## AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN NIGERIA: ACASE STUDY OF EDO SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.

**BY**

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**JUNE, 2021**

## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis titled **“AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN**

**NIGERIA”** is the product of my effort and has not been presented for another degree or certificate elsewhere. All references have been duly acknowledged.

## ABILO TUWAPIRITEI JOSEPH PG/19/022194/ASS

**Date:**

## DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my heavenly father you remain the best that has ever happened to me and to my parents, Mr. & Mrs. John Abilo for their love, kindness shown to me all this years. May Almighty God richly bless you.

## CERTIFICATION

We certify that this project was carried out by **AbiloTuwapiritei Joseph** with Matriculation Number: **PG/19/022194/ASS** of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Igbinedion University, Okada, Edo State, Nigeria and has not been presented in part or full in any diploma or degree awarding institution.

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## ABSTRACT

Issue of corruption in Nigeria has been a major concern to all and sundry in the society. The upsurge of this social menace in Nigeria in recent times is disturbing and it seems the menace has defied all kinds of treatment and the damage it has caused to national life cannot be quantified. The objective of this project therefore, is to examine and assess corruption in the public sector in Nigeria with particular reference to Edo South Senatorial District. It has generated data based on questionnaires, on the public perception and level of corruption in the study area. The questionnaire and the groups tested were segmented.

However, it was observed that many factors such as; lack of transparency, moral laxity, weak government institutions, unemployment and poverty etc. were significant factors stimulating corruption in Nigeria. By this result, it means that proactive measures must be shaped towards eradicating corruption in Nigeria. This project recommends, among others, that government should strengthen the institutions established to fight corruption.

This study adopted the idealistic theory, low risk high benefit theory, anomie theory, theory of two publics, resource-curse theory and among others theory, which state that plenty of mineral resources is more often a curse than a blessing, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria. To achieve the purpose of this study, a review of empirical works, Corruption Perception Index Report of Transparency International and some corruption cases in Nigeria was explored. This project discovers that corruption had being part of our socio- political and economic life in Nigeria as shown by the corruption perception index from 1996 to date and that majority of corruption cases in the public sector over the years.

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**CHAPTER ONE**

## INTRODUCTION

* 1. **Background to the Study**

Corruption is the misuse of entrusted power or a dishonest use of one’s office or position for personal gain. It is a cancerous global phenomenon, which has continued to cripple the developmental efforts of Nigeria. Corruption in Nigeria manifests in the form of misappropriation, kickback, over invoicing, bribery, embezzlement, tribalism, nepotism, money laundering, outright looting of the treasuring, and so on. In Nigeria, most of the elected and appointive public office holders and top bureaucrats use their position of authority to actively engage in corrupt practices (Obuah, 2010a). The origin of corruption started since the colonial era, Corruption though prevalent, was kept at manageable levels during the first republic. However, the cases of corruption during the period were sometimes clouded by political infighting.

NnamdiAzikiwe was the first major political figure investigated for questionable practices. In 1944, a firm belonging to NnamdiAzikiwe and family bought a bank in Lagos. The bank was procured to strengthen local control of the financial industry. Albeit, a report by the about transaction carried out by the bank showed though Azikiwe had resigned as chairman of the bank, the current chairman was an agent of his. The report wrote that most of the paid-up capital of the African Continental Bank was from the Eastern Regional Financial Corporation. In Western Nigeria, politician AdegokeAdelabu was investigated following charges of political corruption leveled against him by the opposition. The report led to demand for his resignation as district council head. In 1962, Chief ObafemiAwolowo was indicated and the Coker commission of enquiry was set-up which found that a substantial amount of money was misappropriated from the coffers of the Western regional government.

In many African states, particularly Nigeria, corruption is a clog in the wheel of progress, as well as a malaise that inflicts every aspect of the society. Corruption drains African countries more than US$140 billion yearly (Ribadu cited in Obuah, 2010a). Corruption deprives enabling environment for potential investors to invest; it distorts public expenditure, increases cost of running businesses, cost of governance and diverts resources from poor to rich nations. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa; it has an estimated population of 2006 million people. The economy is mainly dependent on oil, which sustains

corrupt practices. According to the Transparency International (TI; 2005) Report, corruption drains Nigeria, about 20% of her gross domestic product (GDP).

Corruption in Nigeria exist at an alarming proportion. In government via public service, it thrives in the areas of project costing; ghost workers syndrome, contract awards and subsequent abandonment, payment of huge sums of money to political godfathers; embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds among others. The impact of corruption on the Nigerian society includes abysmal public service performance, inadequate infrastructure, bad governance, pervasive dehumanizing poverty and general underdevelopment. This accounts for the inefficient and unimpressive governance in Nigeria Eminue (2015).

Corruption remains endemic as well as extremely prevalent in the public service which affects its effectiveness and performance. There are instances where corruption within the public service manifested over the years: the haphazard or ineffective implementation of federal budgets between 1999-2002 could be gleaned from the people which the senate indicted over an alleged non-implementation of all appropriation Acts since the dawn of democracy (in May 1999) (Eminue, 2015). The persistent challenge in the Nigerian health sector is human resources' crisis, which has the tendency to cripple the sector. Inadequate investment, weak administration and corruption remain the cause of poor health workers welfare and the widespread inefficiency in the healthcare workforce (Odusile, 2017).

Corruption is found in democratic and dictatorial politics; feudal, capitalist and socialist economies. Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist cultures are equally bedeviled by corruption. Corrupt practices did not begin today; the history is as old as the world. Ancient civilizations have traces of widespread illegally and corruption. Thus, corruption has been ubiquitous in complex societies from ancient Egypt, Israel, Rome and Greece down to the present (Erunke, 2014). This does not, however, mean that the magnitude of corruption is equal in every society some Countries are more corrupt than others! As George Orwell notes in his widely read book, titled Animal Farm: All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

In Nigeria, it is one of the many unresolved problems (Erunke, 2014) that have critically hobbled and skewed development. It remains a long-term major political and economic challenge for Nigeria (Sachs, 2007). It is a canker worm that has eaten deep in the

fabric of the nation. It ranges from petty corruption to political/bureaucratic corruption or Systemic corruption (international Center for Economic Growth, 1999). World Bank studies put corruption at over $1 trillion per year accounting for up to 12% of the Gross Domestic Product of nations like Nigeria, Kenya and Venezuela (Ezeani, 2016).

A corruption is endemic as well as an enemy (Igwe, 2010). It is a canker worm that has eaten deep in the fabric of the country and has caused stunted growth in all sectors (Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), 2005). It has been the primary reason behind the country’s difficulties in developing fast (Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), 2006). This is evident that Transparency International has consistent rating of Nigeria as one of the top three most corrupt countries in the world (Ihonubere, 2009).

As part of effort at fighting corruption and strengthening the economy, Nigeria embarked on an aggressive pursuit of economic reform that through privatization, banking sector reform, anticorruption campaigns and establishment of clear and transparent fiscal standards since 1999.

The major aim of the economic reforms in Nigeria is to provide conducive environment for private investment (African Economic Outlook, 2006). The reform process has the following key pillars: improved macroeconomic management, reform of the financial sector, institutional reforms, privatization and deregulation, and improvement of the infrastructure for economic growth and development. The poor state of electricity, transport and communications is a major handicap for doing business in Nigeria.

## Statement of the Problem

Corruption has become a major problem in government. Corruption emanates from the top level and so, the higher echelons of government are infested with the disease of corruption. Politics has been converted into pursuit of personal ends. The public office has become an opportunity to strike gold and enjoy loaves and fishes of office. The sharp decline in the standards of conduct of public service, and in such circumstances, governance, administration and management have lost their relevance.For example the non- implementation of government policies, financial fraud and crises of confidence within the ministries and its agencies. The alleged fraud and embezzlement and contract scam involving

the Minister of Petroleum for State and NNPC Group Managing Director. The minister had lodged a detailed/documented complaint with the president of the Federal Republic and substantive oil minister, on the junior minister's alleged sideling and insubordination by the NNPC Group Managing Director, in all matters on high level appointments, promotions, and award of contracts well exceeding 20billion dollars. Another is the non-implementation of budgets by the various Ministries and Agencies of Government.

The crisis of confidence in the health sector over allegations of fraud between the Executive Secretary, National Health Insurance Scheme and the Minister of Health which has resulted to incessant strike actions by health workers. These problems are no doubt caused by corruption. Worse is the fact that despite the rapid growth in the size and power of the public service, there has not been an accompanied noticeable improvement in performance to the public or increased labour productivity in the public sector. The pertinent question is: how has corruption affected performance of public sector in Nigeria. This forms the focus of the study.

## Objective of the Study

This study is aimed at examining the impact of corruption in the performance of the public sector in Nigeria to achieve these objectives:

* + 1. To identify the nature and dimension of corruption in Nigeria public sector.
    2. To examine the consequential impact of corruption on Nigeria public sector.
    3. To investigate the origin and the major causes of corruption in Nigeria public sector.
    4. To find out how best corruption could be controlled' in Nigeria public sector.

## Research Questions:

The following research questions were asked to guide the study:

* + 1. What is the nature and dimension of corruption in Nigeria public sector?
    2. What is the consequential impact of corruption on Nigeria public sector?
    3. What is the origin and the major causes of corruption in Nigeria public sector?
    4. What is the best way corruption could be controlled' in Nigeria public sector?

## Significance of the Study

Fighting corruption is not a onetime campaign; it took England more than a century to bring corruption under control. Hong-Kong and Singapore, which are mostly cited as success stories in the fight against corruption long ago. For instance, in Hong Kong, the anti- corruption drive commenced in 1974 and there is still corruption. In order to curb corruption in a relatively shorter period of time, therefore, designing effective anti-corruption strategies is indispensable.

No nation can flourish with corruption and no nation would allow corruption to destroy the basis fabric of its society. This explains why attempts shall be made to combat the scourge in public sector in Nigeria. This study will therefore necessary because it will find out the main problems associated with liability of Nigeria government to fight corruption in the society. The project will be of benefit, first and foremost to the Nigeria Government, as it will expose to them the various ways in which efficient and proper administration of governing councils should be carried out.

Secondly, the project will be useful to various institutions such as the Local Government Service Commission, the Federal Government, various state governments, universities especially Edo State University, for gaining greater knowledge and understanding how corruption can be ameliorated and also to improve effective governance.

Finally, the project will be useful to the general public, organizations, companies etc that may have interest in the project and it will also be useful to other researchers in this field of human endeavor.

## Scope of the Study

The topic for this research work is an assessment of the impact of corruption on the performance ofPublic Sectorin Nigeria, by using Edo South Senatorial District as a case study. Due to vast to large nation of Nigeria the researcher will choose Edo South Senatorial District to deal with this particular problem.

## Definition of Terms

**Corruption:** is a form of dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted with a position of authority, often to acquire personal benefit. Corruption may activities including bribery and embezzlement, though it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries. Government, or political, corruption occurs when an office holder or other government employee acts in an official capacity for personal gain.

**Public Sector:** is usually comprised of organizations that are owned and operated by the government and exist to provide services for its citizens

**Performance:** is the level of measuring people activities.

**Government:** it is the institutions which makes and enforce law within the territorial boundaries of a state in order to regulate activities within the state in the interest of the citizens.

**Respondents:** A person who answers question during an interview or one who fill a questionnaire for a research work.

**Delegation:** Is a group of people who represent the views of an organization, and country.

## Limitation of the Study

In chapter one, introduction to the study was given, highlighting the research question, which are objectives of the study, significance of the study and as well the Scope and Limitation of the Study, while chapter two presented a review of other relevant works that have been done on the subject of corruption in the Public Sector while chapter three, specifies the methodology adopted in conducting this research.chapter Four, Presentation of result on socio demographic analysis, chapter five,discussion of Findings and contribution of knowledge while chapter six,summary, recommendation, conclusion and references. The complexity around the discussions of corruption makes it difficult to get honest and accurate responses from respondents. Those who could be indicted are not open to talk about corruption. The interesting part of the research is that the information on corrupt practices can only come from another person, it is almost like gossip.

## CHAPTER TWO

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

## Introduction

This chapter discusses existing literature relevant or related to the subject matter of discourse. The chapter begins with the conceptual framework of Corruption, Problems of Effective Public Service Performance in Nigeria. An Overview of Corruption in the Public Service and Theoretical Framework,this explores resource-curse theory, idealistic theory, low risk and high benefit theory, anomie theory, and theory of two public.The resource-curse theory, which states that plenty of mineral resources are more often a cursethan a blessing, particularly in developing countries.

## Conceptual Clarification Corruption

Corruption in its many facets has been viewed in several ways just as there are multiple phases of corrupt practices in the society. The concept of corruption varies. It embraces a broad spectrum of activities ranging from fraud, embezzlement to bribery among others. Corruption is one of the most intractable social ills or pathology ravaging the Nigerian state, the effects and implications of which lack coherent and definitive bounds. The simplest definition of corruption is that it is the misapplication of public resources to private ends. In broader sense, however, corruption can be defined as “an arrangement that involves an exchange between two parties (the demander and the supplier) which has an influence on the allocation of resources either immediately or in future, and the use or abuse of public or collective responsibility for private end.

Igwe (2010) had argued that corruption is universally declaimed and constitutes a phenomenon in itself and invariably the outcome of a conglomeration of discrete failure such as failure of institutional control over bureaucrats or a failure of the legal system that checkmates the bahaviour of those who perpetrate the crime; corruption is a system of deep institutional weakness that leads to inefficient economic policies. It reduces economic growth, like long term foreign and domestic investments. Preye and Weleayan (2011) view corruption as the pervasion of integrity of state affairs through bribery, favour or moral depravity. Corruption involves the injection of additional but improper transactions aimed at

changing the moral course of events and altering judgments and positions of trust. It consists in the doer's and receiver's use of informal, extra legal or illegal act to facilitate matters.

This definition of corruption maybe inadequate in the explanation of the concept. Hence the focus of corruption must be aligned carefully towards the political elite class, civilian and the military alike. Thus, according to Yagboyaju (2005:78) the concept of what has come to be known as corruption is

Any act perpetrated by political class, civilian or military or a highly placed public official aimed at changing the moral or lawful course of events, especially when the perpetrator uses such a position of authority for the purpose of personal or group interest (such as acquiring wealth, status or power) at the expense of public interest.

Dike (2003) cited in Erunke (2014:32) corroborated the point of view of Yagboyaju (2005:78) when he situated corruption at the highest level of political authority in Nigeria. Thus, corruption occurs when the politicians and other important state decision –makers whose duties are to formulate and implement policies on behalf of the electorate are themselves corrupt. In this sense, corruption could be said to have taken place when public policy formulation and legislation are tailored to benefit political office holders to the abject neglect of the mass of the people. For the purpose of this study we are interested in Bureaucratic corruption. This mostly is prevalent in the public service and every other public institution.

Ayua (2011) contended that bureaucratic corruption has been the main target of most definitions of corruption. It arises when for example, underhanded deals are made between public authorities and elements in the private sector in order to get special favours. This include for instance, the design or selection of uneconomical projects because of opportunities for financial kickbacks, procurement fraud, including payments, collusion, misrepresentation, the delivery of substandard goods and services, illicit payments and or receipt of spent money…Bureaucratic corruption also includes extortion, misappropriation of funds, nepotism and favouritism, personal use of official and government secrets and improper exercising of power.

Table: 1 Corruption perceptions index 25.00 (score) in 2020

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE. | VALUE | CHANGE, % |
| 2020. | 25.00 | -3.85 % |
| 2019 | 26.00. | -3.70 % |
| 2018. | 27.00. | 0.00 % |
| 2017. | 27.00. | -3.57 % |
| 2016. | 28.00. | 7.69 % |
| 2015. | 26.00. | -3.70 % |
| 2014 | 27.00 | 8.00 % |
| 2013. | 25.00. | -7.41 % |
| 2012. | 27.00. | 10.23 % |
| 2011. | 24.49. | 2.06 % |
| 2010 | 24.00. | -4.00 % |
| 2009. | 25.00 |  |

## Source: Corruption perceptions index 25.00 (score) in 2020

In 2020, corruption perceptions index for Nigeria was 25 score. Corruption perceptions index of Nigeria increased from 10 score in 2001 to 25 score in 2020 growing at an average annual rate of 5.97%. CPI Score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts, and ranges between 100 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).

## Forms of Corruption in Nigerian Public Sector

Although political corruption is perceived differently from one territory and geographical location to another, the following behaviors are regarded as forms of political corruption in Nigeria: acceptance of gratification; succumbing to inducement and undue

influence; embezzlement; conflict of interests, for example, the award of contracts by pubic office holders to cronies, family members, and personally held companies; bribery; fraud; nepotism and tribalism in recruitment/appointment, promotion; kickback on contract; rigging of elections; misappropriation and conversion of public funds for personal gains; procurement scam; leaking tender information to friends and relations; diversion and misappropriation of funds through manipulation or falsification of financial records; payment for favorable judicial decisions, and so on ([Azelama, 2002](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188); [Ijewereme, 2013](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188); [Waziri, 2010](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188),

Corruption is responsible for the collapse of Nigeria's First and Second Republic. Government officials in TafawaBalewa's government in the First Nigerian Republic looted public funds with impunity. Balewa did not take any policy position to wipe out the menace (Ijewereme&Dunmade, 2014). The history of electoral corruption in Nigeria started in 1964 and 1965 elections. The 1964 and 1965 elections of the Nigerian First Republic were flagrantly rigged by the ruling Northern People's Congress (NPC) government headed by Prime Minister TafawaBalewa (Ajayi, 2008). Dudley (1982) observes that the ruling party abused the electoral procedure to the detriment of the opposition parties, especially the Action Group (AG). The result of the election was completely rejected by all the opposition parties and consequently resorted to widespread violence such as killing, arson, and destruction of properties in the western region of Nigeria (Ogundiya& Baba, 2005). Corruption, massive rigging of the 1964 and 1965 elections, violence in the western region, avarice, internal strife, and drifting of the country were said to be the reasons middle-ranked army officers sacked the Nigerian First Republic politicians from power through a coup d'état on January 15, 1966 (Ijewereme&Dunmade, 2014).

The cry against corrupt practices in Nigeria became public glare and worrisome under General Yakubu Gowon's administration. Gowon's administration was unashamedly corrupt to the macro-level, and corruption was not hidden from the public gaze (Lawal& Tobi, 2006). According to Nigerian Tribune August 1st, 1975 (cited in Lawal& Tobi, 2006), his promise to enact anti-corruption decree like other promises was never fulfilled. The level of corruption under Gowon's regime came under intense public scrutiny when Murtala Mohammed became the head of state and set up Assets Investigation Panel to probe the governors and other public officers that served under Gowon. The panel indicted 10 of 12 military governors, and so their assets were confiscated. The anti-corruption crusade spread to the entire public service; thus, the purge of the public service led to the retirement and

dismissal of more than 10,000 public servants nationwide (Anazodo, Okoye, &Chukwuemeka, 2012).

Accordingly, one would have expected Murtala war against corruption to enthrone deterrence in Nigerian public service. Unfortunately, it is disheartening that the politicians of the Second Republic during ShehunShagari's administration were not deterred, despite the ignominious ways the indicted governors that served under Gowon were treated. The politicians of the Second Republic engaged in all forms of corrupt and unethical practices of different shades. The period was marked by fragrant abuse of power by virtually

all public officers career and political office holders. The political office holders used their offices to siphon and misappropriate public fund (Lawal& Tobi, 2006).

The military administration led by Major-General MuhammedBuhari who took over power from the Shagari's administration was extremely determined to eradicate corruption from Nigeria through the WAI crusade. Various tribunals both at the federal and state levels were instituted to probe the political actors of the Second Republic. The Paul Omu-led tribunal found most of the politicians guilty and sentenced them to long jail terms (Lawal& Tobi, 2006).

The Babangida administration that ended the Buhari's administration through a coup d'état on August 27, 1985, did not show any commitment to the anti-corruption drive of its predecessor. Maduagwu cited in Lawal and Tobi (2006) listed the following as some of the highlights of Babangida corrupt practices.

* + - 1. US$2 billion Gulf war wind fall in 1991.
      2. 30% of oil revenue diverted to frivolous uses throughout the time.
      3. Huge extra-budgetary spending: 1989 = N15.3 billion, 1990 = N23.4 billion, 1991 = N35 billion, 1992 = N44.2 billion, 1993 (by August) = N59 billion.
      4. US$200 million siphoned from the Aluminum Smelter project.
      5. N400 million wasted on the Better Life Project.
      6. Colossal Corruption at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), for example, US$101 million for the purchase of strategic storage facilitation.

The Okigbo panel set up by the General SaniAbacha-led administration to look into the Babangida administration indicted General Babangida and the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) of a frivolous looting spree and clandestine spending (Anazodo, Okoye, &Chukwuemeka, 2012; Ijewereme&Dunmade, 2014).

The Abacha administration that took over from the interim National Government followed the pace set by the Babangida administration in looting the government treasury. The entire country became an extension of his personal estate within a space of 5 years, amassed so much wealth than the wealth of most countries in Black Africa put together (Ebegbulem, 2012; Ijewereme&Dunmade, 2014). A total sum of N63.25billion was said to have been recovered from the Abacha family. In fact, parts of the Abacha legendary stolen wealth are still being recovered from his family till date (Ijewereme&Dunmade, 2014).

The Abdusalam administration is not an exception from the mass looting of the public treasury. The Christopher Kolade panel set up to review contracts, licenses, and appointment made under the Abdusalam administration came out with shocking revelation. The panel found beyond imaginable proportions that, though Nigeria was already

neck deep in corrupt practices, the Abdusalam administration made a mockery of any sense of discipline and probity and at a scale that practically made saints of his predecessors (Anazodo, Okoye, &Chukwuemeka, 2012; Lawal& Tobi, 2006). The panel specifically reviewed 4,072 contracts, 576 licenses, 807 appointments, 768 awards, and 111 approvals all made within 5 months. The panel submitted that the 4,072 contracts cost Nigeria N635.62 billion as against the N88 billion budgeted in 1998, this representing a deficit of N551 billion. The panel also revealed the depletion of the foreign reserve, which at the end of 1998 stood at US$7.6 billion but shrank to US$3.8 billion by May 1999.

In a similar vein, when Obasanjo came to power in 1999, he told Nigerians that corruption was the major clog in the wheel of Nigeria's progress and, until the social menace is eradicated, development will continue to elude Nigeria. Accordingly, Chief OlusegunObasanjo signed the anti-corruption bill into law that established the ICPC and EFCC that are in the ongoing political dispensation in the Fourth Republic (Aderonmu, 2009;

Ijewereme, 2013). Unfortunately, these institutions made little impact in the war against corruption in the Nigerian public sector. For instance, some western diplomats were of the opinion that Nigeria lost between US$4 billion and US$8 billion annually to corruption during the 8 years of Obasanjo's regime (Human Rights Watch, 2007). In a similar vein, TI scored Nigeria very low for 4 consecutive years; the scale showed that, on the scale of 10, Nigeria scored 1.6 in 1999, 1.2 in 2000, 1.0 in 2001, 1.6 in 2002, and 1.4 in 2003 (Ijewereme, 2013). However, when NuhuRibadu became the chairman of newly created EFCC in November 2003, Nigeria corruption profile started declining gradually, as reflected in TI (2008) scale 1.6 in 2004, 1.9 in 2005, 2.2 in 2006, 2.2 in 2007, and 2.7 in 2008. But Ribadu's legacy has been diminished by widespread belief that his anti-corruption agenda was selective, dictated by the political whims of the presidency to deal with perceived opponents and enemies, while the cronies and heavily corrupt officials in the good books of the then president OlusegunObasajo were untouched. Obasanjo's administration was lucidly described by Oluwasanmi (2007) as follows:

Corruption became all pervading; electoral fraud common place, personal insecurity and unresolved assassinations characterized his regime just as much as disobedience of court rulings. Many infrastructures were left to decay while he pursued an attempt to stay longer in office by trying to amend the constitution. He pursued to jail or impeachment those governors who did not agree with him using corruption as the weapon: On corruption those who agreed with him were unscathed. Though, he tried to reorganize some arms of government The civil service and finance.

Obasanjo's administration was characterized by unthinkable greed, hatred for the rule of law and human rights, selective investigation of corrupt public officials, and inefficient handling of the economy (Aderonmu, 2009). Furthermore, therevelation after the end of his government showed that he waived due process for awarding of contracts; he sold government property to himself and his cronies below the cost price (Aderonmu, 2009; Ebegbulem, 2012; Imhonopi&Ugochukwu, 2013; Oluwasanmi, 2007).

In addition, Yar' Adua's government constantly reaffirmed his administration's determination to combat corruption and proclaimed respect for the rule of law and due process, but his actions and body language revealed the contrary (Aderonmu, 2009; Ijewereme, 2013). Yar' Adua's government through the office of Attorney General of the Federation made frantic efforts to (undermine the fight against corruption) prevent James

Ibori, the former governor of Delta State, from being prosecuted and jailed. James Ibori was a close associate of Yar' Adua as well as one of the major financiers of Yar' Adua's election. UmaruYar' Adua forced Ribadu from office just 2 weeks after he tried to prosecute powerful former Delta State Governor James Ibori (Human Rights Watch, 2011).

However, presidentGoodluckEbele Jonathan's administration could not show the courage and tenacity to fight corruption in the face of many allegations of corruption perpetuated and reported often about public officials. Recent audit report on Goodluck Jonathan's administration discovered unprecedented ghost employees in the Nigerian Federal Civil Service. The fraud of ghost employees on payroll is also common to many states in Nigeria. Billions of Naira are wasted to fraudsters on monthly bases, and there are more than 45,000 unaccountable workers on the federal payroll alone, and government is spending over N100b annually (Okekeocha, 2013).

The most worrisome is that Nigerians have not been informed or given account on what is being done to the perpetrators of this heinous crime. In a similar vein, the board of NNPC and the Minister of Petroleum supervising NNPC, Diezani Allison Madueke, were indicted of corruption; the president sacked the board of NNPC without sacking the Minister of Petroleum. MrsDaziani Allison Madueke has been indicted by five different investigative panel Committees reports at different time, yet she confidently remains in charge of the Ministry unperturbed (Melaye, 2013a, p. 2). This is simply because she has family ties with presidentGoodluckEbele Jonathan. An international tax and audit firm, KPMG, audit report indicted the NNPC, Petroleum Product Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA), and the Ministry of Petroleum of large-scale corruption and absence of transparency. According to Melaye (2013 a), the Farouk Lawal Report of the House of Representative Investigative Committee: Spoke elaborately of unprecedented Corruption between bureaucracy and the marketers of petroleum products (p. 2). The marketers cannot put their hands into government treasury to pay themselves without approval from appropriate authorities such as NNPC, PPPRA, Minister of Petroleum, CBN, and of course Minister of Finance (Melaye, 2013a). It is disheartening that, till date, no government official in these ministries and agencies has been invited by the anti-graft agencies or police on these excessive subsidy scandals (Melaye, 2013a). According to Melaye (2013b), the government of President Goodluck Jonathan is yet to convict one corrupt political official; not one politically exposed person has been convicted of corruption under Jonathan's administration. Corruption is

flourishing in Nigeria because there is a complete lack of political will to combat the monster by successive governments, especially President Goodluck Jonathan's administration. Melaye (2013b) is of the opinion that the situation would continue, except the power to appoint the EFCC and the ICPC chairmen is removed from the president.

The fight against corruption in Nigeria has completely become a lost battle. In the First Republic, corruption was 10%; in the Second Republic, it snowballed to 20%; during the general Ibrahim Babangida era, corruption was institutionalized, President Obasanjo's administration strengthened corruption, and for reasons best known to President UmaruYaradua, he allowed the ICPC and the EFCC leadership to be occupied by corrupt officials (Falana, 2012).Falana further opines that corruption was perpetuated with impunity under President Goodluck Jonathan's administration to the extent that the war against corruption lost completely. According to Falana (2012), the Auditor-General of the federation disclosed that 4.2 trillion Naira collected by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) was not remitted to the Federation Account from 2006 to 2009. The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative reported that oil companies have failed to pay into the Federation Account about 10 billion dollars from 1999 to 2008. The NuhuRibadu-led Petroleum Revenue and Special Task Force revealed that Nigeria has been robbed to the tune of almost 100 billion dollars. All the indicted leaders in the cases of Siemens, Halliburton, and other scandals are walking freely and still dictating who gets what and how in the Nigerian political arena.

All the foregoing shows the enormity of corruption and unethical practices in the Nigerian state. The issue is what are the major causes of these corrupt practices in Nigeria? Different arguments have been put forward to explain the pervasiveness of corruption in the Nigerian state. These include poverty, personalization of public office, political culture, and inability of leaders to overcome their colonial mentality with respect of their perception of public office (Lawal& Tobi, 2006). Moreover, the magnitude of corruption in Nigeria since Gowon's regime to Goodluck Jonathan's administration has been attributed to political economy growth of Nigeria by some scholars, that is, the movement from dependence on agriculture in the 1960s to total dependence on oil and oil revenue (which became the major source of Nigerian wealth) from the 1970s, among other factors.

New allegations of corruption have begun to emerge since the departure of President Jonathan on May 29, 2015, including:

$2.2 billion illegally withdrawn from Excess Crude Oil Accounts,[68] of which $1 billion supposedly approved by President Jonathan to fund his reelection campaign without the knowledge of the National Economic Council made up of state governors and the president and vice president, NEITI discovered $11.6 billion was missing from Nigeria LNG Company dividend payments. 60 million barrels of oil valued at $13.7 billion was stolen under the watch of the national oil company, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, from 2009 to 2012.NEITI indicates losses due to crude swaps due to subsidy and domestic crude allocation from 2005 to 2012 indicated that $11.63 billion had been paid to the NNPC but that there is no evidence of the money being remitted to the federation account.

Diversion of 60% of $1 billion foreign loans obtained from the Chinese by the Ministry of Finance, Massive scam in weapons and defense procurements, and misuse of 3 trillion naira defense budget since 2011 under the guise of fighting Boko Haram. Diversion of $2.2 million vaccination medicine fund, by Ministry of Health, Diversion of Ebola fight fund up to

1.9 bn naira, NIMASA fraud under investigation by EFCC, inclusive of accusation of funding PDP and buying a small piece of land for 13 billion naira , Ministry of Finance led by OkonjoIweala hurried payment of $2.2 million to health ministry contractor in disputed invoices, NDDC scams and multifarious scams including 2.7 billion naira worth of contracts that do not conform to the Public Procurement ActPolice Service Commission Scam investigated by ICPC that revealed misappropriation of over 150 million nairas related to election-related training. ICPC made refund recommendations, but many analysts indicated prosecution was more appropriate.

MuhammaduBuhari administration (2015)

The presidency of MuhammaduBuhari has seen major action against corruption in Nigeria. In 2016, the Senate ad hoc committee on “mounting humanitarian crisis in the North East” led by Senator ShehuSani indicted the then secretary to the Government of the Federation appointed by MuhammaduBuhari, Mr. BabachirLawal in a N200 million contract scandal for the clearing of “invasive plant species” in Yobe State by Rholavision Nigeria Limited; a company he owns.On October 30, 2017, President Buhari sacked Lawal based on the report of a three-man panel led by Vice-President YemiOsinbajo that investigated him and one other.In 2016, Buhari was reportedly presented evidence that his chief of staff, Abba Kyari, took N500 million naira bribe from MTN to help it slash the $5 Billion dollar fine slammed against it for violation of Nigeria telecommunications regulations bothering on

national security. MTN fired the staff involved in the bribery scandal. But Abba Kyari was left intact in his position as chief of staff to national outrage forcing Buhari to announce the probe of Kyari. The findings of the investigation was never made public.AbdulrasheedMaina was the head of the task force on pension reforms during the President Goodluck Jonathan- led administration but fled Nigeria in 2015 after claims that he embezzled two billion naira ($5.6 million, 4.8 million euros). Despite the fact that an Interpol arrest warrant was issued, he still managed to return to Nigeria, where he was said to have enjoyed protection from the Buhari government. Maina had been fired from his position by Goodluck Jonathan's administration and was put under investigation for corrupt practices but was reinstated and given double promotion by Buhari administration. According to the senate through its committee on public accounts, 85 government parastatals under the present government under the leadership of MuhammaduBuhari are yet to submit their audit reports since the inception of this government.The flag bearer of the corruption fight in Nigeria, the EFCC has responded to the senate committee on public account's claim on the nonsubmission of her account report by the institution and 84 others. The Economic and financial crimes commission denied the report issued by the committee claiming it was not true.Despite criticism, the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) announced in May 2018, that 603 Nigerian figures had been convicted on corruption charges since Buhari took office in 2015. The EFCC also announced that for the first time in Nigeria's history, judges and top military officers including retired service chiefs are being prosecuted for corruption.

In December 2019, the country's controversial ex-Attorney General Mohammed Adoke, who was accused of being bribed to grant oil licenses to Shell, was extradited back to Nigeria from Dubai and was immediately arrested. In January 2020, however, Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) still gave Nigeria a low ranking of 146 out of 180 countries surveyed. By October 2020, however, End SARS protestors alleged that Nigerian police officers, despite being employed by what has long been perceived as being the most corruption institution in Nigeria, were no longer paid adequately and, despite calling out police brutality, called for an increase in police salaries as one of their five demands

Diezani k Alison Madueke form minister of petroleum The chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), AbdulrasheedBawa, has said $153 million and over 80 properties have been recovered from a former Minister of Petroleum Resources,

Diezani Alison-Madueke. MrBawa said the 80 properties recovered from Mrs Alison- Madueke were worth about $80 million. The EFCC boss made the disclosure is an interview in the April edition of the commission’s magazine, EFCC Alert. The publication was part of excerpts from the interview MrBawa had during One-on-One programme of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA).Until his appointment as the EFCC chair in February 2021, MrBawa headed the commission’s investigative team set up to probe the broad corruption cases involving the former minister, associates and their interests. Mrs Alison-Madueke, who is believed to have escaped to the United Kingdom and remained there after her exit from public office, ran the petroleum ministry which superintends over the opaque Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) between 2010 and 2015 under the administration of former President Goodluck Jonathan.

## Electoral Corruption

This refers to buying of votes with money, intimidation of agents of opposition parties at the Polling units, obstructing the freedom of election, and engaging in ballot snatching and stuffing ([Idada&Uhunmwuangho, 2012](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). It involves manipulation of voters’ register, brigandage, and all manner of electoral violence leading to killing and maiming of people. It also involves multiple thumb printing on ballot papers, the announcement of votes in areas where votes were not cast, and winners of elections ending up as the losers.

## Nepotism

This is a highly biased method of distribution of state resources where a public officer prefers his or her relatives and family members or friends in awarding contracts, job recruitment, promotion, appointment to public positions, thereby ignoring the merit principle; this may lead to the downgrading of the quality of the public service ([Amundsen,](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188) [2007](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188); [Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management, 2010](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). It also includes exemption of once relatives and friends from the application of certain punitive laws or regulations, and this may disrupt esprit de corps and trust. Nepotism provides room forpreferential treatment of one individual over another, without taking into accounts the relative merit of the respective individuals; this represents nothing but victimization of an individual or individuals ([Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188) [Management, 2010](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)).

## Favoritism

This is a form of corruption where a public servant gives undue preference or favor to his or her friends, family, and anybody close and trusted in recruitment, promotion, and so on.

## Procurement Scam

This refers to over invoicing of government contracts or corruption related to purchases. That is, the purchase price of an item is inflated so that the difference between the inflated price and actual price is shared between the person who does the purchasing and the sellers or it is taken by the purchaser alone with the seller conniving. ([Dahida, 2012](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188))

## Ghost Workers Phenomenon

This is a practice where the management of a public organization deliberately inflates the payroll by including fictitious names to get more subventions for salary. The excess is siphoned by the members of management in connivance with some members of governing councils or boards ([Dahida, 2013](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)).

## Budgeting Corruption

This is a form of corruption where management of a public organization in connivance with governing council or board minister/commissioner bribes some members of the legislature to approve inflated estimate for the institution during budgeting. In a situation where the budget is already approved, the management is expected to give tips or gratifications to the government functionaries whose duty it is to release money to the institutions ([Azelama, 2005](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)).

## Effects of Corruption in Nigeria

The effects of corruption in Nigeria are outrageous. The effects range from under development, absence of basic infrastructure such as potable water, good road networks, misappropriation of national resources leading to massive poverty, mediocrity in leadership and cluelessness in professionalism, deficient leadership outputs, high unemployment and youth hopelessness, continuous widening gap between the rich and poor, and falling standard

of education leading to production of low-quality graduates ([Waziri, 2010](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). Corruption has made students and products of the tertiary institutions suffer from loss of self-confidence, hopelessness, and loss of confidence in handwork and societal value. It has lowered the image of academic and non-academic members, as well as governing councils of most public tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Corruption denies access to basic education and health services, fuels political violence, generates popular anger that threatens to further destabilize societies, and exacerbates violent conflict ([TI, 2012](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). It distorts public expenditure, increases cost of running businesses as well as cost of governance, and diverts resources from poor to rich nations. It has frustrated research efforts, derailed administrative goals, instigated organizational goals displacement, and it has also drastically reduced the image of Nigeria in the international communities to mention just a few ([Azelama, 2005](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188); [Waziri, 2010](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)).

## Efficiency and Effectiveness

Efficiency and Effectiveness are common and inter-related concepts associated with organizational endeavours (Okpo&Onwubiko, 2006:14). Ikelegbe (1994:5) asserts that efficiency simply describes input/output relations, effectiveness refers to the degree to which an organization can or is able to achieve high output with minimum input. Efficiency is the extent to which the resources of a programme or organization are used in a manner designed to maximize cost effectiveness. It is a measure of how well a programme was conducted regardless of the outcome it produces.

In public agencies and programmes, Okpo and Onwubiko (2006:14) aver that efficiency is often times regarded as a “non – measurable proposition” for the fact that in government and public service, the emphasis is on goals attainment or realization of policy, programmes or organizational goals and objectives. Generally, we can say that an organization is effective depending on whether stated intentions, planned or projected output and objectives are realized or not.

## Public Service

Public service is loosely defined by Caiden (1971) cited in Peter (2016:17) to mean the collectivity of specialized government institutions or agencies established by law, financed by public money and staffed by professionals and career bureaucrats for the purpose of executing public policies. For Ezeani (2006) public service is much broader than the term

civil service as the former (Public service) refers to the totality of services that are organized under public (that is government) authority. Simply put, public service is a body or department in the executive arm of government with the responsibility to assisting in the planning and implementation of government policies. It comprises ministries, agencies, parastatal, corporation and such like. Since it is institution established to deliver essential services to the people, it is non-profit-oriented. According to Lewis and Cartron (2006) cited in Peter (2016) public service is a trust. Therefore, the citizens expect public servants to serve public interest with fairness and to manage public resources properly on a daily basis.

## Performance

Performance is a consequence of an action. In the context of public service, according to Prasetya and Kato (2011), performance is the attained result of skilled workers in some specific situations. This implies that, it is an act, process or art of performing an official duty. It can also be described as how well or badly a person does a particular job or activity.

Performance is an action that involves a lot of efforts aimed at achieving a purpose. That is the activities of a public servant most especially in terms of his/her efficiency in producing certain quantity of goods and services. This scenario or act has the potential of easily diminishing, truncating as well as stifling the sustainable development goals of the nation.

## Problems of Effective Public Service Performance in Nigeria

According to Dahida and Akangbe (2013:10), Public service management in developing economics like Nigeria since the end of colonial rule and onwards, under which persons tainted with corrupt genes ascended into the realm of leadership, public service has not been any better. The continued existence of structurally weak unethical control mechanism has helped to create a variety of loopholes that have tended to facilitate and sustain corrupt practices. In this situation or context, unethical practices in the form of corruption in developing economies'(Nigeria) public service manifests itself in any of the following according to Igwe (2010) bribery involving the promise, offering or giving of a benefit that improperly affects the actions and decisions of public servants

whose benefit accrue to the public servant, another person or an entity; embezzlement involving theft of resources by control of such resources, for example, hospital staff that steal medicines and in turn sell these to private pharmacists, abuse of power involving a public servant using his/her vested authority to improperly benefit another public servant, person or entity (or the vested authority to improperly discriminate against another public servant, person or entity), for example, during a tender process but before actual selection of a successful contractor the head of department expresses his/her wish to see the contract awarded to a specific person; fraud involving actions or behaviours by a public servant, other person or entity that fool others into providing a benefit that would not normally accrue to the public servant, other persons or entity, for example, a public servant that registers a fictitious employee in order to collect the salary of that fictitious employee.

Furthermore, problems that derail public service performance can be viewed in, for instance; extortion involving coercing a person or entity to provide a benefit to a public servant, another person or entity in exchange for acting (or failing to act) in a particular manner, for example, a public health official threatens to close a restaurant on the basis of fabricated health transgression unless the owner provides the public health official with regular meals. Nepotism involving a public servant ensuring that family members are appointed to public services or that family members receive contract from state resources, for example, a head of department appoints his/her sister's child to a position even when more suitable candidates have applied for the position. Favouritism involving the provision of services or resources according to personal affiliations like ethnic, religious, party of a public servant, for example, a regional manager in a particular region ensures that only persons from the same tribe are successful in tenders for the supply of foods into the manager's geographic area of responsibility.

Again discussions on Nigeria's development has also identified corruption at various dimensions and magnitudes as the foundation of the problem of the public service. But in as much as it was accepted, corrupt practices are much deeper than just what we see it as; people being corrupt to get rich or being corrupt to sail beyond the scope of underdevelopment and imperial induced poverty in Nigeria. The public service in a nutshell cannot realize the goal ofgovernment which are intended for better living conditions for the citizens due to numerous manifestation of corrupt practices. The acts impede the objectives for which governments in developing economies are meant to perform.

## An Evaluation of Corruption on Effective Public Service Performance in Nigeria 1999 still date

In this section, we try to x-ray some policies of government that have through corruption like mismanagement by way of misapplication, injudicious utilization or diversion of funds to extraneous uses and outright embezzlement have had deleterious impart on the public services performance in Nigeria. The implementation of budgets from 1999-2002 shows that they were not regarded as an article of faith: that the trend shows a virtual slide into financial anarchy, inability to develop its human resources and infrastructure makes it impossible to plan its investment thereby rendering it impossible for the expected inflow of foreign investment into the country (the report of senate committee on alleged non-implementation of all Appropriation Acts, 2002).

According to the committee (headed by Senator IdrisAbubakar), non- implementation of budget 'erodes the confidence of the international community in (Nigeria's) ability to positively reform (her) procedures on the economy in a post –military era. It further revealed that ''capital provisions in all the budgets from 1999-2002 have always been recorded in recurrent budget.'' Asserting that ''the most guilty parties have been the presidency and the public service, the report revealed, ''operation of funds outside

the consolidated Revenue fund has continued in clear violation of constitutional Revenue provisions which negatively affects the appropriation of the budgetary process. For instance, although the 2002 Budget made provision for an expenditure profile of N6.2billion, actual expenditure was N31 billion. That “illegal expenditure of public fund affecting budgetary performance that existed within the period” could be glanced from “the grant of N10million to the government of Niger republic without appropriation and legislative approval” (The Guardian, 2002:14).

Another instance of this is the National Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) which was launched on May 29, 2004. The National Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) reforms specifically address the international targets, which were set in 1991 to improve economic well-being, social and human development and ensure environmental sustainability and regeneration. The National Planning Commission in 2004 stated that the National Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) thrust correspond with the United Nation's Millennium Declaration that ushered the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) now Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).Realization of the eight goals of the MDGs (develop a global partnership for development) cannot be feasible when a country stands in isolation without development support from bigger economics of the world as a result of corruption on the part of public service functionaries or officials. Ubani et al (2013:32) assert that the Obasanjo administration through the National Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) reforms boasted that one of the government's goals was to fight corruption to a standstill just like the present administration has started, but there were traces of official corruption among the elected public officers in collaboration with the public service personnel's, despite the efforts of the anti-corruption agencies.

Also, the National Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) was aimed at promoting private enterprise through privatization and deregulation of the economy, but official scams, non-performance by the firms that got the nod had characterized the “so called privatization” by the Bureau for Public Enterprise (BPE). For instance, the TRANSCORP that acquired NITEL and MTEL from government have failed to deliver in the sector.In line with the numerous economic policies that have failed the nation is the Transformation agenda programme. Usigbe (2011) cited in Ubani et al (2013:33) has identified the key policies which the agenda was to pursue to include:

1. Ensuring greater harmony between fiscal and monetary policy.
2. Pursuit of sound macroeconomic policies, including fiscal prudence supported by appropriate monetary policy to contain inflation at single digit.
3. The budget process shall be reviewed to provide greater clarity of roles between the executive and legislature to ensure that the appropriate bill is enacted into law.
4. The existing revenue allocation formular shall be reviewed to achieve a more balanced fiscal federalism.
5. Institutionalizing the culture of development planning at all level of government and ensuring that the annual capital budget allocation takes a cue from medium and long term development plans.

However, the programme was faced with threats and challenges of corruption by the elected representatives of the people which hampered the actualization of this lofty economic policy. The policy was affected by the lack of synergy between political office holders and public service officials; bankrupt leadership, embezzlement of funds, award of contracts to friends and relations for self ends. The recent developments in the health sector of the economy is a case of corruption in the public service affecting stability and

growth in the nation's health institutions. Sadly, there has been accusations of fraud between the health minister and the executive secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) (Odusile, 2017).

Accordingly, a persistent challenge in the Nigerian health sector is human resources crisis which has the tendency to cripple the sector. Inadequate investment, weak administration and corruption remain the cause of poor health workers' welfare and widespread inefficiency in the healthcare workforce. No doubt the crisis of confidence within the health workforce is a big constraint to health system development and sustenance in the country (Odusile, 2017:6).



Corruption Rank in Nigeria averaged 123.56 from 1996 until 2020, reaching an all-time high of 152 in 2005 and a record low of 52 in 1997. This provides the latest reported value for Nigeria corruption Rank plus previous releases, historical high and low short term forecast and long term prediction, economic calendar, survey consensus and news. A Nigeria corruption Rank value, historical data was updated on June 2021.

Table: 2 Nigeria Corruption index **1996 - 2020**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Actual Previous | Highest | Lowest | Date | Unit | Frequency |
| 25.00 26.00 | 28.00 | 6.90 | 1996 - 2020 | Points | Yearly |
| Nigeria Business | Last | Previous | Highest | Lowest | Unit |
| Business Confidence | -15.20 | -1,50 | 41.10 | -66.20 | Point (+) |
| Industrial Production | 1.60 | -10.30 | 25.10 | -20.40 | Percent (+) |
| Manufacturing Production | -1.30 | -10.30 | 24.60 | -10.30 | Percent (+) |
| Internet Speed | 3853.93 | 4129.28 | 4129.28 | 348.64 | KBPs (+) |
| Ip Addresses | 209207.00 | 194830.00 | 244394.00 | 29604.00 | Ip (+) |
| Services PMI | 47.30 | 47.90 | 62.30 | 25.30 | Points (+) |
| Leading Economic Index | 45.90 | 45.50 | 53.00 | 45.50 | Points (+) |
| Manufacturing PMI | 49.00 | 48.80 | 61.10 | 41.10 | Points (+) |
| Mining Production | 9.20 | -17.30 | 48.20 | -34.10 | Percent (+) |
| Crude Oil Rigs | 6.00 | 5.00 | 23.00 | 3.00 | (+) |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ease of Doing Business | 131.00 | 146.00 | 170.00 | 120.00 | (+) |
| Changes in Inventories | 133483.38 | 72265.70 | 178909.34 | 32488.05 | NGN Million (+) |
| Competitiveness Index | 48.33 | 47.53 | 48.33 | 3.37 | Points (+) |
| Competitiveness Rank | 116.00 | 115.00 | 127.00 | 94.00 | (+) |
| Composite PMI | 54.40 | 52.90 | 59.10 | 37.10 | Points (+) |
| Capacity Utilization | 45.40 | 43.80 | 60.50 | 40.10 | Points (+) |
| Corruption Index | 25.00 | 26.00 | 28.00 | 6,90 | Points (+) |
| Corruption Rank | 149.00 | 146.00 | 152.00 | 52.00 | (+) |

## Source: Nigeria Corruption index 1996 - 2020



* + 1. **The Crisis of Corruption**

Corruption is not only pervasive but endemic in almost every facet of life - public

sector, private sector organization, business, daily transactions and businesses. Corruption is also

fairly accommodated as past leaders, public office holders, retired public officers,

contractors and business accomplices live comfortably in wealth, opulence and affluence

with their loot. Many have turned out to be the powerful party chieftains, political patrons and

middlemen, and political appointees.

Gboyega (2006) defines corruption as any perverse decision, act or conduct that

compromises democratic norms and values, and subverts and undermines the integrity and

effectiveness of people in authority or institutions. To Khan (1996: 12-21), corruption isany

act which devised from the rules of conduct, including normative values, governing the actions

of an individual in a position of authority or trust, whether in the private or public domain, because of private-regarding motives such as wealth, power, status.Osoba (2000) sees corruption as:a form of anti-social behavior by an individual or social group which confers unjust or fraudulent benefits on its perpetrators (and) is inconsistent with the established legal norms and prescribed moral ethos of the land and is likely to subvert or diminish the capacity

of the legitimate authorities to provide fully for the material and spiritual wellbeing of allmembers of society in a just andequitable manner.

To Otite (2006), corruption occurs

When at least two parties have interacted to change the structure or the processes

of society, or the behavior of functionaries in order to produce dishonest,

unfaithful or defiled situations... corruption involves the injection of additional but

improper transactions aimed at changing the normal course of events and altering

judgements and positions of trust. It consists in the doers and receivers use of

informal, extra legal or illegal acts to facilitate matters.

These conceptions raise several issues. Corruption has to do with: misuse of public

power for private gain (Obayelu, 2007), exploitation of public positions, power and resources

for private or group gain (Ogundiya, 2010), securing wealth or power through illegal means

for private gain at public expense (Obayelu, 2007), and betrayal of public trust for

individual or group gain (Dobel, 2007).It is a transaction between two or more persons in

which certain additional actions intended to facilitate some objectives, actions and

performance by altering existing course of events and judgment. It alters or changes the

normal and proper course of events. These changes and their facilitation are actually

improper, extra-legal, informal, and contrary to structured, organizational and prescribed

processes.Corruption is very simply a behavior or action or set of attitudes (Akinsola, 2006:

305). Corruption is embedded in mental attitudes, mindset, and behavior that is learnt or acquired aboutconduct and practices in both the private and public realm. This is why corruption is embedded or rooted in value systems, tradition, standard behaviours and culture that may condone, tolerate and sanction certain behaviours and set the moral and social framework for determining what is corrupt or otherwise.

Corruption is an anti-social behavior of functionaries, office holders, and more specifically those in positions of power and authority over others, this behavior is fraudulent, dishonest and unfaithful. Corruption is a perversion, a deviance and defilement that compromises and corrodes the existing rules, legal norms, social and democratic norms and values. It is the obverse side of what are proper values, moral ethos, social values and

positive virtues. There is always a motive or incentive which is the change in benefit

structure, wealth, power, and status. It is motivated by private or group gains beyond

entitlements such as exoneration, protection, security, postponement or prevention of

sanctions and reduction of costs. It has consequences or\_ effects which undermines,

diminishes, subverts and weakens the capacity, effectiveness and performance of public

institutions, goods and services. Its underline honesty, honour, integrity,justice, equity,

fairness and trust.The conception of what is regarded as corrupt and the dominant forms of

corruption differs from one society to the other. In Nigeria, the conception of corruption

includes:

* Abuse of office in the performance of duties
* Breaches of the rules, regulations and codes such as dueprocess
* Acts of self-enrichment
* Award of undeserved rewards, gifts, gains to enable manipulations end loyalty
* Diversion of money for public project
* Demands for or reception of gratification
* Conversion of state resources to personal use
* Inappropriate and illegal use of public resources to obtain what is due or to speed up what is due
* Embezzlement or theft of public monies or property
* Inflation of prices for goods, purchases and contracts
* False statements on revenues, properties, receipts
* Award of certificates to unskilled persons, family membersand friends
* Violations of procedures to advance personal interests
* Payoffs for legislative support
* Overlooking illegal activities for private gains
* Neglect of duty or the unwarranted exercise of power with

intent of personal gains

* Influence peddling
* Nepotism
* Exploitation of privileged relations for private gain
* Giving or accepting gratification directly or through agents (Doig& Theobald

1997:6, Nwankwo 2001: 212-214; The Corrupt Practices and Other Related

Offences Act 2010).

Other acts of corruption include:

* Fraudulent acquisitions or receipt of property
* False claims or returns
* Bribery of Public officer
* Using office or position for self, gratification
* Bribery for assistance in relation to auctions, contracts
* Inducement giving to public officials to prevent decisions
* Taking of bribes, kickbacks to facilitate normal services or prevent policy
* Collusion to defraud, cause losses or defray charges to the detriment of the organization
* Malpractices in relation to the law, standard practices, norms in the public or

private sector

* Theft, defrauding or misappropriation of funds, equipment, materials
* Perverse practices such as falsification of accounts, taxes, collections
* Undue favours such as contracts, largess, gifts meant to compromise present or future actions
* Acts of self-enrichment such as inflation of contracts, over invoicing, racketeering,

hoarding,

* Direct conversion of state resources for personal (Doig& Theobald 1997:6,

Nwankwo 2001: 212-214;

* The Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2010).

In its most brazen form, corruption is theft, embezzlement, privatization of public

funds, and deliberate misappropriation and misapplication of public resources, entitlements and

dues. During the Babangida and Abacha Administrations, brazen corruption reached a

crescendo, such that allocated public funds were simply acquired or parts retained or

committed in a process christened 'settlement.Corruption could be political or bureaucratic

(Nwabuzor 2003:4). Political corruption is located within the institutions and agencies of

government and manifests in transactions or exchange of public resources and benefits

(Lodge 1998). Political corruption refers to the frauds, misdemeanors, impositions, illegitimacy

and exploitation that occur in the political process of acquiring, deploying and exercising

political power.

Election is perhaps one of the areas in which political corruption manifests so strongly.

Incidents of corruption associated with the electoral process include the following:

1. Falsification of voters register
2. Purchase of voter registration and voters cards
3. Purchase or payment in lieu of voting
4. Bribes, gratifications, enrichment and consequent compromise of electoral officers, security agents,judicial officers, government officials and partyagents,
5. Purchase or buying of potential or actual opponents at primaries and elections
6. Deployment of violence to subvert the electoral process
7. Funding of electoral subversions

Bureaucratic corruption is related to the state, its institutions and processes in relation to

society and citizens. It is situated in the exercise of state authority and power and particularly

relates to how state resources are acquired and used, how state authority is conducted,

functions or malfunctions, and how the state relates to society in the performance of roles and the

management of its institutions, processes, laws and actions.

## Table 3: Perception of corruption in Nigeria by Sector

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sources | Ranking/ Index of Percentage |
| Political parties | 4.5 |
| Legislature | 4.2 |
| Judiciary | 3.8 |
| Police | 4.8 |
| Business/private sector | 3.4 |
| Tax revenue | 3.8 |
| Customs | 4.0 |
| Media | 3.0 |
| Medical services | 3.1 |
| Education service | 3.8 |
| Registry/permit services | 3.3 |
| Utilities | 3.5 |
| Military | 3.9 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NGOs | 2.7 |
| Religions Bodies | 2.4 |

**Source: Transparency International Corruption Perception Index**

As Compiled by Enweremadu (2010)

## Corruption in the Civil Democratic Regimes

The last decade of colonization in which self-governance at the regions was dominant

was plagued by corruption. In the Eastern region, the Foster Sutton Tribunal of Enquiry of

1956 revealed how the African Continental Bank was used as a conduit pipe for corruption.

The First Republic was also plagued by corruption indicated by corrupt deals, such as ten

percent returns on contract awards, dubious loans to indigenous businesses, and perversions

in the award of contracts, scholarships and social amenities. The Coker Commission of

Inquiry in the Western region in 1962 revealed how the Action Group and the regional

government officials were enriched at the expense of the Cocoa Market Board (Nwabuzor

2003).

That corruption was pervasive in the First Republic is indicated by the broadcasts of

General AguiyiIronsi’ which referred to stamping out corruption from the public life

with ruthless efficiency, tragic plunders and waste of the past, extravagance and waste in

public expenditure (Iroanusi 2006). Major Kaduna ChukwumaNzeogwu in his coup d'etat

address declared that our enemies are political profiteers, the men in high and low places that

seek bribes and demand ten percent (Iroanusi 2006).

The Second Republic politicians and public office holders were characterized with financial recklessness, pervasive corruption, racketeering of import license, waste, reckless distribution of public funds for lobbying or to influence desired outcomes, andreckless overseas trips. The Recovery of Public Property Tribunals established under Decree 3 of 1984 found several governors and top officials guilty, sentenced them to long jail terms and confiscated their corruptly acquired assets and monies.

The Fourth Republic has also been plagued by massive, extensive and pervasive corruption. In less than two years, the Senate had three Presidents and the House of Representatives two speakers with changes occasioned by corruption charges (Ojo 2001). The National Assembly particularly, the House of Representatives had been rocked by corruption scandals relating to committee investigations or relations with Ministries,

Departments and Agencies (MDA). There have been several allegations of executive arm

payments for legislative support.

There have been several scandals such as the National Identity Card in which some

members of the federal cabinet and top civil servants were indicted, sale of federal

government properties in Lagos, that led to the sacking of a Minister for Housing and

Urban Development, and the bribery of National Assembly members by the minister and

top officials of the federal Ministry of Education (Iroanusi 2006: 149-154).

## Governance and Corruption and Democracy, Development in Nigeria

Corruption alongside violent conflicts, crime and insecurity are perhaps the greatest

challenges and in fact threats to Nigeria's democracy. Corruption is strongly whittling away

the very bases for democratic stability and durability; positive orientation and public

support, legitimacy, consent and accountability. Corruption is linked to various

pathologies, electoral violence, assassinations, political conflicts and abuse of human

rights.orruption has grown a loss of confidence, distrust, apathy and cynicism among Nigerian

citizens. It is central to the increasing erosion of authority, growing lawlessness among the

citizens and growing loss of integrity and legitimacy of leaders and governments.Corruption is the greatest challenge to good governance. Corruption subverts good governance as it weakens public accountability for resources and accountability to the governed;constricts openness and transparency; compromises rules,regulations, due processes, standardized

responses to claims;leads to abuse of citizen' rights and dignify; and compromisesmerit, fairness, equity and justice.

It undermines good and quality service delivery, the quality of infrastructure and the delivery of justice. Corruption has compromised the integrity of public institutions, public

goods and social services. It has created the tendency for arbitrary actions. The climate that

these conditions create is not only inimical and undermining of democracy and good

governance but rather tend towards political violence, violent change and system collapse.

Good governance therefore requires that corruption is effectively combated, controlled and

considerably depleted. In spite of over a decade of efforts to combat corruption in the Fourth

Republic, the emergent political and' public officer still manifests the greed, crave for wealth,

lavish consumption, ostentation" and profligacy, disregard for others’ conditions and

inordinate ambition for power.Corruption undermines several aspects of management and

conduct that grow development. It impedes investment, raises transaction costs, produces

inefficient economic outcomes, misallocates resources, distorts rational choices, reduces

revenues, generates uncertainty in the economy, accentuates poverty and inequality, pushes

economic activities underground, weakens the quality, outcomes and delivery of

infrastructure and public services and undermines confidence in the state and economy

(Ikelegbe, 2004).

Corruption generates increases in the cost of social services and restricts the availability of public goods and services. Corruption has frittered public revenues and only a fraction of internally generated revenues can actually be accounted for. Much of public spending at all levels of government is actually taken by corrupt practices ranging from the phenomenon of ghost workers to exaggerated costs of travels, purchases and imports.In essence, public resources that ought to be available for development have been wasted and lost.

Consequently, the dividends of democracy are scanty where they exist and sparse and even then exist only in a few states.

## Anti-Corruption Efforts

There have been considerable but largely ineffective 'efforts at combating corruption.

Numerous programmes and institutions such as the Ethical Revolution, War against

Indiscipline, War Against indiscipline and Corruption, Mass Mobilization for Social Justice

and Economic Recovery, National Orientation Agency, the Code of Conduct Bureau and

its Tribunal were set up by various regimes to tackle corruption. Different probes, panels and

commissions have also been established between 1956 and up till the Fourth Republic.

The Assets Investigation Panel set up by the Mohammed regime found all but two

military governors of the Gowon regime guilty. In addition over 10,000 public servants were

dismissed or retired for corrupt practices (Maduagwu 2006). The Recovery of Public

Property Tribunals established under Decree 3 of 1984 set up to investigate corrupt

practices of public office holders in the Second Republic found several governors and top

officials guilty, The Buhari Administration also established the Recovery of Public Property

(Special Military Tribunals) and Removal from Office Decree 1984 under which military

tribunals tried corrupt public officers, Civil Service Commissions and other Statutory

Bodies to remove public servants alleged to have abused theiroffices. Under these decrees.,

many public officers were jailed for a minimum of twenty one years and many public servants

were removed from office.The Obasanjo Administration mainstreamed the combating of corruption not only by its policy statements and prioritization but by legislation and the establishment of institutions. The ObasanjoAdministration made efforts to recover Nigeria's stolen wealth. It was able to retrieve some of the loot of SanniAbacha through the support of governments in European countries, and a deal reached with Abacha's son. However the focus was too narrow and mostly limited to Abacha's corruptly acquired wealth.

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) was established in September 2000 while the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was established in April 2003. The anti-corruption institutions were manned by persons of reputation, and in many ways, have worked stridently to control corruption by arresting, arraigning and putting on trial persons alleged to have offended the required laws.

Prominent persons including politicians, governors, ministers, legislators and other top

public officials have been tried and in some cases convicted by the institutions.

While the Obasanjo Administration undoubtedly pursued the anti-corruption agenda,

it lost focus at a point as it began to use the EFCC for political vendetta. Thus the EFCC

became an instrument of "destroying political rivals," and disqualifying unwanted

political aspirants, etc (Enweremadu 2010). This was particularly in the second term and

during his alleged pursuit of a third term.Since the Administrations of late President

Ya'Adua and President Goodluck Jonathan, the prioritization and rhetoric around anti-

corruption has declined. While policy statements remain, the Ya'Adua Administration

emphasized the operation of anti-corruption agencies within the law and due processes and

attempted to place them under some controls such as the Minister of Justice. There

were allegations that political supporters and financiers were shielded from the searchlight

of these institutions while the arrowheads of the Obasanjo anti-corruption campaign such as

NuhuRibadu and Nasir El Rufaiwere somewhat harassed (Enweremadu 2010). The

appointees of Ya'Adua and Jonathan into the agencies have not been as effective as some of

the previous heads.

The ICPC prosecuted about 91 cases in the courts involving 185 persons in 2006, 142 cases involving 269 persons in 2007, and 186 cases in June 2010 (ICPC 2006, 2007, 2008, Enweremadu 2010). The EFCC as at May 2010, was prosecuting only 10 high profile cases by May 1, 2008, but this increased to 50 and about 100 new convictions two

years later (Enweremadu 2010). Since 2008, high profile cases prosecuted so far include former ministers Babatola, AdenikeGrange, legislators such as Senator (Mrs.) Obasanjo- Bello, former governors, Michael Botmang, BoniHaruna and Lucky Igbinedion (Enweremadu 2010, The EFCC has been the most visible and perhaps effective of the two institutions (Enweremadu (2010) explains that the EFCC was supported by more funds particularly

foreign funds, was manned by young and dynamic leadership and had better manpower and

branch network. As a result of poor results, the ICPC has been seen as slow and weak.

The effectiveness of the anti-corruption agencies has been weakened by poor level

of funding. Particularly, the ICPC has been handicapped financially thereby weakening its

capacity such as in engaging experienced and competent investigators and lawyers to

prosecute its cases (Enweremadu 2011:12). There have been judicial delays, indicated

by frequent adjournments, interlocutory orders and injunctions.

Several strategies have been suggested. A major strategy adopted in the Fourth

Republic is better incentives and reward system which had been implemented for political

leaders and in a very limited sense to some categories of public servants. Under the Obasanjo

Administration, political executives, legislators and other political appointees were awarded

huge salaries andallowances. Some legislatures awarded themselves huge salaries, diverse

allowances and severance packages, that made them about some of the highest paid in the

world. However, this has not reduced corruption. Similarly better salaries among some

categories of public servants have not reduced corruption. This means that the nation has to

undertake more drastic actions to deter public officers from corruption such as banning convicted corrupt persons from public office, forfeiture of all ill-gottenproperties and assets and prolonged jail terms. The government would have to strengthen its capacity to identify, investigate, prosecute and sanction corruption. The bottom line is that corrupt persons must not enjoy their loot.

## 2.2.1 Theoretical Review

Many theories have been advanced by different scholars in an attempt to explain the causes of unethical practices, lack of accountability, and corruption in Nigeria. This work presents an overview of the most important theories.

## Idealistic Theory

This theory was founded by (George Berkeley). This theory is based on the proposition that it is people’s ideas that influence their culture, behavior, organization of their society; therefore, corruption is the nature of social and moral values prevailing in the society. ([Alatas, 2007](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). This theory explains corruption in terms of some selfish ideas, which are prevalent in the value system of the society ([Alesina, 2009](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). A simple extension of this logic leads to perception of corruption as emergent perversion of morality and value system in the society. This argument sets the platform on which the positions of two different schools of thought were built. These are the traditionalist school and the modernist school.

The argument of the traditionalist is that corruption and unethical practices in Nigeria are symptoms of perversion of traditional values, beliefs, norms, ethics, and so on ([Azelama,](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188) [2002](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). This school blames corruption on invasion of African culture by the West; that is, Europeans need to bring civilization to Africa. During the colonial era, civilization was highly regarded as Europeanization of African societies, so whether the adopted strategy was that of indirect rule or principle of assimilation, a cultural transformation was aggressively pursued by the colonial masters in the areas of pattern of education, religion, value system, governance, politics, language, administrative and legal systems, and so on. They believed in cleansing the cultural elements and attributes that they saw as substandard to those of European societies; they would enthrone a cultural revolution that was indispensable to the development of African societies ([Farida, 2007](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). The cultural contact between Western Europe and African traditional societies produced a cultural change in Africa. Africans embraced some aspects of the European culture and value. Embracing European culture did not lead to rejection of their traditional values; this led to a culture conflict. Before the advent of colonization, African societies had their conventional way of preventing and penalizing corrupt practices. Azelama is of the opinion that, to a varied extent, Nigerians continue to be

influenced by traditional religious beliefs, even those who claim to be devoted Christians, Muslims, and educated elites, which is regarded as the culture conflict.

The resultant effect of culture conflict today is that African traditional values have proved too weak while adopted European values proved insufficient in restraining and preventing corrupt practices in Nigeria (Farida, 2007). The African traditional value that was based on communal life was eroded by the western value of monetized economy, materialism, capitalism, without Africans or Nigerians fully internalizing corruption control mechanisms in the new system evolved in Africa by the West. Therefore, the people’s moral value became perverted, leading to endemic corruption. This implies that culture contact led to materialism that occasioned greediness, reduced devotion to communal services, and so on. According to this school, the antidote and recipe to the diseases of corruption are crystal clear. It is to go back to the African traditional values of hard work, honesty; communal lifestyle, neighborliness and celebration of good characters and track record in governance, and so on (Gire, 2009). However, this school of thought is flawed on the ground that it fails to direct its focus on corruption in traditional African societies. Nevertheless, it is doubtful, however, whether corruption in traditional African societies was not far lower than what we have in Nigeria since independence.

The modernist perspective is that corruption in Nigeria is a remnant of the unyielding attitude, institution of the African traditional societies. The modernist idealists associate corruption with certain traditional practices such as offering of gifts, ethnic loyalty, and other parochial tendencies (the obligation to protect members of your kinship and your nation), which tend to encourage corrupt behavior and which may be overcome by modern rationalist values (Greenaway, 2014).

## Theory of Resource Curse

This study is based on resource-curse theory, which states that plenty of mineral resources are more often a cursethan a blessing, particularly in developing countries. The resource-curse thesis was first used by Richard Auty in 1993 to describe how countries rich in natural resources were unable to use that wealth to boost their economies and how these countries had lower economic growth than countries without abundance of natural resources.Sachs and Warner, (2001) expanded on this theory and stated that there is a link between natural resource abundance and poor economic growth. The disconnection between

natural resource wealth and economic growth can be seen by looking at examples from the oil producing countries like Nigeria (Okeke&Aniche, 2013).The resource-curse, or the paradox of plenty or Dutch disease so-called, refers to the paradox that countries and regions with an abundance of natural resources tend to have less economic growth and worse development outcomes than the countries with fewer natural resources. The reason for this paradox of plenty or Dutch disease is attributed to government mismanagement of resources, or weak, ineffectual, unstable or corrupt institutions possibly due to the easily diverted actual or anticipated revenue stream from extractive industries, appreciation of the real exchange rate leading to deindustrialization, volatility of revenues from natural resource sector due to exposure to global commodity market swings ( Okeke&Aniche, 2013).

Two of the exponents of resource curse, (propounded by Richard Auty in 1993) and Ross (2001), observe that since the 1960s, the resource poor countries have outperformed and grown higher than resource rich countries. Extant literature reveals that oil dependence leads to a skewing of political forces. It concentrates revenues from resources to geographic enclaves and power into the hands of few elites; this reduces their incentive to develop the governance mechanisms that enable general taxation. Empirical studies reveal that oil- dependent nations especially in developing African countries that have at least 25% of their exports from natural resources are more likely to have conflicts (Bamiduro, 2012). Bamiduro further opines that resource conflicts seem to be driven by poor governance, greed and corruption. Oil-dependent-rich states often lack basic ethics, transparency, and accountability, and are also characterized with poor people (Abubakar, 2004).

It has become axiomatic that countries rich in natural resources, especially oil and gas, grew slower than those without (Ross, cited in Otaha, 2012). Major oil producers such as Algeria, Angola, Iran, Saudi-Arabia and Venezuela have experienced fundamental decline in per capita income in recent decades (Otaha, 2012, p. 85). In 2004, Nigeria's Relative Poverty measurement of Nigerians living in poverty stood at 54.4% but increased to 69% (or 112,518,507 Nigerians) in 2010; while in 2004, Nigeria's Absolute Poverty measurement of Nigerians who were living in poverty stood at 54.7% but increased to 60.9% (or 99,284,512 Nigerians) in 2010 (Yemi, 2012), even though the country earned more than US$340 billion in oil revenues since the 1970s (Otaha, 2012). It is disheartening that of all the oil companies operating in the Niger Delta region, none of them were owned by Nigeria or Nigerians; hence, the so-called national cake is not even baked by Nigerians but by multinational

companies owned by foreigners (Otaha, 2012), and this often leads to capital flight to home countries of the multinationals. Observation shows that in Angola where 90 percent of government revenues come from oil and two thirds of the population have no access to clean water, good schools, and medical facilities while its autocratic president is the richest in the country; a recent IMF audit reveals that US$4.2 billion oil revenue of Angola went missing between 1996 and 2001. (Otaha, 2012, p. 85)

TI ranks Angola 151 on its Corruption Perception Index (CPI) in 2006. In fact, a majority of resource (oil)-dependent-rich countries rank very low in the World Bank's Voice and Accountability Index. Most of these governments are reddened in corruption, and their leaders often have a seat-tight syndrome to stay in power for life. For example, Zaire's President, MbutoSeseSeko, stayed in power for 32 years (from 1965 to 1997; Otaha, 2012). In Nigeria, General Gowon attempted it in 1975, Shagari in 1983, Babangida in 1993, Abacha in 1998, and Obasanjo in 2006; the story is the same in most oil-producing states (Otaha, 2012). In oil-dependent states (as opposed to non-oil dependents), nutrition and life expectancy is often low, child mortality is high, unemployment is often rising, literacy rate increases at decreasing rate, and food importation is prevalent, even though they have the capability to produce food in abundance.

Nigeria with a total dependence on oil revenue is doomed because resource wealth often floods governments with more revenue than they can effectively manage, thereby providing incentive for corruption (Dietz & Eric, 2005). Oil revenues in Nigeria tend to be collected by governments in ways that are unusually difficult for citizens to track and unusually easy for crooked officials to divert; hence, some revenue end up in off-budget accounts or the pockets of government officials, and is never heard of again (Ross, 1999). Mehlum and Ragner (2002) observe that governments that depend on oil and that get their revenue from natural resources become less democratic and hence less accountable than countries that rely on other income sources such as taxation. In some cases, governments of resource-dependent countries use their largesse to prevent the formation of independent social groups that might eventually demand political rights (Isham, Pritchett, Woolcock, & Bushy, 2004). Although there are examples of countries that broke the oil curse, others avoided it altogether (Otaha, 2012). The United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Canada, and so on consist predominantly of states that were already democratic with effective application of the rule of law before oil came along. Another group, however, has

successfully moved from oil doom to oil blessed; these include Mexico, Dubai, Indonesia, and so on (Otaha, 2012). Indonesia economy has tripled over the last 20 years. Since the mid- 1990s, it has been using its oil

Receipts to build world-class infrastructural facilities in areas of education, health, agriculture, and social services (Otaha, 2012). The country is growing at 16% per year, and oil, once its primary source of income, is now around 6% of the GDP (Ross, 2001). Three decades ago, Indonesia and Nigeria had comparable per capita incomes. Today, Indonesia is 10 times better than Nigeria. Today, per capita income in Nigeria has declined at a worrisome level because of corruption being sustained by oil revenue.

## Theory of Two Publics

This theory was propounded by Ekeh (1975)according to him, in Nigeria, two publics can be identified. These are the primordial public and the civil public. The primordial public is associated with kinship, tribe/ethnic group, while the civil society relates to the society outside kinship either in the public sector or in the private sector where individuals work. That is, the individual in the civil public views his duties as moral obligations to benefit and sustain a primordial public of which he is a member. Nigerians tend to show loyalty to their kinships higher than the civil societies. Therefore, any circumstance where there is a conflict of interest between the primordial public and the civil public, Nigerians tend to protect primordial interest at the expense of the civil public (Azelama, 2002). This explains why many Nigerians involve in unethical practices within the civil public for the gain and satisfaction of their primordial public. A good example from the analysis of Ekeh is a situation where a public servant corruptly enriches himself in the public sector and utilizes a greater part of the loot for his primordial public (tribal people or his ethnic nationality).

Ekeh cited in Ogundiya (2009) is of the opinion that only rights (i.e., benefits) are expected from the state by her citizens, who owe duties (responsibilities) to a native sector or primordial and ethnic nationality. The ethnic nationality forms the basis of a moral primordial

public realm. It was amoral civic public realm in which cheating the system was considered a patriotic duty (Ifidon, 1996). The implication of this phenomenon is that as the same actor operates in the two realms, the state apparatus is employed to better the lot of the primordial public, resulting in pervasive corruption in the civil public (Osaghae, 1995). According to Ekeh quoted in Ogundiya (2009),

A good citizen of the primordial public gives out and asks for nothing in return; a lucky citizen of the civil public gains from the civil but enjoys escaping giving anything in return whenever he can. But such a lucky man would not be a good man were he to channel all his lucky gains to his private purse. He will only continue to be a good man if he channels part of the largesse from the civic public to the primordial public. That is the logic of the dialectics. The unwritten law of the dialectics is that it is legitimate to rob the civic public in order to strengthen the primordial public. (p. 283)

## Low Risk High Benefit Theory

This theory was founded by (Douglas.M. Wildavsky, 1982),this theory has a resemblance with the principle of deterrence. In a situation where punishment for unethical and corrupt practices is light, premised on plea-bargaining (as in the case of the convicted former Edo State governor, Lucky Igbenedion), people will not be deterred from involving in corruption ([Ijewereme, 2013](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). But when the punishment is severe, public servants will be scared in engaging in corruption and unethical practices (Erunke, 2014).

Recent development in corruption charges on high-profile cases shows shame in the application of plea-bargaining. A plea bargain refers to an agreement in a criminal case between the prosecutor and the defendant, whereby the defendant agrees to plead guilty to a particular charge in return for some concession from the prosecutor ([Aderele, 2013](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). That is, the defendant will plead guilty to one of several charges, in return for the dismissal of other charges with a more lenient sentence. The conviction of a former director in the police pensions office, Mr. John Yusuf, alongside six others, for converting public fund (police pension fund) in the sum of US$203,726,708 (N32.8 billion) to their personal use, with a light sentence of 2 years imprisonment with an option of fine in the sum of US$4,658 (N750,000), which the convict Yusuf immediately paid, is a typical example of low risk–high benefit theory of involving in corruption in Nigeria ([Aderele, 2013](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)).

## Beneficiaries of Lenient Sentences in Nigeria

Lawrence Madoff, American former businessman, stockbroker, investment adviser, and financier who the above convicts are a show of shame and a mockery of justice. The convictions cannot restrain people from involving in corruption when it is compared with what is obtained in advanced nations, like America, where 150-year jail term was recently served by Bernard pleaded guilty to 11 federal felonies for defrauding thousands of investors billions of dollars with his wealth management business massive ponzi scheme ([Aderele,](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188) [2013](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)).

## Name, Offense, Sentence, Date and Court.

1. Cecilia Ibru, former CEO 25 counts of bank and Six months' imprisonment and October 2010 Federal High Court of the defunct Oceanic security fraud forfeited 190 billion naira (US$1.2 Lagos Bank Plc.billion) assets and cash
2. TafaBalogun, former Failing to declare his assets Six months' imprisonment and November 2005 Federal High Court, Inspector General of & his front companies seizure of his assets reportedly Abuja Police. Were convicted of eight counts of money laundering.Worth in excess of US$150 million.
3. Lucky Igbinedion, former Failing to declare his Six months' imprisonment with an December 2008 Federal High Count Governor of Edo State. Assets and his front company were convicted of 27 counts of money laundry. Option of N3.5m fine and seizure of some of his assets acquired with proceeds of corruption. Igbinedion immediately paid the fine in the court room & agreed to forfeit some of his assets. Enugu
4. DiepreyeAlamieyeseigha, Failing to declare his assets Two years' imprisonment & forfeited July 2007 Federal High Courtformer Governor of & his front companiessome of his assets.LagosBayelsa State.Were convicted of Money launderingSource. Adapted from Aderele (2013, p. 2)

## [View larger version](https://journals.sagepub.com/na101/home/literatum/publisher/sage/journals/content/sgoa/2015/sgoa_5_2/2158244015581188/20161014/images/large/10.1177_2158244015581188-table1.jpeg)

However, bureaucratic corruption flourishes and grows best in an environment like Nigeria where people believe that the risk of engaging in corrupt practices is lowas it is quite easy to bribe the law enforcement agents and thus escape prosecution, while the gain is high because corrupt people make a lot of monetary proceeds from corruption, enjoyed unfettered privileges in the society. Corruption tends to be higher in public sector where public office holders can dupe the state and use their influence to cover up ([Aluko&Adesopo,](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188) [2003](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188); [Ijewereme, 2013](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)).

## The Anomie Theory

This theory was founded by (Emile Durkheim). The thrust of the anomie theory sought to explain the pressures that society exert on its members as many of the reasons individuals are disposed to engage in antisocial and/or illegal behaviors. Those under the societal pressure are conditioned to enact corrupt behaviors. This theory is associated with Joshua and Oni (2014) argues that the society sets goals for groups and individuals and the same society prescribes the means of attaining these goals. There are individuals whose means are not enough to attain the goals set for them by the society, leading to breeding of corrupt and unethical behaviors. Merton is of the opinion that individuals in the society receive messages of what is normal in addition to acceptable behavior from societal institutions. From the perspective of Merton as cited in [Murphy and Robinson (2008)](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188), normal is that which is the “psychologically expectable, if not culturally approved, response to determinate social conditions” (p. 503). Most people, most of the time, abide by society’s rules of behavior, thereby remaining “normal.” Yet, pressures from social institutions, specifically from expectations associated with the societal goal, can lead some “to engage in nonconforming/unethical behaviors among which is corruption rather than conforming conduct” ([Merton, 2007](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)).

The central theme of Merton’s theory with regard to deviance and criminality asserts that criminality is a function of an overemphasis on the goals associated with accumulation of wealth, as well as a disjuncture between the goals valued by society and the means available to individuals to achieve them ([Merton, 2007](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). Therefore, the primary instrument through which deviance and criminality are fostered has its origin in goals means discrepancies (whether because of an overemphasis on cultural goals or goal blockage; [Murphy &](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188) [Robinson, 2008](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)).

Nigerian society institutes value system and attitudes, which dictate expectation from its citizens and employees without considering income differential. This pressure could lead to the sufferers enacting corrupt and unethical behavior in an attempt to meet the expectations of the society. Educational elite, politicians, bureaucrats, religious elite, traditional rulers, managers of public enterprises, contractors, and so on are sufferers of this phenomenon in Nigeria ([Azelama, 2002](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)). In Nigeria, the society does not accept any reason as good enough for an employed graduate not to have a good car and a good visiting home. Political leaders, contractors, managers in a public sector, and so on have no acceptable reason to the society for not living in affluence, donating much money at launchings (Azelama cited in [Ijewereme,](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188) [2012](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244015581188)).

## Empirical Review

**(a) The Trajectory of Political Corruption TI is renowned for compiling an annual global CPI**

Based on vast surveys of public opinions about corruption within various public sectors. The respondents are usually entrepreneurs and analysts who are conversant with each environment. A country’s points reflect perception of the extent of public sector corruption. In 2014, Nigeria came 136th of 175 countries and territories ranked, and she scored a paltry 27 points out of a possible 100 points. This implies that Nigeria is one of the most corrupt countries in the world. In 2013, Nigeria was ranked 144th of 177 counties that were assessed, and we scored 25 points out of possible 100 points. A score of 0 denotes extensive levels of corruption, while a score of 100 means highly clean status. Table 4 captures Nigeria’s ranking since 1996-2014.

## (b.) Personal Observations and Interaction with Stakeholders on Corruption

This researcher’s frequent observations and interactions with public servants, politicians and Nigerian youths in Lagos, Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti, Edo, and Delta states since 2006 to date reveal that corruption is becoming deeper by each passing year. The most notable aspect of the interactions was when this researcher asked chieftains of leading political parties such as Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), All Progressives Congress (APC), and Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN): Precursor of APC in the aforementioned states, why is it our leaders do not have political will to fight corruption with sincerity, Their responses

showed a similar pattern, such as corruption is utilized to win primary election, canvas for vote, gain electoral support and win election in Nigeria.

They also disclosed that “corruption is part of what is utilized to influence judges to deliver favorable judgment on electoral cases in tribunal, Court of Appeal and even Supreme Court. They said,it will be tantamount to political suicide for a politician who won election through the financial investment of political godfathers and party stalwarts to now refuse to enrich himself and his sponsors in hundred fold or even more to secure permanent financial security. They went further, How will such a leader has a political will to probe, prosecute and jail his corrupt benefactors (who made him or her) Many of the Nigerian Youth interacted with including the former and current executive members of National Association of Nigerian Student (NANS) revealed that Nigerians are born and bred in corruption, and that anyone in the leadership position uses it to enrich himself or herself including his or her family and close friends, and that they are not excepted from the culture. Experience shows that civil servants do not see anything wrong in using their offices to enrich themselves as long as the politicians are corruptly acquiring wealth on daily basis. This researcher’s observation shows that most civil servants demand for bribe before rendering services to their clients (members of the public). They involve in job racketeering, that is, some top public servants sell vacant jobs to highest bidders (applicants) and throw merit to the winds. The most worrisome aspect is that most of our government universities, particularly federal universities, frequently involve in nepotism, tribalism, favoritism in recruitment, selection, and appointment of staff. They anoint prospective academic staff before putting up recruitment advert. In many cases, those applicants with intimidating credentials and academic publications are deliberately not shortlisted for interview; not to impair the chances of already anointed candidates. The interview for academic staff becomes a charade, that is, it is stage manage, a candidate with least credentials and the least performer in the interview turns out as the successful and selected candidate. Tribalism, nepotism, and embezzlement with impunity are frequently observed corruption in our public sector.

The president of Nigeria fails to show leadership by example on most occasions and has demonstrated lethargic and lack of tenacity in the fight against corruption. The lack of political will on the part of government to fight corruption is a source of worry to Nigerians, specially the inability of the anti-corruption crusade to jail past governors being arraigned for corruption since 2007.The above observation is further corroborated with the opinion of

Akeredolu, quoted in National Mirror, April 29, 2012. Akeredolu aptly described the situation as follows: All of us are worried. It is because the Nigerian government is not making efforts to fight corruption and it cannot be able to do it. And the president Jonathan led government, though not only his government, but from former president Obasanjo’s time, they have glove in hand with those perpetuating corruption. They are hand with those who commit these frauds. The leadership of the ruling People Democratic Party PDP is part of it and that is why it is not easy for them to fight corruption. So many of the former governors who made away with public funds are still there, nothing has happened to them. James Ibori was jailed abroad, why we can’t do this at homethat is part of the problems we are facing. The government is part of the corruption and so it is not easy for them to fight it. (National Mirror, 2012,)

## Two Specific Frameworks of Analysis

Having interrogated corruption with idealistic, resource curse, two public, low risk- high benefit and anomie theories and this project adopts the resource curse and low risk-high benefit theories. The movement from dependence on agriculture in the 1960s to total dependence on oil and oil revenue from the 1970s reduced the ingenuity and creative ability of Nigeria as a nation. This is because oil is a natural resource which does not require human ingenuity to produce. Money derived from crude oil (a free gift of nature) discourages hard work, reduces a man's or a nation's strongest instinct for greatness. Availability of oil money, which a nation did not really work for, retards innovativeness, breeds corruption, and reduces accountability and the tendency for the people to demand accountability from the government. Environments where the culture of democracy and rule of law are yet to be established before oil exploration and exploitation usually have multiple crisis, namely, fueled political violence, popular anger that threatens to further destabilize societies with violent conflict (TI, 2012), and endemic corruption. This partly explains why corruption is endemic in Nigeria because rule of law and democratic ethos are yet to be deeply entrenched. The United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Canada, and so on consist predominantly of states that were already democratic with effective application of the rule of law before oil came along (Otaha, 2012).

The theory of low risk-high benefit is also adopted because people in Nigeria who are about to carry out corrupt practices first weigh and compare the risk involved in it to the benefit. It is when they find that the benefit outweighs the risk that they go ahead to enact corrupt practices. The risk includes the possibility of getting caught, the social implication for

the culprit, and so on. The benefits, however, include the monetary proceeds, privileges enjoyed in the society, increased standard of living, and so on (Azelama, 2002; Ijewereme, 2013). However, when democratic ethos and rule of law are well established, risk of involving in corruption is high, and punishment attached to corrupt practices increased, nepotism and tribalism, which are the trust of the two public theory, will be drastically reduced, oil money will become a blessing, and public servants will not bow to the pressures that society mounts on them as explained by anomie theory.

## Table 4. Empirical Analysis of TI Corruption Perception Index Rankings of Nigeria from 1996 - 2014.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Rankings |
| 1996 | 54 of 54 |
| 1997 | 52 of 52 |
| 1998 | 81 of 85 |
| 1999 | 98 of 99 |
| 2000 | 90 of 90 |
| 2001 | 90 of 91 |
| 2002 | 101 of 102 |
| 2003 | 132 of 133 |
| 2004 | 144 of 146 |
| 2005 | 152 of 158 |
| 2006 | 150 of 163 |
| 2007 | 32 of 147 |
| 2008 | 121 of 150 |
| 2009 | 130 of 150 |
| 2010 | 134 of 178 |
| 2011 | 143 of 183 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2012 | 139 of 176 |
| 2013 | 144 of 177 |
| 2014 | 136 of 175 |

**Source: Adapted from Eme and Okoh (2011, pp. 57-58). Note. TI Transparency International**

TI is renowned for compiling an annual global CPI based on vast surveys of public opinions about corruption within various public sectors. The respondents are usually entrepreneurs and analysts who are conversant with each environment. A country's points reflect perception of the extent of public sector corruption. In 2014, Nigeria came 136th of 175 countries and territories ranked, and she scored a paltry 27 points out of a possible 100 points. This implies that Nigeria is one of the most corrupt countries in the world. In 2013, Nigeria was ranked 144th of 177 counties that were assessed, and we scored 25 points out of possible 100 points. A score of 0 denotes extensive levels of corruption, while a score of 100 means highly clean status. Table 4 captures Nigeria's ranking since 1996-2014.

## CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY

## Introduction

The data for this study was collected using qualitative research methods. This chapter gives insight on the variousmethodological strategies adopted by the researcher in the collection of the needed data for the research. It further discusses the research design, the area of study,population of the study, sample and sampling techniques, method of data collection.

## Research Design

The researcher adopted what is known as descriptive approach for the research design. The approach enables the researcher to gather data, analyze it and interpret the set of data which were used for the explanation of underling factor surrounding the quest to conduct this research. The survey approach which makes use of questionnaires were also used to distribute questionnaires to the respondents and were also collected from them in order to gather information from them on the said subject matter.

## 3.1 Research Setting

The research setting chosen for this study is three local government councils out of the four local government councils in Edo South Senatorial District of Edo State. The councils are Ovia South West Local Government Council, Ovia North East Local Government Council and Oredo Local Government Council.

## Target Population

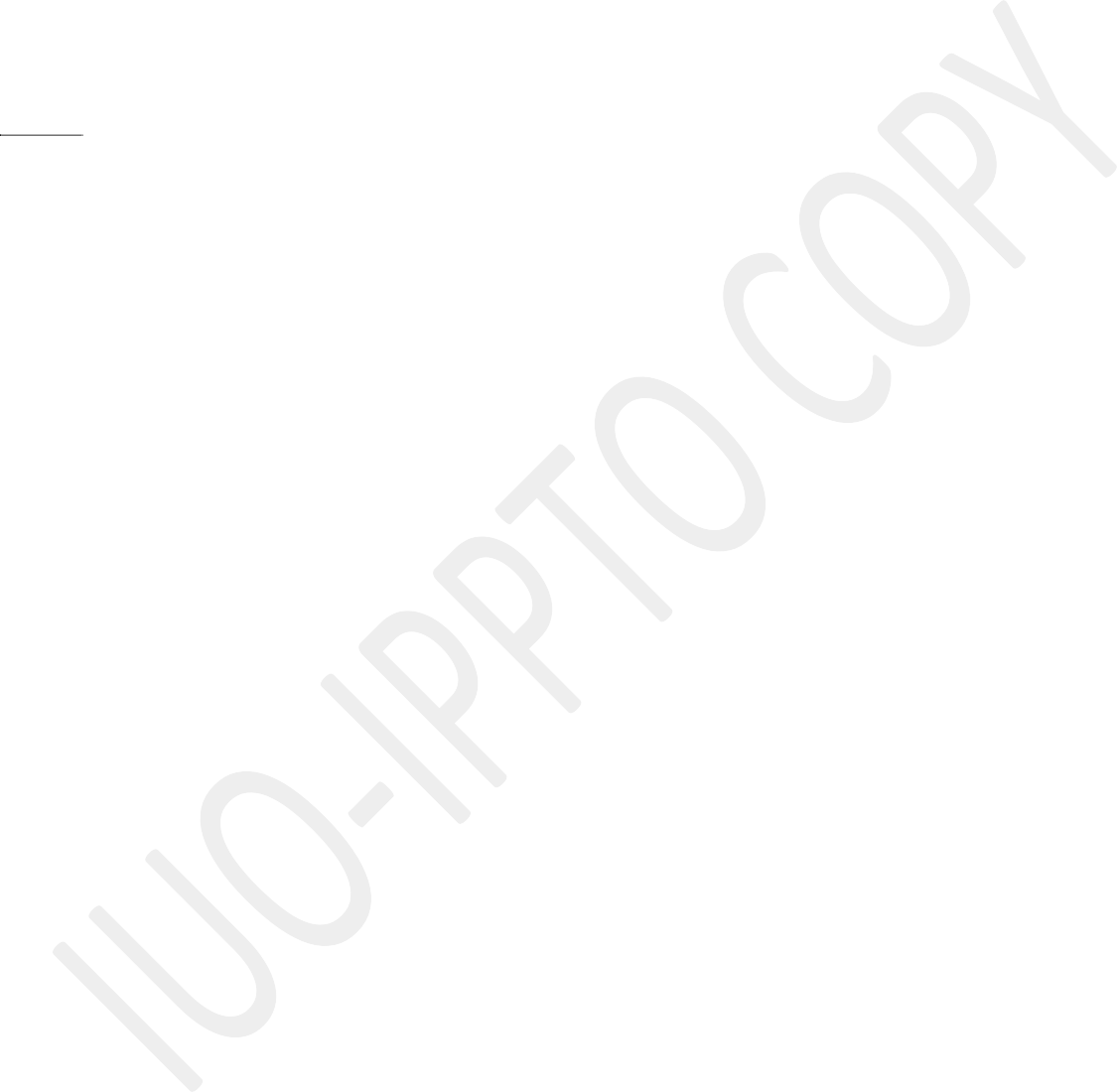
The population of the study is the entire inhabitants of Ovia South West Local Government Council, Ovia North East Local Government Council and Oredo Local Government Council.

The breakdown of the population in the study is as follows:

* + 1. Ovia South-west Local Government Council – 180,900
    2. Ovia North EastLocal Government Council – 203,500
    3. Oredo Local Government Council – 490,600

## THE SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

The sample size of this study consists of two hundred (200) respondents comprising of inhabitants of Oredo, Ovia South West and Ovia North East Local Government Areas. The sampling method that will be employed in the study is the stratified random sampling. Five

(5) wards will be selected from the three local government areas (i.e. Oredo, Ovia South West and Ovia North East). Thereafter, the researcher will randomly select eighty (80) respondents from Oredo Local Government Area and sixty (60) each from Ovia South West and Ovia North East Local Government Areas to give a sample size of two hundred (200) respondents.

## Table 3: 1: The sample and method

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | Local Government | Number of Respondent Selected |
| 1. | Oredo Local Government Areas | 80 |
| 2. | Ovia South WestLocal Government Areas | 60 |
| 3. | Ovia North East Local Government Areas | 60 |
| **Total** | | **200** |

**Table 3:2: The sample and methods**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sample | Research Method | Total of Sample Size | Male | Female |
| Oredo council area | Oral interviews (face-to- face) | 80 | 50 | 30 |
| Ovia south westcouncil area | Oral interviews (face-to- face) | 60 | 40 | 20 |
| Ovia north east council area | Oral interviews (face-to- face) | 60 | 35 | 25 |
|  |  | **Total = 200** |  |  |

A total of 200 interviews were conducted to analyze the impact of corruption in the Nigeria public sector. Two hundred of these were oral interviews conducted in three council area of edo south senatorial district. Oredo council area 80 persons were interviews while in each of the two council area of ovia south west and ovia north east area 60 each were interviews. Most of the interviews were face-to-face interviews except for one which was

conducted over the phone. The telephone interview lasted for 50 minutes while the interviews in the three council areas which lasted for an average of 40 minutes for each respondent.

## METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

Data for the study will be collected directly from the subject of the study through the use of the following: questionnaire method and interview method.

## Questionnaire Method

Questionnaires play a significance role on getting information for this work. Theywere administered by the researcher to getthe right response from the inhabitants of ovia south west, ovia north east and oredo local government councils by the researcher himself.They consisted of questions that are constructed in open ended and close ended manners respectively.

## Interviews

The researcher will also have interviews with some of the respondents of the questionnaires to feel their pulses of the project topic and help to speed up responses, at the same time ensuring that the right person answered the question. I took field notes and observed. Some of the interviews were conducted in ‘pidgin’ English, a combination of English and local slangs because the respondents could not speak ‘good’ English, these I have transcribed into Standard English. It was easy for me to do these transcriptions because not only am I familiar with Pidgin English, I can also speak it.

A total of 200 interviews were conducted using the oral interview methods of data collection and the sample size is represented in table 1, 2. I interviewed 200 people in three council area of edo south senatorial district most of which were men and women between the ages of 20 to 60. They were people from different socio-economic backgrounds and employments. Most of the women that are classified as housewives in this research were forced into being sit-at-home mums because of the high rate of unemployment in the council area. Many of them claimed to have been educated up to the university level.

## DATA ANALYSIS

An analysis is defined as the process of examining, testing, tabulating and combining different evidence to discuss the research questions.The data obtained for this study will be presented in tabular form and analyzed by the use of simple percentage to enhance quick and easy understanding.This is a quantitative research that is aimed at generating classifications for the role of corruption in Nigeria public sector. The data collected are through questionnaire method and oral interview,this will be examined in the chapters 4, during the fieldwork, The data organization began with the transcription of written data; it helped with finding the research path. It brings together the research aims and objectives such that logical conclusions can be drawn. The use of a research tool in the analysis of qualitative data is becoming an increasingly important, easy and effective way of analyzing qualitative data.

## CHAPTER FOUR ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF RESULT

## 4.1 Introduction

Having discussed relevant issues and established a credible empirical framework that underpins the focus of the study, this present the following results obtained from utilizing the various methodological investigations stated in this chapter. A total of 200 questionnaires were administered out strictly to male and female respondents which the researcher was able to retrieve all the instruments used and the represent 100% participation of the respondent based on the distributed questionnaire. Hence, the data analysis was conducted using simple percentage (%) statistical techniques to test the frequency of the personal data of the respondents and the frequencies of their responses to the research questions. This was to ensure simplicity and clarity of the responses.

## Table: 4.1.1 Data on Socio-Demographic Characteristics

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Demographic**  **Variables** | **Category** | **Frequency** | **Percentage**  **(%)** |
| **GENDER** | Male | 81 | 40.5 |
| Female | 119 | 59.5 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |
| **AGE** | 0-18 years | 11 | 5.5 |
| 18-27 years | 112 | 56 |
| 28-37 years | 58 | 29 |
| 38-47 years | 9 | 4.5 |
| 48-57 | 8 | 4 |
| Above 58 | 2 | 1 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |
| **HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION** | SSCE | 19 | 9.5 |
| ND | 44 | 22 |
| HND/BSC | 98 | 49 |
| MASTERS | 22 | 11 |
| Ph.D. | 17 | 8.5 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |
|  | Single | 109 | 54.5 |
| Married | 71 | 35.5 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | Divorced | 8 | 4 |
| Separated | 12 | 6 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |
| **EMPLOYEM ENT STATUS** | Students | 58 | 29 |
| Employed | 98 | 49 |
| Unemployed | 29 | 14.5 |
| Self-  employed | 15 | 7.5 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **RELIGION** | Christian | 162 | 81 |
| Muslim | 38 | 19 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |

**Source: Author’s Data Output (2021)**



Tables 4.1 above shows that with respect to GENDER, 81 (40.5.2%) respondents were male and 119 (59.5%) were female. With respect to **AGE**, 11 (5.5%) of the respondents were 0-18 years, 112 (56%) of the respondents were 18-27 years, 58 (29%) of the respondents

were 38-47 years, 8 (4%) of the respondents were 48-57 years, 2 (1%) of the respondents were 58 years and above.

From Table 4.1 above, also shows **HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION**, 19 (9.5%) of the respondents were SSCE, ND has record of 44 (22%) respondents, HND/BS.C has a total respondent of 98 (49%), MASTERS has a total of 22 (11%) respondents while Ph.D have a total of 17 (8.5%) respondents. As regarding **MARITAL STATUS**, 109 (54.5%) of the respondents were single, 71 (32.5%) of the respondents were married and 8 (4%) of the respondents were divorced while 12 (6%) of the respondents are separated.

With respect to **EMPLOYEMENT STATUS**, Table 4.1 shows that the percentage of students respondents were 58 (29%), 98 (49%) of the respondents were employed. 29 (14.5%) of the respondents were unemployed, while 15 (7.5%) of the respondent were self- employed. As regarding **RELIGION,** 162 (81%) of the respondents were Christians,38 (19%) of the respondents were Muslims.

## Table 4.2: Causes of Corruption in Public Sector

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **ITEMS** | **SA** | **A** | **U** | **D** | **SD** |
| 6 | Lack of transparency | 71  35.5% | 121  60.5% | 3  1.5% | 4  2% | 1  0.5% |
| 7 | Poor Salaries | 95  47.5 % | 91  45.5 % | 4  2 % | 8  4 % | 2  1 % |
| 8 | Laxity of Ethical Standard | 78  39% | 92  46 % | 2  1 % | 16  8 % | 12  6 % |
| 10 | Moral Laxity | 59  29.5% | 51  25.5% | 49  24.5% | 32  16% | 9  4.5% |
| 11 | Attitude of officials/Discipline | 69  34.5% | 59  29.5% | 31  15.5% | 21  10.5% | 20  10% |
| 12 | Ineffective political process | 32  16% | 61  30.5% | 28  14% | 29  14.5% | 50  25% |
| 13 | Culture and acceptance of corruption | 62  31% | 58  29% | 20  10% | 18  9% | 42  21% |

**Source:Author’s Data Output (2021)**

The table above revealed that respondent’s view to the question on Causes of corruption in Public Service. The questions, Lack of transparency, 71 (35.5%) of the respondents (strongly agree), 121 (60.5%) of the respondent (agree), 3 (1.5%) of the respondent were undecided, 4 (2%) of the respondent (disagree), 1 (0.5%) of the respondent (strongly disagree). This therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question. Poor Salaries, 95 (47.5%) of the respondents (strongly agree), 91 (45.5%) of the respondent (agree), 4 (2%) of the respondent (undecided), 8 (4%) of the respondent (disagree), 2 (1%) of the respondent (strongly disagree), this therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question. Laxity of Ethical Standard, 78 (39%) of the respondent (strongly agree), 92 (46%) of the respondent (agree), 2 (1%) of the respondent (undecided), 16 (8%) of the respondent (disagree), 12 (6%) of the respondent (strongly disagree). this therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question. Moral Laxity, 59 (29.5%) of the respondent (strongly agree), 51 (25.5%) of the respondent (agree), 49 (24.5%) of the respondent (Undecided), 32 (16%) of the respondent

(disagree), 9 (4.5%) of the respondent (strongly disagree). This therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question. Attitude of officials/Discipline, 69 (34.5%) of the respondent (strongly agree), 59 (29.5%) of the respondent (agree), 31 (15.5%) of the respondent (Undecided), 21 (10.5%) of the respondent (disagree), 20 (105%) of the respondent (strongly disagree). this therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question. Ineffective Political Process, 32 (16%) of the respondent (strongly agree), 61 (30.5%) of the respondent (agree), 28 (14%) of the respondent (Undecided), 29 (14.5%) of the respondent (disagree), 50 (25%) of the respondent (strongly disagree). This therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question. Culture and acceptance of corruption, 62 (31%) of the respondent (strongly agree), 58 (29%) of the respondent (agree), 20 (10%) of the respondent (Undecided), 18 (9%) of the respondent (disagree), 42 (21%) of the respondent (strongly disagree). This therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question

## Table 4:3 Effect of Corruption in Public Service

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **ITEMS** | **SA** | **A** | **U** | **D** | **SD** |
| 14 | Reduction in public Spending on  Education | 111  55.5% | 81  40.5% | 3  1.5% | 4  2% | 1  0.5% |
| 15 | Poor social amenities and abandoned  projects | 95  47.5 % | 91  45.5 % | 4  2 % | 8  4 % | 2  1 % |
| 16 | Poor state of infrastructure and road | 99  49.5% | 92  46 % | 2  1 % | 6  3 % | 1  0.5 % |
| 17 | Amassing wealth and poverty | 52  26 % | 132  66 % | 5  2.5 % | 7  3.5 % | 2  1 % |
| 18 | Reduction in quality of goods and  services | 72  36% | 96  48% | 12  6% | 8  4% | 12  6% |
| 19 | Late payment of salaries | 66  33% | 98  49% | 22  11% | 12  6% | 2  1% |

**Source: Author’s Data Output (2021)**

The table above revealed that respondent’s view to the Effect of Corruption in Public Service, Reduction in public Spending on Education, 111 (55%) of the respondents (strongly agree), 81 (40.5%) of the respondent (Agree) 3 (1.5%) of the respondent (Undecided), 4 (2%)

of the responded (decided), 1 (0.5%) of the respondent (strongly decided), this therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question. Poor social amenities and abandoned projects, 95 (47.5%) of the respondent (strongly agree), 91 (45.5%) of the respondent (Agree), 4 (2%) of the respondent (Undecided), 8 (4%) of the respondent (Undecided), 8 (4%) of the respondent (Disagree), 2 (1%) of the respondent (strongly agree), this therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question, Poor state of infrastructure and road

99 (49.5%) of the respondent (strongly agree), 91 (45.5%) of the respondent (agree), 4

(2%) of the respondent (undecided), 6 (3%) of the respondent (disagree), 1 (0.5%) of the respondent (strongly disagree), this therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question. Amassing wealth and poverty, 52 (26%) of the respondent (strongly agree), 132 (66%) of the respondent (agree), 5 (2.5%) of the respondents (Undecided) 7(3.5%) of the respondent (disagree), 2 (1%) of the respondent (strongly disagree).This therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question. Reduction in quality of goods and services, 72 (36%) of the respondent (strongly agree), 96 (48%) of the respondent (agree), 12 (6%) of the respondents (Undecided) 8 (4%) of the respondent (disagree), 12 (6%) of the respondent (strongly disagree).This therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question. Late payment of salaries, 66 (33%) of the respondent (strongly agree), 98 (49%) of the respondent (agree), 22

(11%) of the respondents (Undecided) 12 (6%) of the respondent (disagree), 2 (1%) of the respondent (strongly disagree).This therefore means that majority of the respondents were in agreement to the question.

## CHAPTER FIVE

**DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE (JUSTIFICATION OF STUDY)**

# Discussion of the Findings

As the foregoing analysis has clearly demonstrated, the study revealed the following findings:

1. That corruption is indeed a frightening problem in Nigeria. It pervades every segment of the national life. It undermines the goals of development.
2. That corruption accounts for the abysmal performance of most government policies and subsequent collapse of such programmes as have been seen in the discussions in this study.
3. That public funds are often arbitrarily handled, used for private purposes by top government functionaries over time. This act of criminality accounts for poor and non- implementation of key government policies and projects like non budget implementation etc.
4. That socio-economic conditions have gone bad leading to instability in government and retard action of productivity, economic growth and sustainable development of the country. These findings justified the views of Ezeani (2006) that any act perpetrated by political class, civilian or military or a highly placed public official aimed at changing the moral or lawful course of events, especially when the perpetrator uses such a position of authority for the purpose of personal or group interest (such as acquiring wealth, status or power) at the expense of public interest. Also, the view of Igwe (2010) cited in Erunke (2014:32) when he situated corruption at the highest level of political authority in Nigeria. Thus, corruption occurs when the politicians and other important state decision makers whose duties are to formulate and implement policies on behalf of the electorate are themselves corrupt. In this sense, corruption could be said to have taken place when public policy formulation and legislation are tailored to benefit political office holders to the abject neglect of the masses.

## THE WAY FORWARD TO A RELATIVELY CORRUPTION FREE SOCIETY

The primary reason why all attempts at curbing corruption in Nigeria have so far failed is that, While Corruption has been deeply entrenched in the structures of the Nigerian states and society, all the advertised measures for combating it are conceived and operated at the

level of form and symbolism. As long as the inequitable structures of a dependent Neo- Colonial states are allowed to reproduce in every generation a rampaging bourgeoisie of army Officers, Politicians, Bureaucrats, businessmen, academicians and primitive accumulation and maximum consumption of imported luxuries, so long will all the former institutions and measures for combating corruption fail to make any significant impact on problem. This is because by the structural logic of the monopoly of state power in Nigeria by the bourgeoisie of power elite, all these institutions set up to deal with the problem of corruption area inevitable manned, controlled and operated by and in the interest of members of this ruling class who have a vested and entrenched interest in sustaining an evening extending corrupt practices.Consequently, these putative warriors against corruptions perform their task in such a way that they end up covering up rather than exposing corruption, thus helping to consolidate and perpetuate its hold on the society.The necessary expedient of empowering the Nigerian working people, the corrupt and subversive political elite can be facilitated by pursuing the following minimum political agenda of democratic governance.

* + 1. The institutionalization of a multi-party political system in which parties must be genuinely mass based, National in outlook and exclusively funded by its members financial contribution which must be limited to what an ordinary working person can afford. These will safe guard the parties from being hijacked and turned into the political instruments of money bags against the people.
    2. The constitutional entrenchment of the principle that the Nigerian people in their respective constituencies have the power to recall at any point in time any elected officials who has been found by due process to abuse or betray the people’s mandate.
    3. The constitutional requirement that only men and women with proving ability and integrity should be appointed to the governing boards of public institutions, corruptions and businesses to ensure that the public resources and assert therein will be safe guarded and enhanced rather than looted and squandered by their officials, custodians as has hitherto been the case.
    4. Freedom of information as an entrenched legal norms to include (a) the requirement of open declaration of assets by all public servants. (b) Open an uninhibited access by interested citizens to all documents relating to, or dealing with any aspects of public policy.
    5. The constitutional entrenchment of the principle of independence of the judiciary and the insulation of the appointment and tenure of Judges from interference by political decision makers whose conduct might be subject of adjudication by the courts.
    6. The constitutional entrenchment of freedom of the press as the watchdog of the people’s interest, subject only to the limitation impose by the laws libel and defamation.

Corruption has proved to be one of the problems seriously confronting Nigeria since the return to civil rule in 1999. In fact, considering various cases of financial corruption being perpetrated in governance since 1999 till date, we can categorically say that corruption has actually been institutionalized in the country. This is so because institutions of government bribe legislatures in order to pass budgets of their organization and ministries collect bribe before contracts are awarded, politicians give money to electorates to vote them into power, contract inflation, lecturers collect money from students before they can pass examination. The dimensions of corruption are so numerous, this therefore means that the negative impacts of corruption are also countless and this has inadvertently affected the political, economic and social development of Nigeria.

In the past years efforts have been geared towards eradicating and totally eliminating corruption in Nigeria but sadly little have been achieved in the fight against corruption. These efforts led to the establishment of such bodies like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and other Offences Commission (ICPC) etc. These bodies are charged with the responsibility of arresting and prosecution of individuals found misappropriating public funds. We can state clearly that the efforts of these institutions in fighting corruption have yielded little result.

It is important to state that sometimes when individuals are found culpable of any offence because of their position in the society such cases are swept under the carpet and they are allowed to get away with it or are given lesser punishment compared to the offence committed. A good example is the petroleum subsidy saga involving a former member of the Upper Chamber Senator FarukLawan and the CEO of Capital Oil Femi Otedola. Yet another high ranking corrupt case was the one involving the former Speaker of the House of Representatives DimejiBankole who was arrested by the EFCC for corruption related case while he was the speaker of the House of Representatives. Sometimes issues of corruption because of who is involved are decided based on technicalities and not on empirical

evidences. Development can only be achieved when there are strong and viable institutions. In Nigeria, our public institutions are very weak owing to corrupt practices. Such include collection and giving of bribe, contract inflation, misappropriation of funds meant for developmental project.

# Contributions to Knowledge(Justification of Study)

The study has contributed to knowledge by showcasing the challenges of prosecuting corrupt leaders that are peculiar to the Nigerian experience. Also by establishing the nexus between the challenges and prospect of prosecuting corrupt leaders in Nigeria. Findings revealed that corruption is albatross to national development in Nigeria. As a remedial measure, corruption should be thought in secondary schools and higher institutions of learning should introduce corruption studies into its curriculum in order to inculcate in the students the act of discipline and educate them on the ills of corrupt practices.No nation can flourish with corruption and no nation would allow corruption to destroy the basis fabric of its society.This explains why attempts shall be made to combat the scourge in public sector in Nigeria.Corruption is a recurrent decimal in Nigeria and has contributed in no small measure to the underdevelopment of Nigeria. There is corruption in high and low places ranging from embezzlement of public funds, diversion of monies meant for infrastructure development to giving of bribes for contracts and bribe in public offices. It is a phenomenon that has led to the backward and snail development in Nigeria. Everybody in the country sees the position he/she is occupying as an opportunity to amass wealth thereby making them to put their personal and selfish interest first before the interest of the nation.

The consequences of corruption in the country manifest in so many dimensions affecting all facets of human endeavour in the country. As a result of corruption, we can categorically talk about weak leadership, poor service delivery, inadequate infrastructure, poor public sector management, moral decadence and financial impropriety. The trace of these entire anomalies adversely affects the political, economic and social life of the country.

# Consequencesof Corruption and Path to Underdevelopment in Nigeria

This work did not capture all the sectors or institutions that have been affected by corruption in Nigeria, yet attention was focused on some of them, which are key to the society. On the basis of fallen primary institutions that make up the society, the impact of corruption has encouraged underdevelopment in Nigeria in the following ways: The family is the primary agent of socialization and where values, norms and culture of the society are preserved and transferred from one generation to another. However, most families in Nigeria has turned deaf ears to societal norms and values, and embraced corruption as a means to survival. Our society no longer pays much emphasis on hard work and patience as it used to be. Most parents no longer bother on how their children make money. Some parents even encourage their daughters/female wards to go into prostitution, their boys to engage in internet fraud and stealing because of money. This is largely due to high level of poverty and unequal income distribution, flamboyant demonstration of individual materialistic possession and exploitation of masses by the few powerful rich people in the society, and the inability of our leaders to give to the people of Nigeria what belong to them basic infrastructure, employment and safety of lives and property. The resultant effect of this to Nigeria is bad image among the international communities, and lack of trust and social conflicts. Where this is the case, as it is now, underdevelopment will be the order of the day.

Economically, Corruption lowers investment and retards economic growth. It holds back foreign investors in investing in a corruption prone society like Nigeria. Corruption by our leaders results in violation of the economic rights of the masses and vulnerable, denial of the benefits of free and open competition (Igbuzor, 2008) and infrastructure. Corruption leads to the depletion of national wealth. It is often responsible for increased costs of goods and services, the funneling of scarce public resources to uneconomic high profile projects at the expense of the much needed projects such as schools, hospitals and roads, or the supply of portable water, diversion and misallocation of resources, conversion of public wealth to private and personal property, inflation, imbalanced economic development, weakening work ethics and professionalism, hindrance of the development of fair in market structure and unhealthy competition. Large scale corruption hurts the economy and impoverishes entire population. From the Social Perspective, According to the Lima Declaration, the impacts of corruption include: the erosion of the moral fabric of society, violation of the social rights of the poor and vulnerable. In the Social Sphere, corruption discourages people to work together

for common good. Frustration and general apathy among the public result in a weak civil society. Demanding and paying bribes becomes the tradition. It also results in social inequality and widened gap between the rich and poor, civil strife, increased poverty and lack of basic needs like food, water and drugs, jealousy, hatred and insecurity. Politically, corruption in Nigeria undermines democracy, subversion of the rule of law and denial of society, particularly the poor of their fundamental rights. It leads to weak electoral commission, law enforcement mechanism, judiciary and one party dominated state. This will in turn lead to inflation of voters, rigging of elections and deprivation of winners from weaker political parties, weak state, poverty and wide income gap between the rich and the poor; bribing to win contract, influenced service delivery, contract cutbacks, inflation of government contracts and non-payment of taxes by highly placed businessmen; lack of national commitment, weak state and complex bureaucratic process; bribery of public officials and distortion of due process/normal procedure in the public sectors; bad policies, non-pursuance policy objectives, policy failures, employment of incompetent hands as public officials and poor service delivery; poor salary scale, greed and weak law enforcement mechanism and state of anomie.

Educationally, education which is the best legacy any government can give to her citizens has been abused by number of factors. Within the university system, some students resort to sorting (finding ways, especially with money, of purchasing of high and unmerited mark from a lecturer in order to enhance their grade in examination). Employers of labour these days do not place so much value on some of the degrees supposedly carried by today’s graduates. They now make them go through extra drillings in the forms of aptitude tests, strict interviews to be sure of what these graduates truly possess. Due to the high level of corruption in the educational system, poor students who can’t even spell their names are churned out from the primary school and into the secondary school still lagging incredibly behind and are forced into the universities through some corrupt manners and then find it difficult to cope with the rigours of education. In addition, the Nigerian government does not pay serious attention to Educational standards in Nigeria- in terms of funding. No reliable libraries, adequate lecturers/teachers, laboratory equipment etc. in our educational institutions. The cry for these by Academic Staff Union of Universities and Nigeria Union of Teachers in Nigeria is rarely heard, but the fear of Boko Haram is like a sound of trumpet to the government. In the Religious sphere, people now have miss-feelings on whether God really exist or who are the true messengers/prophets of God on earth in Nigeria. People no

longer have trust and hope in most preachers of God’s words. Attitude towards going tochurch, mosque is now negative, as most people believe it’s a business center. This has made many youths to indulge in crime, since most of the preachers against crime are criminals themselves, hence, moral decadence, high level of criminality and underdevelopment in Nigeria.

## THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON THE NIGERIAN STATE

The fraudulent accumulation process has resulted, overtime, in the progressive and phenomena environment of Nigerian rulers (both Civilian and Military), the emptying of the National treasury and the indebtedness of the country almost to the point of bankruptcy, hence the critical dearth of resources for investment on the social, economic and overall cultural development of the masses of our people. Nigeria is therefore in paradoxical situation in which the scandalous almost legendary, wealth of key ruling class members exists to mock the unspeakable mass poverty, misery and degradation of the Nigerian people. This has, in turn brought about a situation of potential and actual violent confrontation between the minority plutocrats and the majority paupers and destitute, within which contexts the current urban phenomenon of Area Boys/Militants is just a minor manifestation. This situation is also highly productive, at the attitudinal level, a mass cynicism about and distrust of the political elite and constitutes a major factor in the persistent of inter and intra communal disunity, antipathy and strife as well as the progressively worsening problem of political and social instability since independence. Since the public treasury has been the primary and ultimate source of rapid and sensational private accumulation by the Nigerian political elite, the struggle to capture state power (and therefore National treasury) among factions tend to be rigorously excluded from sharing in the loot. Hence, the invariable tendency among elite factions to use the poor masses from their areas of origin (village, town, local government, state or ethnic group) as canon folder and battering rams against their rivals and competitors from other areas, thus further dividing the people and undermining the stability of a Nigerian state and society that is already profoundly unstable. Rampant corruption among the ruling class cabal has, overtime, taught a dangerously descriptive lesson to the generality of the people being honest and law abiding does not pay.

Consequently, some of the ordinary people who have learnt this lesson from the top then try replicating the corruption practices of their leaders at their lowly levels in the form of petty acts of bribery, peculation and embezzlement of public funds. It is in this way that

corruption as a way of life has become pervasive and popularized in the Nigeria polity. The obsession of many members with primitive private accumulation at the expense of the public means that they tend to divert resources earmarked from running and maintaining public institutions in their charge (institutions like Hospitals, Schools, University, public utilities, the Judiciary, the Police etc) to corrupt private purposes. Many young Nigerian of lowly origins after successfully passing out of schools, Universities and other institutions of learning cannot find gainful employment. This is because resources, which could have been used for Job creation, have been looted by the leaders. A consequence many of these educated young people are either Brain drained to other landa in search of greener pastures, or get diverted into various criminal ways of making a livelihood like Armed Robbery, Prostitution, drug Peddling and Trafficking and all manner of racketeering. In this and other ways, greedy Nigerians leaders has squandered the future of their country and its children and reduced Nigeria to its present status of a pariah in the comity of Nations.

## CHAPTER SIX SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATION,ANDCONCLUSION

* 1. **Summary**

In chapter one, an introduction to the study was given, highlighting the research question, objectives of the study and significance of the study. Chapter two presented a review of other relevant works that have been done on the subject of Corruption in the Public Sector while chapter three specifies the methodology adopted in conducting this research. Chapter four present analysis and presentation of result, chapter five present discussion of findings, contribution to knowledge (justification of study) and chapter six present the summary of the study and the conclusions. It also contains the recommendations on the subject matter.This study adopted the idealistic theory, low risk high benefit theory, anomie theory,theory of two publics, resource-curse theory and among others theory, which state that plenty of mineral resources is more often a curse than a blessing, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria. To achieve the purpose of this study, a review of empirical works, Corruption Perception Index Report of Transparency International and some corruption cases in Nigeria was explored. This project discovers that corruption had being part of our socio-political and economic life in

Nigeria as shown by the corruption perception index from 1996 to date and that majority of corruption cases in the public sector over the years.

The history of corruption is as old as the world, ancient civilizations have a traces of widespread illegally and corruption.Thus, corruption has been ubiquitous in complex societies from ancient Egypt, Israel, Rome and Greece down to the present. However, the cases of corruption during the period were sometimes clouded by political infighting.in Nigeria corruption is one of the many unsolved problem in government,The origin of corruption in Nigeria started since the colonial era, Corruption though prevalent, was kept at manageable levels during the first republic.Nnamdi Azikiwe was the first major political figure investigated for questionable practices. In 1944, and in 1962, Chief Obafemi Awolowo was indicated and the Coker commission of enquiry was set-up which found that a substantial amount of money was misappropriated from the coffers of the Western regional government.

## Recommendations

First, the institutions of government established to fight corruption must be strengthened, properly funded and must be up to task to be able to withstand the mandate at which they are created to serve. If we look at the legislative branch of government in Nigeria then we' will see that the majority of the Law makers of are powerful businessmen and they were elected by bribing people and getting into the parliament their goal is of course not to serve for the public good but for their personal advantage by paying less tax, creating new businesses etc. People taking some little amount of money for electing those deputies they will have to pay much more in the future because of the above mentioned factors. So one of the important factors combating corruption in Nigeria is to pay attention to free and fair elections, to be able to elect credible leaders. Therefore, we must build strong institution that can match the war against corrupt public office holder.

Second, Nigerian government and its people must take a cue from the policy measures of transparency international on how to combat corruption. According to Transparency International (2002) Government need to integrate anti-corruption actions into all aspects of decision- making. They must prioritize better rules on lobbying and political financing make public spending and contracting more transparent and make public bodies more accountable.

Third, the other precondition is awareness of people, about why corruption constitutes a problem in society about why free and fair elections are important for having welfare and prosperous country. According to many scholars it is one of the most effective ways in long run reducing corruption. Thus it is generally accepted that corruption is controlled only when citizens no longer tolerate it.

Finally, another precondition for combating corruption in Nigeria is honest leaders, as we have noticed from other countries experience, honest leaders are required, a leader who will be a good example for other politicians and public officials, who unfortunately is absent in Nigeria.

## CONCLUSION

We have seen that high levels of corruption have very harmful effects on economic and political development as in other countries. Corruption is deeply rooted in our society. Indeed, it is coming from the soviet times, when people had no power and the government decided everything. So people during the past seven decades learned not to make any decision. People lost their ability to think and make decisions for themselves. But the democratic system is not something that gives everyone everything that they want, but it demands the participation of everyone; people should fight for their well-being themselves.

They should learn the ways to control the government. Yes I stress the fair and free elections because if people sell their power of electing they will lose their power to demand anything from the elected officials. For controlling corruption is very important consolidated democratic institutions especially free and fair elections, people should understand that this is the basic decision they may make. So the democratic institutions are very important for combating corruption. Only by having established democratic institutions we may win the fight against corruption

It is no exaggeration that corruption as a phenomenon has impacted negatively on the political system, economic development, peace and security as well as resulted in the decline in social services in the country. However development cannot be achieved if concerted efforts are not taken to curb the scourge call corruption. To eradicate or at the minimum reduce corruption, there should be recommends policy programmes to include the inclusion of corruption studies on the curriculum of secondary schools and institutions of higher learning across the country.

This project examines corruption in the Nigerian Public Sector this is in a view to analyzing forms and effects of corruption, in the fight against corruption and emphatically analyzing theoretical underpinning of the causes of pervasive corruption in the Nigerian public sector. The project focuses on the origin of corruption in Nigerian public service from AzikiweAwolowo, administration to date, and discovers that corrupt practices have been on an alarming rate. The project employs idealistic theory, resource curse, two public, low risk- high benefit and anomie theories, The resource curse theory explains that the movement from dependence on agriculture in the 1960s to total dependence on oil and oil revenue from the 1970s reduces the ingenuity and creative ability of Nigeria as a nation. This is because money derives from crude oil (a free gift of nature), discourages hard work, retards innovation, breeds corruption, and reduces the tendency of the people to demand accountability from the government. Resource curse theory also argues that oil money breeds corruption because democratic culture and rule of law are yet to be deeply entrenched in Nigeria. Low risk-high benefit theory argues that people in Nigeria who are about to carry out corrupt practices first weigh and compare the risk involved in it with the benefit. It is when they find that the benefit outweighs the risk that they go ahead to enact corrupt practices. The project discovers that corruption is endemic in Nigerian public service because of societal pressure on public servants, perverted moral order, greediness, weak anti-corruption crusades, bribery and embezzlement, tribalism and nepotism, low risk-high benefit of involving in corrupt practices among others.

However, this project suggests the need for reforms in all sectors of Nigerian public service; the public institutions must be characterized by meritocracy and professionalism, a high morale cum reform-minded public servants, with a sense of patriotism and commitment to fighting corruption, as well as ensuring transparent management and instituting more effective corruption-reporting mechanism. The anticorruption agencies must not only be

made to function independently of government apparatus but must also have the capacity to institute and effectively execute sanctions, without recourse to the personality involved. Anti- corruption institutions should be strengthened with good funding and appropriate legislation. Punishment on corruption should be severe to act as deterrence.

That is, our laws should be amended torelate the magnitude of offenses with punishments, imprisonments and fines. Rule of law should be deeply entrenched. This is because, when democratic ethos and rule of law are well established and risk of involving in corruption is high and punishment attached to corrupt practices increased, nepotism and tribalism, which are the trust of the two public theories, will be drastically reduced, oil money will become a blessing, and public servants will not bow to societal pressure as explained by anomie theory.

Besides, there should be a reform on criminal procedure and evident rules to remove archaic laws and incorporate electronic evidences. Special court should be established and designated for corruption cases, and judges working on high-profile corruption cases should be provided with adequate security and financial incentive.

Emphasis should be placed on age-long value of hard work, honesty, and integrity as well as due process, accountability, and transparency in the public service. The public should frequently demand accountability from public servants through the utilization of Nigerian Freedom of Information Act. Finally, there should be constitutional amendment that will take the power to appoint the chairmen of the anti-graft agencies to the National Judicial Council (NJC).

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## APPENDIX

**DEPARTMENT OF POLICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IGBINEDION UNIVERSITY, OKADA**

## EDO STATE, NIGERIA

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN NIGERIA**

## QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is designed to assess the Impact of Corruption on the Performance of the Public Sector in Nigeria: Edo State as a Case Study

Please be kind enough to provide an unbiased answer to the best of your knowledge.

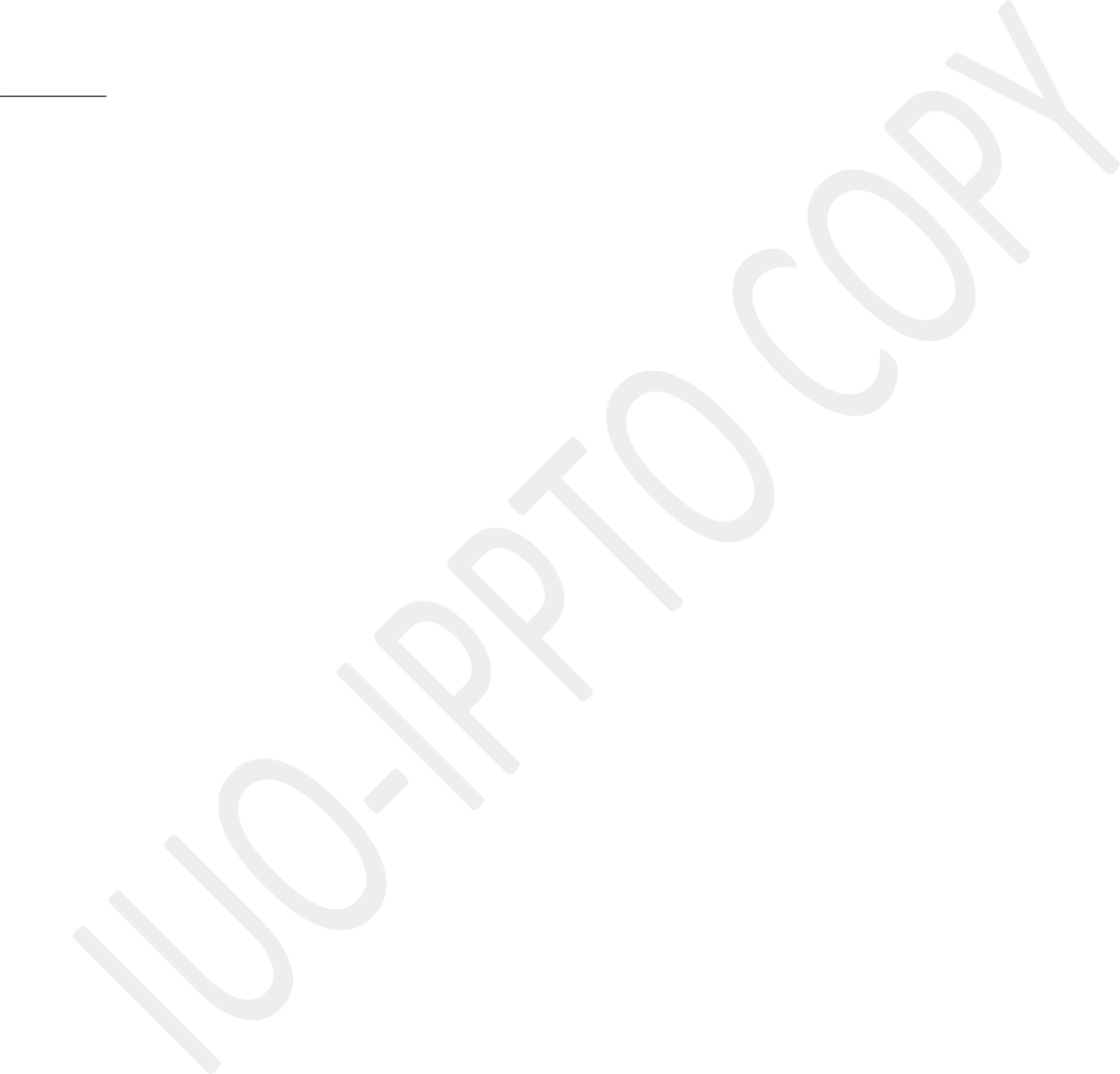
Any information received will be treated in strict confidence.

## SECTION A

Sex: Male () Female ( )

Age: Below 0-18 years ( ) 18-27 years ( ) 28-37 years ( ) 38-47 years 48-57 years and 58 above ( )

Marital Status: Married ( ) Single ( ) divorced ( ) Separated ( ) Religion: Christian ( ) Moslem ( ) African tradition ( )

Education level: Primary ( ) Secondary ( ) Tertiary/Higher ( ) PhD ( ) Employment Status: Student ( ) Employed ( ) Unemployed ( ) Self-employed ( )

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Causes of Corruption in Public Sector** | **SA** | **A** | **U** | **D** | **SD** |
| 6 | Lack of transparency |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | Poor Salaries |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | Laxity of Ethical Standard |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | Moral Laxity |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Attitude of officials/Discipline |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | Ineffective political process |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | Culture and acceptance of corruption |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **S/N** | **ITEMS** | **SA** | **A** | **N** | **D** | **SD** |
| 14 | Reduction in public Spending on  Education |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | Poor social amenities and abandoned  projects |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | Poor state of infrastructure and road |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | Amassing wealth and poverty |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | Reduction in quality of goods and  services |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | Late payment of salaries |  |  |  |  |  |

