**USING NIGERIA AS A CASE STUDY, EXAMINE THE CHALLENGES CORRUPTION PRESENTS TO GOOD GOVERNANCE, ECONOMIC GROWTH, PEACE, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT AND SUGGEST WAYS TO TACKLE CORRUPTION.**

**ESSAY ABSTRACT**

Corruption is a social vice that has been reduced in some part of the world but not completely. This essay is going to examine the causes of corruption; greed, poverty and so on, the ways it could be curbed using Nigeria as a case study. It would also explain how it affects the governance, stability, peace and economic stability of the country. The essay was created on the basis of the research work of international organizations, institution and statistics. The essay gives detail on how corruption is a part of the people in the society and how it is being displayed in their everyday life. In order to eradicate this problem, there should be a decrease in poverty, increase in employment, provision of education and so much more could be done. Poverty, greed and lack of peace are issues that add up to cause corruption**.**

**Word Count: 145**

Corruption can be defined as "an arrangement that involves an exchange between two parties (the demander and the supplier) which (i) has an influence on the allocation of resources either immediately or in the future; and (ii) involves the use or abuse of public or collective responsibility for private ends" (Macrae, 1982, p.678). One word said with no fear yet filled with deceit, fraudulence and crime. “The abuse of public power for private benefits” (Tanzi, 1998). It mainly involves bribery. Corruption starts when people start paying off their offences; A driver gets stopped by a police officer for passing through the traffic light without waiting for the green light or is stopped for not obeying the traffic rules, the driver then swiftly hands the police officer a thousand naira note in order for him to not pay the fine or get arrested for the “little crime” he had committed and then go scots free. That is where corruption begins.

If an official’s act is prohibited by laws established by the government, it is corrupt; if it is not prohibited, it is not corrupt even if it is abusive or unethical’. (John A. Gardiner, 1993. “Defining Corruption.” In: Corruption and Reform 7). Corruption is not limited to only that, corruption also applies to countries that use the taxes of the citizens to buy themselves expensive cars and to change their wardrobe. Corruption is caused by different factors; greed, poverty, fame and unemployment. Greed is a major cause of corruption because people are not content with what they have so they request or forcefully take more from innocent and unsuspecting people. Most people do not have to work for their money but they are feeding off of the little cash they get from their fraudulent acts. Poverty is another issue because most people cannot afford to feed themselves or their family so they engage themselves in this dirty world of crime and end up getting in trouble for forcefully trying to take from others. Corruption can also be caused by fame, we have politicians, governors, presidents and senators that are in their respective positons through corruption. They bribe citizens to vote for them and they make endless and unfulfillable promises. Corruption occurs one way or the other in the activities of the people living in the society.

Nigeria, with a population of about 197 million as of 1st of November, 2018 is the most populous country in Africa. Nigeria gained her independence on the 1st of October,1960. She is known for her great exports of hides and skin, timber, cocoa, groundnut, palm oil, cotton and most essentially petroleum. Nigeria was known as the country of great endowment of gas and natural resources which was used as a mode of finance for the need of the citizens in the country. Having a per capita income of about $1100 during the late 70s, Nigeria was considered the fastest growing country in sub-Saharan Africa, because of its richness of oil. After its acknowledgement of oil, Nigeria has been off the press not for its goodness but for its notorious acts. Since then, Nigeria has been referred as one of the most corrupt countries in Africa. The series of economic mismanagement, disregard of human rights, political instability and dictatorial regimes have all given Nigeria a bad name all over the world. These factors have also caused Nigeria to have a downfall in its economic growth and development potential. According to the World Bank leagues tables, Nigeria is now amongst the underdeveloped countries with a per capita income of $340. Education in Nigeria was regarded as one of the best now it is very terrible, there is low rate of employment, lack of health facilities and social amenities to sustain its citizens, the crime rate is fast rising and there is lack of peace and security. Corruption in Nigeria is a part of the citizens living in it. Even the lowest payers are involved in corruption.

Nigeria is known for her bad governance, lack of peace within its people, poor economic growth and an unstable environment and poor development. All this issues lead straight back to corruption. Nigeria has been described as an “unfinished state”, (Joseph et al., 1996), and as “a truculent African tragedy” (Ayittey, 2006). This is because the country is filled with a bunch of greedy autocrats that only want things done their ways. They promise change; good health, peace and adequate security, 24/7 power supply, good education, enough jobs and a lot more. But as soon as they are voted in, they tend to forget all their promises and do whatever they feel like. That is bad governance. Bad governance and corruption are similar, in a country where there is bad governance surely there would be corruption and this is because the so called leaders are using their fame and cunny ways to cheat the citizens as well as their fellow leaders. In Nigeria, you would see politicians buying bullet-proof cars and having wardrobe allowance. First, they can repeat the same clothes and no one notice but they are using incomprehensible manners to embezzle public money. Nigeria currently owes the World Bank US$60 billion as of Wednesday 31st of October 2019 and this is because they are wasting the embezzled money on the irrelevant things rather than building schools and hospitals, providing the needy with food, water and shelter and fixing the bad roads. The politics world is a game; people try to show you they have more than you but they all use deceit. They use notorious ways or acts for satisfaction; killings and riots. It is quite depressing to know that when they are on the verge of getting caught they start showing care to the citizens. Bad governance brings about corruption because if the “leaders” are embezzling the public money, there would be nothing left for the country and its citizens, there would lesser job opportunities, rate of education would keep decreasing, and there would be riots in the country.

Nigeria has large human resources therefore, it has the potential to build a great country with good infrastructure, provide education for the nation, health services and generally erase poverty from its system. All these would have been possible if there was no corruption in its system. Despite its richness in oil, there is still a large range of poverty in Nigeria. According to World Bank 2004, Nigeria is among the twenty poorest countries in the world. Poverty occurs in all part of the country, although the rate of poverty is higher in the rural areas than the urban areas. The poor ones are said to be those who do not own a property, they have low or no source of income, they lack education and have no mode of health services. As such the poor are often illiterate, in poor health and have a short life span (Amaghionyeodiwe and Osinubi, 2004). Nigeria has made attempts to reduce the attention put on the economy in the oil industry to other beneficial economic activities has been to no avail because of the corruption in the system, poor investment and lack of labour. The rate of education in Nigeria is poor. Public money spent on education was 0.9% of the GNP in 2002. (World Bank, 2004). The best way of improving the economy is by giving adequate education and excellent infrastructure. If embezzled money is spent on paying the best labourers to build a school, also to hire the best teachers to give the best education to the citizens and to build enough companies or other work places to create jobs, there would be a great change in the economy. The importance of education is to give knowledge and teach the citizens about a lot of things that they would benefit from and also give back to the country. Education is then said to be a direct avenue and source of support to help the needy out of poverty and create enough jobs for the unemployed citizens. Education can also teach people values and morals that are beneficial to them and their nation.

Nigeria is a country popular for riots and commotions and this is because there is corruption in the country. Starting from the Boko Haram to the Fulani Herdsmen, Nigeria has become a warzone where people are killing their own family of the same tribe and they are getting away with it because there is a large range of corruption in the system. Some citizens even get involved in armed robbery and they get ammunitions from the authority through bribery and corruption; they make deals to give them a percentage of the money to them after each operation takes place. Even some leaders pay them to kill people and start dangerous riots. All these are reducing the rate of peace in Nigeria.

Nigeria is an underdeveloped country with an unstable government. A country still owing the World Bank has more or less nothing for them again. A developed country would use its resources for the benefits of its citizens but a country like Nigeria with enough human and natural resources is still underdeveloped because of the greedy and nonchalant attitude of theirs towards the citizens. The corruption in the system is making them focus on the unimportant thing while they let the resources go into waste. There are numerous ways to curb corruption. It can be by awareness or just by reducing a lot of things. Corruption can be stopped by electing good leaders into the political posts. Leaders that care for their people and would not get carried away by fame and greed. If the leaders are of good behaviours and morals, the followers would do the same. Also, the government should increase the salary of the employees so they do not take bribes to survive. The tax collection process in Nigeria is poor; for example, there is a lot of corruption between the security officers, most of them occur at checkpoints. The government can provide better means of transportation of goods and also put well-educated officers at the checkpoints to reduce the rate of bribery. Government should make use of the lands by building more houses for the citizens and enforce a law whereby house owners get paid yearly because most tenants are monthly salary earners. The government should provide insurance for workers ahead of their retirement period so they do not have to steal from companies. All countries have laws that should not be broken therefore, if a citizen breaks the law no matter their status in the country, that citizen should be arrested. Instead of using cunny ways to remove themselves from the problem they have caused. Government agencies such as Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission and Code of Conduct Bureau should be given enough power to stop corruption.

These are a few recommendations I have come up with;

* Nigeria cannot effectively control corruption by merely instituting probe panels.
* The society should not grant too much powers to officers
* Create an anti-corruption system.

In conclusion, bad governance, lack of peace and poor economic growth are all causes of corruption in Nigeria and If all these are eradicated, there would be no more corruption in Nigeria. It would take a long period of time to remove bribery and corruption from the system because people think that is the only way to feed. For the period of time corruption is in the system, it remains a global issue.

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