



CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA, CAUSES AND STRATEGIES: IMPLICATION FOR SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

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Abstract

This study was carried out to assess the impact, causes of corruption in Nigeria and strategies to deal with the looters with special attention paid to education. The research was carried out in the Ijebu-North local government of Ogun State. The sample of the study consisted of One hundred and twenty respondents randomly selected from civil service, private companies and artisans. The study made use of primary source of data, using likert type questionnaire which assessed the causes of corruption and strategies of dealing with the looters with descriptive and inferential statistics. The instrument was trial tested and the reliability of 0.69 was obtained The outcome was based on 5% level of significance. The survey revealed no significant effect of gender, marital status on the causes of corruption and the strategies of dealing with the looters. However, there was significant difference in the perception on strategies for dealing with looters according to occupation.

Key words: Corruption, Social Studies, Civic Education, Perception

Introduction

Corruption is the biggest among the challenges in Nigeria. It is clear to every citizen of Nigeria that the level of corruption in the country is high. Corruption is found in all sectors of the country, be it small or big sector. There are every possibilities of observing corrupt practices when critically examined. Corruption is the illegitimate use of power to benefit a private interest (Morris, 1991). Corruption can also be defined as the giving of bribe by a person to an official so that the truth will not be told. It involves the embezzlement of public fund for personal use. Corruption is considered a criminal act, according to the written laws of every society.

Nigeria as the most populated country in Africa has been ranked high in corrupt practices by transparency international index and other notable organisations that checkmate the level of corrupt practices in any country. It does not tell good of the country in anyway. This high corruption ranking has been affecting almost all Nigerians in Diaspora as foreigners now believe that every Nigerian is inherently corrupt. President Muhammadu Buhari

defined corruption as the greatest form of human right violation. Since the creation of modern public administration in the country, there have been cases of official misuse of funds and resources. The rise of public administration and the discovery of oil and natural gas are two major events seen to have led to the increase in corrupt practices in the country. However, some analysts have also blamed colonialism for the amount corruption. According to this view, the nation's colonial history may have restricted any early influence in an ethical revolution; "the trappings of flashy cars, houses and success of the colonists may influenced the poor to see the colonist as symbols of success and to emulate the colonists in different political ways". Involvement in the agenda of colonial rule may also inhibit idealism in the early stage of the nascent nation's development. A view commonly held during the colonial days was that the colonists property (cars, houses, farms etc.) is not "our" property. Thus vandalism and looting of public property was not seen as a crime against society. This view is what has degenerated into the more recent disregard for public property and lack of public trust and concern for public goods as a collective national property.



The government has aimed at containing corruption through the enactment of laws and the enforcement of integrity systems, but success has been slow. As at 2012, Nigeria is estimated to have lost over \$400 billion to corruption since independence (NNA, 2016).

According to Groschl (2017) findings reveal that there is link between corruption and education, apart from hindering economic growth, discouraging investment, it directly compounds educational deficits. On the other hand education is seen as offering a way out of poverty by challenging the corruptive structure and systems within the public sector with emphasis on teaching corruption and business ethics. This study looks at the perception of people on the causes of corruption in Nigeria and education as one of the strategies to end the looting.

Statement of the Problem

The state of corruption in Nigeria has been categorized as endemic. Corruption has also been identified as one major obstacle of national growth and development of the Nigerian economy. Researches have shown that corrupt practices have been perpetrated in governance in public and private places since the pre-colonial periods and through independence to present. The measures by successive administrator in Nigeria to instill discipline include ethical revolution, Jaji declaration, war against indiscipline (WAI), MAMSER, National Rebirth and now ICPC and EFCC. These anti-corruption measures have failed to tackle corruption because the Government is insincere and hypocritical. The agencies are not given sufficient independence, authority and resources to function effectively (Otoja, 2013).

Research Questions

1. What are the perceived causes of corruption in Nigeria?
2. What are the perceived strategies for dealing with looters in Nigeria?

Method

Descriptive survey design was used for this study. Simple random technique was adopted. The sample

of the study consisted one hundred and twenty respondents drawn from civil service, private companies and artisans from Ijebu Igbo Local government area of Ogun State. The instrument used for the study was twenty five (25) item self designed questionnaire. The instrument was trial tested and the reliability of 0.69 was obtained. The scale was structured on four point likert format. Section A provided personal information about the respondent, B- causes of corruption while C- contains items on the strategies to curb corruption in Nigeria. To collect information, the data collected were analysed using mean scores, T-test analysis and Analysis of variance (ANOVA).

Results

Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents according to Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	56	46.7
Female	64	53.3
Total	120	100.0

The table 1 above reveals that 46.7% are male while 53.3% are female

Table 2: Distribution of the Respondents according to marital status.

	Frequency	Percent
Single	73	60.8
Married	34	28.3
Divorce	13	10.8
Total	120	100.0

The table 2 above reveals that the majority (60%) of the respondents are not married while 28.3% are married and 10.8% are divorced.

Research Question 1: What are the causes of Corruption in Nigeria?



Table 3: Causes of corruption in Nigeria.

S/N	Items(causes of corruption)	SA (&)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	SD	Decision
1.	Greed is the root cause of corruption	96 (80.0)	17 (14.2)	5 (1.2)	2 (1.7)	3.725	.621	Agreed
2.	Ostentative lifestyle of the rich	66 (55)	45 (37.5)	9 (7.5)	-	3.475	.631	Agreed
3.	The custom and attitude	70 (58.3)	24 (20.0)	24 (20.0)	2 (1.7)	3.350	.856	Agreed
4.	Favoritism (Tribalism)	62 (51.7)	42 (35.0)	14 (11.7)	2 (1.7)	3.366	.755	Agreed
5.	Political environment that favours the rich people	61 (50.8)	45 (37.5)	8 (6.7)	6 (5.0)	3.341	.814	Agreed
6.	Neglect of the poor	68 (56.7)	31 (25.0)	17 (14.2)	4 (3.3)	3.358	.848	Agreed
7.	Poverty	82 (68.3)	31 (25.0)	4 (3.3)	3 (2.5)	3.600	.678	Agreed
8.	Display of wealth by politics	58 (48.3)	44 (36.7)	12 (10)	6 (5)	3.283	.842	Agreed
9.	Immunity of the politicians	67 (55.8)	34 (28.3)	11 (9.2)	8 (6.7)	3.333	.901	Agreed
10.	Rigging in Election	71 (59.2)	33 (27.5)	8 (6.7)	8 (6.7)	3.391	.882	Agreed
11.	Good fatherism	70 (58.3)	19 (15.8)	18 (15)	12 (10)	3.235	1.047	Agreed
12.	Unseriousness in the part of federal Government	78 (65)	20 (16.7)	12 (10)	9 (7.5)	3.403	.950	Agreed
13.	Faulty of Legislation/Law	46 (38.3)	18 (15)	15 (12.5)	40 (33.3)	2.588	1.304	Agreed

The table 3 above indicates that people generally agree that all the thirteen items are causes of corruption in Nigeria with greed having the highest mean of 3.725 followed by poverty 3.6

Research Question 2: What are the perceived strategies for dealing with looters?

Table 4: Perceived strategies for dealing with looters

S/N	Items	SA (&)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	SD	Decision
1.	Use of code of conduct for every one	89 (74.2)	27 (22.5)	2 (1.7)	2 (1.7)	3.691	.591	Agreed
2.	Sanctions against offenders	88 (73.3)	27 (22.5)	4 (3.3)	1 (0.8)	3.683	.579	Agreed
3.	Education	75 (62.5)	29 (24.2)	14 (11.7)	2 (1.7)	3.450	.766	Agreed
4.	Use of ICPC or EFCC	90 (75.0)	26 (21.7)	1 (0.8)	3 (2.5)	3.691	.618	Agreed
5.	Awarding contract through best practices and Universal standard	73 (60.8)	39 (32.5)	4 (3.3)	4 (3.3)	3.508	.721	Agreed
6.	New laws should be enacted	75 (62.5)	25 (20.8)	16 (13.3)	4 (3.3)	3.425	.846	Agreed
7.	Civil servants should be well remunerated	71 (59.2)	35 (29.2)	13 (10.8)	1 (0.8)	3.466	.721	Agreed
8.	Government should operate openness and transparency	67 (55.8)	41 (34.2)	10 (8.3)	2 (1.7)	3.441	.719	Agreed
9.	Unnecessary delay should be removed from government procedure	75 (62.5)	29 (24.2)	10 (8.3)	6 (5.0)	3.441	.848	Agreed
10.	Removal of subsidies	50 (41.7)	27 (22.5)	14 (11.7)	29 (24.2)	2.816	1.216	Agreed
11.	Establishment of international	73	40	3	4	3.516	.709	Agreed



	convention to stop croo-border or money laundry	(60.8)	(33.3)	(2.5)	(3.3)			
12.	Use of smart technology	71 (59.2)	39 (32.5)	3 (2.5)	6 (5.0)	3.470	.779	Agreed

The table 4 above shows that all the respondents agreed on the strategies to curb corruption in Nigeria with ICPC and EFCC having the highest mean score of 3.691. This shows a strong belief in EFCC and ICPC.

Research Question 2: Is there any significant difference between male and female on the causes of corruption in Nigeria?

Research Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between males and females on perceived causes of corruption

Table 5: Showing causes of corruption based on Gender

	N	Mean	Standard	Df	T	Sig	Decision
Male	56	43.071	5.611				
Female	64	43.484	6.796	118	360	.720	Not significant

P < 0.05 Significance level, t calculated less than t- critical value.

The table 5 above indicates that there is no significant difference in the perception of people on causes of corruption according to gender.

Table 7: Showing ANOVA showing perception of People on the strategies according to occupation

Source of Variation	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig
Total Between Groups	307.450	2	153.725	4.145	.018
Within Groups	4339.341	117	37.088		
Total	4646.792	119			
Total Between Groups	168.018	2	84.009	3.314	0.40
Within Groups	2965.848	117	25.349		
Total	3133.867	119			

<0.05 significance level, the table 8 above shows that there is significant difference in the perception of people on the strategies for dealing with looters according to occupation.

Discussion

The findings from the descriptive statistics in the research question 1 shows agreement among all the respondents on all factors considered as causes of corruption in Nigeria. Greed has the highest mean of 3.725 This in support of Maduagwu (2019) that claims that greed in ranked among the top five causes of

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference between males and females on the perceived strategies of dealing with looters.

Table 6: Perceived strategies of solving corruption according to Gender

	N	Mean	Standard	Df	T	Sig	Decision
Male	56	41.392	5.122				
Female	64	41.531	5.179	118	.147	.884	Not significant

P < 0.05 significance level. T calculated less than t-critical value

Table 6 above shows no significant difference in the perception of people on the strategies for dealing with looters according to gender.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in the perceived strategies for dealing with looters according to occupation

corruption in Nigeria. The research question 2 also indicate that the use of code of conduct, EFCC and ICPC as best strategy for dealing with the looters with the mean score of 3.691 each, it show believe and hope that people have in these institutions. Education was ranked fourth with the mean score of 3.450. According to Uzochukwu (2019) there is need for proper funding of education for citizens to acquire appropriate values and skills in schools which calls for a paradigm shift in our thinking. The values and wisdom in volunteering, giving and social responsibilities should be inculcated and enshrined in the school curriculum.



The result of the first hypothesis, H_{01} shows a non-significant difference between males and females on perceived causes of corruption. Hence, the null hypothesis was not rejected. The non-significance may be due to the fact that both males and females have equal knowledge of the causes of corruption in Nigeria. This finding is against the finding of Gerasymenko (2018) who claims that women are more sensitive to corruption than men and are more sensitive and concerned about corruption. Women are seen to have higher level of awareness, manifestation. They are seen to be more affected by corruption. The result of hypothesis two, H_{02} reveals non-significant difference between male and females on the strategies for dealing with the looters. The hypothesis is not rejected. The implication of this is that both males and females have again the same level of consciousness on how to deal with the looters. This is against the finding of Gerasymenko (2018). Hypothesis three, H_{03} shows significant difference in the perception of corruption according to occupation, hence it is rejected, meaning that the respondents show different levels of perception of corruption. This could have been as a result of influence of occupation or different occupation associations that they belong. This supports the claims of Dormael (2014) that different occupation influence perception on corruption.

Conclusion

The outcome of this study as related to the objectives are concerned is quite revealing. From the findings, it can be concluded therefore that there is no significant different in the perceived causes, impact and strategies for dealing with looters according to the inferential statistics. With descriptive statistics if there is anything to go by, the result shows that poverty and greed are seen as the two major causes of corruption. As per strategies for dealing with looters, activities of ICPC and EFCC are seen as the major way to curb corruption. While education is ranked fourth, there is significant difference in the perception of workers on the strategies for dealing with looters. The implication of this is that workers perceive differently on the best strategy for ending corruption in Nigeria. Since the finding shows education as one of the top tools that offer way out of corruption Groschl (2017), this then has implication for social studies education. Edinyang and Usang (2012) cited the philosophy and objectives of social studies education and concluded that Social Studies is a value free and value laden subject with

the capacity to build sound morals and integrity in all facets of the society and that the subject has five unique ways of bulldozing corruption in Nigeria: exposing students to socio-civic competence and effective citizenship, inculcation of worthy attitude and habits, use of enter-educate instructional mode, social content area and finally using integrated holistic frame work.

Recommendation

Based on the study, it is recommended that: Education should be well funded curriculum of subjects Social Studies Education and Civic that emphasise, morals, honesty, dignity of labour should be reviewed and taught especially right from childhood. Education is seen as veritable tool in eradicating corruption. The Federal Government should give more attention to ICPC and EFCC as people have hope in these institutions and also allow the organisations to operate freely and not to politicize them. Enabling laws should be made to allow free operation of the anti-graft agencies. Not only that the constitution should also be reviewed on the punishment that will be metted out on the looters. Government policies should be geared towards eradication of poverty especially at this time of economic recession, that will make life meaningful for individual. All the state governments that owe their workers should be compelled by the federal government to pay the arrears. All contracts should be awarded in line with the international standard, passing through due process.

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