

ABIA KELECHI

19/SCI14/001

GEOLOGY

Corruption in our society, actions that facilitate it and the effects.

Defining corruption can be a challenge. It takes many forms, and perpetrators are skilled in developing new ways to be corrupt and cover their tracks. Corruption may be defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.

Corruption can occur on different scales. Corruption ranges from small favors between a small number of people (petty corruption), to corruption that affects the government on a large scale (grand corruption), and corruption that is so prevalent that it is part of the everyday structure of society, including corruption as one of the symptoms of organized crime. Corruption and crime are endemic sociological occurrences which appear with regular frequency in virtually all countries on a global scale in varying degree and proportion. Corruption may include many activities including bribery and embezzlement, though it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries. It is also a dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery.

Corruption has a lot of conditions that facilitate it. Corruption can grow in a variety of political and economic environments. It particularly thrives where accountable governance structures and processes are weak. However, weak governance does not necessarily always lead to corrupt acts – most people will still act honestly.

Imperatives and incentives

Certain imperatives and incentives encourage people to engage in

corruption. These may include, for example, low and irregular salaries for officials with large dependent families. Such officials may feel compelled to become corrupt. Social norms can also create incentives to participate in corruption. Some norms encourage giving favourable treatment to particular people – for example family members, or those affiliated with one's political group.

Opportunities for personal enrichment

Actors holding extensive discretion over resource allocation in environments where there is weak supervision likely have ample opportunities for corrupt enrichment.

Limited risk of detection and punishment

Corruption will thrive where there are inadequate and ineffective controls. A lack of policing, detection and prosecution encourages corruption. Weak internal controls such as financial management, auditing, and personnel systems are also facilitating conditions. When authorities control and censor the media and civil society, corrupt politicians and officials have less to fear, for instance, Nigeria.

The effects corruption has on the society could be from risk to human lives to lack of trust in the government, for instance, when people cannot get access to healthcare, safe places to live and clean water, their lives are at risk. When buildings collapse because developers have bribed their way out of adhering to health and safety standards, the lives of occupants are at risk, too, and also corruption has more than just financial costs. It reduces public trust and citizens' willingness to participate in society. For example, citizens who perceive politicians as corrupt may not bother to vote in elections, get engaged in politics, or pay taxes.

How do we control and fight back against corruption in our society?

We could align anti-corruption measures with market, behavioral, and social forces. Adopting integrity standards is a smart business decision, especially for companies interested in doing business with the World Bank Group and other

development partners and also, sanctions matter, Punishing corruption is a vital component of any effective anti-corruption effort.

Acting globally and locally in the means of keeping citizens engaged on corruption at local, national, international and global levels – in line with the scale and scope of corruption. Make use of the architecture that has been developed and the platforms that exist for engagement.