criminal suspects should not be tortured to get information from them if crime control could be more effective					
2	The police should attend to the medical needs of the criminal suspects in their custody, this would make suspects willing and able to assist them in crime control					
3	The hostile nature of the Police personnel on criminal suspects hinders the effective operation of the Police.					
4	The perception of corruption in the Police have slow down the Criminal Justice System					
5	The perception of corruption in the Police has Criminals freed from criminal charges.					
6	The perception of corruption in the police has Increase the public discontentment and discredibility in the police operation					



7	Police detention of suspects irrespective of their ages impedes effective crime control					
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## APPENDICES

### Data for Hypotheses Testing

#### Hypothesis one

	SD	D	A	SA
	Count	Count	Count	Count
N1	13	18	81	253
N2	8	33	142	182
N3	12	36	76	241
N4	10	25	153	177
N5	10	71	117	167
N6	21	40	124	180

#### Hypothesis two

	SD	D	A	SA
	Count	Count	Count	Count
N7	14	85	97	169
N8	12	17	109	227
N9	14	68	81	202
N10	16	23	110	216
N11	15	38	79	233
N12	16	67	91	191

#### Hypothesis Three

	SD	D	A	SA
	Count	Count	Count	Count
N13	31	63	109	162
N14	18	39	84	224
N15	94	99	63	109
N16	59	108	107	91
N17	84	98	123	60
N18	52	115	119	79

## Hypothesis Four

	SD	D	A	SA
	Count	Count	Count	Count
N19	40	56	132	137
N20	35	59	159	112
N21	56	82	117	110
N22	47	59	166	93
N23	39	68	158	100
N24	62	59	149	95

## Hypotheses Testing Result

### Hypothesis One

**VAR00001 \* VAR00002 Crosstabulation**

		VAR00002				Total	
		1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00		
VAR00001	1.00	Count	13	18	81	253	365
		% of Total	0.6%	0.8%	3.7%	11.6%	16.7%
	2.00	Count	8	33	142	182	365
		% of Total	0.4%	1.5%	6.5%	8.3%	16.7%
	3.00	Count	12	36	76	241	365
		% of Total	0.5%	1.6%	3.5%	11.0%	16.7%
	4.00	Count	10	25	153	177	365
		% of Total	0.5%	1.1%	7.0%	8.1%	16.7%
	5.00	Count	10	71	117	167	365
		% of Total	0.5%	3.2%	5.3%	7.6%	16.7%
	6.00	Count	21	40	124	180	365
		% of Total	1.0%	1.8%	5.7%	8.2%	16.7%
Total	Count	74	223	693	1200	2190	
	% of Total	3.4%	10.2%	31.6%	54.8%	100.0%	

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	130.800 <sup>a</sup>	15	.000
Likelihood Ratio	126.793	15	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	36.620	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	2190		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 12.33.

Hypothesis Two

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	100.678 <sup>a</sup>	15	.000
Likelihood Ratio	106.455	15	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.568	1	.210
N of Valid Cases	2190		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 14.50.

Hypothesis Three

**VAR00001 \* VAR00002 Crosstabulation**

		VAR00002				Total	
		1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00		
VAR00001	1.00	Count	31	63	109	162	365
		% of Total	1.4%	2.9%	5.0%	7.4%	16.7%
	2.00	Count	18	39	84	224	365
		% of Total	0.8%	1.8%	3.8%	10.2%	16.7%
	3.00	Count	94	99	63	109	365
		% of Total	4.3%	4.5%	2.9%	5.0%	16.7%
	4.00	Count	59	108	107	91	365
		% of Total	2.7%	4.9%	4.9%	4.2%	16.7%
	5.00	Count	84	98	123	60	365

	% of Total	3.8%	4.5%	5.6%	2.7%	16.7%
	Count	52	115	119	79	365
6.00	% of Total	2.4%	5.3%	5.4%	3.6%	16.7%
	Count	338	522	605	725	2190
Total	% of Total	15.4%	23.8%	27.6%	33.1%	100.0%

#### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	308.872 <sup>a</sup>	15	.000
Likelihood Ratio	313.281	15	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	124.786	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	2190		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 56.33.

#### Hypothesis Four

#### VAR00001 \* VAR00002 Crosstabulation

		VAR00002				Total	
		1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00		
VAR00001	1.00	Count	40	56	132	137	365
		% of Total	1.8%	2.6%	6.0%	6.3%	16.7%
	2.00	Count	35	59	159	112	365
		% of Total	1.6%	2.7%	7.3%	5.1%	16.7%
	3.00	Count	56	82	117	110	365
		% of Total	2.6%	3.7%	5.3%	5.0%	16.7%
	4.00	Count	47	59	166	93	365
		% of Total	2.1%	2.7%	7.6%	4.2%	16.7%
	5.00	Count	39	68	158	100	365
		% of Total	1.8%	3.1%	7.2%	4.6%	16.7%
	6.00	Count	62	59	149	95	365
		% of Total	2.8%	2.7%	6.8%	4.3%	16.7%
Total	Count	279	383	881	647	2190	
	% of Total	12.7%	17.5%	40.2%	29.5%	100.0%	

### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	43.758 <sup>a</sup>	15	.000
Likelihood Ratio	43.073	15	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	10.496	1	.001
N of Valid Cases	2190		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 46.50.