

IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON POVERTY SPURRED BY POOR ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND NATION BUILDING IN NIGERIA

Dr. Victor Amadin IDEHEN
Department of Entrepreneurship
Faculty of Management Sciences
University of Benin
Victor.idehen@uniben.edu

&

Dr. Angela Obose ORIAZOWANLAN
Department of Entrepreneurship
Faculty of Management Sciences
University of Benin
oboseangel@gmail.com

Abstract

Corruption which has eaten deep into the fabric of the nation's economy arising from poor accountability and transparency is alarm in Nigeria. The attendant consequences are enormous and as a result poverty has taken toll on the populace. The study therefore examined the effect of poor accountability and transparency as it relate to corrupt practices which spurred poverty index in Nigeria. Two research questions guided the study. A sample of 100 respondents was purposively selected from Federal and State ministries, parastatals/agencies, private organization and non -governmental organization in Benin City. The study adopted quantitative research method: exploratory and descriptive. The study made the use of both primary and secondary data imperative. The primary data elicited information from respondents through the use of questionnaire and oral interview. The primary data were analyzed and presented using SPSS 22.0 statistical techniques .The secondary data made of corruption ranking and poverty in Nigeria were obtained from

transparency international and World Bank respectively for ten years which was used to ascertain if corruption is associated with poverty level in Nigeria. Regression analysis was used to confirm the extent to which corruption can be used to predict poverty level in Nigeria at 5% level of significant. The non- parametric test of association revealed that there is a significant relationship between corruption and poverty. The study also revealed that the level of accountability, transparency and nation building has significant impact on corruption and poverty. It was recommended amongst others that there should be greater accountability, transparency by government or its agencies in Nigeria, active participation of civil society, media and citizens in activities of government which can be stimulated through investment in education to facilitate citizen participation in governance.

Keywords: Accountability Transparency, Nation Building, Poverty and Corruption.

Introduction

Corruption which is defined by transparency international as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain has been the bane of our economic development and national growth. Despite the enormous amount received from oil sector, the government has not been able to achieve maximum success on the path of economic growth and prosperity. Some indices used for measuring economic success among which are human development index and gross domestic growth rate as well as general debt profile and inflation rate. Social exclusion, privatization of state, inequality, ethnicity and inefficient allocation of resources impedes economic growth. With rampant corruption, foreign and domestic investment is discouraged because of high uncertainty and increase cost of doing business, thus resulting in low capacity utilization, worsening poverty level, unemployment, inflation, income inequality, hunger and insecurity mostly in areas of terrorism, Boko Haram, and Herdsmen Bandit among others. Corruption fuels bad governance, erodes public confidence, undermine public service delivery.

Transparency International (2019) ranked Nigeria as low as 148th and the score was 28 out of 100 positions out of 180 in its 2017 corruption perception index (CPI). The figure was lower than the average in sub Saharan Region of 32. The ranking relate to perceptions of the degree of corruption as experienced by business people and analyst and ranges between 100 (highly clean) and 0 (high corrupt). The high rate of corruption has adverse effect on the nation's economy which in turn affected the populace standard of living. About 91.16 million people in Nigeria are poor as at February, 2019 according to national Bureau of Statistics. More than 53.7% of Nigerians live below poverty line with less than one dollar a day against World Bank bench mark of 1.90 dollar a day. Poverty is

inability to afford basic needs and necessity to life such as food, housing and clothing. Akinkuotu (2019) posited that poverty clock had named Nigeria the poverty capital of the world as at 2018 when it revealed that Nigeria had 87 million people living in poverty.

The government of Nigeria has taken necessary measures to curb corruption in the country among which includes establishment of Economic and Financial Crime Commission, (EFCC) 2004, Independent Corrupt Practice Commission (ICPC) 2000, enactment of public procurement Act in 2007, public complaint commission 1967/79, freedom of information Act 2011, whistle blower policy 2016, declaration of asset of public officers 2012, strengthening of political and democratic mechanism, reforms in so many institutions. Despite the efforts of government, corruption in the country has worsened. Hence formal British Prime Minister said Nigeria is fantastically corrupt. Corruption constrains sustainable economic development and effective public service delivery and the ills prompted donor nations or western world to demand for good governance, transparency and accountability which require the principle of credibility and trustworthiness built on institutions.

Nigeria is bedeviled with leaders who has hijack the apparatus of government and the economy for their personal gains and promote parochial and ethnic bigotry leaving majority of the citizens impoverished. Paschke, Dimancesco, Vian, Kohler and Forte (2018), posited that accountability and transparency can contribute to greater state legitimacy, strengthen citizen's understanding of citizenship, promote political inclusion, provide interface between citizen's and governments, build intra community trust, build competencies and skills that are

necessary to organize collective action. Paschke et al (2008) further argues that accountability means that individuals and institutions are responsible for acting according to certain standards and commitments and they are answerable for their actions or will face consequences when standards and commitment are not met. But Nigeria bureaucratic accountability mechanism such as intra government controls and political accountability mechanism such as election have been abused and fails to deliver the expected results.

The western world have encouraged Africa leaders to use social accountability which involve the participation of the citizens and non-governmental organization in the activities of governance and also call on the government of Africa, Nigeria inclusive to be more transparent which is the key feature of good governance. According to transparency international, transparency is a characteristic of governments, companies, organizations and individuals of being open in the clear disclosure of information, rules, plans, processes and actions. Transparency can increase the accountability and effectiveness of government spending. Despite freedom of information Act promoted by the Nigeria government and protection of whistle blower, issues of government are still shrouded in secrecy. Scholars had attributed the problem of Nigeria nation to social exclusion, socio-economic inequalities across the country which fuels fears and suspicious. Thus the important components of nation building: Economic, social, political development and institutions which protects human rights and provide for the rule of law are undermined. The Nigeria nation has found itself in a complete quagmire which calls for a national discuss due to increase rate of poverty, insecurity, and ego centric leaders.

The theoretical base of this research work is on the deepening democracy school of thought who advocates the direct participation of citizens in governance which includes the promotion of social movement and their claims to service as right (Gaventa and Mcgee 2013). Proper accountability and transparency promotes prosperity, national cohesion and good governance which serve as veritable tools through which the leaking pipe of corruption and poverty can be eradicated and replace and the extent to which this has been achieved in Nigeria seem uncertain, hence the study

In the light of the above, the objective of the study is to find out

- a. How poor accountability and transparency spur corruption in Nigeria.
- b. If there is a significant relationship between corruption and poverty.

The following research questions guided the study.

1. How does poor accountability and transparency spur corruption in Nigeria?
2. What is the significant relationship between corruption and poverty?

Literature Review

Accountability is synonymous with responsibility, liability and answerability which means accountability is the obligation of an individual or organization to account for its activities and accept responsibility for them. Paschke, Dimancesco, Vian, Kohler and Forte (2018) posited through accountability individual and institution are responsible for acting according to certain standards and commitments, therefore are answerable for their actions and will face consequences when standard or commitments are not met. Stone, Dwiredi and Jabbra list 8 types of accountability: moral, administrative, political, managerial, market, legal/judicial, constituency relation and professional. Political accountability is

the fulcrum of this work. Political accountability is the accountability of the governance, civil servants, public and legislative bodies; in simple term it portrays the relationship between the state and the governed.

Accountability is related to good governance which implies that public organizations should conduct public matters, manage funds and guarantee that human rights are free from abuse and corruption while obeying the rule of law (Bhuiyan & Amagoh, 2011, Morell, 2009, UNHR, 2002 as in Jamaliah, Mahmudul & Mahamad, 2015). The public has an imperative and ultimate right to know and receive facts and figures to assist them in debating and deciding on the destiny of their elected representatives (Almghist et al, 2013 as in Jamaliah, Mahmudul & Mohamad, 2015). There are some mechanism used to push for state accountability, among which are Bureaucratic or intra government mechanism. Which involve the use of internal audits or other intra government mechanism such as EFCC, Independent Corrupt Practice Commission, to ensure compliance to standard with appropriate sanctions in defaults. This process is found limiting as they are also accomplices in the crime. The political mechanism is the process where the electorate can vote retrospectively based on performance and revoke the office of an elected officer or the legislative body can hold their members, government and government bodies to accounts for misconduct or corruption. The legislative body has the power to impeach, suspend or remove from office such an erring officer. Social accountability refers to a situation where the civil society, populace and media demand for accountability on state matters. The civil society, populace and media can engage the state on social and economic issues, which means there is need for enough information and knowledge for such engagement.

The state must provide the enabling environment for such bargain. Research has showed that countries with press freedom and human right are less corrupt. Many researchers have also pointed out that non actors are the most plausible honest principals, as they have greater incentives to redress abuses. Justice mechanism implies that there must be a formidable judiciary to promote the rule of law and enact appropriate sanctions when necessary. Public complaint commission is another form of accountability mechanism where grievances and social and economic injustice are addressed. Transparency implies openness, communication and accountability. Openness means that the citizens have the right to access government information for effective public over sight. Openness therefore refers to information released by the government or the extent to which citizens can request and receive information that is not already published. According to transparency international, transparency is a characteristic of governments, companies, organizations and individuals of being open in the clear disclosure of information, rules, plans, process and actions (Transparency International, 2011).

Transparency can lead to reduction in government corruption and dissemination of information which produce greater knowledge and social progress. Most often government is secretive to cover poor performance, inability to maximally performed when they are being watched. Press freedom, non-governmental organization, freedom of accessing information, public participation and willingness of government to release information promote transparency and good governance. Fiscal openness is information on revenue and expenditure of the state which is sine qua non to accountability. Accountability and transparency cannot be achieved without strong institution which is

the bed rock of nation building. Nation building is the creation or development of a nation, whose components are Economic, Social and political development and institutions which protect human rights and provide for the rule of law. Gambari, (2008) posits that nations are built by exemplary men and women and sustained by institutions that promote good governance and thus socio economic development. He argues further that political entity are built based on some generally accepted rules, norms and principles and citizenship and secondly it is all about building institution which symbolize the political entity. He concluded that it is about building a common sense of purpose, a sense of shared destiny, a collective imagination of belonging. Strong institution therefore will ensure sustain economic growth, reduction in poverty, inequality, eradication of corruption, infrastructural development and general prosperity and wellbeing.

Methodology

The study adopted a quantitative research method and the research design is descriptive survey research method. The study approach involves studying a sample of elements taken from the study population. One hundred respondents were taken from Benin City, Edo State: federal and state ministries, parastatals/agencies, private sectors and non-governmental organization were purposively selected. The major source of data used in this work was both primary source of data and secondary source of data. The techniques used by the researchers in primary source of data to obtain data for analysis are questionnaire, interview and personal observation. Formulated questions relevant to the subject matter were used. A sample of 100 respondents were purposively selected in Benin City. The research instrument is made up of two section: A and B. section A

sought information on Gender distribution, Age distribution, Types of organization, Educational qualification and position in organization, while section B contain fifteen (15) questions that will address the research questions raised. The questions were adapted from Kosac and Fung(2014) as in Bauhr and Grimes(2017). The internal consistency was done using the Cronbach's Alpha test. The reliability figure is accountability 45.8%, transparency 58.1% and national building 78.5%. In generating the required data for analysis, a response scale research instrument was used because it allows the respondents indicate how closely their feeling match the statement on a rating scale. The scale 5 – 1 was used for each of the questions. The questions were scored on a likert scale from strongly agreed (S.A), Agreed (A), Neutral (N), Disagreed (D), and Strongly Disagreed (S.A) which were allocated scores of 5 – 1. All tests were carried out at 5% level of significant and the statistical package for social science (SPSS 22.0) software was used. This statistical tool was used because it is suitable means of breaking down and analyzing the generated data. Regression analysis was used to test the hypothesis. Transparency international ranked Nigeria low in its 2017 corruption perception index. The latest ranking has Nigeria in the 148th position out of 180 countries. About 53.7% of Nigeria lives below poverty level in 2017 (UNDP, 2018). The study therefore attempts to find out if there is a close relationship between poverty level in Nigeria and corruption. To achieve this, secondary data on Nigeria corruption ranking from transparency international and poverty level from World Bank for ten years were used to ascertain if corruption is associated with poverty level in Nigeria. Regression analysis was used to confirm the extent to which corruption can be used to predict poverty level in Nigeria.

ESTIMATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Table 4.1 Gender Distribution

A1

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	47	47.0	47.0	47.0
Female	53	53.0	53.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.1 Indicated that 47% of the respondents were males while 53% respondents were females.

Table 4.2 Age Distributions of Respondents

A2

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Below 30 years	36	36.0	36.0	36.0
Below 50 years	47	47.0	47.0	83.0
Above 50 years	17	17.0	17.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

The respondents' age were 47% skewed toward 50 years below. This is where the most experienced staff and those in managerial position lies. This is closely followed by those below 36 years which

made up 36% of respondents and it represent the most active age group of economic development. Those above 50 years represent 17%

Table 4.3 Types of Organization

A3

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Ministries	34	34.0	39.5	39.5
Parastatals/Agencies	38	38.0	44.2	83.7
Private Sectors	14	14.0	16.3	100.0
Total	86	86.0	100.0	
Missing System	14	14.0		
Total	100	100.0		

Table 4.3 showed distribution of the sampled organizations. 39.5% of the sampled organization are ministries, 44.2% and 16.3% represents parastatals/Agencies

and private sector respectively. Most of the respondents in private sectors are C.E.O of their organization who do business with government and other private individuals.

Table 4.4 Educational Qualification

A4

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	WASC/SSCE	3	3.0	3.2	3.2
	N.D	16	16.0	17.2	20.4
	HND/BSc	60	60.0	64.5	84.9
	MSc/Ph.D	14	14.0	15.1	100.0
	Total	93	93.0	100.0	
Missing	System	7	7.0		
Total		100	100.0		

Most of the respondents are graduates with 64.5% and 15.1% representing HND/B.Sc and M.Sc/Ph.D respectively. This gives a strong indication that they understood the questionnaire without much interpretation.

N.D and WASC/SSCE has 17.2% and 3.2%. the implication of this is that most of the respondents understood the concept at stake. So they are able to make rational decision.

Table 4.5 Position in Organization

A5

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Lower management position	33	33.0	37.5	37.5
	Middle management position	28	28.0	31.8	69.3
	Senior management position	26	26.0	29.5	98.9
	4.00	1	1.0	1.1	100.0
	Total	88	88.0	100.0	
Missing	System	12	12.0		
Total		100	100.0		

Senior management position has a percentage of 29.5% it reflect a huge number of experience staff in the organization. Middle and lower

management position has a percentage of 31.8% and 37.5% respectively. It is a reflection of the high caliber of personnel, information was elicited from.

Table 4.6

	S.A	A	N	D	S.D	M	St.D
Citizens, media and non government organization have access to government revenue and expenditures in Nigeria	23 (23%)	32 (32%)	7 (7%)	25 (25%)	13 (13%)	3.2700	1.39881
Government documents and records are open to public	17 (17%)	30 (30%)	12 (12%)	27 (27%)	14 (14%)	3.0900	1.34911

access							
Civil servant experience negative repercussions if they engage in whistle blowing in Nigeria	15 (15%)	41 (41%)	21 (21%)	15 (15%)	8 (8%)	3.4000	1.15470
You have paid bribe in the past 24 months for services rendered to you in Nigeria	5 (5%)	16 (16%)	19 (19%)	29 (29%)	31 (31%)	2.3500	1.21751
Government shows favoritism in granting contract in Nigeria	57 (57%)	21 (21%)	5 (5%)	15 (15%)	2 (2%)	4.1600	1.17825
Ease of doing business is effective and efficient in Nigeria	6 (6%)	25 (25%)	19 (19%)	27 (27%)	23 (23%)	2.6400	1.25142
Executive arm of government operate according to published rules and not arbitrarily in Nigeria	13 (13%)	30 (30%)	22 (22%)	26 (26%)	9 (9%)	3.1200	1.20000
Civil society participate in development of standard and commitments and in monitory decisions and results in Nigeria	10 (10.1%)	34 (34.3%)	30 (30.3%)	16 (16.2%)	9 (9.1%)	3.2020	1.11557
Citizen monitored public sectors performance in Nigeria	5 (5%)	26 (26%)	25 (25%)	25 (25%)	19 (19%)	2.7300	1.18794
Public compliant and grievance redress mechanism works effectively in Nigeria	9 (9.1%)	18 (18.2%)	32 (32.3%)	26 (26.3%)	14 (14.1%)	2.8182	1.16377
Citizens participate in Public decision making in Nigeria	10 (10%)	31 (31%)	21 (21%)	20 (20%)	18 (18%)	2.9500	1.28216
There is freedom of the press in Nigeria	17 (17.2%)	23 (23.2%)	22 (22.2%)	22 (22.2%)	15 (15.2%)	3.0505	1.32768
There is optimum level of Human right in Nigeria	18 (18%)	18 (18%)	23 (23%)	28 (28%)	13 (13%)	3.0000	1.31041
The government advance and protect Human right in Nigeria	18 (18%)	23 (23%)	20 (20%)	27 (27%)	12 (12%)	3.0800	1.30794
Declaration of Assets by public officers is very effective in Nigeria	5 (5.1%)	28 (28.3%)	27 (27.3%)	26 (26.3%)	13 (13.1%)	2.8586	1.12495

Some questions adapted from Kosack & Fungi, 2014 as in Bauhr & Grimes, 2017.

Table 4.6 shows the statement referring to citizens, media and non-government organization that have access to government revenue and expenditures in Nigeria has a mean index value 3.2700 (bench mark 3.0) and a high standard deviation of 1.39881

which implies that the huge proportion of respondents for strongly agreed and agreed (55%) were greater than those for disagreed and strongly disagreed responses (38%), such variation suggest that many respondents believed that government

revenue and expenditure can easily be accessed in Nigeria. The statement that government documents and records are open to public access has a mean value index 3.0900 and high standard deviation of 1.34911 which implies that 47% respondents believes that government documents and records are open to public access. This is however almost a normal curve, 41% believes that government documents and records are not open to public access. The difference between both is 6%. 12% respondents were found to be neutral. The statement that civil servant experience negative repercussions if they engage in whistle blowing in Nigeria has a mean index value of 3.400 and standard deviation of 1.15470 which implies that 56% respondents believed that there is repercussions in engaging in whistle blowing. 23% however believes that there is no repercussion and 21% respondents were neutral.

The statement whether you have paid bribe in the past 24 months for service rendered to you in Nigeria has a mean index value of 2.3500 and standard deviation of 1.21751. 21% respondents believes that they have paid bribe while 60% respondents said No. 19 respondents are neutral. The high variance is responsible for the skewedness in favour of those that said No. On whether government shows favouritism in granting contract in Nigeria has a mean index value of 4.1600 and standard deviation of 1.117825. The high mean index value cause result to be positively skewed to those 78% respondents that believed that government shows favouritism in granting contract. 17% respondents disagreed while 5% are neutral. On whether ease of doing business is effective and efficient in Nigeria, it was deduced that it has a mean index value of 2.6400 and standard deviation of 1.25142. which implies that 50% respondents do not agreed that ease of doing business is effective and efficient. This was

corroborated by the huge variation and skewedness. 31% however agreed that it is effective and efficient. 19% respondents are neutral.

The executive arm of government operate according to published rules and not arbitrarily in Nigeria has a mean index value of 3.1200 and standard deviation of 1.20000, this suggests that only 43% respondents believes that executive arm of government operate according to published rules and not arbitrarily. 35% respondents do not agreed with the assertion while 22% were neutral. On whether civil society participate in development of standard and commitments and in monitory decisions and results in Nigeria, it was deduced that it has a mean of 3.2020 and standard deviation of 1.11557 implying that 44% respondents agreed with the assertion while 25.3% disagreed and 16.2% were neutral.

On whether citizens monitored public sector performance in Nigeria, it was found that it has a mean of 2.7300 and standard deviation of 1.18794. The low mean index and high standard deviation accounts for 44% respondents disagreement with the assertion and 31% believed or agreed that citizen monitored public sectors performance in Nigeria. 25% respondents were however neutral. On statement referring to public compliant and grievance redress mechanism works effectively in Nigeria has a mean index value of 2.8182 and standard deviation of 1.16377. The low mean index and high standard deviation skewed result to 40.4% respondents who disagreed with the assertion. 27.3% believed that public compliant and grievance redress mechanism works effectively in Nigeria. 32.3% were however neutral. The statement referring to citizens participate in public decision making in Nigeria has a low mean index value of 2.9500 when compared with the bench mark 3 and high standard deviation of 1.2821, which Implies that 41% respondents

agreed with the assertion, while 38% respondents disagreed. The difference is 3% which shows it is close to normal distribution. 21% responded were however neutral. As to whether there is freedom of the press in Nigeria, it was found that it has a mean index value of 3.0505 and high standard deviation of 1.32768. The minimal mean value result in 40.4% respondents that agreed with the assertion, while 37.4% respondents disagreed. 22.2% respondents were however neutral. The statement referring to there is optimum level of Human right in Nigeria, has a mean value index of 3.0000 and standard deviation of 1.31041, which implies that 36% agreed with the assertion while 41% respondents disagreed. 23% respondents were neutral.

On whether government advance and protect Human right in Nigeria, it was deduced that it has a mean value of 3.0800 and standard deviation of 1.30794. It is a normal distribution with low variance. It has 41% respondents agreed with the assertion and 39% respondents disagreed with such assertion, while 20% respondents are neutral. With less than normal mean of 2.8586 and standard deviation of 1.12495, 33.4% respondents agreed that declaration of assets by public officers is very effective in Nigeria, while 39.4% respondent disagreed. 27.3% respondents were neutral.

Descriptive statistics

	PI	CI
Mean	3308.454	25.75000
Median	2625.417	26.50000
Maximum	11883.46	28.00000
Minimum	1891.335	22.00000
Std. Dev.	2734.246	1.764550
Skewness	2.882951	-0.745296
Kurtosis	9.614703	2.608397
Jarque-Bera	38.49996	1.187609
Probability	0.000000	0.552222
Sum	39701.45	309.0000
Sum Sq. Dev.	82237102	34.25000
Observations	9	9

Matrix Correlation

	PI	CI
PI	1.000000	-0.651236
CI	-0.651236	1.000000

Dependent Variable: PI

Method: Least Squares

Date: 09/06/19 Time: 02:18

Sample (adjusted): 1 12

Included observations: 9 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
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C	29293.24	9595.862	3.052695	0.0122
CI	-1009.118	371.8554	-2.713738	0.0218

R-squared	0.424108	Mean dependent var	3308.454
Adjusted R-squared	0.366519	S.D. dependent var	2734.246
S.E. of regression	2176.228	Akaike info criterion	18.35959
Sum squared resid	47359670	Schwarz criterion	18.44040
Log likelihood	-108.1575	Hannan-Quinn criter.	18.32966
F-statistic	7.364374	Durbin-Watson stat	1.116827
Prob(F-statistic)	0.021793		

The descriptive statistics table above described the variables under study. The mean of poverty (p1) and corruption (C1) are 3308.454 and 25.75000 respectively. The median of poverty (P1) and corruption (C1) are 2625.417 and 26.50000 respectively.

The normality of the variables under study was shown by the Jarque-Bera probability value. Poverty was normally distributed given the significant Jarque-Bera probability value of 0.000000, while corruption was normally distributed with a non-significant Jarque-Bera probability value of 0.552222

Correlation

The correlation table above showed the relationship between poverty and corruption. The value of -0.651236 showed that there existed a negative but strong relationship between corruption and poverty.

Regression

The table above showed the impact of corruption on poverty. Holding the independent variable constant, poverty remained at 29293.24 unites. The table showed that corruption had a negative value of -1009.118 units with statistically significant p-value (t-statistic) of 0.0218, (5%). Hence, it can be reasonably inferred that corruption had a significant effect/impact on poverty. The R-squared

value of 0.424108 showed that only 42% of the variations in poverty were influenced by corruption, while the remaining 58% is due to other factors that can influence poverty but captured by the error term. The adjusted R-squared also supported the claim with 0.366519, which is approximately 37%. The Durbin-Watson statistic of 1.116827, which is less than 2 depicted that serial correlation is present in the result. The F-statistic value of 7.364374 with probability value of 0.021793 showed that the model is holistically significant at 5% level of significance. Hence, the study accepted the alternative hypothesis that corruption has effect on poverty in Benin City.

Discussion of Findings

The findings revealed that 55% of the respondents believed that citizens, media and none government organizations have access to government revenue and expenditures in Nigeria. 38% respondents believed it is difficult to have access to government revenue and expenditures. They claimed almost all government activities are shrouded in secrecy. Most often, government does not disclose in details their actual revenue, only statutory revenue is made know because is already in the public domain. They claimed the actual internal revenue is not made open. They also believed government expenditures are not detailed enough. The government only gives information on what they want you to know.

This was corroborated when 41% respondents disagreed that government documents and records are open to public access. 47% respondents believed that with freedom of information bill, anyone can have access to government records and documents. They claimed that government financial reports are detailed enough to furnish anyone with adequate information.

Most public servants find it difficult to release information because of fears of negative repercussion if they engage in whistle blowing. 56% respondents believed if you disclose official information, you could lose your job. They believed you are not expected to disclose official information under the civil service ethics. 23% respondents believed that no negative repercussion if actual information's are released by the authorized person. It also revealed that 60% respondents claimed that they have not paid bribe in the past 24 months for service rendered to them in government offices. 21% respondents claimed they gave bribe/gratification for services rendered to them in government offices. They claimed that files or documents may not move if you are not ready to part with something. Although they claimed it is minimal in some sectors but 78% respondents believed government shows favoritism in granting contract in Nigeria while 17% disagreed. The findings also revealed that 31% respondents believed ease of doing business is effective and efficient in Nigeria. They believed there are minimal delays in registration of Business and the introduction of E-payment has help facilitate payments. 50% respondents disagreed.

The findings revealed that 43% respondents believed Executive arm of government operate according to published rules and not arbitrarily in Nigeria. 35% respondents believed government do things arbitrarily. Also, 44.4% respondents believed civil

society participate in development of standard and commitments and in monitory decisions and results in Nigeria. 25.3% respondents claimed civil society does not. They claimed civil society are only seen demonstrate against some government policies. The low political consciousness of the citizens is a major hindrance of their effective participation in governance. 44% respondents claimed the citizens are not carried along and as such hardly monitored public sector performance. They claimed that the citizens has been bastardized to the extent they have lost their sense of patriotism. 31% respondents agreed that citizens monitored public sector performance. They claimed that citizens aired their views on media when certain things are not done. 27.3% respondents believed public compliant and grievance redress mechanism works effectively in Nigeria. 40.4% respondent disagreed.

The findings revealed that 41% respondent believed citizens participate in public decision making in Nigeria. 38% respondents disagreed. 40.4% respondent believed there is freedom of press. They claimed to some extent apart for some few cases there has not been serious harassment of the press. 37.4% respondents disagreed. They gave accounts of few individuals in detention. Also, 36% respondents believed, the country has a good human right record. 41% respondents disagreed. 41% respondents believed the government advance and protect Human right in Nigeria. 39% respondent disagreed. 33.4% respondents believed declaration of assets by public officers is very effective in Nigeria. 39.4% respondents disagreed. They claimed even the president declared his own asset secretly. It was also observed that there is a significant relationship between corruption and poverty in the country. At 5% level of significant, using correlation coefficient, it was found that corruption has

a significant impact on poverty in the country.

Most citizens believed it is difficult to have access to government revenue and expenditures, they claimed almost all government activities are shrouded in secrecy. Most often, government does not disclose in details their actual revenue, only the statutory revenue is made known because is already at the public domains. They claimed the actual internal revenue is not made open, they also believed that expenditures are not detailed enough. The government only gives information on what they want you to know. This became evident when 428(89.2%) respondents said No, they don't have access to government revenue and expenditures. 52(10.8%) however said Yes. They claimed that with freedom of information bill, anyone can have access to information, they also claimed, government financial report is enough to furnish any one with adequate information.

They claimed the citizens are lazy to read and seek information. This was further corroborated when 60 (12.5%) claimed government documents and records are open for public access. 420(87.5%) said No, that government do not easily disclose information that most of their deed are shrouded in secrecy. Most public servants find it difficult to release information, because of fear of negative repercussions, if they engage in Whistle blowing. 437(91%) believed that if you disclose official information you could lose your job. They believed you are not expected to disclose official information under the civil service ethics. 43(9%) believed that no negative repercussion if actual information are released by the authorized person. It was observed that most often bribe/gratification are paid for services rendered in government offices. This was evident when 342(71.3%) respondents claimed they have paid bribe in

the past 24 months to obtained services from government offices. They claimed that files or documents may not move if you are not ready to part with something. Although they believed it is minimal in some sector, as they frowned at it. But to avoid unnecessary delay you have to do something. 138(28.7%) however said No, they claimed if you are patient for the process to run, you could get what you want.

It does appear the ease of doing business has improved tremendously. 412(85.8%) respondents believed there is tremendous improvement in ease of doing business. There are minimal delays in registration of business and the introduction of E-payment has help reduce contact and facilitate payments. Although 68(14.2%) claimed it is very poor. There is still favoritism in the award of contract in the country, most often influenced for political patronage or sponsors. 65 (13.5%) said No. they claimed they got contract without lobby. It was also revealed that government does things arbitrary. 291(60.6%) claimed that the executive do things that sooth them. Although 189(39.4%) believed that government operate in accordance with published rules, they claimed Nigeria is not a banana republic, there are rule of law, protected by the judiciary. The civil society does not participate in development of standards and commitments evident when 466 (97.1%) respondents said No. they claimed they only see the civil society demonstrate against some government policies, though 14(2.9%) said Yes.

The low political consciousness of the citizens is a major hindrance to their effective participation in governance. 461(96%) of the respondents claimed the citizens are not carried along and as such hardly monitored public sector performance. They claimed that the citizens had be bastardized to the extent that they have lost

their sense of patriotism. 19(4%) said Yes, citizens monitored public sector performance. They claimed that citizens aired their views on media when certain things are not done well. It was observed that most citizens that knows about public complaint and grievance redress mechanism do not know how effective they are, but 347(72.3%) respondents believed they are fairly effective. 90 (18.8%) claimed they do not know what it is and what they do and their effectiveness is poor. 43 (9%) respondents claimed they are very effective. Most of the citizens do not participate in public decision making evident from 456(95%) respondents that said No. while 24(5%) said Yes, they do participate. It was also observed that there is freedom of the press to a large extent in the country evident when 389 (81%) respondents said Yes. They claimed that to some extent there has not be serious harassment of the press. Though 91(19%) said No. The country has a good human right record evident from 378 (78.8%) respondents. 102 (21.2%) however believed it is poor. It was further corroborated when 364(75.8%) respondents claimed that the government advance and protect human right while 116(24.2%) said No. It was also observed that the country promote declaration of assets by public officer evident from 298 (62.1%) respondents who believed that most public servant declare assets. 182(37.9%) said is very poor, that even the president declares its own assets secretly. It was also observed that there is a significant relationship between corruption and poverty in the country. At 5% level of significant using correlation coefficient, it was found that corruption has a significant impact on poverty in the country

Conclusion

There is no gainsaying that there is no nation without corruption but the height it takes matters most. Advanced countries in the world have reduced their corruption to a

minimal level by building strong institutions with good stewardship and thereby reducing poverty rate to the barest minimum. Corruption arising from poor accountability and transparency in Nigeria is endemic and its attendant consequences are enormous, therefore poverty has taken toll on the populace. It becomes imperative therefore that Nigeria as a developing nation must build strong institutions to facilitate proper accountability and transparency. This would make government and its agencies to be responsible to the people with full disclosure of government activities and responsibilities for actions. This could stem corruption which constitute cog in the wheel of progress of the nation's economy and thereby leading to economic improvement with efficient utilization of resources, employment generation, infrastructural development and global competitiveness.

Recommendations

- Government should build institutions that could stem corrupt practices in Nigeria
- The institutions should be pragmatic and proactive
- There should be efficient and effective democratization with full human right
- Active participation of civil society, media and citizen in activities of governance should be fully encouraged
- The government should invest more in education to facilitate citizen participation in governance
- Improved whistleblower protections and enlightenment should be encouraged.
- Civil society, media and citizen to be encouraged to participate in development of standards and commitments and in monitory decisions and results of government activities.
- Increased access to data/information by citizens and media
- Ability to query government actions without intimidation

- Public revenue and expenditures of government should be made public

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