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Corruption and Socio-Economic Development of Nigerian States

Adekune Alaye
Department of Political Science, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria

Abstract

Nigeria is endowed with abundance of both natural and human resources. With a population of over 200 million, she possesses vast mineral riches, copious amounts of gas and crude oil reserves, lush agricultural areas and an environment that is conducive to the proliferation of biodiversity. However, even since gaining independence in 1960, corruption has been a persistent problem in Nigeria. The military administration that controlled Nigeria for a number of years is said to have ruined the country's economy. It is easy to understand the extent of Nigeria's socioeconomic failure due to corruption, if you compare it to other large, populous, and ethnically diverse oil-rich nations. Examining the dishonest behaviors of political elites and leaders who have steered the nation by threatening the expansion and stability of the national economy is the main goal of this study. It is indisputable that corruption raises the rate of poverty and undermines society's capacity to sustain both the present generation and future ones. The qualitative research methodology used in this study involved content analysis of secondary data gathered from government documents, newspapers, the internet, journals, and library materials.

Keywords: Corruption, Socioeconomic, Development, Poverty.

1. Introduction

1.1 Contextualizing Corruption:

Similar to cockroaches, corruption has always been a part of human society and is still a major problem in many developing nations. AGU (2001) states that corruption is a situation that has variable degrees of impact on different countries. Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim civilizations are all impacted by corruption to the same extent as democratic ones (Dike, 2005). Since the beginning of recorded history, corrupt behaviors have been an issue (Lipset and Lenz, 2000). Corruption is a serious issue that impacts a great deal of people personally in Nigeria, as it is pervasive and practiced in almost every aspect of public life. Nigeria is a prime example of a place where it is more prevalent than in other settings, despite the fact that it occurs everywhere. According to Iyanda (2012), it is a plague that has permeated Nigerian culture so thoroughly that it gives a small

number of people unfair advantages in defiance of the moral and legal standards of other societies. Since only a tiny percentage of the population had access to the resources required to ensure acceptable welfare for all residents prior to its contagious and incurable infection, it undermines government efforts to provide adequate welfare for all residents.

Corruption is among the many unsolved problems in Nigeria that have seriously impeded and skewed the country's progress (Ayabolu, 2006). It remains the main political and economic obstacle facing Nigeria in the long run (Sachs, 2007). A canker worm that has completely consumed the world's foundation. Examples of corruption include bureaucratic, political, systemic, and small-scale (International Center for Economic Growth, 1999). The World Bank estimates that corruption costs more than $1 trillion a year and can make up as much as 12% of the GDP in nations like Venezuela, Kenya, and Nigeria (Nwabuzor, 2005).

Corruption's internal enemy is everywhere (Agbu, 2003). 2005 report from the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC): "It is a canker worm that has eaten deeply into the fabric of the country and stunted growth in all sectors." The Independent Corrupt Practice Commission (ICPC), in 2006, stated that it was the primary reason for the country's difficulties in keeping up with its rapid development. Transparency International often lists Nigeria as one of the top three most corrupt countries in the world, which serves as evidence of this (Ribadu, 2003).

A wide range of actions fall under the umbrella of corruption, including embezzlement (the theft of public or corporate finances), fraud (theft by deception), and bribery (payment paid in order to obtain an advantage over another party). Aiyede (2006) defines corruption as "the abuse or misuse of public or governmental power for illegitimate private advantages" from a political perspective. His perspective supports Lipset and Lenz's (2000) assertion that corruption is an attempt to obtain wealth or power for private gain at the expense of the public by using illegitimate means. Tanzi (1998) notes that this kind of misuse of public authority may be done for the advantage of one's party, class, tribe, or family rather than always for one's own personal gain.

However, due to their poor institutions, developing cultures tend to have higher levels of corruption. Because institutional control mechanisms in industrialized nations are more advanced and efficient. It is the theft of assets or money obtained from the government that is made feasible by laws passed by the government (Braguinsky, 1966). According to Otite, corruption is the perversion of a circumstance or integrity by favoritism, bribery, or moral depravity.

1.2 Socio-Economic Development

According to an economist, Amartya Sen, economic growth is only "one aspect of the process of economic development." Socio-economic development is a phenomenon characterized by

increases in GDP and market productivity. While experts in community development are also interested in socio-economic development, economists are primarily concerned with growth and economic development in general. National development, according to Imhonopi & Urim (2010), is a nation's ability to improve the social welfare of its people through the provision of social amenities including a robust health care system, dependable power, and high-quality education, among other things. Aspects of national development that impact human development include sociocultural empowerment, economic development, and development.

A nation or its citizen's national development might be stymied without the development of humans, often known as the development of human capital. According to Ogboru (2007) and Ranis, Stewart, and Ramirez (2000), economic development as measured by the gross national product (GNP) can increase human development because spending by families and individuals will likely rise as income rises. This makes human development one of the bases for evaluating the effectiveness of the economic development component of national development. This expansion could encourage further human progress. A more compelling explanation was offered by Streeten (1982), who said that development needed to be reframed as an endeavor to fight the world's main problems, such as inequality, unemployment, slums, poverty, and illness.

To put it another way, development must be measured in terms of the creation of jobs, the administration of justice, and the decrease of poverty. Because of corruption, a large number of young men and women are turning into reckless, needlessly aggressive, and devil-may-care individuals. They were brought up to think that winning at all costs is more essential than morality or ethics, and that force always wins out over decency (Osuji, 2011). Nonetheless, there are also some serious and morally pure individuals in the educational field. Despite being a small minority, they oppose the issues facing the sector. Their honesty and refusal to help the unscrupulous individuals that scare the sector often come at a cost. Children are the future leaders and vitality of any country. This suggests that the nation's national security is significantly impacted by the educational system's capacity to produce qualified leaders.

If the school system is unable to produce leaders who are capable, Osuji (2011) argues that the country is doomed. Given this, he continues to argue that Nigeria is a corrupt country on the verge of capitalism. Toy's theory makes sense given the differences in socioeconomic standing that the wealthier members of society encounter. It can also be used as a provocation to continue bribing in nations like Nigeria, where the bulk of civil servants get subsistence wages. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that efforts to combat corruption, such the public office oath system and the code of conduct statute found in the 1999 constitution, have failed to bring an end to it. According to Asian Development Bank perspectives on corruption, cited by Abu (2001), corruption is defined as the actions of public and private officers who improperly and unlawfully enrich

themselves or those closely related to them, by abusing the position in which they are placed.

Bribes are referred to as systemic corruption, also known as entrenched corruption, when they are given or accepted in a corrupt relationship. These include pay-offs, bribery, sweeteners, and palm-greasing, and they can occur on a large or small scale. It usually happens when you ask government officials for a license or service. It differs in that it is not as personalized as petty corruption. Systemic corruption is apparent when the administration itself subverts the organizations' intended goals, forcing participants to act in ways that would otherwise be deemed unacceptable and punishing those who rebel and try to uphold the formal norms (International Centre for Economic Growth, 1999). Despite being one of the most equivocal terms in social science discourse, "development" continues to provoke debate among many scholars. The development of human society is a complex issue rather than a singular one. People view growth as an increase in skill and aptitude; they perceive it as having greater flexibility and the ability to take on responsibilities (Schumpeter, 1934).

Dudley Seer (1977) defined development as a situation in which there is little to no income inequality and all citizens have access to enough food and employment, in addition to economic advancement and capital accumulation. It is the process by which major and enduring changes in society are brought about. Social justice, equal opportunity for all citizens, equitable income distribution, and the democratization of the development process are among the aspects of living quality that it encompasses (Lawal, 2001). Growth is also a part of it. The ability of a society's members to actively participate in the social engineering of their own lives and futures in order to realize their full potential is the essence of development.

Economic, political, or social growth, according to Rodney (1972), requires both a rise in production and modifications to the technical institutional framework that produces it. This extends beyond the perception of development held by an individual or group of individuals. Put another way—and maybe more importantly—development is a complex concept. Notwithstanding the diversity of opinions, the process of changes that take place within the framework of societal life is the main focus of development (Rodney Walter, 1972). The aforementioned descriptions make clear the connection between corruption and advancement. Put differently, the workings of corruption directly affect advancement. Corruption can be viewed as one of the main obstacles to good governance and development, for instance, if development is defined as the capacity of a system or government to efficiently manage resources to advance the welfare of the populace.

1.3 Overview of Corruption and Development in Nigerian States

Since Nigeria's independence from colonial authority, corruption has been a concern because it

wastes already limited resources, obstructs economic growth, and keeps policy changes from being made that are essential for development. Nigeria is a prime illustration of how the threat of corrupt practices has impeded and delayed national development worldwide. The country has made a number of adjustments to the system to make it more efficient and goal-oriented. Among the many problems that have kept these initiatives and reforms from yielding the expected advantages is corruption. Without a doubt, corruption has reached alarming proportions in Nigerian society, and anyone who denies this is either a fool, a liar, or does not live in this continent (Achebe China, 1988). No matter how corruption is defined, it entails a betrayal of public trust or a moral compromise made in return for (or with the hope of) personal financial benefit, because the situation has gotten so bad.

Corruption is associated with immoral and unethical behavior (Ayo Bamidele, 1995). Corruption affects not just the economic sector but also the political and social ones. Even though the direct costs of corruption may be high in terms of lost revenue or money diverted from its intended use, the indirect costs of corruption—such as economic distortions, inefficiencies, and waste—are more problematic in the long run and more difficult to address. Corruption drastically lowers government revenue because of resource loss and higher running costs.

It also results in poor service delivery, "moonlighting," or working many jobs at once, and a refusal to perform routine tasks without receiving additional compensation. Furthermore, corruption worsens poverty and prevents the average person from achieving personal advancement. There is growing evidence that the poor pay a disproportionately high price for corruption in terms of social and economic consequences because they are less able to withstand the demands of unscrupulous officials and experience inadequate services and ineffective government. Many explanations have been put out to explain Nigeria's endemic corruption. These theories include political culture, poverty, the personalization of public office, and leaders' failure to let go of their colonial attitudes about public office (Lawal, 0.0. 2001).

2. Empirical Review of Corruption in Nigeria

Although corruption has always existed in Nigeria, but it truly began to take hold during General Ibrahim Babangida's military regime. In view of this, Ogundiya (2009) said that under the Babangida administration, corruption was raised to the status of state policy and accusations of corrupt behavior were handled extremely lightly, undoing all of the achievements of the preceding government. The notion that corruption will be eliminated in Nigeria formed the basis of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's civilian administration. He passed the anti-corruption legislation into law. He established the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and

Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). However, corruption has continued to expand unabated. According to various western diplomats, Nigeria lost between $4 billion and $8 billion a year to corruption during the eight years of Obasanjo's presidency (HRW, 2007). In the recently released Transparency International's 2008 Corruption Perception Index (CPI), the country was ranked 121st out of 180 countries. Nigeria scored 1.6, 1.2, 1.0, 1.6, 1.4, 1.6, 1.9, 2005, 2.2, 2006, 2.2, 2007, and 2.7 on a scale of 10.0 in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2008, and 2003 (TI, 2008). It was rated as highly corrupt with a score of 2.5 in 2009, 2.4 in 2010 and 2011, 0.27 in 2018, and 0 in 2019–2022.

The public sector in Nigeria. "The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the fight against corruption in Nigeria's public sector" was the topic of Babatunde's 2009 paper. To gather information, he employed a survey study methodology using a questionnaire. His research revealed that most economic and financial crimes are unreported to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), either due to a patron-client connection (god fathers) or a lack of trust in the organization's ability to uphold the law. He concluded that because the government is not dedicated to evaluating and analyzing the financial performance of the public sector and parastatals, it is hard to hold public officials accountable for their actions.

Making Effective Use of Accountants in the fighting against Corruption by the EFCC," a 2009 study by Nwali, set out to determine how the EFCC uses accountants in its anti-corruption campaign. The exploratory research technique was selected as the methodology for the project, and it makes inferences from secondary data, papers given at different seminars, the internet, and other sources. According to the report, two government organizations called the EFCC and ICPC were set up to combat financial and economic crime in Nigeria. The study also found that the ICPC and EFCC in Nigeria will be somewhat successful if the accounting field has positive developments. To better train its agents, the EFCC ought to collaborate with ICAN and ANAN more closely. In "A Critical Review of the Role of Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) in Public Sector Accountability," 2009 research, Emechele also addressed the efficacy and efficiency of the system for overseeing and accounting for public money.

This research used interviews, questionnaires, and observations to collect its data. The study's sample comprised fifty workers. The personnel were selected using a stratified random sampling technique. Any developed hypothesis should be examined using the product moment correlation coefficient, and the data should be assessed using percentage analysis. It was found that there is an accountability issue in Nigeria. Public office holders often use the loose financial reporting regulations as an excuse for inadequate financial controls. Adewale (2011) examines how corruption in Nigeria from 1996 to 2009 crowds out other factors.

The degree of stationary variables utilized in the study and the co-integrating characteristics of the data are assessed using the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test. False regression is avoided with the application of the Error Correction Mechanism (ECM). He examines the impact of corruption on Nigeria's economy using simulation. Fabayo (2011) examined the impact of corruption in Nigeria using the traditional Least Square approach.

From 1996 until 2010, they used the yearly corruption perception index. According to their research, Nigeria's low Corruption Perception Index ranking—which denotes a high level of corruption—reduces investment and, thus, slows down economic growth. Akindele conducted an empirical study in 2005 on the connections among numerous significant Nigerian components. The corruption index is negative, indicating that corruption slows growth, when a modified production function that takes labor, capital, and political instability into account is calculated. He discovered a strong, unfavorable correlation between corruption and growth. He concludes that corruption, in all its manifestations, impedes the advancement of any civilization.

3. Theoretical Framework

3.1 The Structural-Functionalism Approach

First published in "introduction to politics and developing Area," in 1960, Gabriel Almond and James S. Coleman developed this thesis. More study was later conducted and published in the 1966 book Comparative Politics: A research Approach by Gabriel Almond and GB Powell. The political system's structure and its effectiveness in completing particular objectives were the main emphasis of this strategy. Structural Functionalism actively deal with objective results, yet they can be viewed as the product of multiple viewpoints for a variety of reasons.

Using this theory to explain our findings, it is suggested that government initiatives to fight corruption serves as a basis for sustained economic expansion. Nigeria's current corruption has kept the educational system from realizing its full potential. Instead of encouraging settings and activities, the educational system is now focused on simplifying things and providing other avenues for personal fulfillment. Some teachers have even stopped paying attention to their students.

It is unfortunate to alert the public to the reality that respectable teachers, test developers, and school administrators make substantial financial gains from students on common tests, intending to help them cheat to get better results. Based on his ethnographic research on the types and extent of examination fraud in Imo state, Nigeria, Osuji (2011) found that the involvement of professors, supervisors, and authorities in pushing students to cheat on tests was extremely concerning. Those who could not afford to pay that amount will fail the entire exam, which is bad news. In order to

cooperate in the exam room, students also had to pay the price of 5,000 naira.

Not only might we pursue legal action against the administrators, teachers, and other staff members contributing to this turmoil, but some students might also be complicit by conspiring to engage in widespread cheating with the school. If it is possible to teach corruption in the classroom, what happens to graduates after they join the workforce? What currently governs the nation's socioeconomic development? Any behavior that deviates from social norms with the goal of furthering an individual's interests at the expense of the group's interests is considered corruption, according to Awuzie (2010). Does his view of corruption align with or connect to the circumstances in Nigeria? We might vehemently disagree.

3.2 The Elite Theory

Among the most well-known proponents of the elite theory were Vilfredo Pareto (1848–1923), Gaetano Mosca (1858–1941), and Roberto Michel (1876–1936). One might utilize the elite as a point of reference to comprehend why corruption is so pervasive in Nigeria. It gives close consideration to how a society's leadership influences political and socioeconomic matters (Igiebor, 2019). A person in a culture who possesses a great deal of political, social, or economic power due to exposure, knowledge, connections, education, and material wealth is referred to as a "elite" or "elites" (Bottomore, 1976; Nwankwo, 1997; Parry, 1976).

The characteristics of colonial Nigeria influenced the establishment and growth of Nigeria's elite. The elites who became political leaders during the decolonization era did not deviate from the colonial authority's development philosophy, as evidenced by the persecution of the Nigerian people after World War II. An elite theoretical viewpoint holds that corruption in Nigeria is fostered at the highest levels. In terms of leadership, Nigeria has a long history of being perceived as corrupt. After leaving government, a large number of former public officials have accumulated substantial wealth (Adedoja, 2013). The social strata have been corrupted by a non-accountability regime. Nigeria's economic development is negatively impacted when public officials abuse their administrative authority for personal gain without being held accountable to the public (GFI, 2013).

4. Discussion

Respondent I of our findings for this study, pointed that corruption is a concept that is influenced by so many things. He emphasized on culture, history of a state or country influences corruption. He used the (CAN) 1998 definition to define corruption. He said according to (CAN), there are three criteria to know a corrupt country and the criterions indicate when a behavior or an action is corrupt.

•It must be an action that violates the law in a nation. It could be written laws or non-written laws.

•The action must be done in collaboration with somebody in position of authority in a private sector or a public sector.

•The action is taken using the office of that person in position in office intended to embezzle benefits for him or someone else that is not supposed to get.

Ofoeze (2004) defined corruption as "any action or inaction of any person, or group (public or private) intentionally perpetrated to secure benefits for oneself, a relation, associate, or group(s) in a manner that detracts from the accepted regulations, morals, and/or ethical standard or code and thus constituting a travesty of justice, equity, and fair play." The pursuit of riches or power through unethical means, personal gain at the expense of the public, or the abuse of public authority for personal gain are further definitions of corruption (Lipset & Lenz, 2000: 112). The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) defines corruption from an economic perspective, also from a legal standpoint, as "the non-violent criminal and illicit activity committed with objectives of earning wealth illegally, either individually or in a group or organized manner, thereby violating existing legislation governing the economic activities of government and its administration" in Ngwakwe (2009). According to Khan (1966), corruption is an action that violates the official codes of conduct guiding the behavior of someone in a position of public authority for personal gain such as riches, power, or status. However, **Respondent II** asserts that corruption is so pervasive in Nigerian society that some analysts consider it to be a cultural sickness of the nation. Abuse of opportunity in the public or private sector constitutes corruption. Therefore, one of the prevalent corrupt practices in the nation is the demand for bribes. Due to its everyday spread in society, corruption is amorphous and involves misusing resources, stealing from the government, and stealing property.

Respondent III who is a staff from the ICPC and has served for 20 years defined corruption as the abuse of public office with the view of making personal gain with the use of power. Corruption is also insidious and a disaster to the Nigerian political system that destroy its fabric and intimidates development. This response is in line with Ekiyor's (2005) definition of corruption, which is the illegal use of official authority or influence by a government official to enrich himself, advance his career, or benefit anyone else at the expense of the general public, in violation of his oath of office and/or in violation of established conventions or laws. According to respondent IV who is a key respondent from the field work and has served with the ICPC for over 15 years defined corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain or use of public offices for private gains. He further explained that those who abuse power may be individuals or may belong to organizations such as businesses or governments. This claim is consistent with former US Vice President Al Gore's belief

that corruption is a serious crime with grave repercussions. He describes it as "a cold vicious, often violent sacrifice of citizen security for a narrow, greedy, private, personal profit on the part of a crooked official" (Zhang 1996 in: rony, 2008;40).

5. What are the causes of corruption in Nigeria?

The second question dwells on the causes of corruption in Nigeria. The respondents responded that several factors account for corruption.

According to **Respondent I** there are different causes of corruption. His view on the cause of corruption may be different from others. Some of these causes are avoidable but because of Human nature it is unavoidable. To him some of the causes of corruption are;

•Greed

•poverty

•pressure

He further explained that they are so many factors that could lead to corruption but the three listed are n of the major reasons why corruption has become a cankerworm. He also states that corruption has become a way of life either in the public or private sector. These people have seen corruption as a custom.

Respondent II: who is a staff from the EFCC, expressed his opinion on some of the causes of corruption in Nigeria. He is of the opinion that corruption is a major problem that is is why Nigeria as a country as constantly faced backwardness. He opined that moral backwardness and decline in moral standard is an obvious fact that underpins the case of corruption in Nigeria. In addition, the excessive temptation in acquiring money and material things especially political leaders and bureaucrat in Nigeria is responsible for proliferation in Nigeria. He went further to explain that the fear of poverty in Nigerian society is another cause of corruption. The fear of poverty has caused people to steal money from government treasury or from any organization in which the funds of such organization is entrusted in the hands of an individual.

However, according to **Respondent III,** there are several theories that explains corruption. For example, the cultural theory which states that it is our culture that fuels corruption. For instance, when you are rich, there are certain expectations from the masses such as dashing out money to them not minding the source if its stolen or not.

Another cause is institutional cause of corruption. This type is found in the society, what makes it rare are the institutions put in place to curb corruption. Some of these institutions are the ICPC, EFCC, the Police, Laws which have been effective over the years in curbing corruption. Some

people are scared and afraid to go to prisons because these institutions are present but where they are not available or ineffective, the height of corruption increases.

Also, Economic institution is another cause of corruption which are caused by economic issues such as unemployment, underemployment, and unpaid pensions. All these factors have responded to the increase in corruption in Nigeria and can be avoided if these institutions are present and function effectively.

From the other hand, Respondent IV who is one of the Zonal Head chairmen of the EFCC added that corruption can be caused by many factors. Over the year's surveys have shown that they have been attributed cause of corruption such as

- Greed
- Poverty
- Low level of education
- Low level of education
- Unemployment
- Lack of proper policies against corruption.
- Underemployment

6. What are the possible way to reduce the menace?

According to one of the **Respondents**, no country is immune to corruption. The abuse of public and private gain erodes peoples trust in government and institutions, makes public policies less effective and fair. In his own opinion some of the ways of reducing corruptions are:

- strengthening legal framework
- promote transparency
- enhancement of accountability

•simplify bureaucracy

Respondent II shared His perspective that corruption reduction in Nigeria could involve strengthening anti-corruption agencies, promoting transparency in government process, implementing strict financial oversight, encouraging citizen participation and fostering culture of ethical behaviour in both public and private sectors. It is a complex challenge that requires a multi-prolonged approach.

According to **Respondent III** corruption reduction involves the combination of legal. Institutional and societal measures. Some of the measures are:

- Establishment of well-funded and empowered anti-corruption agencies with autonomy to investigate and prosecute cases.
- Strong commitment from political leaders to combat corruption.
- Appointments of public or private staffs should be based on merit and not connection.

Conclusively, in the view of Respondent IV, Corruption can be reduced through the collaboration with international organization and neighboring countries to prevent cross-border corruption. Also, when citizens are encouraged to engage in policy making and implementation it helps to reduce corruption risk.

7. What are the effects of corruption on sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria's fourth republic?

A key respondent stated that from the beginning of the fourth republic, corruption have adversely affected Nigeria's economy positively. According to him, Nigeria has lost a lot of money on leakages. For example, money released to the National Assembly for project are squandered without questioning.

According to Respondent II, corruption is a big elephant in the room. However, Nigeria has not done well in terms of development. The indices in measuring corruption shows that we are one of the most corrupt countries in the world. In addition, there are so many ways in which corruption have affected the socioeconomic development which is undeniable. According to His research, he gave an instance that countries that are corrupt don't develop which means that corruption is the culprit that affects development. Both Indonesia and Nigeria are both corrupt, sometimes Indonesia is more corrupt than Nigeria but have been able to grow admits its corrupt practices. He went further to explain that they are different ways in which corruption manifests depending on the type of corruption. We have two main forms of corruption named disorganized/ decentralized corruption and organized/centralized corruption. Organized corruption system means that the political system is stable, and they control corruption, while disorganized lacks the presence of stability and corruption cannot be controlled by people in charge of government. Development comes with economic growth when invest and these investors love invest in countries with organized corruption because they Already know how to manage corruption.

The aforementioned claim is consistent with Ayo Bamidele's (1995) observation that corruption affects not only the economic but also the political and social realms. The indirect costs of corruption, such as economic distortions, inefficiencies, and waste that result from corrupt practices, are more problematic in the long run and more challenging to address, even though the direct costs of corruption may be high in terms of lost revenue or funds diverted from their

intended use. Another Respondent described that corruption has had a significant adverse impact on the socioeconomic development of Nigeria. It has affected the growth of the economic growth in Nigeria over years such as;

Economic Drain: Corruption diverts funds that could be used for development projects, public services, and infrastructure improvements. Misappropriation of funds and embezzlement reduce the resources available for essential services like healthcare, education, and public infrastructure.

Inefficient Allocation of Resources: Corrupt practices can distort economic decision-making, leading to misallocation of resources and hindering economic growth. Contracts may be awarded based on bribes rather than merit, resulting in substandard projects. The aforementioned reaction is related to Lawal, 0.0. (2001), There is mounting evidence that the poor bear a disproportionately high social and economic cost of corruption, as they are unable to resist the demands of corrupt authorities and suffer from a lack of services and effective governance. The prevalence of corruption in Nigeria has been explained by a variety of factors, including poverty, the personification of public office, political culture, and the incapacity of politicians to shed their colonial mindsets regarding how they view public office.

8. Conclusion

There is a definite link between corruption and economic growth, and if serious action is not taken to address it, the affected nation's progress would be hampered.

Disastrous outcomes are a constant of corrupt administrations. Sustainable development is seriously hampered by corruption, which is defined as monopoly plus discretion without accountability, particularly in poor nations. It has plagiarized the wealth of resource-rich countries like Nigeria, trapping people in a cycle of poverty. Even though most people believe that paying a bribe will benefit some businesses or individuals, the overall impact of corruption on economic progress is still unfavorable. A nation's rate of economic growth is slower the more corrupt it is. A country's reputation is destroyed by the stigma of corruption. It slows down investment, which in turn slows down the nation's economic expansion.

The two major anti-graft institutions, the ICPC and the EFCC, were established by the government in 2000 and 2003, respectively. Despite the difficulties Nigeria is currently facing, the reforms have produced some tangible results, including a decline in corruption levels when compared to the pre-reform era, when the Criminal Code and Code of Conduct Bureau were only used to check corrupt practices on public office holders. The foundations of sustainable development are moulded or weakened by the laws and procedures of governance. When these guidelines and procedures are not properly enforced and maintained, the foundation of development is jeopardized. Where the

laws of governance permit arbitrary resource allocations and the diversion of public resources against the interests of the general public and to the sole profit of dishonest officials, dishonest politicians, and their allies, development suffers.

9. Recommendations

Every nation must decide what issues are most important to them in the fight against corruption. As noted by Dike in 1999 and 2002, the general populace needs to be reoriented toward a better value system in order to curb the rise in corruption in Nigeria. This is due to the fact that Nigerians have traditionally practiced a survival of the fittest and seize-the-day mentality. Reorienting Nigerian youth toward a strong value system could aid in the fight against corruption. Enlightenment is required in order to discourage excessive materialism and the "get rich quick" mentality, provide employment for the throngs of youth, and incorporate human rights and development viewpoints into anti-corruption efforts. Nigeria needs a system that will fundamentally alter the culture and legacy of corruption if it is to successfully confront it. Only by tackling the underlying causes of corruption and successfully putting the existing legal framework into practice can Nigeria experience positive change. In order to improve the integrity of public service, Nigeria has implemented economic reforms including privatization, deregulation, the removal of market constraints, and civil service reform. All of these actions are crucial in the fight against corruption, but having sincere leaders with the political will to do so is the most vital element in organizing and implementing these actions. It is not enough to just provide proper penalties for corruption to end corruption.

The phenomena of corruption has several root causes and is influenced by more than just the fact that corrupt behaviour goes unpunished.

In addition to other steps being done to combat corruption, it is advised that the leadership show a commitment to find and punish corrupt officials and citizens as well as foster an environment that will increase the general public's level of life. The non-working class should be provided with social safety net programs to ease their concerns about basic survival in the face of increased employment uncertainty. In order for anti-corruption agencies to be effective, it is crucial to provide them with sufficient resources and for the government to refrain from interfering with their mission. The anti-corruption agencies might not be able to withstand the opposing forces of the corrupt elements in the country unless the government is ready to provide appropriate resources to fund and operate the agency and making them truly independent.

The predilection for short cuts should be discouraged and made punishable, and the moral fabric of the society should be strengthened through explicit examples of commitment, pragmatism,

honesty, justice, and fairness. Before the followers will be convinced of the genuineness of such a crusade, leadership must demonstrate transparency, honesty, probity, accountability, purposefulness, and commitment to good ideals of the society.

To reduce the chaos caused by corruption in Nigerian society, we strongly advise against it. 95 percent of Nigerians live in poverty and are unemployed, so the government needs to develop and implement a plan to tackle these issues. This has a negative impact on the nation's throngs of recent graduates from the nation's various universities and helps to promote long-term socioeconomic development.

- The government should urgently address the issue of poverty, the issue of failed legal, health and education sector, the issue of bad governance in all spheres of the Nigerian life and take strict
- In the face of corrupt practices, all Nigerians should display godly contentment, self-control, and restraint.
- Politicians and the federal government in particular ought to quit meddling in the operations of the nation's anti-corruption authorities.
- Supporting actions that will lead to sustainable development is necessary to reduce the prevalence of corruption and poverty, as well as to increase economic growth and development in all of its forms.
- In order to lessen the detrimental effects of corruption on Nigeria's economic progress, there should be free and fair elections in Nigeria so that the moral people who would make good role models are elected into positions of leadership.
- Government should encourage leaders that display transparency, honesty, probity, accountability, purposefulness, and commitment to good ideals of the society before the followers will be convinced of the ingenuity of such crusade.
- Government should ensure corruption as a theme needs to be discourse on debate by government representatives at Federal, State, and local level. This will create the awareness that corrupt practices are against norms, culture, and social value of the society.

10. Future Scope of the Study

According to this study, whose main goal was to look into how corruption and socio-economic growth in Nigeria's fourth republic, I conducted research by critically analyzing how corruption had adversely affected the socio-economic growth in Nigeria's fourth republic. Additionally, this study employed a descriptive design and an eclectic methodology, which explains how it combined

political and international relations theories and relied on key informant interviews, secondary research instruments and a sample size that was relatively small using the non-probability sampling method.

Therefore, in order to make more accurate generalizations, I advise that future research explore employing a larger sample size when conducting interviews with anti-graft agencies and should visit non-governmental organization who have helped in combating corruption and also look at the political implication of corruption.

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