

THE NIGERIA CIVIL SERVICE SECTOR AND THE RATE OF CORRUPTION AT THE STATE LEVELS

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Abstract

The Effect of corruption in the Nigeria Public Service is aimed at highlighting the laudable factor associated with corruption and their effects which is a serious problem in the public service. Many organization, no doubt have strongly argued convincingly on it's Waterloo in terms of achievements and they bother around general contention that corruption is the bedeviling factor militating against their goals. However, efforts have been made in the eradication of corruption in the public service. This study is therefore carefully chosen to address the effect of corruption in the public sector. This has been done through the use of questionnaires and statistical analysis using Akwa Ibom State civil service as a study. And it has been found that corrupt free organization is an increasing powerful determinant of the organizations overall effectiveness and ability of organization to utilize the available resources efficiently.

Introduction

Corruption for many years has been in every society, it is a problem which has eaten deep into the system of every society, though some are more pronounced in some society while some society try to cover their own from been exposed.

The Nigerian public service which consists of employees in Nigerian government agencies, is discovered to be corrupt, it is no longer news because it has become part of the service culture, the system has become so corrupt that it brought about non-chaplaincy and lackadaisical attitude, recalcitrance and profligacy diversion of funds meant for government work into private purses and bank accounts, favouritism and nepotism etc all these are characterized as corruption existing in the Nigeria public service.

The researcher is using the civil service system in Akwa Ibom state as a study for this work the effect of corruption in Nigeria public service". This topic is to find out the effect of corruption for any society that does not find a way to curb this hydra headed monster called corruption.

Corruption dents or destroys the image of a society, corruption destroys the government of the day, and corruption destroys the hope of future generations, corruption destroys the growth of the system etc.

This issue, if neglected would lead to dangerous consequences, that is why the researcher has chosen to find out the effect of corruption in the Nigeria public service using Akwa Ibom states civil service as a study. The researcher believe that as it is in Akwa Ibom State civil service so it is in every other system of government in Nigeria, that is why the researcher has chosen Akwa Ibom State civil service system.

Generally, it is well known fact that corruption which was supposed to be sine-qua-non to nothing in Nigeria civil service administration as regard to it's effectiveness and efficiency of performance has succeeded and considered since colonial and post-colonial era a successful measure or income Increase in the civil service. In facts, all activities in the civil service have been monopolized by this canker worm. Corruption is not far-fetched in ail human endeavours including individual families, other nongovernment and governmental organizations, why that of the Civil Service is mare delicate because of the role it plays In the government and entire society.

The general performance of the civil servant in their various offices has been radically contaminated and as such has stooped the prestige and dignity so low and in a wide spectrum has tarnished the image of the country (Nigeria) both internationally and globally in her relation with other countries of the world.

The Civil Service which can best be described as the life wire of the government has been subjected to series of reforms over the years. "In fact it has required image of a sick-baby of the various government

and the nation at large, unfortunately this manifest itself in the civil servant, government top officers, police officers, teachers and lecturers in various institution.

In Akwa Ibom State civil service corruption takes the shape of

- (a) The ghost worker syndrome
- (b) Setting of government offices ablaze to cover up crimes committed on records.
- (c) Embezzlement of public fund
- (d) Committing fraud by some with political leaders
- (e) Bribing and assassination of superior officers to take over their position
- (f) Bureaucratic red tapism, nepotism and favouritism.
- (g) Erosion of discipline
- (h) Employment of Inexperienced officers and indiscriminate promotions and transfers because they have people in high places.
- (I) Collecting bribe to render services which are meant to be free of charge

Corruption in Akwa Ibom State Civil Service

Just as stated in chapter one 1.2 corruption in Akwa Ibom State civil service could appear in the form of Embezzlement of public funds; committing fraud by some or with some political leaders maiming and assassination of superior officers to take over their positions, bureaucratic red-tapism, nepotism and favouritism, erosion of discipline injection of geniture in experienced workers officers and indiscriminate promotions and transfers because they have people in high places, the ghost workers syndrome, setting of government offices ablaze to cover up crimes committed, on records, collection of bribe under declaration of age, open/closed reporting system. These are some forms of corruption going on the Akwa Ibom State Civil Service. There are so many others, but these are most common within the serve system.

Due to the prestigious nature of the civil service people tend to hide under the umbrella of the civil service to perpetuate crimes and achieve their selfish and criminal motive. They will not want to make quick money and occupy higher positions and enjoy the benefit which accrues to the position.

According to Udentia (1999:169) "The civil service is therefore putting into effects the government not only that, but also ensuring that the services already in existence are carried on effectively and efficiently. The civil service also monitors sectoral development with a view of improving upon existing standards and practices, correcting observed pit falls and ensuring a forward movement. Thus the civil services operate considerably less on the whims and caprices of idiosyncrasies of individual office holders and more on a clearly defined and established operational guidelines".

By this, the, civil service is expected to operate strictly on principles and character, impartiality; liberality, permanence none a political, non partisan, anonymity Udentia, Chukwu and Onyechi:

- i. **Impartiality:** They should not be partial in making and implementing policies,
- ii. **Permanence:** The job of the civil service is a lasting one
- iii. **Liberality:** It should be open to other people: views, ideas, opinions, etc the job should be comprehensive,
- iv. **Non Political:** They should not openly participate in polities or support and political party
- v. **Non Partisan:** They should not belong to any political party
- vi. **Anonymity:** Whatever job they carryout should be whether good or bad to the interest of the supervisor or the government in power.

From all observations, these principles are only in the book pages, they are only paper works and a paper tigers, they don't provide for chance, which is the only constant element and making for stability which is necessary for directionality and incapability for political and social change.

Momoh (1991:49) if there is anything which operates efficiently, smooth and uniformly all over the country. It is the twin Engine of the machinery of corruption and bribery.

If ministers bribe the national house of assembly and commissioners bribe the state house of assembly to approve budget for their ministers, where will this lead the civil service to? It will only aid corruption the more, because the mantle of corruption will flow from the top to the bottom.

Due to the prestigious nature of the civil service, people tend to hide under the umbrella of the civil service to perpetuate crimes and achieve their selfish and criminal motive, they will not want to serve, but will want to make quick money and occupy higher positions and enjoy the benefit which accrues to the position.

On a good note, if the golden rules of the civil service are strictly observed, why should we bother carrying out this study on corruption in Akwa Ibom State civil service but the truth is that most political leaders, god fathers, business men (The bourgeois) usually bribe policy makers so as to make policies that will suit them and strengthen their avenue for exploitation into ill policies which are not favourable to them. By this, we see that the views of the masses are not put into consideration that of a few selfish ones are considered.

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TABLE .1 Population Distributions

S/N	STRATUM 1	NO OF ELEMENTS	%
1	Administrative class	1,840	14%
2	Executive class	2,305	17%
3	Secretarial class	4,825	36%
4	Auxiliary class	4,331	33%
	Total	13.301	100%

Source: Field Survey 2015

Sample size and Sample techniques

Since the population of Akwa Ibom State civil service is on the whole, the new consider it necessary to determine the sample size. Therefore in order to determine the sample size for this study, the researchers employed a statistical formular by Yamani (1964:280)

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = sample size

N = population of the study

e = margin of error 5% or 0.05

I = constant

This was voluntarily chosen by the researcher. Therefore in substituting the formular above we obtain

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{13,301}{1 + 13301 \times (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{13,301}{1 + 13301 \times 0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{13,301}{34.2525}$$

$$n = 388$$

$$\text{Administrative Class } \frac{1840}{388} = 54\%$$

	13,301	1
Executive class	$\frac{2305}{13,301} \times 100 = 67\%$	
Secretarial class	$\frac{4825}{13,301} \times 100 = 141\%$	
Auxiliary class	$\frac{4331}{13,301} \times 100 = 126\%$	

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS DATA PRESENTATION

RESEARCH QUESTION 1: How would corruption be assessed in Akwa Ibom State civil service.

TABLE .1: DISTRIBUTION ON ASSESSMENT OF CORRUPTION

Responses	Number	Total	Percentage
Very good			
Good			
No Idea	100	100	28%
Bad	80	80	24%
Very bad	160	160	48%
Total	340	340	100%

Source: Field data representation for 2015

TABLE .2: DISTRIBUTION ON THE EXTENT CORRUPTION AFFECTS PERFORMANCE

Responses	Number	Total	Percentage
Very large extent	80	80	24%
Large extent	120	120	34%
No idea elerit	80	80	24%
Small extent	60	60	18%
Very small extent	-	-	-

Total	340	340	100%
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Source: Field data representation for 2015

Table 4.2 above shows that 80 respondents indicated very large extent constituting 24% of the size and 120 respondent indicating large extent making up 34% of the size while 80 respondents indicated on idea constituting 24% of the size.

The remaining 60 respondents went for small extent these 60 respondents constitute 18% of the size from the foregoing. It is important to note that corruption truly affect the performance of workers in Akwa Ibom State civil service. The majority has indicted it from the above table 4.2 and should therefore be dealt with in the life of Akwa Ibom State civil service.

RESEARCH QUESTION 3: How does corruption affect the entire society and the government of the day?

TABLE .3: DISTRIBUTION ON HOW CORRUPTION AFFECTS THE ENTIRE SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT

Responses	Number	Total	Percentage
Very negatively	210	210	62%
Negatively	130	130	38%
No idea	-	-	-
Positively	-	-	-
Very positively	-	-	-
Total	340	340	100%

Source: Field data representation for 2015

Table 4.3 above indicates that 210 respondents constituting 62% of the size went for very negatively while the remaining 130 respondents which constitute 38% of the size went for negatively. None indicated very positively, positively a no idea. It clearly shows that they are fully aware of the danger associated with the disease called 4.2 and should therefore be dealt with in the life of Akwa Ibom State civil service.

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Table 4.3 above indicates that 210 respondents constituting 62% of the size went for very negatively while the remaining 130 respondents which constitute 38% of the size went for negatively. None indicated very positively, positively a no idea. It clearly shows that they are fully aware of the danger associated with the disease called corruption and have also indicated that it affects both the entire society and the government of the day. This therefore shows that corruption should be dealt with.

RESEARCH QUESTION 4: To what extent has corruption affected the civil service system?

TABLE 4: DISTRIBUTION ON THE EXTENT CORRUPTION AFFECTS CIVIL SENILE

Responses	Number	Total	Percentage
Very large extent	80	80	24%
Large extent	60	60	18%
No idea elerit	120	120	34%
Small extent	60	60	28%
Very small extent	20	29	10%
Total	340	340	100%

Source: Field data representation for 2015

Table 4.4 above shows that out of the 340 respondents, 80 indicated very large extent. The 80 constitute 24% of the size. 60 respondents went for large extent constituting 18% of the size. 120 respondents no idea these constitute 34% of the size. 60 respondents indicated small. Reason being that corruption in Akwa Ibom State civil service s small compared to that of other sectors and offices of government. These 60 constitute 18% of the size. The remaining 20 respondents went for very small extent constituting 6% of the size.

The point to note here is that corruption no matter the size or the extent. When corruption is allowed it spreads like world fire it could grow from that small extent to a very large extent when ignored. So corruption no matter the extent should be dealt with in Akwa Ibom State civil service.

RESEARCH QUESTION 5: How would a civil servant feel about corruption?

TABLE 4.5: DISTRIBUTION AND FEELING ABOUT CORRUPTION

Responses	Number	Total	Percentage
Very good	-	-	-
Good	-	-	-
No idea	60	60	18%
Bad	80	80	24%
Very bad	290	290	58%
Total	340	340	100%

Source: Field data representation for 2015

Table 4.5 above reads this: 200 respondents which constitute 58% of the size, agrees that they feel very bad about corruption claiming that the word corruption dents their image and prestige as civil servants. 80 respondents which constitute 24% of the size equally feels bad about corruption, because of its effect on their persons or personality. The remaining 60 respondent who went for no idea constitute 18% of the size. They indicated no idea, probably because they have not felt a hitch of it or they simply did not want to comment. Nevertheless, majority of the respondent stated their feeling about corruption claiming that it is very bad and image denting by this I suggest that corruption should be dealt with appropriately and should be reduced to the bearest minimum or possibly brought to an abrupt still.

Recommendation

Despite the facts that many governments in Nigeria had tried their best to curb this social malady more especially in the public service through some panels and commissions which served as anti-corruption agents, but they were incompetent enough to carry out the goals and responsibilities they were entrusted to some were in themselves more corrupt. That will not go a long way to suggest that the government should fold their hands and allow the goat teeter itself in partition; instead they should find a way out of this hydra-headed monster. In collaboration with this, the work is capable of suggesting various recommendations in order to get rid of these social maladies.

The following recommendation can be adopted to eradicate corruption in the public service (Akwa Ibom State civil service).

- i) Actively ensuring that there is no opportunity to abuse offices. There is thus no better way of fighting corruption than to short down the avenue, of corruption. The closure of such denied an opportunity in the first in the instance, to the leadership to take advantage of their office to be corrupt.
- ii) There is the adage that "absolute power corrupt absolutely" there is over centralization of power in Nigeria. The nature of the political process inexorably produces corruption when the stake is high the cost is also high. The excessive centralization of resources makes the public treasuring a tempting source of private accumulation hence the ruling class readily succumbs to their temptation. There should be proper decentralization of power and resources.
- iii) There should be legislation planning a limit to private accumulation and enrichment in the affected countries. Private accounts should be audited yearly to ensure probity and accountability, money laundering should attract death sentence.
- iv) Public officers' entitlement (salaries and allowances) should be paid to them as at when due to reduce the temptation of following back corrupt practices.
- v) A frantic effort should be made to change the value orientation of public officers who place more importance and self-environment than patriotism national unity and development. In

addition to this, the wide and unusually gap existing between the upper class and the lower class citizens, the haves and have not should be narrowed down considerably.

Finally, the government should morally and financially support the ICPC, EFCC activities and other bodies created to fight corruption. The government should equally have spies who work under cover to monitor the activities of public offices. If these measures are vigorously pursued, the incidence of corruption, if not wiped out will drastically be reduced and Nigeria will witness a new phase of growth and development and a new public service.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is glaring that we have tried to study the effect of corruption on Nigeria public service (A study of Akwa Ibom State civil service).

Having enumerated and discussed various causes and effects of corruption on Nigeria public service and recommended ways to get them solved, it is now earnestly desired that the appropriate quarters involved should mount campaign to wards checking this dangerous trend in our society not minding the previous anti corruption panel.

It is, important that public servants in Nigeria begin to see the evil of corruption at this point in time and try to avert it to save the public service of being described as a citadel of crime and un-ethnics. If our officials can inculcate the fear of God in them, embrace principles and ethics and discard their mentality of vicious character of our government can be sympathetic enough to detect the suffering of the poor masses and if our conscience could be clear towards the improvement of the standard of living, when all these are in existence in the public service we can talk of less corrupt government and public service which in effect will lead to a hive of sign of relief in the Nigerian public service.

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