

IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA (2011-2017)

ATOBATELE, ABOLAJI JAMIU
Department of Public Administration
Faculty of Administration
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
Lagos State University, Ojo.
(+234)7036844761
abolaji007@yahoo.com

&

OKEWALE, RAHEEM AKANNI
Department of Public Administration
Faculty of Management Science
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
Lagos State University, Ojo.
(+234)8025616090
waleokewale@yahoo.com

Abstract

Corruption in Nigeria is not only institutionalized but endemic, though every successful government since the inception of democracy in 1999 has made herculean effort by instituting different form of measures to fight corruption such as establishment of Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practice Commission to mention but a few, despite this only little achievements have been recorded so far so good. Hence corruption has impacted on Nigerian economy negatively such that there is increase in the incidence of poverty, unemployment, inadequate infrastructure etc. which has rendered able bodied men to perpetuate dastardly act such as robbery, premediated killing, prostitution, election thurgery to mention but a few. Sequel to this problem that this study seeks to examine the impact of corruption on good governance. Data was garnered from both primary and secondary sources such as questionnaire, interview, internet, journal, publication, government gazette etc. The result was analyzed using SPSS. The study found out that huge resources were committed to fighting the scourge called corruption but little achievements have been recorded, the spate of corruption has affected the growth of the economy which has led to structural imbalances such as deficit infrastructural facilities and social vices amongst the unemployed youths.

KEYWORDS: corruption, good governance, growth, Nigeria, unemployment

Introduction

Corruption is endemic and institutional in most of the countries of the world most especially the third world countries like Nigeria, India, Kenya etc. Nigeria which is the main trust of this study experiences corruption in every facet of here areas which include public offices such as bureaucracy, political offices and private sectors which has undermined good governance. Faruk and Atobatele (2017) observe that corruption in Nigeria has increased both in quality and intensity with ravaging aftermath on human and material development. Although, the ideal characteristics of human development centers on the progress in the living standard of the citizenry, the endemic level of corruption in Nigeria poses great threats to her development. According to Faruk and Atobatele (2017) corruption in Nigeria is both systemic and endemic as the abundance of her resources has little or no effect on the living standard of the citizenry. Though herculean efforts have been made since the inception of democracy in 1999 to fight this scourge called corruption led to the establishment of Economic and Financial Crime Commission Act 2004, Money Laundering Act 1995, Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2004, Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act 1995, Failed Banks (Recovery of Debts) and Financial Malpractices in Banks Act 1994, Bank and other Financial Institutions Act 1991 and miscellaneous Offences established. Other anti-corruption agencies established are the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) etc.

The spate of corruption has affected good governance in Nigeria, hence there is high incidence of poverty and unemployment. According to Kuffor quoted in Odeh (2015) despite the long years of Independence, Nigeria is still battling with the problem of good governance. The leadership in the country has been characterized by lack of vision, political bickering and above all, the leaders have been enmeshed in gross corruption which has become a treat to the nation's survival. However, the leadership of Nigeria has not been sensitive to the plight of Nigerians in terms of fighting corruption, so as to ensuring rule of law, reduction in incidence of poverty, violence free environment, voice and accountability, infrastructural surplus. Sequel to this problem that this study seeks to examine the impact of corruption on good governance.

Hypotheses

Hoi: Corruption has not impacted negatively on infrastructural facilities in Nigeria

HOii: Embezzling of public funds has not impacted negatively on the rule of law

HOiii: Corruption has not impacted negatively on poverty

Review of Literature Empirically

Many scholars have carried out research on Corruption and Good Governance with different definitions. According to Bayley in Agbibo (2012) defined corruption as being tied particularly to the act of bribery. Corruption is a general term covering misuse of authority as a result of considerations of personal gains which need not be monetary.

Agbibo (2012) carried out a research on "Between Corruption and Development: The Political Economy of State Robbery in Nigeria. The study found out that corruption threatens to paralyze Nigeria in every facet. The paper therefore concluded by assessing key initiatives that are likely to affect the trend of corruption in Nigeria. The paper failed to explore various anti-corruption laws and commissions instituted by the government to fight corruption to its barest minimal.

Ogbu (2008) conducted a study on Combating corruption in Nigeria: A critical appraisal of the Laws, Institutions and the Political Will. The study found out that the legislative branch of government has not shown any political will to fight corruption. The study also found out that Supreme Court of Nigeria has made certain pronouncement indicating a strong will to fight corruption. The paper then concluded that battle against corruption in Nigeria can only succeed when it is institutionalized and when there is demonstrated political will to fight corruption.

Obuah (2010) conducted a study on Combating Corruption in Nigeria: The Nigeria Economic and Financial Crimes (EFCC). The study found out that the rent-seeking activities causing corruption range from relationship between bureaucrats and their superiors which provoke contest for position to the lack of transparency in financial institutions and the significant involvement of the government in the economy in the provision of goods and services

Fagbadebo (2007) carried out a research on Corruption, Governance and Political Instability in Nigeria. The study found out that constant manipulation of the people and political processes by political gladiators have led to weak legitimacy as the citizens lacked faith in their political leaders and by extension the political system. The study therefore recommended that accountability and transparency must be guaranteed in order to break the cycle and ensure good governance.

Adeyemi (2012) conducted a study on Corruption and Local Government Administration in Nigeria. A discourse of Core Issues. The study found out that instead of Local Government discharging their functions as development centres it has acquired notoriety for corruption, fiscal indiscipline and overall irresponsibility (Agbo, 2010). The study therefore recommended that there is urgent need to put in place an effective and efficient institutional mechanism in all the 774 local government area councils across the country to checkmate the menace of corruption at the grassroots level which has hindered development and participation at local level.

Chathan House Report (2017) a study conducted on Collection Action on Corruption in Nigeria. The study revealed that corruption is a destructive and complex practice which is openly acknowledged in Nigeria, yet it remains ubiquitous in the functioning of society and economic life. The study therefore recommended that Nigeria's ongoing anti-corruption efforts must now be reinforced by a systematic understanding of why people engage in or refrain from corrupt activity and full consideration of the societal factors that may contribute to normalizing corruption behavior and desensitizing citizens to its impacts.

Mutiullah and Adekunle (2017) carried out a study on Corruption and Public Governance: Implication for Customer Due Diligence in Africa. The study found out that corruption has been detrimental to Africa economic, political and social development and also make public governance and customers due diligence inefficient. The Study therefore recommended that the way and manner to encourage and assist individuals

and financial institutions which work to promote and protect customers due diligence in Africa is to engage them with corruption issues and collaborate more closely with anti-corruption organizations.

Faruk and Atobatele (2017) carried out a study on Nexus between Corruption and Poverty: Evidence from Nigeria from 2012-2014. The study relied on both content analysis and qualitative technique for analyzing data and testing of hypothesis to arrive at a substantial conclusion. The qualitative technique used for testing the hypothesis is the Stata. The paper found out that corruption has affected the living standard of the people as many people are left in bad situation. The study therefore recommended that government should consolidate its efforts by prosecuting anybody found guilty of corrupt practices irrespective of their political affiliation and social status.

Adamu & Atobatele (2017) conducted a research on the Challenges of Anti-Corruption War in Nigeria: A study of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The research used structured interview to solicit for relevant data from the EFCC officials, members of public, legal practitioners to complement secondary data secured from the documented materials and publications of the commission, journal. Random sampling of public individuals was also made to sample the general opinion of the public on the performance of EFCC. The study found out that EFCC was established with good intention or with certain motives behind to get rid of corruption in the Nigerian economy. Structures have been put in place with defined laws and modus operandi for its successful operation but the commission is facing a lot of challenges impeding its progress. It all start from the very Act establishing the EFCC which appears to be weak and ineffective which could be deliberately designed just to show the world that Nigeria is doing something to improve its poor position in the world corruption perception index and to pave the way for Nigerian debt relief. The study therefore recommended that the Nigerian constitution be reviewed because of its weaknesses thereby leading to repealing or modifying some section of the constitution.

Rotimi et al (2013) conducted a study on Analysis of Corruption and Economic Growth in Nigeria. The study used the ordinary least square (OLS) to determine the relationship between the corruption and economic growth. Granger causality method was applied to measure the causal relationship that exist between corruption and gross domestic product (GDP). The result revealed that corruption impairs and impacts economic growth. The study therefore recommended that private anti-corruption initiatives, public anti-corruption initiatives and public education campaign/ programmes should be strengthened and motivated in, to address the cause of corruption rather than its effects.

Obayelu (2007) conducted a study on the Effects of Corruption and Economic Reforms on Economic Growth and Development; lesson from Nigeria. Data was drawn from the secondary source which includes news stories, reports of tribunals and commissions of enquiry, interviews of Nigerians with relevant information, anecdotes and personal knowledge of Nigeria. The study revealed that there have been significant reductions of government anti-corruption instruments. Also the study found out that there is a negative correlation between levels of corruption and economic growth there by making it difficult for Nigeria to develop fast. The study therefore recommended that the country must reverse the prevailing culture in which corruption is viewed as permissible. People should be educated on the dangers of excessive materialism and the culture of ‘‘ get rich quick’’. The paper failed to use statistical tool to analyse, hence it will be difficult to measure the correlation between corruption and economic growth.

Linus, U.O (ND) carried out a study on Corruption in Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and the Way Forward. The paper found out that the absence of political will and the weakness of anti-corruption institutions to prosecute high profile culprits, the tardiness on the part of the country’s Courts to promptly dispose of corruption cases and lack of accountable and transparent leadership have undermined effort to win the war against corruption. The paper therefore recommended strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws, establishment of special Courts for corruption cases and enthronement of good governance as part of strategies to strengthen the anti-corruption crusade in Nigeria.

Anazodo et al (2015) conducted a study on Leadership, Corruption and Governance in Nigeria: Issues and Categorical Imperatives. The paper revealed that leadership, corruption and bad governance are the bane militating against development in Nigeria. The paper therefore recommended that all hands must be on deck to enthrone effective leadership and good governance that could expunge the scourge of corruption from the nation’s body polity.

Diedhiou (2007) carried out a study on Governance of Development: Understanding the Concept/ Reality Linkages. The study revealed that in the current state of affairs, governance activities in development are dominated by the values of one of the actors in the context. The domination of one set of value however is increasingly being accepted by other entities.

Wilson (2000) conducted a research on Understanding Local Governance: An International Perspective. The study found out that enormous change and innovation in governmental practices are occurring throughout

the world. Local governance in particular has become a concern in many countries. The study therefore recommended that there should be strategies put in place to improve governance systems and government performance.

Okpokwu (2016) conducted a research on Leadership and Corruption in Governance: A Case of Liberia. The study revealed that most corrupt leaders in Africa keep their ill-gotten wealth in international bank outside their countries. They also use funds embezzled from the public to buy properties in these countries. The paper therefore recommended that children should be taught from early grades that corruption is destructive to the nation

Understanding the Concept of Corruption

Corruption is as old as the world itself and has become a global issue that has left the leadership of the world with no option other than to look for possible solution to fight it to the barest minimal. Corruption is not only endemic but also detrimental to the growth and development of any nation. It is disheartening that in the third world countries like Nigeria, Ghana, Philippine etc. the spate of corruption is high and has rendered most countries and leadership irresponsible. Corruption is not only limited to the bureaucratic settings but also found in the technocrat settings. According to Agbiboa (2015) this is partly due to the clandestine nature of activities associated with it, partly due to its obvious link with many traditional cultural forms and the tendency by academic writers not to wish to ascribe blame to them.

Van Klaneren in Agbiboa (2015) opines that the corrupt civil servant sees his public office as an enterprise from which he can extract extra-legal income. Thus, his total compensation ‘‘does not depend on an ethical evaluation of his usefulness for the common good but precisely upon the market situation and his talents for finding the point of maximal gain on the public demand curve’’ (Van Klaveren,1990). Ogbu (2008) asserts that corruption is pervasive and widespread in Nigerian society. It has permeated all facets of life and every segment of society is involved. In recent times, Nigeria has held the unenviable record of being considered one of the most corrupt countries among those surveyed.

Ajie and Wokekoro in Odeh (2015) opine that some researchers have taken a holistic approach on the discussion of corruption by dividing it into several forms. These according to Taylor (2010) include;

- i. Political corruption: It occurs when politicians and public decision makers who are entitled to formulate, establish, and implement laws on behalf of the people are corrupt. It also takes place when policy formulation and legislation are tailored to benefit politicians and legislators as in the case of the controversial huge legislators’ wages and the outrageous pension laws passed by states to favour the governors and their spouses in Nigeria.
- ii. Bureaucratic corruption: This occurs in public administration in the course of public policy implementation. The citizens encounter this kind of corruption daily in service delivery points such as the hospitals, schools, local licensing offices, police stations, the various government ministries etc. Bureaucratic corruption occurs when public sector procedures become illegal/inappropriate.
- iii. Electoral corruption: This category of corruption includes the rigging of elections and other frauds in the electoral process. It includes the promise of an office, special favours, coercion, intimidation and interference with the freedom of election, buying of votes, disenfranchisement, snatching of ballot boxes, victimizing and maiming, mutilation of election results in favour of losers and votes turn up in area where voters were not cast.
- iv. Bribery which includes kickbacks and pay offs.
- v. Fraud which could be reflected as trickery, swindling and deceit, counterfeiting, racketing, smuggling and forgery.
- vi. Embezzlement: This is seen as the theft of public resources by public officials. It is when an official of the state steals from the public institution, where he is gainfully employed. In Nigeria, the embezzlement of public fund is one of the most common ways of wealth accumulation perhaps due to lack of strict regulatory systems.

Understanding the Concept of Good Governance

The importance of good governance cannot be over-emphasized in any countries or organizations as it reflects how power is being exercised by the leadership to explore the socio-economic resources of a nation for the good of her citizenry. In the word of Adeosun quoted in Odeh (2015) good governance entails the capacity to manage a country’s resources in a transparent, accountable, equitable manner, in response to the needs of the people. A good aspect of this view is the need to recognize and respond adequately to the aspiration of the citizens.

Good governance entails strict leadership that is sensitive and responsive to the yearning of the people there by instituting appropriate laws and measures to achieve socio-economic development. According to NATO (2010) Good governance is based on separation of powers of the parliament, executive and judiciary branches of government. The separation of powers should provide an effective system of checks and balances that curtail and arbitrary or unilateral exercise of power by any one branch of government together with impartial, reliable and predictable public administration under rule of law. Good governance creates an environment where defence establishments are instilled with culture of integrity that rejects corruption. Fagbodebo (2007) observes that good governance could be accomplished when the operation of government is in line with prevailing legal and ethical principles of the political community. When this is the situation, system effects will be high and the people would collectively aspire to participate in the activities of the state, knowing fully well that adherence to the rules and procedures would serve the interest of the greatest number of the population. However, in underpinning this study, the paper adopts the principal agent theory to enable it explain the consequence of corruption on good governance. According to Gailmard (2012) analysis and evaluation of public accountability requires a specification of who is (or is supposed to be) accountable to whom. This is a core ingredient of principal-agent theory. In principal-agent model some actors (agent) are entrusted with the resources of the state which is expected to be used in the good interest of another actors (principal). The principal can sometimes make the decision that affects the incentives of the agent. According to Bolton and Duratripont quoted in Gailmard (2012) this process of structuring incentives for the agent is the central focus of the principal-agent theory. The decisions made by the principal that structure the agent's incentives to take various actions constitute a contract in the language of principal-agent theory and principal-agent theory is often taken as a specific area of contract theory more generally. According to Gailmard (2012) the agent is privy to some information that the principal needs to make a decision in her own interest, but the agent prefers that the information be used differently. The plenary power of the state raises serious threats to the welfare of citizens. This issue is exactly the one explored in principal-agent analysis of election. Voters are the principal(s) and politicians are the agents. However, in Nigeria the citizenry are the principals while the leaderships are the agent but for obvious reasons the citizenry are not sincere in terms of exercising their political right to vote into the power the credible candidate which has turned out to affect them negatively in term of good governance and sincerity of heart to fight corruption to the barest minimal. This situation led to the leadership appropriating resources to themselves leaving the large populace of citizenry to wallow in abject poverty.

Impact of Corruption on Good Governance in Nigeria

Good governance is a springboard through which the resources of a particular country is used maximally to the benefit of the citizenry. Good governance entails transparency, accountability and fairness. However, corruption undermines the rule of law and affect the socio-economic development of any country. In Nigeria the spate of corruption has undermined the development of Nigerian economy such that there is no facet of human endeavor that is no experiencing this scourge be it technocratic or bureaucratic setting. In the word of Odeh (2015) Nigeria began to witness the era of democratic politics in 1999 after more than 30 years of military rule. Elections were conducted with candidates contesting for the presidency, the national assembly, state houses of assembly and governorship in the 36 states on different political platforms. The hope and zeal with which the country welcomed the democratic rule in 1999 was frustrated as the years went by, since the fourth republic, the legitimacy of government in Nigeria has been questioned because of electoral corruption involved in the emergence of the declared winners of those elections (Odeh, 2015).

Okeyim et al (2013) observe that the menace of corruption in Nigeria is very pervasive with global implications. So pervasive is corruption in Nigeria that almost every aspect of national life is affected one way or the other. The present magnitude of corruption in Nigeria can be traceable to many years of military rule where due process was not observed in public procurement and contract bidding. Both private and public sectors of the country are affected by various forms of corruption. As a consequence, the impact of governance in the country is impeded and if a check is not put in place, Nigeria will be left behind in the development agenda of the world bodies. It is a trite fact that corruption in one place is connected to others and enabled by system of weak regulations and poor oversight. Human societies have been known to be bedeviled by corruption but some have been able to combat this menace by putting statutes in place to criminalize corruption and ensure that enforcement mechanism are enabled to act (Okeyim et al, 2013).

Nexus between Corruption and Poverty

According to Faruk and Atobatele (2017) there has been a widespread perception among scholars and development agencies such as World Bank, IMF, USAID etc. that corruption is an attendant cause of

poverty. However, a survey of scholarly literature on poverty and corruption have not confirmed corruption empirically as directly responsible for poverty.(Chetwynd,2003) nor is it even a major cause of the poverty plaguing many nations of the world. For instance in a study conducted on Africa, Ochonu (2008) borrowed from the analysis of Jeffery Sachs, he concludes that the continents’ poverty stems among other things from the environmental misfortune of poor soil, resource-poverty and uneven distribution of resources. Bello (2010) argues a similar point with a comprehensive data capturing Asia, Latin America and Africa. He argues that it is not corruption but bad economic policies that cause poverty. Bello actually meant policies such as Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) imposed on many Asian, Latin America and African countries in the 80s and 90s. Also a cross national study was conducted to compare the development in Sahara Africa and South East Asia, the conclusion was wrong economic policies favouring urban elites at the detriment of rural farmers were responsible for poverty and slow development in Africa (Henley et al, 2012).

However, there are other views supporting that corruption has direct effect on poverty. According to Ellis (2012) corruption also fuels poverty through a reduction of the quality and quantity of public services (education, health, housing etc.) which benefit mainly the poor. Faruk and Atobatele (2017) assert that Ellis is right because corruption reduces public services through siphoning of public funds. This view is corroborated by Buscaglia (1995) who points out that widespread corruption contributes to poverty because it also leads to disaffection and distrust for the government which may serve as a disincentive to engage in productive activities. The loss of public funds to corruption translates inevitably to a lack of medicine in a rural hospital, lack of access to education for millions of African children, lack of portable drinking water and electricity for millions of Africans and lack of good transportation infrastructure (Ochonu, 2008).

Research Methodology

The research design used for this paper is documentary research which allows the researcher to explore documented evidence on a subject matter such that a meaningful inference could be drawn there from. Since the paper tries to establish an impact of corruption on good governance, it becomes pertinent to rely on the secondary source such as Transparency International Report, USAID Report, Corruption Perspective Index, World Bank Report, Journals, Publications, Internet etc.

The study relies on both content analysis and quantitative technique for analyzing data and testing of hypotheses to arrive at substantial conclusion. The quantitative technique used for testing the hypotheses is Regression Analysis. This technique is considered useful because of the nature of the study and the kind of data available to the researcher at the time of this study.

Regression

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics					Durbin-Watson
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	
1	.390 ^a	.156	.154	.554	.156	14.845	1	397	.000	1.367

a. Predictors: (Constant), IV

b. Dependent Variable: DV

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	4.559	1	4.559	14.845	.000 ^b
	Residual	121.932	397	.307		
	Total	126.491	398			

a. Dependent Variable: DV

b. Predictors: (Constant), IV

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.678	.102		16.392	.000
	IV	.175	.045	.190	3.853	.000

Discussions and Findings

This study employed a survey research design, structured questionnaires designed were administered on the sample of 390. The Adjusted R squared is 0.156 which means that 15% of the variation in the dependent variable (Good Governance) is explained by the independent variables. The remaining 87% are variables that were not explained in the study. The assumption under the test procedure is that when P-Value is less than 0.05 the null proposition is invalidated else, the study fails to reject the null proposition if P-Value is greater than 0.05. The level of Alpha measures the degree of significance that will be assigned to committing type one or two error. Thus where 0.05 (95%) level of Alpha is used, it means there is 95% assurance of not committing any of the error. Hence the level of Alpha that will be used for this study is 0.05%. Since the level of Alpha (0.05) is greater than the P-Value (.000) therefore this study rejects the null hypotheses that state that “Hoi: Corruption has not impacted negatively on infrastructural facilities in Nigeria

HOii: Embezzling of public funds has not impacted negatively on the rule of law

HOiii: Corruption has not impacted negatively on poverty

The study reveals that embezzling of public funds have made some people very powerful there by seeing themselves above the law. Hence these set of people are wielded with power such that they determine the machinery of the state.

The study also reveals that corruption has led to increase in the incidence of poverty in Nigeria thereby reducing the living standard of the people. This view is in line with Faruk and Atobatele (2017)

More so, corruption has affected the provision of infrastructural facilities in Nigeria as many hospitals, Schools etc. have no equipment to treat their patients and teach their students. It is disheartening that despite robust natural resources that Nigeria is endowed with, none of her higher institution can boast of one to twenty in the world list.

Recommendations

Having realized the negative impact of corruption on good governance in Nigeria, it is therefore pertinent for the government to review constitution and make Anti-graft Agencies independent so that they can carry out their functions without intimidation from those at the top places most especially those that see themselves above the law. More so, the leadership of Anti-graft Agencies should not be made to go through National Assembly for its ratification.

Also, special court should be established by the Nigerian government that will deal with issues relating to corruption so as to reduce delay in justice. Also anybody that is arrested by Anti-graft agencies should not be granted exparte injunction as many of the perceived corrupt persons use this to jump justice.

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