An Assessment of Corruption in the Public Sector in Nigeria: A Study of Akure South Local Government Area, Ondo State

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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 paper therefore, is to examine and assess corruption in the public sector in Nigeria with particular reference to Akure South Local Government Area of Ondo State. 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 paper recommends, among others, that government should strengthen the institutions established to fight corruption.

Key words: Corruption; Public sector; Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

To say that corruption is rampant in Nigeria is to over flog the obvious. Corruption in Nigeria, as it presently manifested can be appropriately termed endemic or systemic. Corruption is an effort to secure wealth or power through illegal means for private benefit. Corruption like cockroaches has coexisted with human society for a long time and remains as one of the problems in many of the world's developing economies with devastating consequences. Corruption as a phenomenon, is a global problem, and exists in varying degrees in different countries (Agbu, 2003).

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 (Lipset & Lenz, 2000). 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, Animal Farm: All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

In Nigeria, it is one of the many unresolved problems (Ayobolu, 2006) 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 (Nwabuzor, 2005).

A corruption is endemic as well as an enemy (Agbu, 2003). 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 (Ribadu, 2003).

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.

Coming down to a heterogeneous country like Nigeria which consists of groups with distinct cultures and languages, and cohabiting together as a federation, a varied version of corruption like tribalism, nepotism, and favouritism are not uncommon. To further compound the problem of the elusiveness of corruption, the Anti-Corruption Law (2000), defines corruption as, "including bribery, fraud and other related offences". However, what seems to unify all available definitions on corruptions is that it is a socio-political, economic and moral malaise. It is an evil wind that does no one any good. Until 2000, the offence of corruption was regulated by criminal and penal code. Sometimes in the 80s the military regime of General Mohammed Buhari made a decree to regulate indiscipline and corrupt practices in Nigeria. The programme was tagged War Against Indiscipline and Corruption (WAIC). When President Obasanjo assumed office in 1999, the first step he took in fighting corruption was the establishment of a commission called Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offeces Commission (ICPC). One innovation of both the act of offering or receiving bribe. For instance, section 99i) and (b) of the Act states

"Anybody who gives confers or procure to give any property or benefits of any kind to, on or for a public officer or to, on or for any other person; or promises offers to give property of or benefits of any kind to or for a public officer on account of any act omission or commission, favor or disfavor to be done or shown by the public officer is guilty of an offence of official corruption and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for five or seven years (ICPC Act, 2000)".

There are two statutes regulating the offences in Nigeria ICPC Act 2003 and EFCC Act 2004. But EFCC seems to have taken the shine out of ICPC because since its inception, ICPC has never prosecuted successfully any corruption case but EFCC has successfully prosecuted a lot of highly place persons in Nigeria.

There are many unresolved problems in Nigeria, but the issue of the upsurge of corruption is particularly troubling. And the damages it has done to the polity are astronomical. The menace of corruption leads to slow movement of files in offices, police extortion on highways and slow traffics on the highways, port congestion, queues at passport offices and gas stations, ghost workers syndrome, election irregularities, among others. Even the mad people on the street recognize the havoc caused by corruption—the funds allocated for their welfare disappear into the thin air. Thus, it is believed by many in the society that corruption is the bane of Nigeria. Consequently, the issue keeps reoccurring in every academic and informal discussion in Nigeria. And the issue will hardly go away. Some writers say that corruption is endemic in all governments, and that is not peculiar to any continent, region and ethnic group. It cuts across faiths, religious denominations and political systems and affects both young and old, man and woman alike.

Since corruption is not new, and since it is a global phenomenon, it is not peculiar to Nigeria. However, corruption is pandemic in Nigeria (and in many other African and Asian nations); the leaders as well as the followers are corrupt. Consequently, it has defied all the necessary medicines. Corruption is a threat to democracy and economic development in many societies. It arises in the ways people pursue, use and exchange wealth and power, and in the strength or weakness of the state, political and social institutions that sustain and restrain those processes. Perhaps, because corruption has received an extensive attention in the communities and due to the fact that it has been over-flogged in the academic circles, corruption has received varied definitions. Corruption has broadly been defined as a perversion or a change from good to bad. Specifically, corruption or corrupt behavior involves the violation of established rules for personal gain and profit (Sen 1999). Corruption is efforts to secure wealth or power through illegal means private gain at public expense; or a misuse of public power for private benefit (Lipset & Lenz, 2000).

In addition, Corruption is a behaviour which deviates from the formal duties of a public role, because of private (gains)—regarding (personal, close family, private clique, pecuniary or status [gains]. It is a behaviour which violates rules against the exercise of certain types of [duties] for private (gains)—regarding influence (Nye, 1967). The definition includes such behavior as bribery (use of a reward to pervert the judgment of a person in a position of trust); nepotism (bestowal of patronage by reason of ascriptive relationship rather than merit); and

misappropriation (illegal appropriation of public resources for private uses (Banfield, 1961). To the already crowded landscape (Osoba, 1996), adds that corruption is an anti-social behaviour conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms, and which undermine the authorities to improve the living conditions of the people. Even though some of these definitions of corruption have been around for the over decades, the recent development in Nigeria where discoveries of stole public funds into billions of US Dollars and Nigeria Nair, make these definitions adequate and appropriate. Corruption is probably the main means to accumulate quick wealth in Nigeria. Corruption occurs in many forms, and it has contributed immensely to the poverty and misery of a large segment of the Nigerian population.

In the real sense, political corruption is the use of legislated powers by government official for illegitimate private gain. Misuse of government power for other purposes, such as repression of political opponents and general police brutality, is not considered political corruption. Forms of corruption vary, but include bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, patronage, graft, and embezzlement. While corruption may facilitate criminal enterprise such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and human tracking, it is not restricted to these activities. The activities that constitute illegal corruption differ depending on the country or jurisdiction. For instance, certain political funding practices that are legal in one place may be illegal in another. In some cases, government officials have broad or poorly defined powers, which make it difficult to distinguish between legal and illegal actions. Worldwide, bribery alone is estimated to involve 1 trillion US dollars annually. A state of unrestrained political corruption is known as a <u>kleptocracy,</u> literally meaning "rule by thieves".

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Different scholars from social sciences, such as; psychology, political science, Economics andreligious studies have attempted a working definition for corruption from their various disciplines. However, all of the working definitions are interwoven. The most relevant definition to this paper is the one given by World Bank, Akindele (1995) and Osoba (1998). The World Bank defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private gain.

Akindele (1995) defines it as any form of reciprocal behavior or transaction where both the power/office holder can respectively initiate the inducement of each other by some rewards to grant (illegal) preferential treatment or favour against the principles and interest of specific organization (or public) within the society. Overall, corruption covers such acts as: a) use of one's office for pecuniary advantage, b) gratification, c) influence peddling, insincerity in advice with the aim of gaining advantage, d) less than a full day's work for a full day's

pay, e) tardiness and slovenliness. Osoba (1998, p.378) defines corruption as an "anti-social behaviour conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms, and which undermine the authorities" to improve the living conditions of the people.

Dike (2011) notes that though some of these definitions of corruption have been around for over decades, the recent development in Nigeria where discoveries of stolen public funds run into billions of US Dollars and Nigeria Naira, make these definitions very adequate and appropriate. He further observes that corruption is probably the main means of accumulating quick wealth in Nigeria. Corruption occurs in many forms, and it has contributed immensely to the poverty and misery of a large segment of the Nigerian population. Corruption has become institutionalized in Nigeria.

Corruption is the colonization of fraudulence; the brazen celebration of impunity, which pollutes the ethical hygiene of a society (Ogbunwezeh, 2005). Corruption is a worldwide phenomenon, but prominent in countries of the third world, particularly in Africa. Johnston and Rose-Ackerman (1997) pointed out that the wide spread of corruption is a symptom of a poorly functioning state, and a poorly functioning state can undermine economic growth. Where corruption is situated in the structural nature of any society, countries with extensive natural resources may fail to develop in a way that benefits ordinary citizens (Edewor and Sokefun, 2002).

In Nigeria, corruption kick-starts a process of social decadence by enthroning the reign of rogues and unvarnished dishonesty. It allows ethical recklessness, and invites a normative chaos, that erodes every social value. In addition, corruption is ' behavior which deviates from the formal duties of a public role, because of private-regarding (close family, personal, private clique) pecuniary or status gains; or violates rules against the exercise of certain types private-regarding influence' (Nye, 1967:417). This definition includes such behavior as bribery (use of a reward to pervert the judgment of a person in a position of trust); nepotism (bestowal of patronage by reason of ascriptive relationship rather than merit); and misappropriation (illegal appropriation of public resources for private uses) [Banfield, 1961]. To the already crowded landscape, Osoba (1996) adds that corruption is an anti-social behavior conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms, and which undermine the authorities to improve the living conditions of the people.

However, attempts to identify corruption with specific legal or moral offences are unlikely to succeed. Perhaps the most plausible candidate is bribery: bribery is regarded by some as the quintessential form of corruption (Noonan, 1984; Pritchard, 1998). What of nepotism? Surely it is also a paradigmatic form of corruption, and one that is conceptually distinct from bribery. The person who accepts a bribe is understood as being required

to provide a benefit to the briber, otherwise it is not a bribe; but the person who is the beneficiary of an act of nepotism is not necessarily understood as being required to return the favour.

In fact, corruption is exemplified by a very wide and diverse array of phenomena of which political corruption is also one of its kinds. Political corruption is the abuse of entrusted power by political leaders for private gain, with the objective of increasing power or wealth (Imohe, 2005). Political corruption need not involve money changing hands; it may take the form of 'trading in influence' or granting favours that poison politics and threaten democracy. It occurs when the politicians and political decision-makers, who are entitled to formulate, establish and implement the laws in the name of the people, are themselves corrupt. It also takes place when policy formulation and legislation is tailored to benefit politicians and legislators.

Political corruption in Nigeria encompasses the use of official power and government resources for sordid and disreputable private gains. Political corruption is not a recent phenomenon that pervades the Nigerian State: since the creation of modern public administration in the country, there have been cases of official misuse of resources for personal enrichment (Osoba, 1996). A nation that allows itself the extravagant luxury of entertaining corruption unwittingly commissions the debauchery of its social structures. Corruption empowers, patronizes, and encourages the forces of social retrogression, handing them an unmerited leeway to wreak havoc on the society. It becomes inducted into the social mainstream, when the whole society timidly smiles at impunity; tolerates unmerited stations; glorifies the success or triumph of dishonesty; permits the diffusion of double standards; celebrates indiscipline; and encourages the ostentatious arrogance of unearned privileged (Ogbunwezeh, 2005).

To this end, every society that desires progress must do ceaseless battle with the constant attempt of negative forces to bring the social structure under its Inglorious dominance. This is because corruption as a disintegrative social factor often prevents social, political and economic development of a nation, just as poverty works against enduring democracy.

Aluko (2002) notes that Corruption now appears to have become a permanent feature of the Nigerian polity. It had become completely institutionalized, entered into the realm of culture and the value-system; it is now a norm and no longer an aberration. The young ones are born into it, grow up in it, live with it, and possibly die in it. The aged are not left out as they are re-socialized and begin to conform to it. This observation by Aluko is quite true of the situation in Nigeria where corruption has become endemic. The effect is noticed everywhere. The family is not left out. When parent sends their wards on errand the children will expect some gratification from the parent and some unsuspecting parent gratifying their wards with

gifts. When the children grow up, corruption becomes part of their daily life.

It is very easy to talk about corruption, but like many other complex phenomena, it is difficult to define corruption in concise and concrete terms. Not surprising, there is often a consensus as to what exactly constitutes this concept. There is always a danger as well that several people may engage in a discussion about corruption while each is talking about a different thing completely. But in recent years there is a body of theoretical and empirical research on corruption (such as: Elliot 1997; Rose-Ackerman 1999; Gill 1998; Girling 1997; Human Development Cooperation (HDC) 1999; Kaufmann & Sachs 1998; Mauro 1995; Guhan & Paul, 1997; Shleifer & Vishnay, 1993; Stapenhurst & Kpundeh, 1999; Vittal, 1999; World Bank 1997 and the most recently, Farida & Ahmadi-Esfahani, 2007).

To avoid the confusion of definition of corruption, this paper gives an operational definition of corruption as conceptualized by some studies. Corruption is like cancer, retarding economic development. According to Eigen (2001) corruption is seen as a "daunting obstacle to sustainable development", a constraint on education, health care and poverty alleviation, and a great impediment to the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

The World Bank defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private gains. Public office is abused through rent seeking activities for private gain when an official accepts, solicits, or extorts a bribe. Public office is also abused when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for competitive advantage and profit. Public office can also be abused for personal benefit even if no bribery occurs, through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets or the diversion of state resources (World Bank, 1997). A public official is corrupt if he accepts money for doing something that he is under duty to do or that he is under duty not to do. Corruption is a betrayal of trust resulting directly or indirectly from the subordination of public goals to those of the individual. Thus a person who engages in nepotism has committed an act of corruption by putting his family interests over those of the larger society (Gire, 1999).

In Asian Development Bank perspectives of corruption as cited by Agbu (2001), corruption is defined as the behaviour of public and private officers who improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves and/or those closely related to them, or induce others to do so, by misusing the position in which they are placed. Systemic corruption also referred to as entrenched corruption, occurs where bribery (money in cash or in kind) is taken or given in a corrupt relationship. These include kickbacks, pay-off, sweeteners, greasing palms, etc) on a large or small scale. It is regularly experienced when a license or a service is sought from government officials. It differs from petty

corruption in that it is not as individualized. Systemic corruption is apparent whenever the administration itself transposes the expected purposes of the organizations; forcing participants to follow what otherwise would be termed unacceptable ways and punishing those who resist and try to live up to the formal norms (International Center for Economic Growth, 1999).

In an elaborate analysis, Alatas (1990) divided corruption into seven distinct types: autogenic, defensive, extortive, investive, nepotistic, supportive, and transitive. Autogenic corruption is self-generating and typically involves only the perpetrator. A good example would be what happens in cases of insider trading. A person learns of some vital information that may influence stocks in a company and either quickly buys or gets rid of large amounts of stocks before the consequences arising from this information come to pass. Defensive corruption involves situations where a person needing a critical service is compelled to bribe in order to prevent unpleasant consequences being inflicted on his interests. For instance, a person who wants to travel abroad within a certain time frame needs a passport in order to undertake the journey but is made to pay bribes or forfeit the trip. This personal corruption is in self-defense. Extortive corruption is the behavior of a person demanding personal compensation in exchange for services. Invective corruption entails the offer of goods or services without a direct link to any particular favor at the present, but in anticipation of future situations when the favor may be required. Nepotistic corruption refers to the preferential treatment of, or unjustified appointment of friends or relations to public office, in violation of the accepted guidelines. The supportive type usually does not involve money or immediate gains, but involves actions taken to protect or strengthen the existing corruption. For example, a corrupt regime or official may try to prevent the election or appointment of an honest person or government for fear that the individual or the regime might be probed by the successor(s). Finally, transitive corruption refers to situations where the two parties are mutual and willing participants in the corrupt practice to the advantage of both parties. For example, a corrupt businessperson may willingly bribe a corrupt government official in order to win a tender for a certain contract.

Theoretical Framework

The theory that best explain corruption in Nigeria is the theory of Prebendalism as postulated by Richard (1996) which described the nature of Patron-Client relationship in Nigeria. According to theory "state offices are regarded as prebends that can be appropriated by office holder who use them to generate material benefit for themselves and their constituent and kin groups". In Nigeria, prebendal politics is the order of the day being displayed by political office holders. Thus, corruption is regularly be perpetrated at will and the society at the receiving end. Inevitably, the

prebendal nature of Nigeria system in time of its patron-client or identity politics further allows corruption to thrive, undermine and thereby, stagnate the development of Nigerian society. Thus theory contends that corruption in Nigeria is purely an elite and political office holder. It argues that people who engage in crime in such society is not to amass wealth but only a force reaction to the corrupt practices of the ruling class and as a means of barely keeping alive in the face of the ostentatious display of ill-gotten wealth of the ruling class. For example, Karl Marx, leader of materialist approach argue that rather than people's consciousness determining their well-being, it is the way society organized the production, distribution and exchange of goods and services that determine their material condition.

The aforementioned theory is very significant because it has actually provided adequate explanation for the corruption habit of Nigeria office holders.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

2.1 Material

Source of information for this research was mainly through the use of questionnaire, journals, library books and the internet materials; Stationeries (Record books, Pencils, Biros)

2.2 Methodology

Methodology is an integral part of any research work which describes various materials and methods to carry out the research work, which include the targeted population, data analysis, study designed, and study area.

2.3 Study Area

The study was carried out in Akure-south local government, Ondo state of Nigeria. Ondo state is located in the topical forest Zone. The state has eighteen (18) local government areas (LGAs) each with several communities and villages. The capital of Ondo state is located in Akure, Subsistence agriculture is the mainstay of livelihood of the inhabitant of the state.

Ondo state is located in the South West Region of Nigeria on latitude $7^0 10^1$ North and longitude $5^0 05^1$ East bisect the state into four nearly equal part. The state now covers a total of 15,500 square kilometer of landmass. It is bounded partly by Atlantic Ocean in the South, Kogi State and Ekiti State (fountain of knowledge) in the North. To the west, is bounded partly by Osun state (State of living spring) and Ogun state, while in the east is bounded by Edo State and partly Delta State. The topography of the state is on gentle rolling lowland in the South, rising to a plateau 40 meters and above in the North. The state is well drained with rivers flowing from the upland in the North/South direction. The vegetation pattern of the State is that of rainforest in the south and

guinea savannah to the North. Thick forest gives to grassland interspersed with trees in the North. As shown in Figure 1 and 2 below.
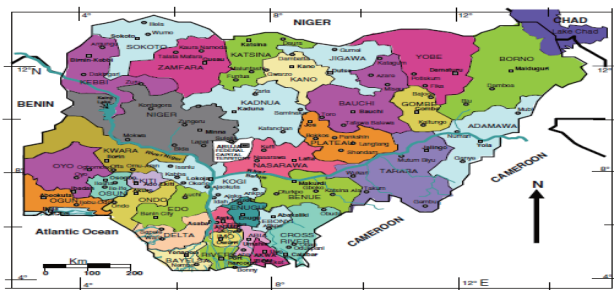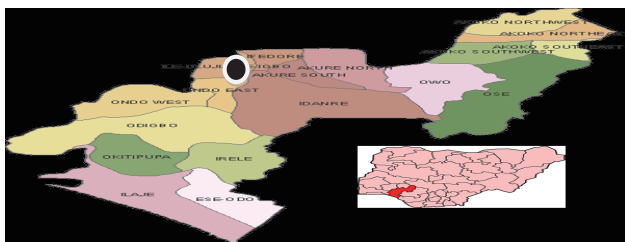

Figure 1
Showing the Map of Nigeria and the Study Location
Source: Obage N.G, Geology of Nigeria, 2009, pp.3.

Legend
● Study Area (Akure)

Figure 2
Showing the Map of the Ondo State (Akure south local government area)
Source: (www. google.com/Ondo State)

2.4 Target Population

The targeted populations for this study was from teen to the adult and also cover all sectors in Akure south Local Government, Akure, Ondo state.

2.5 Study Design

Multistage sampling was used to draw sample size. Akuresouth is divided into four districts namely, Alagbaka/NEPA /Ijapo area, Oyemekun/ Oba-Adesida area, Futa/ Road block area and Ondo road/ Oke-Aro area. These areas were purposively selected for this study. All sectors were put into consideration in Akure south Local government; the questionnaires were purposively selected by using random sampling method. Respondent were also acquainted with the aim of the study and a well-structured questionnaire was used to obtained information from them (Appendix).

2.6 Analysis of Data

The data gathered from this study was subjected to descriptive statistical tools.

Descriptive statistics: The descriptive used in presenting this data include frequency distribution, percentage, charts, and mean.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Socio-Economics Characteristics of the Respondent

Socio-economic characteristics of the respondent in the study are presented in the tables below.

3.1.1 Age

From the below Table 1. It is shown that 21.3% of the respondent are under 25 years of age, 42.6% of the respondent are between 25- 34 years, 25.5% of the respondent are between 35-44 years while just 10.6% of the respondent are between 45-55 years. It can be deduced that 25-34 years are more interested in corruption in public sector compared to other ages because it falls between work class ages.

Table 1
Distribution of Respondents by Age

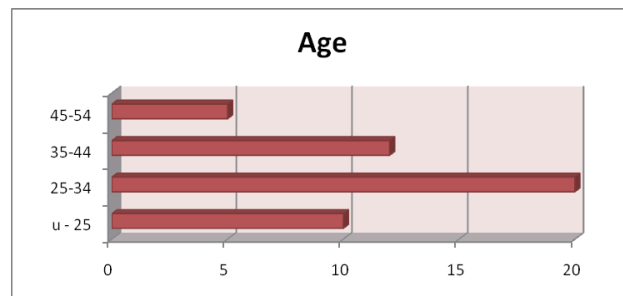| Age	Frequency	Percentage
u - 25	10	21.3%
25-34	20	42.6%
35-44	12	25.5%
45-54	5	10.6%
Total	47	100%

Source: Field survey data, 2013

Figure 3
Showing the Respondent's Age

3.1.2 Education

Table 2 shows the educational qualification of the respondents. The educational qualifications vary from SSCE to NCE/OND, B.Sc./ B.A, MSc, Ph.D. Analysis shows that most have educational qualification of B.sc/ B.A (51%) while others have SSCE, NCE/OND, MSC and Ph.D. which are 9%, 10%, 6.4%, 2.1% respectively.

Table 2
Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualification

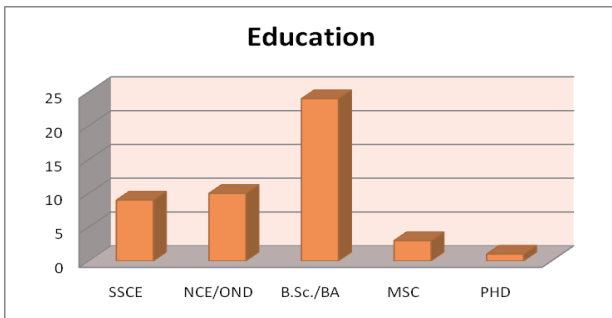| Education	Frequency	Percentage
SSCE	9	19.1%
NCE/OND	10	21.3%
B.Sc./BA	24	51.1%
MSC	3	6.4%
PHD	1	2.1%
Total	47	100%

Source: Field Survey Data, 2013

Figure 4
Showing the Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualification

3.1.3 Occupation
Table 3 shows the occupation of the respondents. The occupations vary from civil service to driving, farming, trading, combination of trading and civil service and others

Analysis shows that majority(53.2%)of the respondent are civil servant, trading were found to be 17.0%, for those engaged in farming were 0%,driving 0%,while others were 29.8%. which indicate that the environment study is a civil state. Most are employed by the state or federal government.

Table 3
Distribution of Respondents by Occupation

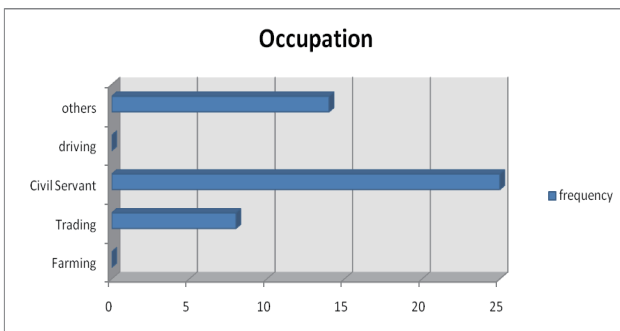| Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Farming	0	0
Trading	8	17.0%
Civil Servant	25	53.2%
Driving	0	0
Others	14	29.8%
Total	47	100

Source: Field Survey Data, 2013

Figure 5
Showing the Distribution of Respondents by their Occupation

3.1.4 Religion
From Table 4. It showed all the participated religion. 89.3%, 6.4%, 4.3% are Christianity, Islam and traditional respectively.

Table 4
Distribution of Respondents by Religion

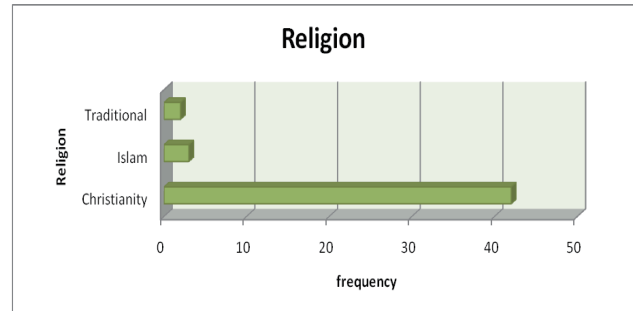| Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Christianity	42	89.3%
Islam	3	6.4%
Traditional	2	4.3%
Total	47	100

Source: Field survey data, 2013

Figure 6
Showing the Distribution of Respondents by Religion

3.1.5 Corruption Measurement
Can corruption be measured?

From Table 5 below, 63.6% are of the opinion that corruption can be measured while 36.2% are of the opinion that corruption can't be measured. This indicated that people's opinion are based on environmental factors

Table 5
Can Corruption Be Measured?

Can corruption be measured		
Yes	30	63.6%
No	17	36.2%
Total	47	100%

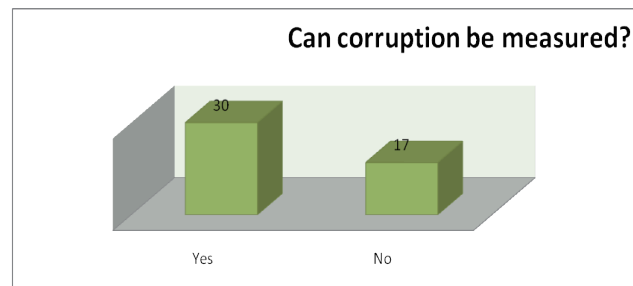Source: Field survey data, 2013

Figure 7
Showing Respondent Opinion to Measurement of Corruption

3.1.6 Attitude towards corruption
From Table 6 below, 73.1% are of the opinion that corruption is very bad, 19.2% are of the opinion that corruption is good while just 7.7% believed that corruption is fair. Which indicate that majority of the respondent believed that corruption is bad.

Table 6
Respondent Attitude Towards Corruption

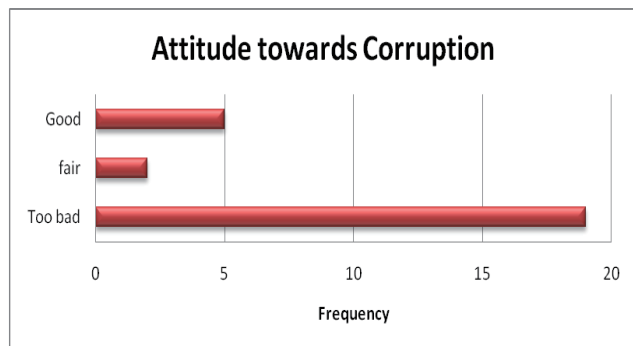| Attitude towards corruption		
Too bad	19	73.1%
Fair	2	7.7%
Good	5	19.2%
	26	100

Source: Field survey data, 2013

Figure 8
Showing Respondent Attitude Towards Corruption

3.1.7 Most Corrupt Sector

From Table 7 below, the judicial sector is opined to be
the most corrupt with 27.7%, followed by the police
25.5%, health 12.8%, custom and Energy 8.5%, while
the Education and Local government are 6.4% and
10.6% respectively. Which indicate that all sectors
are involve in the corruption in the society except the
agricultural sector.

Table 7
Which Sector Boast Most Cases of Corruption

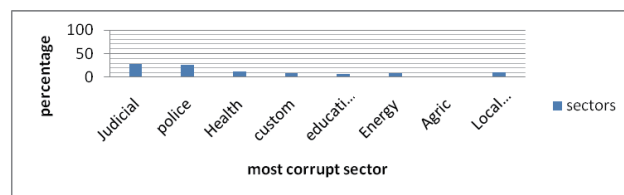| Boast most cases of corruption	Frequency	Percentage
Judicial	13	27.7%
Police	12	25.5%
Health	6	12.8%
Custom	4	8.5%
Education	3	6.4%
Energy	4	8.5%
Agriculture	0	0
Local Government	5	10.6%
Total	47	100

Source: Field Survey Data, 2013

Figure 9
Showing the Sector that Boast Cases of Corruption
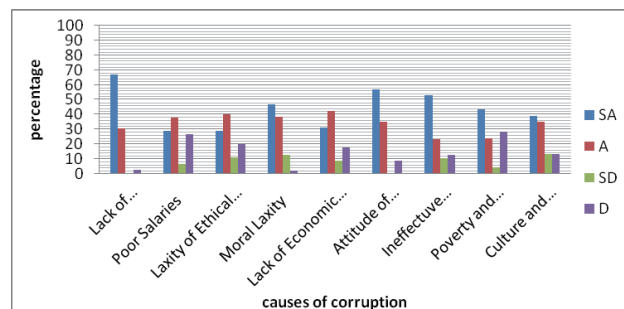
3.1.8 Causes of Corruption

Figure 10
Showing the Causes of Corruption

Table 8
Causes of Corruption

Causes of corruption	SA	A	SD	D	Total	SA	A	SD	D	Total
Lack of transparency	26	12	0	1	39	66.7%	30.8%	0	2.5%	100
Poor Salaries	13	17	3	12	45	28.9%	37.8%	6.7%	26.6%	100
Laxity of Ethical Standard	13	18	5	9	45	28.9%	40%	11.1%	20%	100
Moral Laxity	22	18	6	1	47	46.8%	38.3%	12.8%	2.1%	100
Lack of Economic opp.	14	19	4	8	45	31.1%	42.2%	8.9%	17.8%	100
Attitude of officials/Discipline	26	16	0	4	46	56.6%	34.8%	0	8.7%	100
Ineffective political process	25	11	5	6	47	53.2%	23.4%	10.6%	12.8%	100
Poverty and Unemployment	20	11	2	13	46	43.5%	23.9%	4.3%	28.3%	100
Culture and acceptance of corruption	18	16	6	6	46	39.2%	34.8%	13%	13%	100

Source: Field Survey Data, 2013

From the Table 8 below, respondent are of the
opinion that the lack of transparency of our government
(66.7%), attitude of official/discipline (56.6%), moral
laxity (46.8%), poverty and unemployment (43.5%) are
the major causes of corruption in our society which
are strongly agreed by the respondent while others
are agreed but are not the major causes of public
corruption.

3.1.9 Effect of Corruption in Nigeria

Table 9
Effect of Corruption in Our Society

Effect of corruption	SA	A	SD	D	Total	SA	A	SD	D	Total
Reduction In public Spending on Edu.	13	12	6	10	41	31.70%	29.30%	14.60%	24.40%	100.00%
Easy fraud on Large project	16	15	4	7	42	38.10%	35.70%	9.50%	16.70%	100.00%
Poor state of infrastructure and road	12	22	3	5	42	28.60%	52.40%	7.10%	11.90%	100.00%
Amassing wealth and porverty	14	17	6	3	40	35%	42.50%	15%	7.50%	100.00%
Reduction in quality of goods and ser.	12	20	3	5	40	30%	50%	7.50%	12.50%	100.00%
economic growth	10	18	9	6	43	23.30%	41.90%	20.90%	14.00%	100.00%
waste skills	11	17	3	6	37	29.70%	45.90%	8.20%	16.20%	100.00%
Late payment of salaries	14	12	6	10	42	33.30%	28.60%	14.30%	23.80%	100.00%
increase porverty	20	13	6	3	42	47.60%	31.00%	14.30%	7.10%	100.00%
Distrupt Government structure	16	14	5	5	40	40%	35%	12.50%	12.50%	100.00%

Source: Field Survey Data, 2013

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Our major recommendations are as follow:

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.

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