

Sectoral Corrupt Practices and Quest for Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Critical Review

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Abstract: Nigeria the most populated country in Africa with enormous material and high quality human resources but still grope for socio-economic growth and development. The quest for a sustainable development in every nation of the world especially in developing countries has become indubitable reality in the contemporary times. This has necessitated the application of strategies for sustainable development. One of the features of good governance globally is an economy free from corruption. But in the quest for such development agenda, there seems to be a hydra-headed monster that inhibit and impede the much desired global best practices of national development called corruption. Corruption has eaten deep into the fabrics of the system of Nigeria and has prevented the nation from attaining the height it has envisaged to be in the year 2000. This study sought to explore the nexus between the quest for the sustainable development and sectoral corrupt practices in Nigeria, thus, making a critical review of it. The study adopted content analysis method in its data analysis and also employed prismatic and systems theories as the theoretical foundations of analysis. The study came up with findings and recommendations thus: there should be demonstration of strong political will on the part of government. It doesnot end in condemning corruption, but government should demonstrate the condemnation by engaging those corrupt officials head on; people who are convicted of corruption should be given reasonable jail sentences and mandated to return/refund the loots. It is the argument of this study that unless this phenomenal cankerworm is boxed with every sedateness it warrants by government, sustainable development will be an illusory feat.

Key words: Sectorial corrupt practices • Sustainable development and Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important features of good governance in any progressive state is to exert control and possibly total elimination of corruption. It is crystal clear that corruption is the greatest threat to economic and political development of any Nation. It is a well-known fact that corruption has been the major cause of Nigeria's underdevelopment [1]. They maintained that no Nation of the world would enjoy sustainable development in virtually all spheres of its life without experiencing good and selfless leadership. The quest for sustainable development in Nigeria began from her struggles for independence in 1960. Every nation, the world over has prioritized development of her human, infrastructural and capital, material resources. Thus, Nigeria has since independence been grappling with different development issues and strategies [2].

Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs [3] According to food and Agricultural Organization Council in (1998), sustainable development is the:

Management and conservation of the natural resource base and the orientation of technological and institutional change in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generations.

Sustainable development has many dimensions or approaches. They include political, economic and social dimensions. The political dimension involves using the instrument of government to advance political development such as state building, citizen participation and distributive and welfare etc. Economic dimension is

the using of number of development administration strategies to stimulate economic development and recovery. Such can take place in industrial sector, Agricultural section, housing sector, health sector and mining sectors etc. The social dimension is the application of strategic policies to improve social conditions of the people. For example, Eradication of illiteracy, Road construction, introduction of social safety net strategies and subsidization of certain essential services etc. [4].

Furthermore, Nigeria had over the years employed various development strategies in her quest for becoming one of the top 20 leading economies in the world and number one in Africa. This was evidently manifested in the development planning in Nigeria. The first development plan was introduced in Nigeria in 1946 with ten year plan of development and welfare for Nigeria [5]. The plan had a planned expenditure of about N110.0 million. N46 millions of this expenditure was to come from the colonial Development and Welfare Act [6]. The main focus of the plan was on Transport and communications and on a few cash crops in the area of Agriculture.

Another development plan was introduced in the year 1962 and was expected to last for six years. It had proposed to last for six years with about N 2.132 million. The public sector was expected to invest about N 1.352million [7]. Because the Nigeria civil war disrupted the plan in 1967, another plan was introduced after the war in 1970. The very purpose of the plan was to restructure the ill-fated state of the nation after the war. According to [8].

“Besides being much bigger in size and more diversified in its project composition, it was in fact the first truly national and fully integrated plan which viewed the economy as an organic unit; the 12 states were fully integrated into the national development plan.

As the quest of seeking sustainable development continues, Nigeria again adopted other plans which came in (1975-80), (1981-85) and (1985). That of (1975-80) had ₦ 43.3 Billion Expenditure target which among other things was to: include to reduce the level of unemployment, increase per capital income, even distribution of income, diversification of economy and balanced development etc. The (1981-85) plan projected to put at about N 82.0 Billion in: increasing real income of the average citizen, more even development, reducing unemployment, reduce dependency oil, increase productivity etc. The 1985 development plan was a year

plan. This is because the government decided to stop the traditional 5 year plan to a rolling plan which will be operated along with 15-20 years perspective plan and the annual budget [8].

Apart from these Nigerian government continues to search for global best practices in development of all sectors of economy. In September 18, 1996, the government introduced a development plan called vision 2010' which had in its objectives to transform Nigeria into a united, industrial, caring and God fearing democratic society etc. The document was later expanded to 'vision 2020' by the year 2007 by late Umaru Yar'adua. According to the initiators:

“By 2020 Nigeria will be one of the 20 largest economies in the world able to consolidate its leadership role in Africa and establish itself as a significant player in global economic and political area [9].

As these development plans keep on emerging, Nigeria also undertook many reforms in all sectors of economy, including the public and civil service; with the aim of eliminating corrupt practices and tendencies as well as removing every bottle necks that impede sustainable development [10]. For example, various anti-corruption laws and Acts were enacted by various administrations in Nigeria. Also there are commissions and/or Agencies that are saddled with the responsibility for ensuring that corruption has no place in all the sectors of Nigerian economy. They include: Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), independent corrupt practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC), Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) and Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) etc. All these mechanisms are put in place by the government because they know that without tackling corruption in all sectors of the economy, the quest for sustainable development being envisaged would be nothing but a mirage.

The process of attaining sustainable development according to [11] involves the assessment of potential resources, their mobilization, as well as the setting of goals and targets to be attained through the pursuit of appropriate policies and programmes. Also for any nation to attain the level they envisaged in the comity of nations, it must eliminate every impediments to sustainable development such as corruption, poverty, illiteracy, servitude, human rights violation and sectoral infrastructural decays etc.

Statement of the Problem: Since 1960 when Nigeria got her independence from Great Britain, the quest for sustainable development has been the passion of the country [12]. The nation had been undergoing various reforms in all sectors of economy. But it appears that sustainable development has eluded Nigeria. Having adopted many development plans over the years without measuring up with other developing nations that the nation got independence along with. For example, the level of hunger and poverty in Nigeria has reached alarming proportions and threatening dimensions [13]. This is a nation that is blessed with abundant of mineral and natural resources but cannot boast of reducing: poverty, unemployment, hunger, illiteracy level of its citizens and in the midst of huge foreign revenue accrual to its coffers.

The near loss of development is as a result of corruption. Corruption has eaten deep into all sectors of Nigerian economy. It has permeated every nooks and crannies of Nigerian societies [14] states that:

The top echelon and lower echelon of the entire public sectors have been bastardized with corruption. The tendency is that all the public and civil service are inundated with corrupt people (servants).

In the same line, another erudite Academic [15] lamented that:

“The problem with Nigeria is squarely on leadership and corruption. The inability of the national leaders both political and managerial, to deliver their mandate with utmost sense of accountability, probity and honesty”

Many nations that got independence at the same period with Nigeria had attained first and second world respectively. But Nigeria is still placed in the third world countries matrix. The perceived lack of an effective ethical organizational framework to coordinate activities of various institutions has astronomically worsened our ethical practices such as corruption in the Nigerian public service [16]. In the public service for instance, there are lot of corrupt practices like: Ghost workers’ syndrome, ineptitude, nepotism, bribery and extortion of money for employment by some top echelon. In their submission, [17] opined.

“One socio-economic cancer deeply eating the fabrics of our national development agenda in Nigeria is the debilitating phenomenon of ubiquitous ghost workers especially in the rank and file of the public sector economy. Billions of Naira had been wasted on the non-existing workforce into private accounts. The wasted funds could have been channeled to other developmental projects of our national economy”.

How can any nation that harbor bunch of corrupt public servants in all its sectors of economy have a sustainable development? Still on the Ghost workers’ syndrome, the Acting Chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) [18] revealed that the commission discovered an additional 11, 000 ghost workers on the payroll a part from previous 23, 000 found earlier which amounted to ₦ 229. 0 Billion naira annually. In fact, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC uncovered a total of 37,395 ghost workers on the Federal Civil Service payroll.

Away from this, many heads of parastatals, Agencies, commissions and some sectors are in the law enforcement nets with various allegations of corruption and sharp practices [19].

Furthermore, Nigeria has had various development planning, polling plans and strategies for sustainable development yet, development eludes her [20]. The problem is not farfetched according to [21]. They alleged that:

National plans in Nigeria are often over ambitious, trying to accomplish too many objectives at once without considering the conflicting and competing priorities. The typical Nigerian government, whether military or civilian is plagued with institutional/structural inconsistencies and discontinuity

[22] states that, “the pervasive climate of corruption in Nigeria constitutes the greatest impediment to sustainable corruption in Nigeria”. The type of corruption in public sectors is systemic. Recently, two permanent secretaries are undergoing interrogation and investigation by the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) all in the public sector of the national economy.

In public Enterprises supposed to be the engine of change in bringing about sustainable development to the nation, have huge manifestations of decay, indiscipline,

bad leadership, lack of vision and mission, absence of professionalism, Nepotism and corruption. That is why [23] lamented the sorry state of Nigerian public Enterprises as he opined that:

The performances of most public enterprises in Nigeria has been generally disappointing. This is reflected in abysmal performances of public enterprises as in: corruption, inefficiency, failure to meet intended objectives, poor management and lack of well-articulated vision and mission.

The irony of the whole scenario is that Nigeria has many laws, commissions, Agencies that fight corruption, but it seems that the more the fight, the higher the level of corruption hence-sectorial backwardness. Could it be that these Agencies or law enforcement bodies are not working or are there foul play in the system? It is against these background that there exists need to inquire into the problem becomes imperative. This is more because when the present regime took over in 2015 people heaved a sigh of relieve that the government that would sweep out corruption had come but revelations have shown that corruption has persisted in almost all sectors in Nigeria .Hence the study, sectoral corrupt practices and quest for sustainable development in Nigeria. It is against this backdrop that the paper examines the link between sectoral corruption and sustainable development in Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study: The broad objective of this study is to identify some socio-economic factors that are inimical to sustainable development and the sectoral corrupt practices inimical to Nigerian National development sustainability.

However, the specific purposes are:

- To ascertain the impediments of identified corrupt sectoral practices to sustainable development in Nigeria.
- To find out the level of corrupt practices in education and health sectors of the economy in Nigeria.
- To investigate political will of government in fighting sectoral practices through its anti-graft Agencies.

Significance of the Study: The study inquires into the impediments of sectoral corruption as the major inhibiting factor towards actualizing sustainable development. The revelations of the study will help the managers of all

sectors of Nigerian economy as well as government to make a paradigm shift in the approaches of engaging corruption in Nigeria over the years and embrace the global best practices.

Again, the study will serve as a referencing material in the area of sectoral corrupt practices and their engagement with government. Showing where government should focus more attention to etc.

Students and Development partners will find in this study, a guide to studying the sectoral defects in Nigeria and ways corruption in all the sectors of economy in the nation can be tackled.

Most importantly, the study will help to proffer some solutions, ways and methods of achieving sustainable development in Nigeria, especially in those sectors that are devastated by the monster called-corruption.

Theoretical Foundation of Analysis: Hardly do we in social sciences and Humanities analyze issues without underpinning them to the appropriate theatrical framework. It is based on this that the study adopts: Prismatic Theory. The theory was propounded by [24] in (1960). And system theory propounded by [25].

The prismatic theory opines that if a nations has taken off for its quest for national development without reaching its destination or its intended destinations, then, there must be a systemic problem or a cog in the wheels of its development train. It equally narrates that such a country is in a vicious circle (Fused system), which makes it unable to reach its destination. It is because of this that made the proponent of this theory (Riggs) to ask the following questions:

- Why is it that a system (state) has all it takes to be efficient and effective still transformation eludes them?
- What could be the cause; is it internal or external factors that inhibit development? The questions were answered by Riggs when he pointed out that internal or systemic problems rank the most in any developmental problem in a county.

The second theory that is employed in this study is system theory. The theory was proposed by [26]. The theory posits that the best way to study any organization or issue is to handle it as a system. As it were, a system is an assemblage of interdependent, interrelated and interacting parts that forms a whole complex unit. Thus, a system comprise of sub-systems of a single system within a supra-system. It therefore means

that in planning or in doing anything organization must be focused on its internal and external variables. An organization for example comprises various functional units like production, finance marketing, personnel etc. which depends on one another for organizational effectiveness. Where any of the sub-system becomes ineffective or badly affected the entire system experiences a severe jolt, setback or backwardness.

Justification of the Theories: The theories are justified in this study because they hold the same views with the problems of the study. In the first theory, the proponent states that if a nation or organization has all it takes to be developed or rich at a particular point and yet experiences setbacks, there must be a cog in the wheel of that state or organization. This is true about Nigeria which is endowed with many natural and human resources, as well as other mechanisms necessary for sustainable development could not be found in the comity of industrialized or developed nation.

Also, the second theory (system) opined that when a part of a system (state) experiences problems, there is every tendency that such will affect the entire system. Thus, Nigeria's problem can be seen in terms of sustainable development as 'systemic problem'. The problem of ensuring sustainable development and eliminating corrupt practices in all the sectors of Nigerian economy is systemic in nature.

Literature Review

Conceptual Explications: Corruption, like other concepts in the social sciences, is difficult to explain because of ideological inclinations of various scholars. However, when these scholars agreed that corruption is something that is: antithetical, offensive and morally unjustifiable, then the problem of the definition becomes half solved.

Transparency International [27] views corruption operationally as the misuse of entrusted power for private gain or the use of public office for private gain.

According to [28] it can be defined as the 'diversion of reserve from the betterment of the community'. [29] defined corruption as the abuse office for private gain. [30] defines it as 'any act' action or inaction of any person or group (public or private) deliberately perpetrated to secure advantages for oneself, a relation or associate or group(s) in a manner that detract from the accepted regulations, moral and/ or ethical standard or code and hence constituting a travesty of justice, equity and fair

play .On the other hand political corruption can be broadly understood as unethical behavior, which violates the norms of the system of political other [31].

In this study' we define corruption as any act or action or inaction that encourages perversion, injustice unfair play, Nepotism, bribery, misappropriation funds or infrastructural development etc. Therefore, corrupt behavior would include, bribery, fraud, stealing public resources, partiality, favoritism, seizure of public assets for private use [32].

Corruption cannot be pinned down by one dimension. There are various facets that corruption can be seen or explicated. Let us borrow from [33] categorization of corruption: they include: Political corruption; Economic corruption, bureaucratic corruption, judicial corruption, moral corruption, religious corruption and sectoral corruption. Each one of these types manifest itself in many ways as we have stated above.

Sustainable Development: Sustainable development emphasizes the use of resources so as to take care of present and future needs of the people. It is the development that meet the needs of present without compromising the ability of future generations to achieve theirs [34]. Observed that the concept of sustainable development is the efforts at improving the environment or natural resources for the purpose of improving the quality of human life in such a way that the needs of the future generation are not jeopardized.

Sustainable development simply means sustaining any development programmes or projects. It opines administration of developmental strategies that will stand the test of time without compromising the future. In the words of [35]:

Sustainable development is the strategy of not compromising the gains of the posterity for the immediate gains of today. This entails making sure that all environmental issues and impacts of any projects or Programmes are adequately studied and factored into any project.

Sustainable development also implies that any developmental programmes/projects should be designed in such a way that they will enjoy continuity and support by the people [36]. Sustainable development ensures that programmes are well monitored, evaluated and sustained in order that their impact will be well felt by the ordinary citizens.

As the name implies, sustainable development simply means to sustain, revive or to provide structures necessary to support a programme or a project. Thus, the survivability of any projects depends on the sustainability of such a programme or project [37].

Contextual Review: Nigeria over the years has been bedeviled by high incidence of corruption. Based on the numerous pernicious socio-political and economic problems precipitated by corruption in the nation, many well-meaning Nigerians have called for the need for the political leadership to take action and effective measures to take the problem [38].

Due to widespread condemnation of the hydra headed monster called corruption, successive federal government tried to fight the menace by instituting one programme or structure [39]. There are many structures and super structures that are in place to checkmate the negative trends of corruption, but the corruptive tendencies seem to be surmountable [39]. Let us pause here to examine how some past and present regimes engaged the monster- corruption in Nigeria.

Murtala Mohammed regime identified corruption as a very dangerous problem of the country and tried to gear up to it. But rather than putting forth enduring structures, the regime opted for an adhoc arrangement leading to the mass-purge of the public service [40]. But this could not solve the problem, rather, it increased the hardship in the country due to large chunk of sacked public servants.

On its own, the Shagari's civilian government expressed strong displeasure with corruption and made efforts to fight it. The regime established three important structures in the names of:

(1) Code of conduct Bureau (2) Code of Conduct Tribunal (3) Public Complaints Commission. But in spite of these, corruption thrived with greater extension of its tentacles.

In his mission statement, Buhari regime declared its determination not only to fight but eliminating corruption. But instead of sustaining the already existing structures or creating a strategy for the head on engagement with corrupt officials, the administration chose to adopt what [41] called 'ad hoc pedestrian, infantile and cure measures none of which had clear aim against corruption. All it succeeded in doing was to adopt according to [42] a draconian, anti-people, fascistic decrees, intimidation and tyrannical approaches. The implication is that corruption did not stop, but underwent 'incubation period'.

The Babangida Administration that overthrew Buhari alleged its action on corruption and high

handedness of the successive government. The regime in order to fight corruption established the special Anti-corruption committee headed by Justice Kayode Esho and other Military Tribunals [43]. He went further to reform the public service and local government system which according to him will help to checkmate the high level of corruption especially in the top echelon of the public service system [44]. But unfortunately, the road that his anti-corruption war followed was selective in nature as according to [45] anybody who did not join the band way on was regarded as an 'endangered species'. In fact, the Babangida regime was accused of "institutionalizing corruption" as the instrument of governance.

Then came Abacha regime after the displacement of interim government of Shonekan. The regime pretended it was going to fight corruption but the main stream of the administration perpetrated corruption to a dangerous level [46]. Many politicians were imprisoned and some went on exile. Any attempt to criticize or challenge any unpopular policy or decree amounts to a treasonable felony. Unfortunately, there was no single body or structure put in place to fight corruption rather than the establishment of military junta to court martial any military or civilian man suspected to be a threat to his maladministration [47].

In 1999, there came again a regime of 'democratically' elected government headed by Obasanjo. The regime in the speech that ushered it in the seat of government stated its commitment to fighting corruption. It truly established some structures like: (1) Economic and Financial crimes commission (EFCC) (2) Independent corrupt practices and other related offenses commission ICPC. (3) Pension Administration Acts of 2004. But in all these, its approach to the fight was selective as any state governor who did not dance to its tune was tagged corrupt and was investigated by the structures put in place. The central government on its own became no-go area' or what [48] called 'Sacred cow'. The regime was even accused of being a 'grandfather of corruption' because the approaches of fighting was questioned by many Nigerians.

Another civilian government took over the reins of governance led by President Yar'Adua. The administration demonstrated its commitment to fight corruption by outlining what it saw during the elections that saw it through the federal government as stated thus:

"The election that saw me through was characterized by rigging, thuggery, electoral malpractices and fraud".

The government made electoral reform commission headed by a retired chief justice of the federation, Justice Uwais. Really, the administration started fighting corruption and even gave amnesty to the militants who were agitating for their compensation of oil derivation in the Niger-Delta region. Unfortunately, the cold hands of death snatched the gentleman and his vice president in the person of Jonathan Goodluck, Ph.D assumed the mantle of leadership. He reaffirmed his commitment to fighting corruption and to revitalize the economy from monolithic to diversified economy. But on the contrary, reverse was the case. Instead of engaging on the corrupt politicians and public servants in the system, he chose to be adamant while some of his aides amassed national common wealth with impunity [49]. The administration was not interested in fighting corruption but incubated corrupt people in its government. This dented the good image of that administration as a recent revelations of the activities of his aides, that were quizzed by law enforcement agents.

In his second mission as a Head of State, Mohamadu Buhari now a democratically elected president vowed to fight corruption until it is eliminated in both Political and Administrative systems. The regime began by apprehending many of accused politicians/civil/public servants of corruptive tendencies. In fact, the regime recovered huge amount of money stolen by some actors in the previous administration amounting to Billions of naira and hard currencies. However, the administration is accused of being selective in the fight as only the opposition members are currently under investigation. What of those that have defected to the ruling party who were accused of money laundering and corruption? [50].

The reasons why corruption especially in all the sectors of Nigerian economy will continue to thrive except there is a strong political will as captured by [51].

They Asked:

“If all the structures put in place to fighting corruption have not worked after so many decades, it then means that either conceptualization, system or approach are faulty”.

This was supported by another renowned scholars [52] as the lamented thus:

“Over the years it has been discovered that Nigerians have actively excelled in programme formulation but have not fared well in implementation. In fact, it may not be an exaggeration action to label Nigeria a grave yard

of beautiful programmes. Development plans have not been immune from the cancer of poor implementation”.

Other authors cited the problem of persistency in sectorial corruption in Nigeria as plan indiscipline, Paucity of Data, lack of mass commitment, planeness, lack of political will and insincerity on the part of the government. As it is customary, Transparency International (TI) releases annual list of the most corrupt countries and in one of the reports released in 2014, it described a corrupt country as,

“Fast-growing economies whose governments refuse to be transparent and tolerate corruption, create a culture of impunity in which corruption thrives”
“Bribes and backroom deals don’t just steal resources from the most vulnerable – they undermine justice and economic development and destroy public trust in government and leaders.”

Nigeria is the 136 least corrupt nation out of 176 countries, according to the 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. Corruption Rank in Nigeria averaged 119.14 from 1996 until 2016, reaching an all-time high of 152 in 2005 and a record low of 52 in 1997

The country ranked 28 in the score, having scored 26 in 2015, 27 in 2014, 25 in 2013 and 27 in 2012. Countries below Nigeria were Guinea-Bissau, Afghanistan, Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Korea (North), South Sudan and Somalia, among others.

Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, is perceived to be the most corrupt among 80 countries evaluated, according to data from the 2017 Best Countries rankings, a characterization based on a survey of more than 21,000 global citizens. This is the second year in a row it took the No. 1 spot [53]. (TI, 2016)

Below are the 10 most corrupt countries in the world 2017

Country Name	Corrupt Rank	Best Countries Overall Rank
Nigeria	Corrupt Rank: 1	Best Countries Overall Rank: 57
Colombia	Corrupt Rank: 2	Best Countries Overall Rank: 49
Iran	Corrupt Rank: 3	Best Countries Overall Rank: 58
Pakistan	Corrupt Rank: 4	Best Countries Overall Rank: 56
Mexico	Corrupt Rank: 5	Best Countries Overall Rank: 27
Russia	Corrupt Rank: 6	Best Countries Overall Rank: 24
Algeria	Corrupt Rank: 7	Best Countries Overall Rank: 60
Egypt	Corrupt Rank: 8	Best Countries Overall Rank: 39
Kazakhstan	Corrupt Rank: 9	Best Countries Overall Rank: 55
Bolivia	Corrupt Rank: 10	Best Countries Overall Rank: 54

<http://www.nigerianinfopedia.com/top-10-corrupt-countries-world-2016>

Sectoral Analysis: Considering the problems involved in critically analyzing corrupt practices in Nigeria in this work, a brief sectorial account is made here with focus on Health and Education sectors.

Health Sector Unethical Practices: According to World Health Organization, essential medicine save lives and improves health when they are available, affordable, of assured quality and properly used [54]. Notwithstanding the critical significance of pharmaceuticals to health systems, drug access remains one of the topmost global health glitches, mostly in the developing world of which Nigeria is inclusive. Corruption reinforces the fake drug trade in the country. There is expanding illegal sale of counterfeit, substandard, unregistered, expired and stolen drugs by unpatriotic and selfish arbitragers.

Other factors noticeable in the health sector include:

- Poor governance at the three tiers but worst at the state and local level of government;
- Massive corruption, infrastructural deterioration and poor maintenance culture in every sector of the economy especially in Health;
- Unnecessary politicization of the health sector together with weakening expertise, non-adhesion to professional ethics and best practices;
- Unprofessional, non-regulated and pathetic private health sector in addition to ineffective deployment of healthcare resources;
- Prevalent charlatanism in the health sector coupled with pitiable execution of existing laws;
- Feeble Primary health care system and other levels of care with a fragile Referral arrangement, caused by obvious absence of fixity of purpose to improve the primary and secondary healthcare systems at the state and local governance levels.
- Unfortunate condition of other social and physical infrastructure such as roads and power supply attributable to sharp corrupt practices. Most contractors abandon the projects after collecting the initial mobilisation fee hence the abandoned projects syndrome.

Corruption in the Education Sector: Some scholars had long written that corruption is a culture in Nigeria [55]. The veracity of the assertion that corruption is a culture in Nigeria can be proved considering statements by some prominent scholars [56], in his assessment of the level of impunity, stated that “keeping an average Nigerian from being corrupt is like keeping a goat from eating yam” The

wide spread or prevalence of corruption in Nigeria means that there is hardly any sector of the Nigerian society that can be exempted as not being corrupt. Corruption as a condemnable, criminal and immoral act has many consequences for the society and its citizens. In recent times, this aura and vision of most responsible states about education faces terrible challenges and threats occasioned by corruption and corrupt practices in the sector. In recent times, this aura and vision of most responsible states about education faces terrible challenges and threats occasioned by corruption and corrupt practices in the sector. Education is vital for socio-economic advancement and growth, also for poverty reduction hence investments in education are absolutely necessary component of national growth and development. All these can be fully achieved when education services reach the overall beneficiaries and improve learning out comes and when education is of good quality. The education system in Nigeria is in shambles. The main cause of these catastrophes is corruption [57]. Stated that corrupt practices in the education sector includes bribes, illegal fees for admission and examinations, academic con, cut in teachers’ salaries by the supervising authorities, promotion for the favoured and special placements, teacher absenteeism and lateness, illegal procedures for textbook procurement and embezzlement of PTA levies.

Implications of Corruption on Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Leadership crisis and sectorial corrupt practices are the major causes of decline in socio-economic development in Nigeria. Corruption is seen as the bane of good Governance in Nigeria and the result has been economic decay, low level of infrastructure development, high incidence of poverty and unemployment, deteriorating standard of education, political instability, among others [58, 59] noted that corruption has largely retarded the quest for sustainable growth and development in Nigeria. In the same vein [60] noted that high levels of corruption would impact negatively upon economic performance. Corruption is the topmost level of unprincipled behavior in any country. The effects of political corruption in Nigeria are despicable. A close observation in the country shows the results of high level of corruption as reflected in the state of the roads, indescribable poor supply of power, the standard of education, explosion of churches, kidnapping, cattle rustling, examination malpractices, child trafficking and rise in local militia insurgency. Good governance is characterized by improvement of public involvement and

participation in governance, improved institutional mechanism and adherence to the ideals of the rule of the law, enhancement of human rights and transparency and accountability [61]. There is high rate of injustice in Nigeria and this accounts for why the citizens have lost faith and trust in the public sector. Corruption does no nation any good, as it converts government from a potential servant of the people into a system of loot which mostly affect the voiceless poor, less privileged and other destructive socio-economic and political consequences. Corruption in any country slows down the pace of development. As [62] aptly stated, Corruption and mismanagement of public funds have direct bearing on the Nigeria's collapsing infrastructure like potable water, good road networks, health facilities, standard of Education, security, justice, employment and other challenges which are inter connected. The above stand point was corroborated by [63], the damage of the scourge to the economy and fabric of the society is seen in the schools not built, the hospitals without medicines, the roads that are not passable and the failure of leadership.

CONCLUSION

In the study, the issue of corruption began from the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial era of Nigeria. This was what led the colonial government to institute the first National development plan. Nigeria has had various National development planning in order to revitalize and sustain the system, but there seems to be no headway. Various national development plans lacked discipline and political will in formulation and implementation. He went further to say that sectorial planning in Nigeria are often overambitious, trying to accomplish too many objectives at once without considering the conflicting priorities.

A typical Nigerian government whether military or civilian is plagued with institutional/structural inconsistencies and disunity. This study has established that those in authority use state power for the amassing of wealth and diverts funds meant for development into their private pouches. The result is lack of success in development efforts. Corruption creates avenues for leakages and loss revenue set aside for infrastructural development, human resources development, boost in production competencies, social welfare and health care delivery- all variables of development that can promote sustainable development. It has also been revealed from the study that the key sectors of the Nigerian economy

have remained stagnant as far as development is concerned because of unethical behaviours especially in the public sector.

The overall impact of corruption in all its ramifications on the Nigerian state has been quite debilitating, perilous and destructive. This is clearly evident in the gross social, political and economic underdevelopment of the country. The underdevelopment in the nation is depicted in the mass youths unemployment mass illiteracy, extreme poverty, low life expectancy, infant and maternal morbidity/mortality, prostitution, religious extremism, bigotry, insurgency and terrorism.

Although, successive regimes in Nigeria condemned corruption in totality and tries to fight them in both their public speeches and establishment of some structures, but none of them has sincerely fought the scourge with strong determination to win. And this is one of the most pervasive systemic problems Nigeria is facing.

Recommendations: The quest for sustainable development cannot be attained in the midst of high level of corruption in all sectors of the economy in Nigeria. It will only remain a mirage so to speak. Waging war against corruption should therefore be an approach for achieving the objective of sustainable development in Nigeria. In order to match in the direction of good ethical conduct in government and lessen corruption, strategic measures must be put in place. It is on the basis of the foregoing that we recommend the following ways of tackling corruption and achieving sustainable development:

- There should be demonstration of strong political will on the part of government. It should not end by condemning corruption, but government should demonstrate high firmness of purpose by engaging those corrupt officials head on.
- Nigerian leaders are accused of formulating policies without proper implementation. It does not end in outlining ways or putting down structures, what is important in the fight of corruption is the sustainability of any structures or programmes that are put in place to fight corruption.
- Political leaders should depoliticize fight against corruption. But if we continue to play politics in fighting corruption, then, what we will see in the nearest future a 'failed state'?
- There should be proper monitoring and evaluation of any anti-corruption measures. What makes a programme or a project worthwhile are measures put in place to evaluate or monitor the policy? This is the major missing link.

- Freedom of information act should be promoted by the National Orientation Agency and put to use by the citizen to check abuse of public office.
- There should be periodic retreat for civil servants and the issues to be discussed should revolve around national core values that stem from theistic humanism which will help them in battling corrupt practices in their various areas of jurisdiction and motivate them to shun self-enrichment.
- Value re-orientation programme which discourages the use of money or wealth for acceptance in a community and importance should be adopted. The power of money as factor in politics and governance must be cut and de-emphasized.
- A law should be enacted that only good citizens with proven character should hold public office especially chief executives of government parastatals and Agencies.
- Sustainable development should be anchored on sustainability of a policy or programme. Policy inconsistency has dealt with many of Nigerian public policies. Thus, Nigerian programmes lack this basic or fundamental ingredient. If we must win the fight, then it is high time we began sustaining our programmes.
- In the countries' quest for attaining sustainable development, strategies should be mapped out sequentially. Sustainable development cannot be attained with this cankerworm. It is only when there are strategies for achieving them sequentially can the quest to be in comity of developed and strong economies in the world can be attained.
- Lastly, people who are convicted of corruption should be given reasonable jail sentences and mandated to return/refund the loots. This will serve as a deterrent to others. But if we continue to play politics in fighting corruption, then, what we will see is what Achebe (1983) called a 'failed state[64]?

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