



CORRUPTION AS A FACTOR OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE (A STUDY OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, AWKA ANAMBRA STATE)

ANYAEHIE JULIET CHIZOBA

Department of Business Administration & Management, Federal Polytechnic Oko, Anambra State

ABSTRACT

This work is designed to discuss the impact of corruption as a factor of underdevelopment in public services focusing attention on ministry of education, Awka, Anambra State. As regards the above assertion, the data has been collected from the ministry both primary and secondary. This is possible through the questionnaire formulated by the researcher. From the analysis and discussion necessary findings were made. Corruption as one of the major cause of underdevelopment has causes, consequences and solution. In view of this, it has been observed that major cause of corruption is the inability of the workers to meet up with their financial obligation with their salaries. This is why it has been found in all areas of the nation's economy as a factor of underdevelopment, be that as it may, certain steps should as well be taken to alleviate and ameliorate the problems associated with corruption. Salaries and welfare packages of workers should be increased so that they can be able to meet up with their financial responsibilities. Though apart from poor salaries or wages, some members of the public also encourage corruption in public offices for examples, mainly due to impatience, or greediness, by not waiting for increment of their salary may be by promotion. Also government should organize seminars and workshops in the nation's economy. Conclusively I, suggest that laws to be enacted and made on corruption so that anybody found engaging or partaking in the act should be presented and disciplined.

INTRODUCTION

Corruption has been one of the main factors that cause underdevelopment in African countries, Nigeria inclusive. This was originated by our leaders in government starting from the Federal to the State level. The government is not putting enough interest in the administration of her state and this thereby led to the people in positions of authority are to believe anyhow. Corruption is a deviation from following the normal accepted standard of behavior by a public official in order to

serve social economic or political interest. In this case, the public official has violated the due process in handling government matters. It is the major factor that led to lack of development and poverty. This is because it is retrogressive and mars the implementation and execution of goods policies and programmers', which ordinarily would have helped the poor plague which the leadership in Nigeria sees as a way of life. It is responsible for unemployment. Poor education, lack of freedom of speech, poor sanitation, bad governance that effect the low income earners and makes them poor to the advantages of the rich who are powerful and can get whatever they want through political patronage or otherwise. It has led to loss of institutional investors, shame, lack of trust, reduced living standard, poverty, loss of authority, good health and educational facilities, withdrawal of fiscal and political support lack of basic social infrastructure and political instability.

Corruption is a cankerworm that devour its victim deeply without stopping. It hinders development at every level of government in Nigeria.

Therefore, it is difficult to develop communities because of the issue of corruption where funds meant for developmental projects are divided to personal use, while government looks the other way. Community development is slow in Nigeria because the government that is supposed to punish corrupt officials who still development, pay lip service to it.

Corruption is as a result of man-made factors such as greed especially our leaders who are not contended with what they have so that they use public funds for selfish gains, secondly is social values. Many people in Nigeria especially the youths want to get rich quick. So that they indulge in all types of crimes to make money, kidnapping, ritual killings, electoral frauds, armed robbery, yahoo yahoo, 419, the list is endless. Yet the elders, religious leaders who are to correct them, look the other way, instead they end up praising and giving them titles they don't deserve. Corruption as the name implies is a cankerworm which has eaten deep into the bones and marrow of every Nigeria both the government and the governed. This is no longer a new concept in the socio-economic glossary. It has blossomed and matured having spread its tentacles everywhere and succeeded in given birth to many vices.

According to Nwosu (2005), corruption is seen as a dishonest, unlawful and illegal behavior especially of people in authority and power. The wrestlers third new international dictionary (1996) defines corruption as inducement of a public official by means of improper consideration example bribery to commit a violation of duty. In its general inflection than corruption can be taken to get things done through corrupt men.

Therefore corruption hinders right attitude of doing things. A nation is underdeveloped when it has a weak administrative background in relation to that of industrialization which has potentials for development. Other worlds, an underdeveloped nation does not have prospect, development and self actualization.

Aba (201.IH) sees underdeveloped as a situation in which the institution of a country to the periphery of the information of a country to the international capitalization maintains dependent relationship with countries at centre of the international influence to external forces from the centre. This therefore means lack of autonomy which is a function of poverty.

Underdeveloped countries are those countries which are regarded as third world countries such countries are Algeria, Sieria leone, Agoria, Latia, America, Middle East, Asia etc. Nigeria can as well be regarded as the fifth world most corrupt nation among others whose population had below the property line.

Underdeveloped countries usually cannot the following social economic and political characteristics as recorded and postulated by (Adoah 2000:14).

- a. A very weak position in international trade and diplomacy
- b. Economic financial and technological dependency
- c. Enslaved economy.
- d. Poverty of ideology.
- e. Marginalization of the peasantry to the international affairs.

The above postulations are ill factors as recorded by Abah internet in many underdeveloped countries or economics in corrupt communities, the question of basic survival is the basic occupying issue while little or no effort is made for activities such as social environment and economic construction whose benefits are long term in nature.

The prevalent corrupt practices in Nigeria and in other sub Saharan African countries have been attributed to several factors, partly due to her more rapid population and partly due to its being a sluggish region. The fact remains that majority of Nigerians are at present worse than they were at the time of independence. The factors responsible for this situation includes, abhor nature of making policies, without clearly defined goals and objectives managerial incompetence due to the system of recruitment the context of politics in the state.

Corruption has been described in terms of quality of life factor, which hinders the break through from the state of underdevelopment. Based on social and statistical indices, life expecting, infant mortality, illiteracy, health care services and so on. Nigeria is no doubt classified among the under-developed nation. The consequences are in terms of wealth. Life expecting, illiteracy, living conditions and vocational opportunities especially public corporations.

In addition, corruption has affected the socio-economic life of the population in terms of the availability of decent housing, adequate and balance nutrition, health services and sanitation. Consequently, there is increase crime rate and social

insecurity in the underdeveloped nations, in fact corruption as the factor of underdevelopment nations, in an issue of the socio-economic activities of Nigeria. Ministry of education Awka as a focus of the study is generally known to have performed below expectation on all spheres of her endeavor. Accusing fingers are being pointed at many factor as well as corruption responsible for his shoddy outcome. This dilemma is the problem or burden of this study.

The Concept of Corruption

Corruption in Nigeria can be divided into different categories. Each of these categories is under taken for a different purpose. Internationally, Nigeria is known to be corrupt, this is why most countries wouldn't want Nigeria to come so easily. There are so many stories on how many Nigeria have been repatriated from foreign land on account of their corruption. In a typical scene for examples the employer takes bribes from the poor applicant before he employer him \$ when he is employed the applicant (now an employee) in turn steels from his employee of course. It is not only the employer that takes bribes, policemen and custom officials by the nature of their work are not often found guilty of bribery and corruption of other than other people in other works of life. For instance, the unscrupulous Government Auditor takes bribe from the clever chief accountant of treasuring and at his embezzlement of government funds. The dishonest assessment of officer in the ministry of Inland Revenue takes bribe from big business tycoon and reduces his tax considerably. Corruption is the major factor in the underdevelopment of the Nigeria economy. It takes a great negative contribution to the setback of many nation and Nigeria in particular. Corruption generally has brought unemployment rate to more than 6% of the entries employable populace in Nigeria. This history of ministry of education, Awka is as old as Anambra state. Old Anambra state was created in 1976 from part of East central state and its capital was Enugu. On the 27th August 1991, Anambra state was created. Ministry of education Awka started after the creation of Anambra state.

CONCLUSION

In an organization setting, both the management and the staff are the key component of development system. They must maintain a good and very cordial relationship with order; none of them should relegate each other. They should see themselves as partners in progress and by so doing, the organizational goals will be achieved and corruption will be eradicated. It is true that the two may have diverse interest for instance, the management may be emphasizing on the increase of the salaries, bonuses and allocation accepting on what is to be done while the workers will be the once doing the work, and they will be played small. And also the management should try as much possible to maintain a good relationship with the worker so as to make

them to be dedicated to their duty. This can be done/ achieved through motivation, by way of promotion prompt payment of salary and allowance granting of suggestion. Furthermore, it is therefore very important for any reasonable management to give priority attention to the welfare of its workers so that they can work harmoniously. The management should have a good communication gap will their worker and they should strive at all times to ensure prompt response to any genuine demand of workers. Finally they should ensure regular payment of worker and other entitlement things. Having seen causes, consequences and problem of corruption in our public services the researcher makes the following recommendations.

1. There should be a sound management practice which will help to avert bribery and corruption. High standard or moral behaviors should be prescribe for all people in management position and this standard should also be assimilated by them and where the cadre of management prescribed in Nigeria constitution for public offices should vigorously enforced.
2. The organization structure should be explicitly and clearly stated. This will help to expose the authority and responsibility of the manger. More so, this will be outstanding link upon objective can be achieved.
3. The independence corruption practice commission (I CPC) and Economic financial crime commission (EFCC) should always be at alert to see that all those who engaged in corruption practices should as well be given commensurable disciplinary measures to avert corruption and its entity.
4. Furthermore, on underdevelopment public service central management should try to make the rule of development challenging. Here managers in many firms will try to conceive sufficiently ambitious objectives. If not it will fail to fully harness the energies of the people co-ordination of objective also lead to effective development.

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