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POLITICAL FACTORS AND THE PHENOMENON OF CORRUPTION IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Numerous accounts and documents attesting to Nigeria's recurrent waves of corruption are abundantly accessible. The impacts of corruption continue to be felt by every Nigerian, and the scourge has a severe influence on all of the country's institutions. Corruption persists and impedes effective socio-economic development initiatives in the country. Despite several efforts to combat the disease, Nigerians continue to be mired in corruption. This research study focuses on political variables, utilizing governance, political stability, and the rule of law as discussion indices. While other elements contribute to corruption in a nation, this study focuses on political ones. The Kwara Central, Kwara North, and Kwara South Senatorial Districts conducted 1,175 surveys with great attention. The descriptive approach and inferential statistics of chi-square (χ^2) and regression analysis were utilized for data analysis and testing of hypotheses. Various analyses were performed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). There were found to be relationships between the defined factors and corruption in the state of Kwara. Consequently, it is advised that significant and practical efforts be made, particularly through seminars and education programs for Nigerian citizens on the potential hazards of corruption and related issues. Additionally, anti-corruption institutions and methods should be enhanced.

Keywords: Corruption, Bribery, Political, Governance

Introduction

Corruption is not a new occurrence and cannot be linked to a specific culture or organization because it is a worldwide issue invading many domains. Corruption is characterized primarily by exploitation, dishonesty, fraud, bribery, venality, and the theft of public money with little or no consideration for others (Aluko, 2009). The ongoing wave and erosion of corruption, particularly in developing countries such as Nigeria, has resulted in a slew of socioeconomic issues such as poverty, underdevelopment, a poor reputation, denigration of fundamental human rights, nepotism, and ethnic chauvinism, among others. The problem of corruption in Nigeria continues to diminish or harm the country's image on a global scale (Ogunnubi and Okeke-Uzodike, 2016). Corruption is defined as criminal behaviour or illicit/unlawful advances propagated by public officials for private gain, generally at the expense of others. The pervasive nature of corruption in Nigeria is causing significant concern, as there is doubt over whether the country can successfully overcome it and its impact on all facets of society.

Corruption has persisted since the first military takeover in January 1966(Ocheje, 2018), through several years of faulty electrical supplies, lousy roads, impoverished educational facilities, poverty, child labor, high death rates, and inadequate healthcare facilities.

Several reports, particularly those from news outlets and EFCC sightings, have exposed over the years that many appointed or elected politicians, officials, agents, bureaucrats, and representatives have allegedly used their exalted positions for corrupt actions (Omotola, 2021). It is also reasonable to claim that the prevalence of vote buying(Muhtadi, 2019), godfatherism, election results manipulation, ethnic and religious political campaigns(Sule, Sani & Mat, 2018), unfair revenue distribution, and other political issues have fueled corruption in the country (Ladapo, 2013). Exact and accurate data on the country's corruption level may be difficult to collect because most corrupt practices are carried out discreetly or behind closed doors. However, numerous factual pieces of evidence are always present and attainable (Kratcoski, 2012).

It should be stated that, despite the country's tremendous natural and people resources, which might serve as excellent assets to build her local, national, and worldwide reputations, Nigeria remains comparably underdeveloped. For example, Nigeria consistently ranks poorly in critical sociopolitical and economic indicators such as health care, free and fair elections, poverty reduction, human power development, capacity building, educational standards, employment prospects, water supply, and sanitation(Kabari & Nwogo, 2021). Some of the main causes for these innuendos include ethnic politics, rich and unscrupulous leaders, and every potential to build a great country. Furthermore, corruption has evolved into a powerful instrument that many Nigerians rely on to attain their objectives(Parboteeah, Seriki & Hoegl, 2014). For example, in the field of employment, candidate selection or recruitment is heavily influenced by connections and special preferences. Many companies, particularly public ones, sell seats and utilize unscrupulous methods to attract people, compromising the prospects of hiring individuals based on merit and effectiveness. Corruption in Nigeria has resulted in a number of major problems, particularly those relating to politics and ethnicity (Orjuela, 2014). In terms of how ethnic groups struggle for the location and control of public infrastructure and resources, the national crisis has a detrimental impact on public organizations.

Corruption is also a factor in the aggressive and unhealthy fight for public power among various factions in Nigeria(Rothstein, 2014). Corruption also has tendrils in religious institutions(Ebegbulem, 2012). It is a widespread practice in Nigeria for people, particularly politicians, to utilize religion or religious leaders during their campaigns to persuade others to vote for them. Okeshola (2008). (2008). Also, religion is employed in job distribution; for example, it may be difficult for a Christian to get a better job, particularly a governmental position, in the country's northern area, and vice versa.

Problem Statement

Corruption retains a prominent place in societal discourse because it has evolved into a major global concern. Though the severity and extent of the threat vary by culture or

civilization, it has become a nearly incurable blight in emerging countries, particularly Nigeria, preventing improvements in sociopolitical and economic growth. Many incidents, investigations, and stories have proven that corruption in Nigeria is prevalent in many aspects of the country, ranging from family, religion, and security to legal, education, and media. Corruption is so prevalent in the country that TI (Transparency International) named it one of the most corrupt countries in 2002, 2004, 2011, and 2012. Despite several efforts put in place to combat corruption in the country, the problem persists in all social institutions in Nigeria. Former President Obasanjo's government established the ICPC (Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offenses Commission) and the EFCC (Economic and Financial Crimes Commission) to reduce corruption. However, numerous corruption cases are being published practically daily. This societal malaise has directly or indirectly impacted Nigeria and Nigerians, particularly in terms of general well-being and progress. As a result, it is reasonable to argue that the government has grossly failed to give residents fundamental and necessary social infrastructures that would make life meaningful and worth appreciating due to the country's high prevalence of corruption. For example, the deplorable status of many Nigerian roads has placed the lives of many residents in peril, as have inadequate healthcare facilities. This is why Nkom (1983) contends that corruption is poisonous and toxic since many lives have been harmed as a result of constant corrupt activities by public officeholders who, for example, utilize their positions to steal significant sums of money at the cost of others. Corruption in the Nigerian security system must also be addressed. Many police officers seek bribes regularly and frequently charge innocent commercial motorists, young boys, merchants, store owners, cab drivers, and other innocent persons. Many criminal cases have been pushed under the rug by police personnel, especially when they involve powerful persons and high-ranking authorities. Bribe payments are one method prominent individuals buy their way out.

Despite several conversations, actions, and debates held to solve the country's corruption problem, societal malaise persists, occupying various channels and preventing it in many sectors. On that basis, this research study will concentrate on political elements that facilitate corruption in Nigeria, which has had quite a significant impact on the country's socioeconomic growth, with Kwara state serving as a case study. Another goal of this research is to see whether there are any links between governance, the rule of law, political stability, and attitudes against money laundering.

Literature Review

Nature and Concept of Corruption

Corruption is a broad and ubiquitous phenomenon; there is no universally applicable definition. This is because all attempts to conceptualize the concept have been based on diverse viewpoints and criteria such as sociological, legal, ethical, or descriptions of the conduct involved, i.e., models including conflicts of interest, breaches of trust, or abuses of agent/principal/client associations, political, economic, and administrative paradigms, differences based on whether the corruption involved community or private sector actors or interests and differences based on whether the corruption involved community or private sector actors or interests (Badenhausen,

2009). According to Sen (2001), corruption is the breach of established norms for personal advantage and profit. According to Aluko (2009), it is an anti-social behaviour that confers inappropriate gains and benefits that are contradictory to moral and legal norms and that denigrates the ability of authorities to improve people's living situations. According to the World Bank, corruption is defined as the use of public office for personal benefit. When an official accepts, requests, or extorts a bribe, he or she is abusing public office for personal benefit (Okolo & Raymond, 2014). It is also considered exploitation when private individuals deliberately offer bribes to circumvent governmental procedures and processes to gain a competitive advantage or increase their profits (Jancsics & Jávör, 2012). Public officials can still use their position for personal gain even without resorting to bribery, through practices such as nepotism and favoritism, misappropriation of state assets, or diversion and manipulation of public resources.

Corruption can be defined as deviating from what is considered morally, legally, and socially acceptable. It involves a lack of honesty or integrity and the use of a position of trust to gain fraudulent advantages. It also includes moral distortion, the erosion of ethical values and principles, and the compromise of someone's or some group's decency or honesty. Corruption also undermines moral integrity and can tempt public officials to violate their duties through inappropriate means such as bribery. According to Theobald (2000), corruption in the public sector is defined as the distortion or obliteration of integrity in the fulfillment of public responsibilities through bribery or favour, as well as the usage or existence of corrupt activities, particularly in positions of public organization. Acts of omission or conduct can constitute corruption (Peters, 2018). Corruption can encompass monetary or economic gains, influence or authority, or even untouchable interests, whether big or minor (Ciepley, 2019; Amuwo, 2005). It is magnificent when it pervades the highest levels of government by those responsible for policy creation, and this constantly leads to a visible erosion of confidence in respectable governance, the rule of law, and economic stability.

It is petty when it involves the exchange of little sums of money or tiny favours in exchange for better treatment. Administrative corruption is another term for it (Gould, 2019). When both occur in the same country, corruption becomes systemic and extremely harmful. Unfortunately, this has been our lot since our independence (Badenhausen, 2009). Corruption reflects the weaknesses of political, social, legal, and economic institutions. Even in areas where corruption is common, the actor would try to keep it hidden from public view (Della Porta, 2017). Corruption is not a new or fresh occurrence, nor is it limited to one region of the world. To understand what corruption is, one must first evaluate the social agent participating in the process. Corruption and other sorts of economic crimes have been on the rise since then, according to Ajibola (2007). The disturbing and unsettling nature of such acts has not gone unnoticed or unnoticed. Several people are rated in our selfish society based on what they have rather than what they are. Social advancement based on illegal and illicit money is not condemned. Public office is viewed as a means of amassing fortune and unrestrained opulence rather than as a merited avenue for providing useful service

to the nation for our mutual benefit. The descriptions and definitions of corruption and corrupt practices provided above show that there is widespread agreement that corruption can result from "abuse of public office for individual private gain," and it is visible not only in public sectors but also in private and international enterprises.

Consequences of Corruption in Nigeria

The effects of corruption in Nigeria are best understood when one considers that the country is now the 26th poorest in the world, despite being reasonably endowed with both people and natural resources. For the sake of this study, the implications or impacts of corruption may be considered from three perspectives: political, economic, and social.

Political Implications: Corruption is a key contributor to political instability and volatility in Nigeria. This is evidenced by the fact that, except one, practically all military takeovers of power in Nigeria have occurred as a result of corruption. The military frequently claims to be taking power to save Nigeria from chronic corruption, even though they are frequently victims of the same corruption, leading to successive military coups. Furthermore, ineffectiveness in the public sector may be attributed directly to corruption, which erodes civil service norms and values and substitutes them with ethics that are antithetical to the mandates of the public service code of conduct. Smith (2001) showed that nations with high levels of corruption had inefficient government services and poor quality public health care supply. Muhammed (2013) showed in their different research that higher military spending or higher arms procurement is highly connected with corruption (as a share of either GDP or total government spending). The reason for this is that large sums of money can readily be stolen when purchasing, for instance, military equipment rather than investing in public health care.

Economic Consequences: Corruption's economic influence on the Nigerian economy has a direct impact on the populace, who are frequently on the receiving end. Muhammed (2013) conducted research to demonstrate that corruption has a detrimental influence on the investment-to-GDP ratio. This finding was also confirmed by Nduka (2006), who found that corruption has a significant effect on the amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The low amount of FDI, along with capital flight as a result of corruption, has resulted in enormous unemployment for the teeming people, further heating the political situation. The crime rate has also risen, with armed robberies and other vices on the rise.

The economic impact of corruption in Nigeria can also be felt in the area of capacity building, as the government frequently prefers to invest in white elephant projects such as the purchase of military equipment, the construction of football stadiums costing millions of dollars, the hosting of international events, and so on, rather than education and primary health care services. The fundamental reason for this is that monies earmarked for such large projects are typically simpler to pilfer than funds for education or health care. Contracts for projects such as road building and energy generation are frequently granted to politicians and party loyal in Nigeria but are never or very badly implemented. As a result, Nigeria is unable to generate energy

for up to five hours on a regular day, and its roads are very dangerous, resulting in daily fatalities.

Social Aspect: Perhaps the most well-known result of corruption in Nigeria today is the formation of so-called "militants" in the Niger Delta and ethnic "vigilantes" in other parts of the country. Corruption has prompted young men and women who felt abandoned by the Nigerian state to take up weapons against the state to acquire their portion of the so-called "national cake" by whatever means available. Some of these violent organizations have enough weapons and ammunition to destroy the country. The Nigerian government appears incapable of dealing with the difficulties posed by these armed youths since the problem is primarily economic and can only be remedied if corruption is reduced to a bare minimum.

The fraudulent accumulation process has resulted, over time, in the progressive and phenomenon environment of Nigerian rulers (both civil and military), the emptying of the National Treasury, and the country's indebtedness almost to the point of bankruptcy, resulting in a critical scarcity of resources for investment in the social, economic, and overall cultural development of our people. As a result, Nigeria finds itself in a paradoxical scenario in which the scandalous, almost legendary riches of important ruling class members exist to ridicule the indescribable mass poverty, suffering, and degradation of the Nigerian people.

This has resulted in a condition of potential and actual violent conflict between the minority plutocrats and the majority paupers and impoverished, of which the present urban phenomena of "Area Boys/Militants" is only a tiny expression. At the attitudinal level, this situation produces a mass cynicism about and distrust of the political elite, which is a major factor in the persistence of inter and intercommunal disunity, antipathy, and strife, as well as the progressively worsening problem of political and social instability since independence. Since the public treasury has been the major and ultimate source of the Nigerian political elite's quick and dramatic private accumulation, the battle to gain state power (and hence the National treasury) among groups has been rigidly excluded from sharing in the plunder. As a result, elite factions invariably use the poor masses from their areas of origin (village, town, local government, state, or ethnic group) as cannon fodder and battering rams against their rivals and competitors from other areas, further dividing the people and undermining the stability of an already profoundly unstable Nigerian state and society. Corruption among the ruling class cabal has taught the general public a very clear lesson over time: being honest and law obeying does not pay.

As a result, some regular individuals who had learned this lesson from the top attempted to reproduce their leaders' corrupt activities at the lowest levels through minor acts of bribery, peculation, and misappropriation of public monies. Corruption as a way of life has therefore grown ubiquitous and popular in the Nigerian political system. Many members' obsession with primitive private accumulation at the expense of the public means that they tend to divert resources earmarked for running and maintaining public institutions under their control (institutions such as hospitals, schools, universities, public utilities, the judiciary, the police, and so on) to corrupt private purposes. Many young Nigerians from low-income families who have

graduated from schools, universities, and other institutes of learning are unable to find productive employment. This is because politicians have robbed resources that could have been utilized to create jobs.

Theoretical Framework

Idealistic Theory

Idealistic theory (Rosenberg, 2014) is based on the assumption that people's ideas determine how they live and how their society is organized. The idealistic theory posits that corruption should be seen in terms of the nature of social and moral values prevailing in society (John and Sabo, 2022). This theory, therefore, explains corruption in terms of some selfish ideas which are prevalent in the value system of society. This approach, according to Metiboba (2002), is sometimes subdivided into the traditionalist and the modernist (AbdulRasheed, Babaita & Yinusa, 2012). To him, the adoption of Western social values and attitudes is the determining factor of corruption in Nigeria, and as a therapeutic measure, the traditionalist idealist advocates a return to the social values of the traditional society. On the other hand, modernist idealists associate corruption with certain acts of traditional practices such as gift-giving, ethnic loyalty, and other parochial tendencies which tend to encourage corrupt behaviour and which may be overcome by modern rationalist values.

Methodology

The data analyzed in this empirical study were obtained from 1,200 distributed copies of a questionnaire across three research settings, namely Kwara Central, Kwara North, and Kwara South Senatorial Districts. It is, however, important to stress here that the 1,200 respondents were stratified and randomly selected based on quota selection of the districts, at the end of the exercise, 1,175 respondents participated in this study and formed the respondents for the study. Therefore, the response rate for the study is 98 per cent, with only 25 respondents (4 per cent of the selected sample) not returning their questionnaires. The study utilized simple percentages to analyze the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, while the chi-square (χ^2), T-test, and regression analysis were employed to test the hypotheses. Different analyses were performed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Result

Table 1: Socio-Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Demographics Features	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	679	57.8
Female	496	42.2
Total	1,175	100.0
Age		
Below 25 years	125	10.6
25-35 years	409	34.8
36-45 years	357	30.4
45 years and above	284	24.2
Total	1,175	100.0

Marital Status		
Single	205	17.4
Married	731	62.2
Separated	55	4.7
Divorced	101	8.6
Widowed	83	7.1
Total	1,175	100.0
Academic Qualification		
Primary	57	4.9
Secondary	183	15.6
Diploma/NCE	275	23.3
First Degree	593	50.5
Higher Degree	67	5.7
Total	1,175	100.0
Monthly Income		
Below N30,000	321	321
N30,000-N60,000	437	437
N61,000-N91,000	211	211
N91,000-N120,000	131	131
N120,000 & above	75	75
Total	1,175	100.0
Nature of Employment		
Private sector	307	26.1
Public sector	639	54.4
Self-employed	131	11.1
Charity Dependant	98	8.3
Total	1,175	100.0
Religion		
Christianity	319	27.1
Islam	794	67.6
Indigenous Religion	62	5.3
Total	1,175	100.0

Source: field survey, 2020

Interpretation of Findings

Respondents' Socio-demographic Characteristics

Table 1 reveals the Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The respondents were examined relative to their gender. The percentage frequency distribution of the respondents with respect to gender, as presented in the table, shows that 679 (57.8%) respondents were male, while 496 (42.2%) respondents were female. The gender distribution reveals that males were numerically greater than female respondents. The higher number of male respondents during the fieldwork could be attributed to the nature of the research topic, which focused on crime - an area where men are more commonly involved. Upon examining the distribution of respondents by age, it was found that 125 individuals (10.6%) were below 25 years old; 409 (34.8%) respondents reported that they were between 25 and 35 years old; 357 (30.4%) respondents said that they were between 36 and 45 years; and 284 (24.2%) respondents were 45 years old and above. It is noteworthy that a large proportion (89.4%) of the respondents fall specifically within the age range of 25 to 45 years old. This could be because individuals in the younger age bracket are typically more active and energetic. As such, they engage in one form of work activity or the other and may be able to give

their opinion on the current research discourse. The respondents were also examined relative to their marital status. The data gathered from the respondents on this variable reveals that 205 (17.4%) respondents were single; 731 (62.2%) respondents were married; 55 (4.7%) claimed that they had long separated from their spouses; 101 (8.6%) respondents indicated that they were divorced; while 83 (7.1%) respondents said they were widows. The education distribution revealed that 57 (4.9%) respondents reported that they have primary education; 183 (15.6%) respondents claimed to have secondary education; 593 (50.5%) respondents said that they are first-degree holders; while 67 (5.7%) reported that they have higher degree certificate in different academic disciplines. Although corruption is a problem that does not exclude anybody in society, in a general sense, it is more of an elitist problem. This may explain why all the participants in this study had attained at least one level of education. Additionally, the study also analyzed the respondents' monthly income levels. The above table revealed that 231 (27.3%) respondents earned below N30,000 as monthly income; 437 (37.2%) respondents earned between N30,000 to N60,000; 211 (18.0%) respondents earned between N61,000 to N90,000; 131 (11.1%) respondents earned between N91,000-120,000, while 75 (6.4%) respondents earned N120,000 and above as monthly income.

Regarding the respondents' employment status, the study found that 307 individuals (26.1%) worked in the private sector, 639 individuals (54.4%) worked in the public sector, 131 individuals (11.1%) were self-employed, and 98 individuals (8.3%) reported being unemployed. It can be indicated that those who work in the public sector were numerically greater than the employees in the private sector. This, therefore, justifies the fact that Kwara State is a civil servant state, as it is often described. In terms of religious affiliation, the study found that 319 individuals (27.1%) identified as Christians, 794 individuals (67.6%) identified as Muslims, and 62 individuals (5.3%) identified as practicing Indigenous religion. The results indicate that there were more respondents who identified as Muslims than those who identified as Christians. The frequency analysis of respondents' religious affiliation reveals that Kwara State's majority are Muslims.

Test of Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1

There is a significant correlation between governance and attitude toward involvement in money laundering.

The t-test results for governance and money laundering are shown in Table 2. An in-depth consideration of the contingency data presented in Table 2 reveals a number of statistical information regarding the hypothetical relationship between governance and attitude towards money laundering. For example, the t-test data presented in the Table indicate that a significant difference exists between the two variables. The estimated t-test result of 3.15 surpasses the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 with 161 degrees of freedom.

Table 2: A Summary Table of the Independent t-test showing the Influence of Governance on Attitude towards Involvement in Money Laundering

Governance	N	Mean	SD	DF	T-Cal	Critical Value
Good	785	49.72	6.31	161	3.15	1.96
Bad	390	46.25	5.34			

Author's Fieldwork (2020)

Interpretation of findings

The computed t-value of 3.15 was greater than the t-value of 1.96, according to the results in Table 2. As a result, a substantial difference exists at the 0.05 alpha level. This implies that when there is good governance, there will be a negative attitude toward corrupt behavior in the country. What this implies is that people who appreciate the effort of the current administration in the fight against corruption agreed that money laundering and other forms of corrupt practices are bad and inimical to the economic, social, and political development of the country. The political will on the part of the government to block leakages and curb excesses in all organizations and agencies is an attestation to the fact that the government is performing efficiently.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between the rule of law and attitude towards involvement in money laundering.

Table 3: Test of Relationship between Rule of Law and Attitude Towards involving in money laundering

Nature of Rule of Law	Corruption in the form of money laundering is bad				
	S/Agreed	Agreed	Disagreed	S/Disagreed	Total
Very Effective	55	53	191	122	421
Not Effective	89	57	201	136	483
I don't know	68	49	58	96	271
Total	212	159	450	354	1,175

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2020

$X^2 c = 128.100$; $X^2 t = 12.592$; d.f. = 6; Significance level = 0.05

Interpretation of findings

An in-depth examination of the table that forms the basis of the chi-square analysis presented above revealed some interesting statistical results about the possible

relationship between the two variables under consideration. Going by the data presented in the table above, the chi-square result shows that there is a statistically significant relationship between the rule of law and attitude towards corruption. ($X^2 = 128.100$; d.f. = 6; Significance level = 0.05).

The above conclusion is drawn from the fact that the X^2 calculated value of 128.100 exceeds the table value at 0.05 with 6 degrees of freedom. The statistical judgment arising from this is that the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is a relationship between the rule of law and attitude towards corruption. Consequently, it can be seen from the table that the majority (N=483) of the respondents that see the rule of law as being effective strongly agreed that corruption in the form of money laundering is bad. What this implies is that people who adjudge the rule of law in the country at present as being very effective agreed that money laundering and other forms of corrupt practices are bad and also inimical to the effective economic, social, and political development of the country. The political will on the part of the government to allow fair hearings and justice to prevail is a pointer to the fact that the current administration is performing efficiently.

Hypothesis 3

There is no significant difference between political stability and attitude towards involving in money laundering.

Table 4: A Summary Table of the Independent t-test showing the Influence of Political Stability on Attitude Towards Involvement in Money Laundering

Political Stability	N	Mean	SD	DF	T-Cal	Critical Value
Stable	813	32.41	7.31	161	2.74	1.96
Unstable	362	29.14	6.11			

Author's Fieldwork (2020)

Interpretation of findings

An in-depth consideration of the contingency data presented in Table 4 reveals a number of statistical information regarding the hypothetical relationship between political stability and attitude towards money laundering. For example, the t-test data presented in the Table indicate that a significant difference exists between the two variables. This is because the calculated value of the t-test, 2.74, surpasses the value in the table, 1.96, at a significance level of 0.05 and with 161 degrees of freedom. The implication of the above is that when the government is stable, people are less likely to be involved in money laundering and other forms of corruption because they see these things as bad and harmful to the country's economic, social, and political growth. The next main hypothesis tested focuses on the relationship between prevailing social norms and attitudes toward embezzlement.

Conclusion

Corruption has a detrimental effect on several social problems, making it an immensely significant phenomenon. In addition, corruption is a societal issue that always impacts progress and the larger community. It is ubiquitous enough to merit inquiry into its effective management or elimination. This work examined political factors (governance, the rule of law, political instability) responsible for corruption. It could be said that the people who were surveyed had different socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds and different views on getting involved in corruption. This study has a number of drawbacks. Throughout the fieldwork, the problem of non-response and late response nearly halted the research effort. Clearly, some respondents anticipated financial incentives before completing the questionnaire. The most significant contribution of this empirical study to the current body of information is that this conclusion demonstrates that corruption tends to cause a variety of difficulties, particularly poverty, unemployment, and retards progress.

Recommendations

Using the findings of this study as a guide, it is advised that Nigerians be educated through seminars and educational programs on the dangers of corruption and the associated obstacles. Similarly, anti-corruption agencies must be informed and reoriented by adhering to the rule of law in their battle against corruption. The government is urged to create jobs and make Nigeria a secure place to live. Realizing that child abuse and poverty are mutually reinforcing; it is strongly advised that government and non-governmental organizations in Kwara State devote themselves to the more basic goal of poverty reduction, particularly in the state's metropolitan centers.

For successful anti-corruption measures, the government should reinforce the rule of law and promote good governance. In addition, the government should take all necessary steps to ensure that the legislation provides a sufficient foundation for the implementation of effective legal actions against all types of corruption, including nepotism. Therefore, it is necessary to establish laws to make nepotism a bribery offence to supplement the current criminal law. A suitable framework for the efficient execution of anti-corruption laws must also be established.

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