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**PHARMACY**

**COURSE: GST122**

**TOPIC: POLITICAL CORRUPTION**

**Political corruption** is the use of powers by government officials or their network contacts for illegitimate private gain.

Political Corruption is defined as the misuse of public or governmental power for illegitimate purposes which are, usually secret and for private gain. The kind of political system any given society operates would be a major factor that will determine the occasions of corrupt practices, depending on how weak or strong such institution is found to be, and goals it seeks to achieve for the welfare of the people. In Nigeria for instance, since May 1999 when she went back to civilian rule, the structure of governance, and the democratic institution, which is supposed to be the government of the people by the people and for the people, has become so weak, that the level of corruption has risen tremendously. In political corruption, Government officials that are supposed to be trustees of the common wealth turn into wolves enriching their private interest. They do not only undermine their obligation, but also misuse the power delegated to them, for their own private gain. A relevant question should be, does political corruption have any moral implication? And in line with the moral analysis discussed in this work, I will say that political corruption are morally wrong actions, like an act of bribery manifested by a political office holder to undermine a legitimate political role, held by him. This is because bribery represents a theft of public resources for private end. And the politician who receives the bribe abuses his political office; since he tends to siphon the funds into overseas accounts, without using them for any public good in the country .He exhibits a morally corrupt character to undermine a legitimate political process. Here those in political office misuse the power and authority given to them by the way they exercise their role in government, a role which is supposed to be used to improve the living standard of the people. They turn such a role for their private advantage. In the political sphere of activity per se, we see such abuses in the electoral malpractice and in vote rigging. Such abuses in the system take the form of bribery which is the means used by politician to achieve their desired goal; here they have to offer bribes, in the form of money or incentives to people in order to get elected to positions and occupy certain prestigious political roles

Forms of political corruption include bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, parochialism influence peddling, graft, and embezzlement. Misuse of government power for other purposes, such as repression of political opponents and general police brutality, is also considered political corruption.

Political corruption, otherwise known as government corruption, has been defined in numerous ways. Aristotle, the third-century Greek philosopher, defined it as the practice of leaders who rule with a view to their private advantage rather than the pursuit of the public interest. More recently, it has also been defined as behavior by government officials that violates publicly sanctioned moral standards. In the early twenty-first century the definition most commonly used among social scientists is that devised by Joseph S. Nye—the abuse of public office for personal enrichment. Such abuse occurs in many forms. The most common include bribery, extortion, embezzlement of government resources, violation of campaign laws, and electoral fraud.

Political corruption is often associated with regimes that are described as neo-patrimonial or kleptocratic.( A state of unrestrained political corruption is known as a kleptocracy, literally meaning "rule by thieves".) In these regimes, the ruler abuses public office by behaving as though all property in the country is his or her personal property.

As a result of political corruption, there are various sectors that have been neglected due to the failure on the path of the leaders to appropriate funds directed to such sectors. The following are effects of political corruption:

Humanitarian Aid:

The scale of humanitarian aid to the poor and unstable regions of the world grows, but it is highly vulnerable to corruption, with food aid, construction and other highly valued assistance as the most at risk. Food aid can be directly and physically diverted from its intended destination, or indirectly through the manipulation of assessments, targeting, registration and distributions to favor certain groups or individuals.

In construction and shelter there are numerous opportunities for diversion and profit through substandard workmanship, kickbacks for contracts and favouritism in the provision of valuable shelter material. Thus while humanitarian aid agencies are usually most concerned about aid being diverted by including too many, recipients themselves are most concerned about exclusion. Access to aid may be limited to those with connections, to those who pay bribes or are forced to give sexual favors. Equally, those able to do so may manipulate statistics to inflate the number of beneficiaries and siphon off additional assistance.

 Malnutrition, illness, wounds, torture, harassment of specific groups within the population, disappearances, extrajudicial executions and the forcible displacement of people are all found in many armed conflicts. Aside from their direct effects on the individuals concerned, the consequences of these tragedies for local systems must also be considered: the destruction of crops and places of cultural importance, the breakdown of economic infrastructure and of health-care facilities such as hospitals, etc.

Health care sector:

Corruption plays a huge role in health care system starting from the hospital, to the government and lifted to the other institutions that promote quality and affordable health care to the people. The efficiency of health care delivery in any country is heavily dependent on accountable and transparent systems, proper management of both financial and human resources and timely supply of services to the vulnerable populace of the nation.

At the basic level, greed skyrockets corruption. When the structure of the health care system is not adequately addressed beginning from oversight in healthcare delivery and supply of drugs and tendering process, mismanagement and misappropriation of funds will always be observed. Corruption also can undermine health care service delivery which in turn disorients the lives of the poor. Corruption leads to violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms as people supposed to benefit from the basic health care from the governments are denied due to unscrupulous processes driven by greed. Therefore, for a country to keep citizens healthy there must be efficient systems and proper resources that can tame the evils like corruption that underpin it.