

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
ABSTRACT**Citizen Perception of Police Legitimacy and Corrupt Behaviour by Police at the
Community Level: A Case for the Community of St. Joseph**

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The legitimacy of Trinidad and Tobago's police service has been under scrutiny due to its negative image which authenticated the need for research in this area. This study explored obligation to obey with community norms and connections, procedural justice, police effectiveness and police corruption. The study sought to build on the limited research that encompassed community context when investigating police legitimacy. It tested the theoretical principle of the procedural justice theory. Additionally, it examined the general perception of police corruption along with personal and vicarious experiences of corrupt behaviour by the police. Further, this study assessed the most prevalent source residence obtained information on police corruption.

Data analysis was conducted from a non-probability sample survey of residents who had interaction with the police from the community of St. Joseph. The findings showed that community norms and connections, procedural justice, and police effectiveness are statistically significant with obligation to obey the police. The results challenged the principles of the procedural justice theory. Further, this study highlighted the discrepancy between resident's low personal experiences of police corruption and their general perception of police corruption. Lastly, the results revealed that social media and newspapers were the two leading channels that residents sourced information on the perception of police corruption.

Keywords: police legitimacy; police effectiveness; obligation to obey; procedural justice; community; corruption; Trinidad and Tobago.