

**CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA: CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL
APPROACHES AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL STUDIES IN MITIGATING
THE MENACE**

Obah-Akpowoghaha, Nelson Goldpin

Department of Political Science,

Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Osun State

Ogunmilade, Adekunle

Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, Edo State

Abstract

The paper explores concepts and theories of corruption, the role of social studies and sees how these perspectives can be used to mitigate or curb the menace of corruption in Nigeria. Though scholars have dealt with this issue from both economic and administrative perspective, however, there is neglect of theories that explain and underpin corruption. Nonetheless, in the public and private domains, corruption has prompted an unending public discourse making the investors and policy makers alike to ask a germane question: why citizens of a country engage in corrupt practices and how can this menace be reduced or eradicated". In addressing these problems the paper relied largely on secondary data, including textbooks, journals, newspapers and magazines and other archival materials. Consequently, the paper allies with the view of scholars that poverty coupled with the deterioration and/or lost of Nigerian value system are some of the remote causes of unbridled corruption in the country. Hence, the paper made some salient and far-reaching recommendations. These include among others, positioning and re-evaluating social studies in Nigerian school's curriculum in order to make the

subject attractive, more fund should be allocated to schools in order to have modern instructional materials and retraining of staff, re-birth of country's lost value system through national socio-cultural re-orientation, introduction of a workable economic policies and programmes of action geared towards alleviating poverty as well as the enactment of stringent anti-graft laws that will make the prosecution of corrupt officials more effective, efficient and timely.

Keywords: Corruption, Social Studies, Embezzlement, Fraud, Bribery, Favouritism, Extortion

Introduction

The word corruption has been used by scholars in different dimensions in order to capture an ongoing system or an action of a person. "Misappropriation of Public Funds", is a popular phrase used to described corruption in Africa by scholars (Onimode, 2001; Oladele, 2004; Siyanbola and Ogunbona, 2005). Since the early 1960s, researchers have devoted significant effort to the examination of corruption in the developing economies, paying much attention to the effects of the behaviour of civil servants on economic growth and development (Mbaku, n.d; Akindele, 2005). Despite this emphasis on the study of corruption in Africa States especially Nigeria, there has been insufficient attention paid to the conceptual and theoretical perspectives of corruption; its causes and effects; forms and patterns that it has taken; and the mechanism adopted by some politicians to manipulate various elections in Nigeria. Analysts and a lot of research papers have examined corruption in Nigeria as well as in Africa from bureaucratic perspective, military and disjointed system inherited from the colonial masters (Oko, 2009). This paper aimed and objectively identifies theories that justify corruption in Nigeria; the factors that prompt Nigerians to engage in corrupt practices; and examine the scheming and manipulative device employed by politicians to gain access into

political offices. It finally interrogates the roles of social studies in mitigating or curbing the menace of corruption in the country. The quests of eradicating or curbing the menace of corruption in modern states have attracted the attention of research organisations and policy makers. The World Bank in conjunction with Transparency International have made known in various publications and international broadcast that corruption is a menace in Africa, especially in her economic and political scene. On various reviews and literature, Nigeria has been noted as one of the most corrupt countries in the world ([www. the 2006 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index Infoplease_com.htm](http://www.transparencyinternational.com))

This rating was very pronounced during the siege of the military in politics and this has tainted the country's image in the past. On her political scene, international observers have noted that elections have not been free and fair and these have impacted negatively on the deepening of democratic norms and values in the country (Oko, 2009). Scholars have argued that since the Nigerian political system discourages fertilization of democratic ethos, hence the system further breeds incapable hands that tend to truncate and mismanage the country's economy thereby compelling the masses into the situation of abject poverty, insecurity, homelessness and a state of normlessness (Olusoga, 1981; Onimode, 2001 and The Nation, January 15, 2012). On this viewpoint, scholars have noted that variables such as poverty, unemployment, insecurity among others are the remote causes of corruption in Africa (Aluko, 2005; Akindele, 2005)

The Concept of Corruption

The etymological pedigree of corruption is derivable from the Latin word "corruptus" which means to break (Oladele, 2004). Corruption is an encompassing

word which stands not only for institutional decadence but also includes moral and personal decadence such as bribery, favouritism, nepotism, cheating, sexual gratification and other unfair means adopted by any individual to extract some socially and legally prohibited favour (Akinbowale, 2000). The famous international organization on issues of public corruption, Transparency International (T) sees it as the misuse of entrusted power for private gain. The World Bank and its agencies (IMF) describe corruption as the abuse of public office by person or group of person for private gain. Elsewhere, the word connotes the lowering down of one's integrity in the performance of a duty, especially in relation to the state or state owned enterprises (www.Nigeria drops in 2011 Corruption Index, now ranked 143 Out of 183 countries _php.mht). In other words, corruption is the act of an official who unlawfully uses his/her station or quality to procure some good for himself/herself or for another person, contrary to duty and the freedom of others (Akindele, 2005). Perhaps, indisputably is the fact that corruption, like any other social deviance or crime, necessarily involves a violation of some existing order or norms.

Thus, an allegation of Corruption can only be levied where there exists a mode of socially recognized order (According to Ademilokun and Durkheim cited in Aluko, 2005). According to Olusoga (cited in Aluko, 2005), people are influenced due to the urge to get money, material/financial resources, contracts, employment, status, fame, power, or physiological psychological satisfaction through illegal and immoral actions such as internet scam, money laundering, abuse of public office and so on. While corroborating the earlier views of Olusoga and Akindele, Aluko (2005) observed that corruption occurs when an individual indulges in the perversion of public affairs for personal gain. For them, corruption entails bribery or the use of unauthorized rewards to influence people in position of

authority, misappropriation of public funds, manipulation of public resources for private gains, nepotism, favoritism and some prohibited benefits. In another instances, Akinseye-George (2000) sees corruption as any forms of improper or selfish expression of power and influence attached to a public as well as private office. In their submission, Ojetunde (2003) and Omolayo (2005) give a wide range of items of what constitute corruption. To them, corruption connotes granting unauthorized laws, fixing of public money in a private account, misappropriation, outright embezzlement, presentation of forged cheques, posting of fictitious credits, fraudulent transfers, land withdrawals, shallow foreign exchange deal and bunkering. The above variables can only occur when an individual abuses his/her office for private gain.

Moreover, most of the statutory definitions focus on bribery as corruption and mainly within the public sector. Whereas there is broad agreement that corruption is the "abuse of power or office for private gain". It has also acknowledged that corruption does not only involve private sector but also foreign enterprises (Aiyede 2008). The Independent Corrupt Practices Commission and Other Related Offences (ICPC) Act 2000, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act 2004 in Nigeria have now broadened the concept of corruption. The EFCC Act (2004) empowers the Commission to investigate, prevent and prosecute offenders who engage in: Money laundering, embezzlement, bribery, looting and any form of corrupt practices, illegal arms deal, smuggling, human trafficking, and child labour, illegal oil bunkering, illegal mining, tax evasion, foreign exchange malpractices including counterfeiting of currency, theft of intellectual property and piracy, open market abuse, dumping of toxic, wastes, and prohibited goods (www.efccnigeria.org).

However, corroborating the observations above Mbaku (cited Obah-Akpowoghaha, 2013) argued that in a heavily regulated economy, one can find two distinct types of corruption: "expansive corruption," which involves activities that improve the competitiveness and flexibility of the market; and "restrictive corruption," which limits opportunities for productive and socially beneficial exchange. This latter type of corruption, Mbaku (n.d) argues, is characterized by redistribution of income and wealth in favour of individuals or groups. Most public-sector corruption falls in the restrictive category and involves illegal appropriation of public resources for private use (mercilessly outright embezzlement of public treasury) or the illegal use of an individual's public position for his own personal enrichment. Public-sector corruption hinders the proper functioning of the market system, retards economic growth, and thus is restrictive corruption. Bribing of judges, politicians and bureaucrats by members of the private sector has been regarded as an expensive type of corruption and this mechanism is so much in vogue in the ongoing political dispensation in Nigeria (Aluko, 2005; Obah-Akpowoghaha, 2013).

However, corroborating the above literature the paper would further mirror the discussion with some political and sociological theories of corruption. In this paper scholars have consented that corruption is a social problem that entails interactions of person (s) in public or private realm.

The Social Exchange Theory of Corruption

Several scholars like Homans, Blau and Ekeh are the major proponents of this theory (see Aluko, 2005). The social exchange theory is based on socially rewarding relationship between and among members of a society. The focal point of this theory is on principle of 'give and take (reciprocal). This principle of reciprocity demands and put much emphasis on "give and take" phenomenon.

When one actor receives something, the actor is also expected to give something in return. In Nigerian parlance or Pidgin English, it is known as 'You chop, I chop' (Aluko, 2005). In other words, "you scratch my back and I also scratch yours or use what you have to get what you want". The social exchange theory, the drive for exchange is based on egoism with calculation of gain, losses, and rewards for the group or individual, as the case may be. Drawing from this background, it is very easy to explain the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria with the social exchange theory. Corruption in Nigeria usually involves people who are in position of power and authority and are always in relationship with people or groups. The recent 130 billion Naira scandals involving the former Chairman of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Mr. Chibuzor Ugwoha and ten other management members of the staff of the agency becomes a reference point. Similarly, the most recent bribery incident of \$3million that involving Farouk Lawan and his committee men allegedly collected from one Mr. Femi Otedola an oil magnate.

From the Vanguard it was said that Honourable Farouk Lawan planned to settle other house assembles men (The Vanguard, 2012). In the same manner, government officials, bureaucrats and elected officials usually connive with contractors to defraud the government of large sums of money through kickback usually in form of inflated contracts. In another incident of bribery, a Swiss firm, PANALPINA, admitted in paying the sum of \$27 million in bribes between 2002 and 2007 to officials of Angola, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Nigeria and Turkmenistan (The Punch, Nov.5, 2010, p.8). In Nigeria today, people who refuse to play the game of corruption and other sharp practices are usually rewarded with blackmail, threat and even assassination. Thus, the level of resistance has become very low as everyone seems to be dancing to the tune of the saying, "if you can't

beat them, then you join them", this situation seems to have taken over and is now the norm (Aluko, 2005).

The Anomie Theory

According to Dukheim (cited in Aluko, 2005), Emile Durkheim and Merton happened are the major proponents of the anomie theory and for them, Anomie means normlessness. Moreover, the main thrust of the anomie theory is that in contemporary societies traditional norms and standards become diluted, without being replaced by new ones. However, scholars have argued that a society in which there is an exceptionally strong emphasis upon specific goals (to become rich or wealthy) without a corresponding institutional means or procedures, will inevitably lead to a situation of "anomie" or normlessness (Aluko, 2005). Anomie occurs as soon as there are no clear standards to guide behaviour in a specified area of social life. In these conditions, people feel at a complete loss and worried; a state of 'normlessness' sets in and the people begin to do whatever they like.

In relation to Nigeria, the core value and moral prerequisites for a healthy society as acknowledged by Ademilokun and Mbiti (cited by Aluko, 2005) seems to be utterly misplaced in the country. Today, virtues like honesty, integrity, conscientiousness, good name and reputation are now in short supply. In Nigeria today what matter most is one's worth in terms of material acquisition, at present, a large majority of Nigerians are corrupt. We have lost our sense of values and all and sundry is now oriented positively to corruption (Aluko, 2005). Moreover, currently in Nigeria, overwhelming emphasis on being successful which means to be wealthy, to engage in flamboyant lifestyle and conspicuous consumption, possess expensive cars, expensive land and buildings, make huge donation at

public fund-raising, to be highly educated and to wield political power are all that matter most even when these are obtained to the detriment of the society (Aluko, 2005; Obah-Akpowoghaha, 2013).

Marxian and the Political Economy Theory

The Marxian and the Political Economy theory is premised on the interactions between factors of production (land, capital, labour and entrepreneur) and distribution of goods and services in socio-political economy system. Scholars (Marxists) in this school of thought, contend that it is the way the society organizes the means of production, distribution of goods and services that determines their material conditions. To this extent, corruption is said to be structural deformity that is derivable from and has its existence in the socio-economic organization of society (Aluko, 2005). For the Marxists, corruption is one of the by-products of capitalism initiated by colonialism and imperialism. Corruption breeds inequalities, greed, avarice, exploitation, egoistic tendencies, and ostentatious living. Capitalism is an economic system that does not create equal opportunities for the masses. With capitalism, some people become rich and others become poor, thus the society becomes polarized into two camps: the poor and the rich. Moreover, under the operation or arrangement of high rate of income inequality and abject poverty, there is urge or strong tendency for people to by-pass rules and regulation of administrative setting in order to satisfy their immediate desires; scholars have described this permutation as systematic corruption and this pattern of corruption was very pronounced as at 1985-1993 (Onayemi and Sangosanya, 2005). According to Olusoga (cited in Aluko, 2005), poor people struggle to survive over hardship and live above poverty hence they tend to engage in corrupt practices.. Furthermore, Aluko (2005) also observed that in Nigeria some workers engaged in corrupt practices due to job insecurity and the insincerity of their leaders. In other

words, everybody wants to amass wealth at the expense of the Nigerian political system in order to fortify himself/herself against the uncertainties of the future either for transactional motive, precaution motive or speculative motive. On this basis, workers have devised their own personal security systems by engaging into fraudulent acts; undermining the rules and deliberately refusing to keep official documents. On the other, the bourgeoisie amass wealth given the same pattern of uncertainty of what the future tends to offer (Aluko, 2005).

Typology of Corruption in Nigeria

- 1. Bribery:** This is the deliberate act of giving and taking of 'gift' either in cash or in kind with the intention of inducing and influencing the taker's mind, decision or conduct in such a way that official standards are compromised. In other words, it is the payment of money or in kind that is taken or given in a corrupt relationship. This includes kickback, gratuities, pay-off, sweeteners, palm-greasing etc. This phenomenon is very common especially during primary and general elections in Nigeria, it happens when the incumbent wants to return at all cost.
- 2. Fraud:** This involves some kind of trickery, internet scam, swindle and deceit, counterfeiting, racketing, smuggling and forging. This act is very common with some Nigeria's youths, they engage in what is called "Yahoo Yahoo" or 419 (Aluko, 2005).
- 3. Embezzlement:** This is a situation when an officer either in the banking industry or governmental institutions loot from the treasuries. Sometimes, funds released by organizations or government for the construction of road, housing, salary of workers, development of a project on research, scholarship/bursary for students, fund for youth empowerment and development of a region, etc. some Nigeria politicians made their money

through this medium, looting and outright embezzlement'. The devices involve are; forging of fake document/signature, false declaration of data, internet scam, blackmail and threat, etc. In Nigeria, embezzlement of public funds is one of the most common ways of primitive accumulation of wealth; perhaps the cause may be inadequate strict regulatory mechanism on the side of the government and fear to be poor again by the officer (Siyanbola and Ogunbona, 2005). For example, as at August 2006, the Swiss Government has offered some assistance to Nigerian government in its bid to recover stolen funds stashed in various accounts in Switzerland by Nigerians. The Switzerland Ambassador to Nigeria announced that \$700 million looted by former President Sani Abacha and deposited in Swiss Bank has almost completely been repatriated to Nigeria. See Global Integrity Report: Nigeria Corruption Time line available at www.globalintegrity.org/Nigeria/2007/timeline.

- 4. Extortion:** This occurs when money and other resources are extracted by the use of coercive device, violence or threat. It is often seen as extraction "from below". Scholars have argued that police and customs officers in Nigeria are the main culprits. This phenomenon was very pronounced after the collapsed of the second republic in Nigeria (from 1985-1998) (Akiseye-George, 2000).
- 5. Favouritism:** This is a way of sacrificing merits for mediocrity or is mechanism of power abuse which distorts the optimum communal welfare level. It implies a highly biased distribution of resources. However, it is view as a natural human proclivity to favour friends, family and anybody close and trusted. This phenomenon is very rampant in Nigeria's ministries.
- 6. Nepotism:** This is a subset or type of favouritism in which an office holder prefers his/her kinsmen and extended family members for a position

undermining the ethics of merit. This is also common in Nigeria political system, it occurs when one is exempted from the application of certain laws or regulations (Akindele, 2005). At this juncture some of the methods employed by some politicians (and their collaborators) to manipulate elections in Nigeria (see Dike cited by Obah-Akpowogaha, 2013) need to be considered:

1. Inflated census count (inflating of census figures of localities for political gain)
2. Voter registration exercise (some politicians use crooked means to register more voters in their constituencies);
3. Printing of fake electoral materials (crooks print fake ballot papers, after seeing the original ballot paper, to stuff ballot boxes)
4. Party Primaries (manipulation of the political process to select a party's flag-bearer); this was rampant during the 2003 elections;
5. Colluding with electoral officers (bribing electoral officers, security agents, police officers, and thugs to stuff ballot boxes with fake votes, snatch ballot boxes, and allow multiple voting, under aged voters; stealing of boxes and so on.
6. Voter intimidation and political thuggery (to scare away voters by threatening to kill or hurt them; and assassination of political opponents. This was also rampant as many people were killed in election-related violence.

7. Stuffing of Ballot (indiscriminately thumb-printing of ballot papers and putting them in ballot boxes to ensure the victory of a particular candidate (or a group of candidate).
8. Multiple voting (some voters casting more than one vote due to multiple registration and fake papers).
9. Underage Voting (voting by people who are below the stipulated voting age; due to lack of use of ID card this was common during the 2003 elections.
10. Inducement of Voters (some politicians buy votes by distributing food items-beans, rice and onions, Gari and yam tubers, stock-fish and salt and money to the poor and ignorant population).
11. ECOWAS voting (mobilizing immigrants from neighboring countries to vote for a particular candidate.
12. Colluding with Gate keepers (gate-keepers in voting and collation centre (in alliance with electoral officers), could manipulate election figures); this was a common problem during the period.
13. Deliberate counting mistakes (unscrupulous election officers in polling centres could leave out counting the votes of some candidates, and inflate the votes of candidates that bribed them to ensure that they get the required votes to win an election); and
14. Deliberate technical errors (results at polling centres could indicate that a particular candidate is winning or has won, but a wrong result could be posted; the officers could call it technical error if the trick is dictated (ThisDay, May 11, 2003). The INEC nearly used this ploy to deny Governor Tinubu of Lagos State of his victory, as it entered a result

different from than the official result on its website, But when the ploy was detected, INEC claimed that it was an error (Dike, 2003).

Causes and Effects of Corruption

Pervasive and chronic poverty, extreme levels of material deprivation and severe inequalities in the distribution of resources have been advanced as major determinants of corruption in the African countries (Aluko, 2005). Many regions of the world have made significant advancements in economic and human development during the past 40 years. Yet Africa has remained essentially poor and severely deprived. Evidence shows that Africa is today the poorest region of the world (Oko, 2009 and World Bank, 2003). The emergence of the African military, in the post-independence period, as an important force in the allocation of resources has further distorted income distribution. In many African countries, the armed forces receive a disproportionate share of the public budget. It is argued by many researchers that these post-independence developments have contributed significantly to increased corruption, underdevelopment, and pervasive poverty and deprivation (Oko, 2009).

In Nigeria today corruption has been manifested through the following ways, looted funds and wealth kept secretly abroad, misappropriation of public funds, money laundering, gratification, abuse of office; and nepotism (Onimode, 2001; The Guardian, Nov., 15 2011, p5; The Punch, July 15, 2011. P8). In Africa in general, Onimode (2001) attributed the following factors: opportunity to engage in corruption with impunity; dictatorship and lack of democracy; weakness of the post colonial state; poor law enforcement; insecurity and high risk; pervasive poverty; morbid greed and materialism; and cultural and moral decay. The 4th economic summit in Nigeria as at 1997 recognized the following as the causes of corruption in Nigeria: (a) Low income level; (b) Ineffective control measure and;

(c) The organizational structure within the Nigeria's civil service. To support the above analysis, Okolo (n.d) also added that (1) The widespread of corruption is due to increase in governmental activities, and opportunities for official corruption; (2) foreign laws, low consensus and official corruption (3) Social obligations and official corruption; (4) Principles

However, in the literature some conditions are considered to provide breeding ground for corruption. For instance, when government structures concentrate power in decision makers who are not practically accountable to the people and democratic processes are absent or dysfunctional, corruption thrives. But effective democratic processes, parliamentary systems, political stability, and freedom of the press are all associated with lower corruption. When the state is involved in large investments of capital especially those channeled towards provision of goods, services and resources below market prices, public officers enjoy incentives to seek rents. Civil services structures that are characterized by politically motivated hiring, patronage and nepotism, and poor remuneration are usually hives of corruption (Mbaku, n.d).

Corruption also thrives where society is dominated by self interested closed cliques and 'old boy' networks, illiterate, apathetic or ignorant populace, with inadequate public discernment of political choices, where personal integrity is rated as less important than other characteristics. Generally, when the rule of law is weak, the judicial system is ineffective and there are ineffective penalties and the probability of punishment of offenders is low then corruption will blossom. With regard to the electoral processes, costly political campaigns, with expenses exceeding normal sources of political funding, and the absence of adequate controls to prevent bribery or "campaign donations" provide room for corrupt practices (Aiyede, 2008; Obah-Akpowoghaha). Moreover, corruption poses a

serious redistribution; and the quest for aristocratic effect development challenge. In the political realm, it undermines democracy and good governance by flouting or even subverting formal processes. Corruption in elections and in legislative bodies reduces accountability and distorts representation in policymaking, corruption in the judiciary compromises the rule of law; and corruption in public administration results in the unfair and inefficient provision of services (Aiyede, 2008). More generally, corruption erodes the institutional capacity of government as procedures are disregarded, resources are siphoned off, and public offices are bought and sold. Thus, corruption undermines the legitimacy of government and democratic values of trust and tolerance. Corroborating this view Aiyede (2008) further observes that:

In Nigeria, corruption has made election results to have very little or nothing to do with the performance in office of politicians. Precisely because performance is not a critical factor in electoral outcome, the incentive to perform is very weak. And because corruption is effective in achieving electoral victory the incentive to resort to corrupt practices is very high. The main decisive factors in the outcome of elections have been ethnicity, intimidation and massive vote buying and rigging. As far back as the 1950s vote buying and rigging have been identified as major characteristics of elections in Nigeria.

He went further to contend that the tragic outcome is that political parties in Nigeria today do not articulate any concrete programme during campaigns on how to take the country out of the woods. Political parties have spent billions of naira not merely on campaigns but in outright bribery and buying of votes. This has been a source of worry to the National Assembly which has now put a ceiling on electoral spending to check the problem of monetization of the electoral process. One emergent problem in Nigeria is that common among advanced democracies,

corporate financing, and the fear that corporations are simply buying the votes of elected officials (p.41).

Consequently, according to the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA, 2000) the issues to be addressed concerning election-based political corruption in Nigeria include:

Rigging (stuffing of ballot boxes, over bloated voting registers, special treatment of voters and election officials, disappearance or destruction of ballot boxes and so on); distortion of or doctoring of results; lack of discipline in the form, spirit and implementation of the election process; excessive monetization of politics in general.

The Human Rights Watch (HRW, 2004), in a detailed report on the 2003 elections, observed that the elections were marred by serious incidents of violence, which left scores dead and many others injured.

According to the report, the scale of violence and intimidation much of which went unreported called into question the credibility of these elections'. It went further: "The majority or serious abuses were perpetrated by members or supporters of the ruling party, the People's Democratic Party (PDP). In a number of locations, elections simply did not take place as groups of armed thugs linked to political parties and candidates intimidated and threatened voters in order to falsify results'. These claims were substantiated with detailed accounts of election malpractices in various towns and cities across the states of Nigeria.

Political corruption is facilitated by the weak institutional capacity of electoral bodies and other institutions that are to enforce the rules and check the excesses of politicians and political parties.

For instance, the European Union Election Observation Mission (cited in Obah-Akpowoghaha, 2013) identified INEC's insufficient level of technical and logistical preparation, passivity in reported patterns of systematic fraud, lack of initiative and operational capacity by Resident Electoral Commissioner (RECs), and limited technical competence of many Electoral Officers (EOs) as major impediments at the 2003 elections. Similar complaints apply to the police, the State Security Service (SSS) and the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) (Aiyede, 2008 and Obah-Akpowoghaha, 2013). Beyond the political and bureaucratic dysfunctions, corruption also undermines economic development by generating considerable distortions and inefficiency. In the private sector, corruption increases the cost of business through the price of illicit payments. It raises the management cost of negotiating with officials and increases the risk of agreements being breached. Besides, the possibility of detection and the consequent scandal and penalty may be real.

Although some claim corruption reduces costs by cutting red tape, the availability of bribes can also induce officials to contrive new rules and delays. Where corruption inflates the cost of business, it also distorts the playing field, shielding firms with connections from competition and thereby sustaining inefficient firms (Aiyede, 2008). Corruption also generates economic distortions in the public sector by diverting public investment into capital projects where bribes and kickbacks are more plentiful. Officials may increase the technical complexity of public sector projects to conceal or pave way for such dealings. Thus further distorting investment. Corruption also lowers compliance with construction, environmental, or other regulations, reduces the quality of government services and infrastructure, and increases budgetary pressures on government. It is claimed that approximately US\$ 200 billion was invested in Nigeria, between 1973 and

1993, with very little development to show for it (Aiyede, 2008). Economists argue that one of the factors behind the differing economic development in Africa and Asia is that in the former, corruption has primarily taken the form of rent extraction with the resulting financial capital moved overseas rather invested at home.

Corrupt administrations in Asia like Suharto's have often taken a cut on everything (requiring bribes), but otherwise provided more of the conditions for development, through infrastructure investment, law and order, etc. University of Massachusetts researchers estimated that from 1970 to 1996, Capital flight from 30 sub-Saharan African countries totaled \$187 billion, exceeding those nations' external debts due to political corruption (Aiyede, 2008).

Practical Issues

The focal empirical issues pertaining to corruption, governance and development centre on problems of measurement and approach. A popular but indirect measurement of corruption, universally, is the Corruption Perception Index, published annually by Transparency International since 1995. The available data on Nigeria covers the period, 1998-2011. Table 1 below presents the data.

Table 1: Corruption Perception Index (CP) on Nigeria, 1998-2011

YEAR	RANK	SCORE	NO OFC TRIES
1988	81	1.9	85
1999	98	1.6	99
2000	90	1.2	90
2001	90	1.0	91
2002	101	1.6	102
2003	132	1.4	133
2004	144	1.6	145
2005	152	1.9	158

Corruption in Nigeria Conceptual and Theoretical Approaches...

2006	142	2.2	163
2007	147	2.2	179
2008	121	2.7	180
2009	130	2.5	180
2010	134	2.4	178
2011	143	2.4	182

Source: Transparency International website

From the table 1 above, Transparency International (TI) 2011 report on corruption perception in 183 countries of the world, Nigeria included. The often widely expected and most recognized authority on corruption in the world ranked Nigeria 143 out of the 183 countries surveyed. Between 2010 and 2011, Nigeria's position declined by 9 places, scoring 2.4 from a possible 10, showing the greatest sign that effort at curbing Corruption had been very inadequate in the last year. The report came soon after Farida Waziri, the former Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) chairman, was sacked by President Jonathan.

Table 2: Five Highest Scoring Countries on the CPI, 2008-2011

S/N	COUNTRY	2011CPI	2010CPI	2009CPI	2008CPI
1.	NEWZEALAND	9.5	9.3	9.4	9.3
2.	DENMARK	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.3
3.	FINLAND	9.4	9.2	8.9	9.0
4.	SWEDENS	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.3
5.	SINGAPORE	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2

Source: TI CPI, 201

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) measures the perception of the level of corruption. It ranks countries according to the perception of public sector corruption, excluding the private sector.

The survey has parameters such as bribery of public officials, kickbacks in public procurement, embezzlement of public funds, and the effectiveness of public sector anti corruption efforts. It uses an eclectic set of third party surveys to sample public perception of the level of corruption in the public sector through a variety of questions, also available at www.globalintegrity.org/Nigeria/2007/timeline.

The Concept of Social Studies

It has been the thinking of academia and policy cycle that the knowledge of social studies is useful in rebranding and shaping the thinking patterns, social life, skills, attitudes and values of citizens towards a dynamic and progressive society (Obah-Akpowoghaha, 2013; Mezieobi, 2011). On this note, Mezieobi (2011) described social studies as a reformatory academic knowledge put forward to change citizens to be a better people. It makes citizens to be responsible to their national duties such as: obedient to constitutional authorities, payment of tax, vote during elections, paramilitary services when call upon, acting as a witness in judicial issues and so on. Moreover, the National Teacher Institute (2006) described social studies as a field of study designed for the education of man and how he can adapt into his immediate environment through the medium of utilizing the necessary attitudes, values and skills.

The Role of Social Studies in Mitigating the Menace of Corruption in Nigeria

Social study is aimed to enthrone discipline, good morals, self esteem and dignity, justice and integrity in national life. In this regard Bamikole (2001) opined that the essence of emphasizing and introducing social studies in schools curriculum is to

eliminate social vices such as corruption, robbery; immorality, truancy, drug abuse promiscuity and so on. In Nigeria today, social studies is seen as an embodiment of knowledge suitable for promoting certain skills norms, attitudes and values which are valid and consistent with the goals and national educational programmes in the country. But over sometime, the teaching of social studies has been downplayed in schools in Nigeria, this phenomenon has erupted series of insecurity problem, corruption and immoral act (Onuoha, 2011). Scholars have attributed the above lapses on under-funding of Nigerian schools, inadequate experts to handle the subject, defective teaching method and obsolete tools (Mezieobi, 2011). Arising from the above issues, Onuoha (2011) carryout a research title "learners level of involvement in instructional activities during civel education classes in Junior Secondary Schools in Nigeria", the major findings of his study indicates that Social Studies teachers do not involve learners in many activities that demonstrate respect, cooperation, discipline and right attitude to work very often. In same study, he reveals that variables such as the behaviour of public office holders, abuse of the rule of law by politicians and high rate of corruption in public institutions where not emphasized and stressed by Social Studies teachers in Nigerian schools. In other words, issues on the performances and the financial dealings of public workers are not handled within the scope and the teaching of Social Studies in Nigerian schools. On this note, Onuoha (2011) and Mezieobi (2011) stress and recommend that the modernisation of instructional materials and retraining of Social Studies teachers to capture the teaching of public values and integrity of public workers will promote national image of the country more especially issues of corruption and insecurity challenge in the country. In order to mitigate corruption and to curb these lapses in Nigerian political system, Onuoha (2011) empirical study concluded that: There should be sanitization of our political system so that leaders could portray good examples that will not mislead the

younger generations. This can be done through enactment and enforcement of electoral laws, drastic reduction of electoral malpractices, putting adequate machineries for checks and balances and so on. These mechanisms will go a long way in mitigating corruption and other social vices in Nigeria. The family and the entire society.....honesty and truthfulness should be emphasized and practiced in families and in the society at every slightest opportunity. The society should not encourage corrupt and dubious leaders and persons by giving them chieftaincy titles (p.18).

In a similar study, Sebiomo (2011) noted that, there are electoral fraud, corruption, deceit and malpractices in Nigerian democratic system. He concluded that Social Studies under the concept of civil education can serve as a correcting device of curbing the socio-political anomalies in the country. However, in this section, this paper wish to stress that value reorientation should be re- emphasize and re-engineer in our school system and the society at large through proper institutionalization of Social Studies teaching in proper perspective in Nigerian school's curriculum. In other words, the inculcation of desirable values and social attitudes in Nigerian child as a means of social reforms is one of objectives of the Nigerian Social Studies project (Paulley, 2011). It is in this light that Social Studies are either seen as mechanism of socialization or as means of indoctrination. Some of the societal values to be inculcated through Social Studies are honesty, fair play, hard-work, patriotism, obedience, discipline, loyalty, respect, self-confidence among others. These are definitely vital tools for mitigating corruption and social vices in Nigeria. In other words, teachers in this subject, need to be equip and retrain in order to meet up with modern technology and its applications

Conclusion

A close look at the above concept of corruption by scholars, international organizations and some of the theoretical postulations, the bottom-line is misuse of an office either by public/private or parochial interest and this can only occur when the norms and values that define set of people are longer practice or cherish. Moreover, scholars believe that corruption in Africa and other developing regions arises from the existence of defective cultural norms and behaviours (Mbaku, n.d; Akindele, 2005). Also, under funding of schools and inadequate experts to handle value-oriented subjects such as Social Studies and religious studies in schools have been advanced as one of core problem sky-rocking corruption in Nigeria (Paulley, 2011; Mezieobi, 2011; Onuoha, 2011). Other researchers believe that corruption in Africa is related to the clash between traditional and foreign norms (capitalism) that accompany modernization and industrial development. As such, corruption is seen as an unavoidable consequence of economic modernization and political development (Akindele, 2005; Aluko, 2005). Consequently, one notable force that came with modernization is capitalism, and the main effect of this has been the wholesome destruction of communalism, collectivism, and the spirit of togetherness found in most Nigerian communities. Today, what we have in the place of these noble virtues are selfishness, individualism, parochialism, sectionalism and greed for material possession. Since corruption is a short cut, it is easier to get rich quickly through it, and most people prefer this avenue to the slow policy and insincerity of the government. Drawing from the literature, high rate of corruption in the country is as result of poverty, failure of governmental policies and the deterioration of the "values/norms" upheld in Nigeria. Therefore the paper concludes that; government should focus more attention on the causes of corruption in Nigeria than looking at effect or those who are involved; positioning and re-evaluating social studies in Nigerian schools' curriculum in order to make the subject attractive, more fund should be allocated to schools in order to have

modern instructional materials and retraining of staff, introduction of a workable economic policies and programmes of action geared towards alleviating poverty as well as the enactment of stringent anti-graft laws that will make the prosecution of corrupt officials more effective, efficient and timely

References

Akiseye-George, Y. (2000). "Legal System, Corruption and Governance in Nigeria" Lagos New Century Law Publications

Akinbowale, J.O. (2000). "How to Fight Corruption" in Nigeria Tribune February 7, pp. 11-12

Akindele, S .T. (2000). "Corruption Conceptualization Problems and Institutionalization in Nigeria: A Revisitational Examination" in Bangladesh Journal of Public Administration, 9 (1 & 2)

Aluko, M. O. (2005). "Theoretical Approaches to the Understanding of Corruption in Nigeria". In M. A. Aluko (eds.) in National Conference on Corruption and Development in Nigeria, Journal of the Faculty of Social Sciences OAU Ife, pp. 51-61

Aiyede, R. E. (2008). "The Role of INEC, ICPC and EFCC in Combating Political Corruption" in Victor A. O. Adetula (eds.); Money and Politics in Nigeria. DFID, pp. 39-52

Bamikole, G. A. (2001). "Social Studies Education: A Therapeutic Instrument for Sustaining Democratic Governance in Nigeria" in Ismaila, B. R. et. Al (eds.); Challenges of Democratic Governance in Nigeria. Oyo, Odumatt Publisher

Dike, V (2003). "Nigeria and the Politics of Unreason: Assassinations, Decampments, and Moneybags". Available at [http://www.nigerdeltacongress.com/nigeria/politics of unre.htm](http://www.nigerdeltacongress.com/nigeria/politics_of_unre.htm).

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act 2004. Available at www.efccnigeria.org. Retrieved 09/03/2012

European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM, 2003). Final Report on the 2003 National Assembly Election, Presidential Election, Gubernatorial Election and the State Houses of Assembly Elections.

Human Rights Watch (2004). "Nigeria's 2003 Elections: The Unacknowledged Violence". New

York: Human Rights Watch. <http://hrw.org/reports> and [nigeria0604/nigeria0604.pdt](http://www.idea.org/publications/pdfs/idea0604/nigeria0604.pdt) Institute for Democratic Electoral Assistance (IDEA) (2000). Democracy in Nigeria: Continuing Dialogue(s) for Nation Building. Stockholm International Institute for Electoral Assistance: 107-124

National Teachers Institute (NTI, 2006). Manual for Retraining of Primary School Teachers, Kaduna, NTI Press.

Mbaku, J. M. (n.d). "Bureaucratic Corruption in Africa: The Futility of Cleanups", <http://www.cato.org/home.html>. Retrieved on 27/04/2012

Mezieobi, D. I. (2011). "Social Studies as an Embodiment of Civics Education for Sustainable National Development" in Nigerian Journal of Social Studies Vol. XIV (2) October

Obah-Akpowoghaha, N. G. (2013). Assessment of the Impact of Political Recruitment on Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria, 1999-2007. Masters of Science Thesis, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (unpublished)

Ojetunde, K. A. (2003). "Influence of Violence and Corruption in the South Western Nigeria". In

M. A. Aluko (eds.) in National Conference on Corruption and Development in Nigeria, Journal of the Faculty of Social Sciences OAU Ife, pp.6-10

Oluko, O. (n.d). Whither Nigeria? Apapa, Times Press, pp. 25-29

Olusoga, S. D. (1982). Management of Corruption, Lagos: Lantern Books

Oladele, O. O. (2004). "Policy Initiatives Towards Efficient Functioning of the Corporate Affairs Commission" in Ibadan Bar Journal 3(1)

Onuoha, J. C. (2011). "Learners' Level of Involvement in Instructional Activities during Civil Education Classes in Junior Secondary School", in Nigerian Journal of Social Studies Vol. XIVXIV (2), October

Onimode, B. (2001). "Overview of Corruption and Organized Crime in Africa", in Odekunle, E and Lame, I (eds.); Fighting Corruption and Organized Crime in Nigeria, Ibadan: Spectrum Books, pp. 31-52

Oko, O. (2009). "The Challenges of Democratic Consolidation in Africa". Available at http://bepress.com/okechukwu_oko/. Accessed August 15, 2010

Paulley, EG. (2011). "Social Studies Education in the Promotion of Nation Building in Nigeria" in Nigerian Journal of Social Studies Vol. XIV (2), October.

Sebiomo, B. (2011). "Civil Education: A Veritable Instrument for Achieving Democratic Principles in Nigeria", in Nigerian Journal of Social Studies Vol. XIV (2), October

Siyabola, A.A., & Ogunbona, O. (2005). "Corruption and Economic Development: An Empirical Analysis" in *Ife Social Science Review -Journal of the Faculty of Social Sciences, OAU Ile-Ife* Special Edition, pp. 190-200

Transparency International Report (2010). "Corruption Perceptions Index 2010: Long Methodological Brief (Report)

TransparencyInternational"http://www.transparency.org/content/download/55903/892623/CPI2010_long_methodology_En.pdf. Retrieved 24 August 2011.

World Bank, (2003). "Sustainable Development in a Dynamic World. Transforming institutions Growth and Quality of life", the World Bank, Washington DC

The Nation, Jan. 15, 2012

The Vanguard, 13, 2012:p.5

The Punch, Nov.5, 2010.p8