

EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION ON SERVICE DELIVERY IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF OSUN STATE PUBLIC SERVICE

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ABSTRACT

Corruption is one of the main issues highlighted as having detrimental effects on many countries' socioeconomic growth. In Nigeria, corruption is evident in every aspect of the economy, including public service. This study reveals that corruption affects the efficient provision of services by the Nigerian Public Service. The ability of the government to provide fundamental services in the areas of education, health, water, power, and other basic amenities has been adversely impacted by corruption, a reality widely acknowledged in Nigeria. Hence, this study examined the economic implication of corruption on public service in Osun State, Nigeria, as a point of reference. While corrupt practices are a major contributor to a country's economic decline, it's important to remember that civil servants and public servants commit the majority of corrupt acts. The study relied primarily on qualitative data obtained from secondary sources. The research methodology adopted for this study is content analysis. The paper made an argument using the "Prebendalism Model" as its theoretical framework. The study reveals that corruption is an impediment to the economic growth and development of Osun State. The study comes to the conclusion that corruption in the public sector is a significant barrier to the successful provision of services to the Nigerian population. The authors recommend the need to grant antigraft agencies their own authority. The study recommends that more funds should be invested in education to train and sensitize citizens on the evils of corruption and criminal activities.

Introduction

Today, corruption is one of the greatest challenges and threats to any country's long-term economic health. It's a global problem, but it persists especially strongly in Africa and other developing nations. Corruption can reduce a country's wealth because it discourages investment and trade, as stated by the World Bank (1999). To corrupt is to seek to acquire wealth or power dishonestly for personal gain at the expense of the public good or to abuse one's position of public trust for private gain. Similar to the ubiquity of cockroaches in human society, corruption has persisted for a long time and continues to be a major issue in many of the world's developing economies. One of the biggest problems slowing down Nigeria's

economic development is corruption (Nageri, Umar, and Abdul, 2013). Corrupt practices, according to researchers, have persisted in governance, public, and private spaces from the pre-colonial era through the colonial period, the period of independence, and the present (Nagari et al., 2013). It hinders public and private sector development, primarily harms the poor, and distorts public policy (Ajao, Dada, and Olaoye, 2013).

Corruption refers to dishonest behavior in any aspect of society, including the economy, government, society, or culture. Regardless of the specific industry in which corruption is embedded, it can be assessed on the basis of the pervasive orientation in a given society that dictates how people ought to act in relation to other people and the economy, politics, and culture. Corrupt behaviour, as defined by the World Bank and Transparency International (TI), a leading global anti-corruption watchdog, is the use of public office for private gain, whether for the benefit of the official in question or a third party. According to these definitions, political corruption is any form of dishonesty that undermines the established political order (Ajao, Dada and Olaoye, 2013).

However, because the state serves as a root or training school for all political leaders in the country, corrupt practices at the state and local government levels cannot be withered away. Thus, in order to guarantee a comprehensive anti-corruption crusade in the country, it is necessary to also emphasize or investigate corruption at the state level. Indicators of corruption at the state level are typically linked to public financial management among civil servants and government personnel in general, which has led to the recent abandonment of public projects and, most importantly, contributed to the economic retardation of the country.

Projects are at the forefront of progress everywhere, and the political and economic progress of any nation or state depends on the successful completion of public projects. A public project is one that receives funding from a government with the intention that it will eventually be owned and operated by that government on behalf of the general public. Buildings for drinking water, transportation, communications, schools, administrative offices, libraries, community centres, and sports and recreation complexes are all examples of such endeavours. Rao (2003) cites the World Bank's definition of public projects as a coordinated effort to improve a country's economic and social conditions. Repeatedly, Rao (2003) argues public works projects should serve as "engines of growth and glue to economic development". Therefore, public infrastructure is crucial to the economic development of any nation or state.

The ever-increasing wants, and possibilities of humanity are the driving force behind public works projects. Public projects are typically started by governments, and governments also provide the funding necessary to see these projects through to completion. These infrastructure projects call for substantial funding, which the private sector might not be able to manage and administer on its own. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the government to provide the necessary funding from the generated revenue and to guarantee the prudent allocation, uniform distribution, and stable pricing of such projects. And since Nigeria is such a culturally and linguistically diverse country, it's no surprise that different forms of corruption, such as tribalism, nepotism, and favouritism, are commonplace in the public sector.

There is a widespread perception that government projects are poorly managed, which leads to budget and schedule overruns. There is a pressing need for better management of public project finances in order to ensure efficient service delivery, as suggested by Likpe and Henderson (2006, p. 22).

But corruption has been the main cause of slow development in the country (ICPC, 2018-22). While it may be impossible to completely eradicate corruption, it is possible to significantly cut it down, and this is in line with the beliefs of Lipsky (2010), who hold that the goal of corruption prevention is to increase the government's honesty and reliability so that it can carry out its core responsibilities more effectively and fairly. Ibietan (2013, p.47) adds his voice to the chorus of critics who claim that Nigeria's punishments for serious offenses like corruption are too lenient and do not deter criminals. Bureaucratic discretion, or the authority to decide how policies should be implemented, is granted to public officials, according to the opinion of Lipsky (2010). However, if this authority is abused, it can amount to corruption. The public bureaucracy plays a crucial role in government administration by ensuring the equitable distribution and delivery of public goods and services. Yet a corrupt bureaucracy can reduce the quality of government services and programs (Okotoni, 2001, p. 227). The political, social, cultural, and, most importantly, economic stagnation of Nigeria and Osun state, in particular, can be traced back to poor project management, which can be traced to poor governance.

Statement of the problem

Researchers in both developed and developing countries have paid close attention to the impact of corruption on sustainable economic development over the years. Most people agree that corruption is bad for the economy. Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan argued that corruption severely retards progress by weakening national economies (Waziri, 2010). According to Obasanjo in 2009, corruption has been to blame for the failure of each new republic's government. Since then, every military takeover has claimed to be fighting corruption.

Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, the former Governor of Osun State, stated during his tenure that his administration was resolved to free the state public service of corruption and unnecessary bottlenecks. The Current Governor of Osun State, Governor Ademola Adeleke recently suspended some officials in the public service on the grounds of corruption.

In consonance with the above statement, the goals of this study are to investigate the factors that have contributed to corruption in Nigeria's public service, assess corruption's impact on Osun state's economic growth, and investigate the steps the government has taken to combat corruption in the state.

Research Question

This research tends to provide suitable answers to the following questions.

1. What are the factors that led to corrupt practices in Nigeria's public service?
2. How has corruption affected the economic development in Osun Public Sector?

Objective of the Study

The following are the objectives of the study;

1. To examine the challenges that led to corrupt practices in Nigeria Public Service.
2. To examine the effects of corruption on economic development in Osun Public Sector.

Research Methodology

This study is primarily qualitative in nature. Given the nature of the work, content analysis, a research strategy for examining documents and communication artifacts, will be used instead for this data analysis. This is consistent with the position of Adler, P. (1987). Data will be gathered from secondary sources such as government reports and publications, magazines, textbooks, journals, newspapers, and the internet. The study will use a descriptive research design to collect and analyze data on the variables of interest. It will detail the ways in which corruption has hampered Osun State's progress toward economic prosperity. The non-intrusive nature of content analysis makes it ideal for examining social phenomena.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

Scholars have different interpretations of the term corruption. In the recent past, many different perspectives and methods have emerged in response to its conceptualization. As a result, it is recognized as a universal phenomenon that has always existed in all human societies. As such, it has been singled out as a significant factor holding back a country's political and economic development. The precise definition of corruption is a matter of debate. Numerous academics have offered conflicting definitions. Corruption is defined as "the abuse of public office for private gains" by the World Bank and the IMF. When a public servant accepts, solicits, or extorts a bribe for personal gain, they are engaging in rent-seeking activities. Bribery by private actors to influence public officials is another form of corruption that undermines public trust in government. Besides bribery, other forms of abuse of public office for private gain include favouritism, nepotism, and the misappropriation of public funds (World Bank 1999). Corruption occurs when a public servant accepts money or other benefits in exchange for violating his or her duty to do or not do something. Corruption occurs when public interests are placed below those of the individual.

Corruption

According to research presented by Nagari, Guru, and Abdul (2013), corruption significantly hinders economic development and growth. According to Adebayo (2013), corruption undermines democracies by undermining their electoral processes, subverting the rule of law, spawning bureaucratic traps, and discouraging FDI. When corruption permeates the democratic institutions of a state, not only will that country be politically and economically stagnant, but it will also be a political backwater. While Adebayo (2011) acknowledges that

corruption exists everywhere, he argues that in Nigeria it is more pervasive and has longer-lasting consequences. According to Tolu and Qgunro (2012), the government's futile fight against the cankerworm is due to the fact that the government is itself heavily infected with the virus, and the average Nigerian is viewed as corrupt around the world.

Corruption is described as the abuse of power for personal benefit (Transparency, 2022). Corruption is a complicated social, political, and economic issue that affects all nations, according to the United Nations. It undermines democratic institutions, hinders economic growth, and leads to the instability of governance (Nations, 2021). According to Nweke (2019), corruption enables a few privileged individuals to convert what belongs to the public into their personal property, resulting in widespread poverty and deteriorating infrastructure, among other societal issues. Salihu (2020) said that corruption by Nigeria's public personnel manifests in activities like as bribery, embezzlement, fraud, forgery, pilfering, and inflation of contracts and procurements, among others, in the course of carrying out their mandates. According to Ijewereme (2015), corruption in Nigeria's public sector manifests as misappropriation, kickbacks, overbilling, bribery, embezzlement, tribalism, nepotism, money laundering, open theft of the treasury, etc. Nweke (2019) stated that corruption has become a culture to the extent that people no longer view corruption as evil in the society. As a result, corrupt public office holders are now highly regarded in public activities, making corruption a recurrent decimal in the community. According to Transparency International, corruption may occur anywhere, can involve anyone, and nearly always occurs in the shadows (Transparency, 2022).

One of the main obstacles to any country's socioeconomic and political progress is corruption. According to Mohammed (2013), defining corruption is a difficult endeavor since it is a difficult undertaking. Corruption is seen by Andvig, Fjeldstad, Amundsen, Sissener, and Sreide (2001:4) as a "complex and multifaceted phenomenon with different causes and effects, since it takes on various shapes and settings." They emphasized that although corruption is tough to eradicate, it has the ability to take on new forms, which makes it difficult to conceptualize (Andvig et al., 2001). Additionally, Tanzi (1998) argued that while the corruption crisis is challenging to identify, it is not difficult to recognize. According to Ayobolu (2006), corruption is one of the numerous unaddressed issues that have severely hampered and reduced growth in Nigeria. It continues to be a significant long-term challenge for Nigeria's political and economic development (Nwankwo, 2014). Additionally, according

to EFCC (2019), corruption is a canker worm that has slowed down development across the board in the Nigerian economy.

Public Service

Public service is a government department or body that is in charge of making plans for and carrying out government policies (Nevin, 2019). It is a very important part of the government's policy. It gives technical and professional advice to the government based on its expertise, knowledge, and years of service. It also develops programs and options for completing government projects based on the resources that are available. It also keeps track of and evaluates programs and projects that are already underway. It also makes sure that all government policies are put into place so that the goals can be reached (Omisore, 2015). But corruption and inefficiency have stopped these goals and objectives from being met most of the time.

Corruption and improper use of public funds have a direct impact on Nigeria's crumbling infrastructure, including access to drinkable water, adequate roads, healthcare facilities, a high standard of education, security, justice, and employment, as well as other interconnected problems (Ribadu, 2013). The biggest obstacle to ending extreme poverty is still corruption, which also hinders development in all of the areas mentioned here. Corruption weakens legal systems, prevents aid from being used effectively in the world's poorest regions, prevents funds from reaching healthcare and education, and limits people's access to jobs and social benefits (Adebayo, 2013). Former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo and the Good Luck Jonathan administration (that is, the PDP-led government from 1999 to 2015) skimmed off funds intended for investments in the power sector, while those who made those investments squandered the funds with nothing to show for it (Balogun, 2016).

Generally speaking, corruption has bad effects. Corruption contributes to increased inequality, worsens widespread poverty, hinders effective resource planning and allocation, stunts economic growth by deterring investment, lowers economic efficiency, and raises government spending due to contract and supply price inflation. It is undeniable that corruption undermines effective government in Nigeria (Alemika, 2012).

The foregoing argument assumes that the primary roles of civil and public servants everywhere are to provide the government with the information it needs to make sound policy decisions and carry out those decisions without bias or prejudice. As an employee of the civil

service commission, the civil servant is obligated to carry out these tasks without bias or prejudice and in accordance with the law.

Theoretical Framework:

The theoretical framework adopted for this study is the prebendalism theory. The nature of the Patron-Client relationship in Nigeria, as described by Richard (1996), provides the best explanation for corruption in the country. According to theory, "state offices are regarded as prebends that can be appropriated by office holders who use them to generate material benefit for themselves and their constituent and kin groups." Prebendal politics is the norm in Nigerian politics. As a result, corrupt acts can be committed with impunity, with society bearing the consequences. As a result of the patron-client or identity-politics system that permeates the Nigerian political system, corruption is able to flourish, undermining and stalling the country's progress. Therefore, according to this theory, only the wealthy and those in positions of power in Nigeria are corrupt. It argues that people who commit crimes in such a society do so not to enrich themselves but as a necessary response to the corrupt practises of the ruling class and as a means of surviving in the face of the ostentatious display of ill-gotten wealth of the ruling class. Marx, the leader of the materialist school of thought, argues that society's organisation of production, distribution, and exchange of goods and services determines people's material condition and, more importantly, serves as the basis for the antagonistic relationship between the owners of the means of production and the workers in any given state.

As mentioned above, this theory is crucial because it explains why so many Nigerian public servants engage in corrupt behaviour.

Corruption Cases in Osun Public Service between 2011 and 2015

Assuming office on November 27, 2010, Rauf Aregbesola has improved upon the scandalous performance of previous governments, which, with the exception of the Akande administration, is more believable in the realm of fiction than reality. State infrastructural facilities were in horrible decline and required immediate attention and rehabilitation due to poor governance by successive governments and the inherent institutionalized corruption of public office holders (Ahmed, 2016).

The decay he saw on the ground was intolerable to him, especially the moral degradation he witnessed. Therefore, he set out on sweeping changes to bring the country up to par with

what was expected of a modern state and set it on a course that could not be reversed in the future. Aregbesola was in a hurry to develop the 25-year-old state when he came on board in 2010, spending as much as 80% of the state's resources on capital projects. This was because the growth of the state had been stalled due to the maladministration of his immediate predecessor in office. Having dedicated such a massive sum to the implementation of capital projects, there is little to steal, and he stopped all areas of leakages, corrupt public officials and beneficiaries of the old order were not happy with him.

According to an article in the Daily Post Documents alleging corruption on the part of Osun State Governor Rauf Aregbesola were given to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in 2015 by Yinka Odumakin, the organization's National Publicity Secretary. According to Odumakin, Aregbesola is responsible for plunging the state into extreme poverty. They said that Osun State was the poorest in Nigeria and that a forensic audit of state finances was essential. According to the petition, Osun "is plagued with abandoned projects despite though loans were secured by this administration to undertake them. Our once-beloved state has been co-opted by the country's most powerful politicians, who have made it a symbol of want, poverty, aimlessness, evil, and insensitivity.

They said their families couldn't afford food anymore, and they trusted the EFCC to collect their state's money. The petition complained that due to Aregbesola's carelessness, Osun State has become a national punchline and a metaphor for economic hardship. In response to the petition, Osun State's Director of Research, Strategy, and Publicity for the All Progressives Congress, Mr. Kunle Oyatomi, defended the administration. According to Oyatomi, anyone making accusations against the state administration should be prepared to back them up with evidence. He said that the petition's sponsors were political opponents who wanted to divert attention away from the administration. After the lawsuit was resolved, the State administration sat on the information and did not make it public. This points to the weakness of the judiciary and other anti-corruption institutions.

Corruption Cases in Osun Public Service between 2015 and 2019

Everything was the same in Iwo as it was in Ife Central LGA, Osun State, the birthplace of the Yoruba people. There were obvious traces of infrastructure decay. It was the same in Ifelodun, Olorunda, and Ayedaade LGAs. Osun State, like the rest of the states in Nigeria, has been ravaged by corruption, as seen by its poor infrastructure (including its highways and social amenities). Osun residents, who have been hit hard by corruption, were not at all shy

about voicing their displeasure when the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Citizens Engagement Forum showed up in their city (CEF). To educate and mobilise ordinary people to take action against corruption, ICPC created the CEF. Its goals include mobilising regular people in the battle against corruption and instilling the values of honesty, responsibility, and openness in the public sphere.

Despite the N13.9 billion intervention funds from the Federal Government through UBEC for the purpose of building classrooms, the Civil Societies Coalition for the Emancipation of Osun State (2017) petitioned the Governor of Osun State in a report published by The Nation in March 2017 on the case bordering on fraudulent diversion of N11.4 billion obtained through Osun SUKUK bond to private foreign account. With respect to the petition filed by the Chairman of the Civil Society Coalition for the Emancipation of Osun State, the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) wrote a letter to the petitioner with the reference number ICPC/INV/NGB/T.E2/003, and also sent a copy to the Osun Secretary to the State Government, stating that their investigations had not established an act contrary to the Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act, After conducting a thorough investigation, the panel announced that they had found no evidence to support the claims against Governor Aregbesola and hence were dismissing them.

The Nigerian Judicial Council (NJC) has recommended the firing of Justice Mohammed Yunusa of a Federal High Court sitting in Lagos for official misconduct, according to another article published by The Nigerian Tribune in July 2016. According to the Tribune's findings, he also fired Justice Olamide Oloyede, a judge in the state of Osun, for filing a petition with the Osun State House of Assembly against Rauf Aregbesola, the governor of Osun. There was no official confirmation from the NJC on Sunday, but a Tribune correspondent heard that Justice Yunusa had been fired after he issued an injunction preventing the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from investigating Stella Oduah, who was accused of massive embezzlement of public funds and numerous acts of fraud in contracts.

In addition to taking kickbacks and bribes, Justice Yunusa was accused of giving conflicting rulings in a case and was the subject of a petition. The NJC also removed Justice Oloyede, a female judge in Osun State. Justice Oloyede's petition to the Osun State House of Assembly accusing Governor Rauf Aregbesola of corruption in 2015 generated a stir because she was a sitting judge at the time. Last week on Thursday and Friday, the NJC met and ultimately

decided to remove the two Judges from office for official misconduct. According to reports, the NJC fired the judges after finding them guilty of many counts of serious misconduct.

All of these investigations and corruption cases have led to worsening living conditions for the people of Osun state by cutting back on resources including healthcare, education, infrastructure, and social services. This is because shady characters engaged in things like money laundering and privatising public funds spent or embezzled money that could have been used to strengthen all these public sector organisations.

Economic Effects of Corruption on Osun Public Service

Corruption's outlandish repercussions in Nigeria are disastrous. Underdevelopment, a lack of basic infrastructure like potable water and good road networks, misappropriation of national resources leading to massive poverty, mediocrity in leadership and cluelessness in professionalism, deficient leadership outputs, high unemployment and youth hopelessness, a constantly widening gap between the rich and the poor, and a falling standard of education leading to the production of low-quality graduates are just some of the consequences (Waziri, 2010).

Students and graduates of higher education institutions have lost faith in themselves, their abilities, and the worth of their own work as a result of corruption. It has tarnished the reputations of both faculty and staff of Nigeria's public universities and colleges, as well as their respective governing councils. Violence and instability in communities are exacerbated by corruption, which prevents people from gaining access to fundamental services like education and healthcare and promotes political violence and popular resentment (TI, 2012). It skews budget priorities, drives up the price of doing business and of governing, and shifts wealth from developing to developed countries. It has hampered academic pursuits, sidetracked administrative aims, prompted the relocation of organisational objectives, and severely tarnished Nigeria's reputation abroad, to name just a few of the many negative effects (Azelama, 2005; Waziri, 2010).

Corruption and poor leadership have hampered Nigeria's progress economically. According to (Chandio & Chandio, 2021) corruption has slowed Nigeria's progress toward long-term economic growth and prosperity. It's a cancer that eats away at the foundations of a progressive Nigerian society (Ogbeidi, 2016).

The repercussions of Nigeria's poor leadership and pervasive corruption are despicable. Aiyede (2016) argues that corruption is a major barrier to progress. Corruption has eroded democratic ideals such as trust, credibility of government, and good administration, as noted by Ijewereme and Dunamade (2015) in their analysis of the Nigerian political environment. Corruption in the political process affects quality representation and decreases accountability, openness, and integrity (Ebegbulem, 2017). Poor governance in Nigeria is hindered by corruption, which reduces the efficacy of government services and turns away honest investors.

Corruption and mismanagement of public funds directly contribute to the deteriorating state of Nigeria's infrastructure, including its lack of clean water, adequate roads, health facilities, quality schools, fair courts, ample employment opportunities, and other related problems (Chandio, Iqbal Ameen Brohi, Ali, & Gadhi, 2019). Corruption continues to be the most significant obstacle to eradicating extreme poverty and hinders development in all of the aforementioned areas, including healthcare, education, the availability of jobs and social benefits, the integrity of legal systems, and the efficacy of international aid in the world's poorest regions (Adebayo, 2013).

Former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo and his successors in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) held office from 1999 to 2015, and during that time they diverted funds intended for the country's electricity industry (Buhari, 2015). Corruption usually ends up having bad results.

Inequality is widened, mass poverty is exacerbated, efficient resource planning and allocation are impeded, investment is discouraged, economic efficiency is compromised, and government spending is increased as a result of contract and supply price inflation brought on by corruption. It's undeniable that corruption in Nigeria undermines effective government (Chandio, Iqbal Ameen Brohi, Ali, & Gadhi, 2019).

Corruption is rife in Nigeria, according to the EFCC's 2011 Corruption Index. Schools that are not developed, hospitals that do not have medicines, roads that are not passable, and a lack of inspiration among average inhabitants are all tangible evidence of the scourge's destructive effects on the economic and social fabric (Osawe, 2015). In Nigeria right now, impunity is the biggest obstacle to fighting corruption. The sheer magnitude and depth of corruption have made it not only public but glorified (Alemika, 2017).

Challenges of Combating Corruption in Osun Public Service

Corruption in the public sector has reached epidemic proportions. Corruption, as defined by the World Bank in Obayelus (2007: 4), occurs when a public official takes, solicits, or extorts a bribe for personal advantage. If you want to get rich in Nigeria, corruption is your best bet. The widespread poverty and misery experienced by many Nigerians can be directly attributed to the corrosive effects of corruption (Dike, 2002:2). Public workers are corrupt because they choose to be, and they have ignored morals in favour of money. Theft, vandalism, and pilfering of office property, number-crunching, bribery, diverting governmental funds for personal gain, favouritism, and other forms of gratification are all indicators of this problem. As a means of redressing this abominable wrong, auditors play a crucial role. According to Attahiru (2021), "auditors should hang on to the customary beliefs about the behaviour of the personnel with respect to the organization's operations and should not initiate audit planning with the suspicion of corruption." Compliance audits, financial audits, and performance audits are all essential tools in the auditor's arsenal against corruption. However, for this corruption control to be effective, the government must provide a conducive climate.

According to Sa'id and Abass (2022), Godfatherism is one of the major obstacles to eradicating fraudulent activities in the Nigerian public sector. Challenges persist in the face of Godfatherism's selective judgement, the absence of autonomous authorities, and the party structure. The second main obstacle to preventing fraud in the Nigerian public sector is the issue of political immunity, which weakens public governance by illustrating the exemption of penalty, constitutional protections, and political climate. These two are major roadblocks in the battle against corruption in the public sector of Osun State.

According to Lumumba (2013), the lack of political leaders and officers dedicated to combating corruption is the biggest obstacle facing anti-corruption commissions in Africa. Lack of proper budget, political influence, judicial delays, and especially poor incentive pay to civil officials in the Osun State public service are only some of the difficulties which afflict anti-corruption organisations in Nigeria. Waziri (2010) said that the country's anti-graft authorities lack the tools they need to combat corruption because of a lack of autonomy, unequal treatment, institutional problems, judicial power, an inadequate database, and political will (Waziri, 2010). They excel, in fact, in making public the identities of corrupt individuals without actually punishing them. Institutions aimed at combating corruption are ineffective at their jobs.

These anti-corruption organisations failed to bring charges against a sufficient number of high-ranking public servants. This is the major obstacle to anti-corruption campaigns in Nigeria. This exemplifies the fact that certain Nigerians are immune to the long arm of the law and might escape justice altogether (Justine & Okoye, 2014). Aside from these interventions, the country has held the title of most corrupt nation in the world for an extended period of time. This is because of a lack of political will to enforce anti-corruption laws as well as an insufficient institutional strategy and socio-economic reforms (Ogundiya, 2009).

The lack of an established structure and the inability to act independently for anti-graft institutions present general difficulties for anti-corruption tactics. Some of the problems we face today include a corrupt government that interferes with anti-corruption organisations, a corrupt legal system, and a lack of harsh or lenient punishment. Inadequate leadership, limited resources, the lack of a centralised database, a lack of discretion, and the requirement for public sector reform all play a role (Waziri, 2010; Justine & Okoye, 2014). These problems are the major illnesses that hamper the anti-graft institutions' plans to combat corruption in the country.

Another major issue is government workers who resist change. The resistance culture has been extremely problematic for government employees. Government efforts to reorganise the public sector through a succession of reforms have consistently failed because public employees take delight in their indifference to their jobs. Many public servants blame the years of inefficiency and ineffectiveness in the public sector on ideas like denial, strict monitoring, downsizing, opposition to bribery and corruption, severe discipline, lack of freedom, and achievement of targets.

Political leaders' changing behaviour is another worrying trend. To some extent, politicians' disdain for public servants can be traced back to the difficulties they have in distinguishing between their own roles and those of public bureaucrats. Although there have been numerous attempts by political scientists to disentangle their roles, the two remain largely interchangeable in practice. But it must be stressed that issues in the public sector are frequently caused by unwarranted and prolonged interference in the work of officials. Politicians have their own commando squads, whereas bureaucrats are generally viewed as gatekeepers whose job it is to enforce the will of the politicians they serve.

Conclusion

The study uses the public service in Osun State, Nigeria, as a case study to examine the effects of corruption on the country's economy. However, the study's authors believe that addressing corruption in Nigeria's public sector will take a monumental effort on the part of the government and the people. Some academics have advocated for political will on the part of the government to tackle corruption in public and private sector management. By doing so, they would be able to give all anti-corruption institutions their own independence and give them the resources they need to carry out their mission without bias.

Recommendations

Corruption is a powerful cancer and force that has crippled Nigeria. more so, corruption is a cankerworm that has eaten deeply into the fibre of the Nigerian economy. As a result, corruption causes social and moral decline in Nigeria while diverting limited public resources to private gain. However, this study examined the effects of public sector corruption on the economy of Osun, Nigeria. The following are some of the suggestions made by the study to help reduce the rampant corruption in the public sector in Osun state:

- ✚ Accurate funding is needed for educational institutions. The government of Nigeria should prioritise the education and training of its citizens, as doing so would do much to inspire the country's youth and improve the quality of education available throughout the country. Government efforts should be directed into Nigeria's higher education institutions in order to produce graduates with marketable skills. Self-employment is a deterrent to criminal activity such as kidnapping, extortion over the internet, and banditry among college grads.

- ✚ It's important to give anti-graft agencies their own authority. Former President Olusegun Obasanjo's "no sacred cows" phrase calls for prosecuting all of Nigeria's known corrupt political heavy weights in order to win the battle on corruption. It's important that anti-corruption agencies are given the freedom to carry out the work required of them by the Constitution. The state's chief executive shouldn't be able to meddle in their operations.

✚ It is important for the Judiciary to be truly Independent: If Nigeria is serious about eradicating its corruption problem, it must ensure that its politicians are held accountable for their conduct and that its judiciary is truly independent, able to hand down decisions without intervention from the Executive. As a result, it is imperative that the Nigerian government's checks and balances between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches be reorganized and strengthened. All financial transactions at parastatals and ministries, in particular, need to be conducted in a transparent and accountable manner. If the commission finds that an individual has engaged in corrupt practises, that individual should be subject to the sanctions imposed by the anti-corruption agency. The fact that he is a minister, governor, or party faithful does not absolve him from the punishment he deserves under Nigeria's Constitution.

✚ It is the responsibility of the government to increase employment opportunities. If a person is paid fairly and promptly, he may have less time on his hands to engage in corrupt behaviour. Corruption is a common activity for the unemployed, who are desperate for cash to satisfy the requirements of their family. That's why the government and NGOs in Nigeria need to work more to create employment opportunities for the people there.

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