

An assessment of Students' Perception of the Causes of Corruption in Nigeria: A Case Study of Tertiary Schools in Kogi West.

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Abstract

Organizations of all sizes, public or private are vulnerable to corruption; the scope varies depending on governance structures, tolerance to corrupt practices, and strength of anti-corruption instruments. In view of the existence of lots of vices such as corruption, cultism, etc. that bedevil the nation, this study investigated the perception of students on the causes of corruption. The Students Perception of Corruption Questionnaire (SPCQ) was administered on 450 students of tertiary institutions in Kogi West, Nigeria. The data was analyzed using mean, standard deviation rank and t-test for independent samples. The result of the analysis showed that all the items were perceived as causes of corruption however, compulsion for shortcut to affluence, glorification and approbation of ill-gotten wealth, display of wealth by public officers, lukewarm attitude of law enforcement officials, and greed/inability to resist temptation were the first five perceived causes of corruption. Many, 80 (16.0%) defined corruption as dishonest or immoral practices in cash or kind; behaving contrary to rules, ethics or the law, 27 (29.0%). 70 (14%) defined corruption as abuse of public office for private gains, 57 (11.4%) see corruption as behaviour contrary to rules, ethics or the law, 48 (9.6%) saw corruption as a way of life. About 45 (9%) see it as an act of evil or wrong perpetrated for money-making purpose, 19 (20.4 %). Many, 48 (9.6%) suggested constituting anti-corruption bodies and organizing regular seminar as a way to combat corruption, 31.2% disciplinary measures, or dismissal for those caught, 25.8% suggested honesty, and upholding professional ethics. There were no significant differences in perception on the basis of gender. The findings of the study suggest need for value, attitude, moral and emotional reorientation of the individual and invariably the society through education.

Keywords: Corruption, perception, value education, reorientation, tertiary education.

1.1 Introduction

Many people presume the country “Nigeria”, is synonymous to corruption and corrupt practices (Malgwi, 2004). As many cases of corrupt practices affecting the country or its citizens have drawn international attention. Corruption has been the greatest threat to the survival of the country as a nation state (Agbibo, 2012). Though country is blessed with abundant natural resources and enormous human resources capital, yet remains largely underdeveloped (Ogbeidi, 2012).

Organisations of all sizes, public or private are vulnerable to corruption; the scope varies depending on governance structures, tolerance to corrupt practices, and strength of anti-corruption instruments. Social vices are evil, wicked, and criminal actions or behaviour in the society that violate societal norms and values (Abbas, 2008). Corruption is a social vice, often associated with something bad or negative that vitiates people, organizations and nations. Organizations and professionals are inundated by codes of ethics, rules, regulations, policies and procedures, difficult to imagine corruption thriving in such an environment. However, social, cultural, economic, and political realities within a context affect all sectors; corruption in the larger society permeates and undermines organizations affecting the structure, quality of services, and eventual outputs and outcomes. Indeed, Rupp (2006) argues that to associate the system with fraud or corruption and thus criminalizing it was an absolute taboo in the past and for the most part still is.

Indeed, Corruption is at the core of the crisis in issues such as governance and legitimacy, the establishment of a sustainable democratic order, rule of law, national development and the welfare of the citizens. Corruption is the major explanation for the seemingly insolvable problems of poverty, diseases, hunger and general acute development tragedy in Nigeria (Ogundiya, 2009). Corruption has seriously impeded the growth and effective utilization of resources in the country. With enormous wealth from oil resources, economic, social, and political strength, Nigeria is supposed to be called the giant of Africa.

Furthermore, the CLEEN Foundation (2010) gave other effects of corruption as lack of development, infrastructural decay, and mediocrity in leadership. Other visible signs are; fuel scarcity in an oil-producing nation, then fallen standards of education and work output, high rates of unemployment and the ever-widening gaps between the rich and poor among other factors. At the international level, corruption manifests in tarnishing the image of the country and the caution exercised by foreign nationals in business transactions with Nigerians, thereby weakening the economic sector. Bureaucratic corruption in particular has been responsible for the mismanagement of public resources, economic setback as a national heritage etc. (Imokhuede, Lawal and Johnson, 2012). Corruption, which was compounded during the several years of military misrule, has become institutionalized thereby obstructing progress in every facet of the country’s political and socio-economic life. The result has been the paradox of mass poverty amidst rich natural resources (CLEEN Foundation, 2010).

1.2 Statement of Research Problem.

The various causes of corruption can be viewed from two perspectives: - individual characteristics and structural influence. While individual characteristics perspective views corruption as resulting from greed or inability to withstand temptations, structural influence perspective sees corruption as arising from various economic, political, social and cultural needs that motivate individuals. People engage in corruption in Nigeria as a result of high level of poverty, high rate of unemployment, under-remuneration of workers, financial

hardships, persuasion by friends and colleagues in public offices, desire to please kinsmen, late payment for services by government, unregulated informal economy, nepotism, tribalism in the administration of justice and lack of honest leaders (Obayelu, 2007). The consequences of corruption in the economic and socio-political development of the nation are many. Corruption has a negative impact on economic growth as it, among other things reduce the effectiveness of public administration and distort public expenditure decisions, channeling urgently needed resources away from sectors such as health and education to corruption prone sectors or personal aggrandizement. In addition, corruption has an adverse effect on human development, and increases the cost of basic social services. These lead to increased wealth for a few at the expense of the society as a whole, leaving the poor suffering the consequences.

The Nigerian government has instituted several organs to fight the menace of corruption. These include Code Conduct Bureau, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and related offences Commission (ICPC) and the Due Process Office. These organs have however not been able to stem the tide of corruption in Nigeria.

According to Osoba (1996 in Duke, 2004), all measures against corruption in Nigeria have not been fruitful because they have operated at a level of mere symbolism. Those waging the corruption wars are themselves corrupt. In the light of the foregoing, there is need to explore other ways of eradicating corruption in the society. One of the aims of the Nigerian education system is the inculcation of moral and spiritual values in interpersonal and human relations. This includes specific moral value of being God-fearing, honest, responsible and forgiving (National Policy on Education, 2004). The fact that these values are inculcated through instruction in schools requires that attempt must be made to regularly assess the values of children and youths at all levels of education in Nigeria (Ugodulunwa, 2007). It is also necessary to appraise the perception of youths in Nigeria in view of the existence of vices like corruption that has bedeviled the nation. This study therefore is aimed at assessing the perception of students in tertiary schools in Kogi East on the causes of corruption in Nigeria and examines the possibility of educational interventions.

1.3 Study Objectives

1. To assess the perception of students on the causes of corruption
2. To examine the possibility of educational interventions.
3. To analyze the effects of corruption on economic growth and development

1.4 Hypotheses

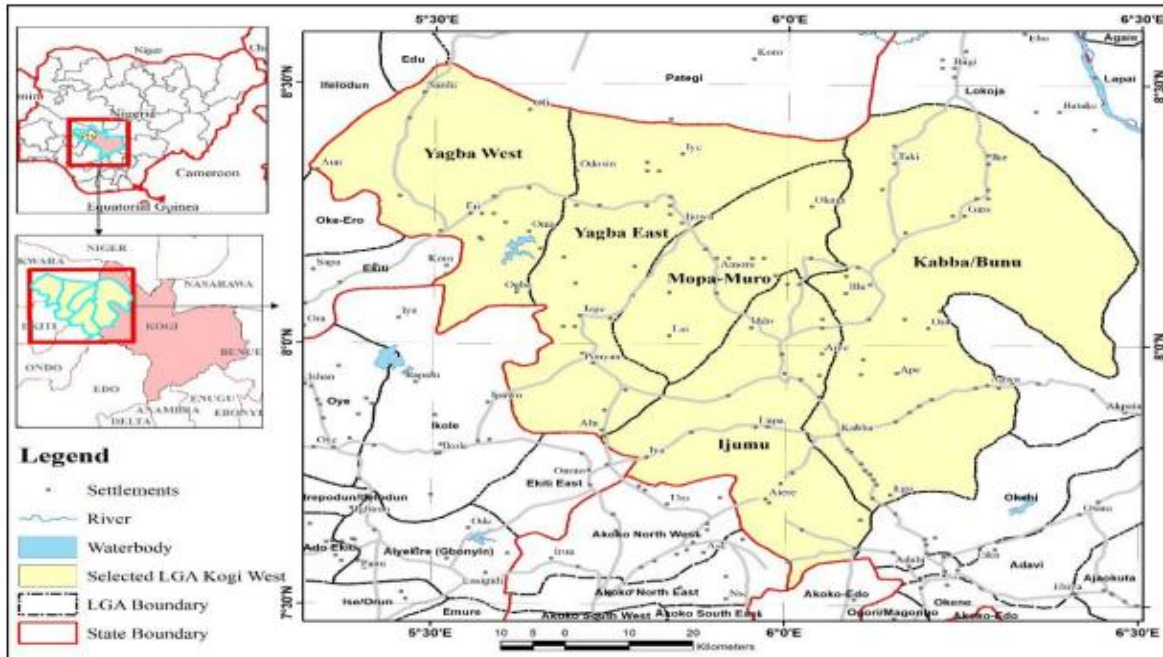
The following null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant difference between the reference mean and the mean perception of students on the causes of corruption.
2. There is no significant difference between the perception of male and female student on the possible causes of corruption.

1.5 Study Area

The Kogi West Senatorial District is located between latitude 7° 9' N and 8° 10' N of the equator and longitude 5° 30' and 6° 10' east of the Greenwich meridian. It is bounded in the North West by Kwara state; South West by Ekiti state and Ondo state, South East by Okehi local government area and North East by Lokoja Local Government Area (Fig. 1). The study area blessed with fertile agricultural land which allows for large scale production of both food

and cash crops. The scope of this study is limited to Kogi western senatorial district; (Ijumu, Kabba/ Bunu, Mopa/Amuro, Yagba West and Yagba East LGAs).



Kogi West Senatorial District showing seven local governments which include; [Kabba Bunu](#), [Kogi/Koto Karfe](#), [Mopa Muro](#), [Ijumu](#), [Yagba East](#), [Yagba West](#) and [Lokojia](#).

2.1 The Concept of Corruption

According to Akindele (1995), the concept of corruption has been elusive in many dimensions, due to the lack of uniform definition. What is regarded as corruption depends on the existing national laws and regulations guiding certain actions. Some countries define corruption in the broadest form, while others legislate on the narrow definition of the term. However, from an etymological dimension, the word corruption comes from the Greek word “corruptus” meaning an aberration or a misnomer (CLEEN Foundation, 2010). In the same vein, Nye (1967), views corruption is a deviation from the formal duties because of private gains. This includes such behaviour as bribery (use of reward to pervert the judgment of a person in position of trust); nepotism (appointment because of relationship rather than merit); and misappropriation (illegal appropriation of public resources for private regarding use). This definition will be very difficult to operate, where corruption is widespread and regarded as the norm by majority of the people. Similarly, Otite (2000) views corruption as the perversion of integrity, which could be presented in acts such as bribery, inordinate favours or moral depravity. It occurs when two or more parties interact to upturn the structure and processes of a society. It is concerned with the behaviour of functionaries which promote dishonest situations. The World Bank (2000) defined corruption as an abuse of public office for private gain, where an official accepts, solicits, or extorts a bribe. Corruption is also an abuse, whereby private agents actively offer bribes to upturn public rules and processes for individual/personal advantage and profit. Corruption can also be depicted in acts such as patronage and nepotism, theft of state assets or diversion of state resources. The Vision 2010 Committee views Corruption as inordinate activities geared towards the changing of the normal course of judgments and position of trust (Otite, 2000). The Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000 also define corruption to include bribery, fraud and other related offences (Otite, 2000). Khan (1996:45) stated that corruption varies from one nation to another. It can thus be defined as “a perversion or change from the general accepted rules or laws for selfish gain”. The United Nations on its part defines corruption as the abuse of

power for private gain, while Transparency International chose a clear and focused definition of the term as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain (CLEEN Foundation, 2010). This is a very wide-ranging definition, which delineates some of the acts of corruption. Otite (1986) defines corruption as the perversion of integrity or state of affairs through bribery, favour, or moral depravity. This definition is broader because it involves the moral aspects of official conducts. The Transparency International views corruption as the negative behaviour of public officials, either politicians or civil servants, whereby they enrich themselves or their cronies unlawfully, through the misuse of public power which has been entrusted to them (Pope, 1996). The definition Transparency International is quite descriptive, though it focuses only on the public sector. However, there is corruption in the private sector too, which has negative consequences for the whole society. Furthermore, Ogundiya (2010) gave a very broad picture of the concept, stating that certain behaviours could be used to highlight corruption. These acts were given as embezzlement, conflict of Interests, bribery, fraud, rigging of elections, misappropriation, and conversion of public funds for personal gains, extortion, and manipulation of procurement processes, diversion, and misappropriation of funds through manipulation or falsification of financial records.

Action Aids (2008), on its part views corruption as dishonest acts which should be avoided by the good people of any nation. It suggests that the society should be in disapproval of anyone who engages in corrupt practices instead of what obtains in Nigeria, whereby corrupt politicians and public officials are indirectly applauded and sometimes celebrated with traditional titles and national honours. Such abuse should be met with sanctions in a developing nation like Nigeria, who should be in a hurry to develop and catch up with the rest of the developed world. According to Ajie and Wokekoro (2012), some researchers have taken a holistic approach on the discussion of corruption by dividing it into several forms. These according to Taylor (2010) include:

i. Political corruption: It occurs when politicians and public decision-makers, who are entitled to formulate, establish, and implement laws on behalf of the people, are corrupt. It also takes place when policy formulation and legislation are tailored to benefit politicians and legislators- as in the case of the controversial huge legislators' wages, and the outrageous pension laws passed by states to favour the Governors and their spouses in Nigeria.

ii. Bureaucratic corruption: This occurs in public administration in the course of public policy implementation. The citizens encounter this kind of corruption daily in service delivery points such as the hospitals, schools, local licensing offices, police stations, the various government ministries etc. Bureaucratic corruption occurs when public sector procedures become illegal/ inappropriate.

iii. Electoral corruption: This category of corruption includes the rigging of elections and other frauds in the electoral process. It includes the promise of an office, special favours, coercion, intimidation, and interference with the freedom of election, buying of votes, disenfranchisement, snatching of ballot boxes, victimizing and maiming, mutilation of election results in favour of losers and votes turn up in area where votes were not cast.

iv. Bribery: which includes kickbacks and pay offs etc.

v. Fraud: which could be reflected as trickery, swindling and deceit, counterfeiting, racketing, smuggling and forgery.

vi. Embezzlement: This is seen as the theft of public resources by public officials. It is when an official of the state steals from the public institution, where he is gainfully employed. In

Nigeria, the embezzlement of public fund is one of the most common ways of wealth accumulation, perhaps, due to lack of strict regulatory systems.

vii. Extortion: This is reflected as the use of coercion, violence, or threats to to acquire resources. Many in the police force are culpable of this in Nigeria.

viii. Favoritism: This is a mechanism of power abuse- implying a highly biased distribution of state resources.

ix. Nepotism: This is a special kind of favoritism, in which a public office holder prefers his/her kinfolk and family members. Nepotism occurs when there is an unlawful exemption from the application of certain laws or regulations or undue preference given in the allocation of scarce resources (Ajie and Wokekoro, 2012). These types of corrupt practices are very common and widespread, to the extent that it is now seen as an acceptable norms and culture in the Nigeria state.

2.2 Review of Literature

There is near consensus worldwide that corruption is a vice, an immoral act and an antithesis of progress and development. Its devastating effects have made it a very topical issue opens for discussion across the globe (Sadiq & Abdullahi, 2013) and that it hurts everyone (Berlinski, 1997). Osoba (1996) opines that it is a form of global anti-social behavior which pervades every society depending on the nature and system of political inclination, legality and morality. It has been variously addressed; a cancer, a disease, a scourge (Neu, Everett, Rahaman, & Martinez, 2013) a monster (Egwemi, 2012) a menace (Agbibo, 2012) among the many connotations associated with the concept.

Just as there is diversity in the human race and culture, so is the meaning of the concept of corruption has been construed from divergent perspectives and orientations. As Egwemi (2012) posits corruption is a universal phenomenon having no regards for ethnic background, race creed or even geographical location. Furthermore, corruption is not new to human history as early civilizations had records of corruption and corrupt practices reported (Wells & Hymes, 2012).

Thus, societal interaction and the history of civilizations are inseparable with corruption ever since the dawn of civilizations. Wells and Hymes (2012) posit that even the civilization that provided the basis for the modern-day democracy had on so many occasions been afflicted by the menace of corruption. It is therefore very obvious that the concept of corruption is universal with historical antecedent (Agbibo, 2012) which becomes much more pronounced and devastating in our modern day societies (Sadiq & Abdullahi, 2013) due to the increase in the magnitude, frequency and the extent to which it is being perpetuated. No wonder the concept is now a subject of a multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary discourse and a topical issue interested by academics, governments, private bodies as well as other non-governmental organizations.

However, in spite of the universal nature and perversity of corruption, the intensity and the frequency with which it is carried out differed tremendously among societies or more precisely from country to country. Nye (1967) notes that even the most developed western societies are not free from corruption, but the developing nations are most hit by the menace. Interestingly some countries presently have been tagged as corruption ridden while others as less corrupt nations. Sadiq and Abdullahi (2013) observe that while serious countries are committed towards addressing the scourge, others directly or indirectly go on encouraging it, so much so that it has developed into a critical state thus defying solution. This distinction is

made along the divide line of the developed, developing and the under developed nations. Developed nations are seen as less corrupt because proper structures and controls to check corruption are to a large normally readily available (Nye, 1967).

Conversely the developing countries are labeled as corrupt and in some cases very corrupt (Agbibo, 2012; Malgwi, 2004; Obuah, 2010; Ogbeidi, 2012). For example, Africa is considered the hub of corruption as cases of corruption are recorded on daily basis on one hand and bad leadership on the other (Agbibo, 2012). He further contends that Africa's political history reveals that Africa is afflicted with bad leaders causing undue hardship on their people consequent of corruption.

3.1 Research Methodology.

This research adopted descriptive survey design. This descriptive survey design is of cross-sectional type which permits the researcher to gather the data on certain phenomenon of interest at one point. It allows the researcher to reach larger samples in a study and larger samples mitigate the problem of chance difference. The cross-sectional survey is described as the method of choice if the intention of the researcher is to gather the data on certain phenomenon of interest at one point in time (Ary, Jacob & Sorensen, 2010). The population of the study comprised all students of selected institution of learning in Kogi West. The sample size comprised 225 male and 225 female students selected through accidental sampling technique. This technique of sampling was adopted as randomization of students was impossible due to their work schedule. A structured questionnaire titled "**An assessment of Students' Perception of the Causes of Corruption in Nigeria: A Case Study of Tertiary Schools in Kogi West.**" (SPCQ) was used to gather data for the study. SPCQ has two sections (A & B).

The Questionnaire was developed on Students' Perception of Corruption (SPCQ). The instrument will consist of many items generated through review of related literature on causes of corruption (Obayelu, 2007, Alate, 1999, Duke, 2006, Myint, 2000) which will seek the students to indicate the extent to which they agree or disagree with the identified possible causes of corruption. The instrument was subjected to scrutiny by experts to ascertain its face validity. A reliable co-efficient of 0.78 was established using split-half method and 0.82 when corrected with the Spearman Brown prophecy formula. This is considered adequate to enable the use of the instrument. Questionnaire was administered to the students in various institutions of higher learning in the study area with the help of lecturers in the various institutions in Kogi West. The questions were scored 4,3,2,1 for strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree respectively.

3.2 Data Analysis

To answer the research question, the data collected were analyzed using mean, standard deviation and simple rank. Any item with a mean greater than 2.5 was considered as being a cause of corruption. The hypotheses were tested using the student T ' test for independent sample. For each hypothesis, a reference mean was determined (Reference mean = item mean \times number of item i.e., $2.5 \times 20 = 50$). For perception to be considered significantly high, the students mean score in the variables used should be significantly higher than the reference mean score (Egong, Ina and Akama, 2004).

4.1 Research Findings

The only research question deals with students perceived causes of corruption. The result is presented in table 1 below:

Table 1: Respondents' Definition of Corruption

Definition of Corruption	Number of Respondents	Percent
Dishonest or immoral practices in cash or kind	80	16.0%
Behaving contrary to rules, ethics or the law	57	11.4%
Unlawfully using organizational resources for private use	18	3.6%
Bad practices that lead to injustice	44	8.8%
A way of life	48	9.6%
A term to confuse the public	30	6%
Quickest way of survival for the guys	14	2.8%
abuse of public office for private gains	70	14%
payments made to public agents with the goal of obtaining a benefit or avoiding a cost	38	7.6%
Embezzlement or misappropriation of funds.	30	6%
Act of evil or wrong perpetrated for money-making purpose.	45	9%
corruption is an outcome, and a reflection of a country's legal, economic, cultural and political institutions	26	5.2%
Total	500	100%

Most respondents 95% completed and returned the questionnaire, all used for analysis. Respondents defined corruption in many ways. The first definition from each respondent was used for analysis. Many 80 (16.0%) defined corruption as dishonest or immoral practices in cash or kind; behaving contrary to rules, ethics or the law, 57 (11.4%), public and private officers organizational unlawfully using resources for private use 18 (3.6%), and quickest way of survival for the guys 14 (2.8%),(Table 1).

Table 2: How Students Perceive Causes of Corruption

S/N	Causes of Corruption	Mean	SD	Rank
1.	Greed and inability to withstand temptations	3.65	0.91	1
2.	High levels of poverty in the country	3.41	0.88	9
3.	High rate of unemployment	3.06	0.74	20
4.	Under remuneration of workers	3.45	0.80	7
5.	Non or late payment of workers	3.40	0.85	10
6.	Lack of payment for services (e.g.,contracts)	3.37	0.74	11
7.	Desire to please kinsmen	3.00	0.92	24
8.	Persuasion by friends and colleagues	3.12	0.83	17
9.	Lack of commitment by leadership (e.g., providing bad examples)	3.46	0.85	6
10.	Lack of control, supervision and auditing	3.43	0.79	8
11.	Norms and values of individuals	3.32	0.90	12
12.	Compulsion for shortcut to affluence	3.60	0.92	3
13.	Glorification and approbation of ill-gotten wealth	3.63	86	2
14.	Lack of ethical standards in government and business organizations	3.16	0.92	16
15.	Lukewarm attitude of law enforcement officials	3.58	0.89	4
16.	Display of wealth by public officials	3.48	0.97	5
17.	Poor family orientations	3.28	0.77	14
18.	Tribalism in the administration of justice	3.08	0.79	18
19.	Stringent economic policies e.g., high import duties, over taxation etc.	3.18	0.94	15

20.	General decline in moral and ethics	3.42	0.93	9
21	Workers lack motivation and interest in their work	3.29	0.79	13
22	Low morale, and lack of commitment from workers	3.07	0.78	19
23	the size and structure of government	3.05	0.73	21
24	democracy and the political system	3.04	0.72	22
25	colonial heritage	3.03	0.71	23

Table 2 shows that all the 25 items were perceived by the students as being responsible for corruption with mean ranging from 3.00 to 3.65 and variability from 0.72 to 0.94. The low variability indicates the conformity in student's perception of the causes of corruption.

The students however, perceived - compulsion for affluence, glorification and approbation of ill-gotten wealth, display of wealth by public officers, lukewarm attitude of law enforcement officials and greed as the first five possible causes of corruption with mean ranging from 3.58 - 3.65.

Table 3: Respondents Suggestions on How to Fight Corruption n =500

Suggestions on Fighting Corruption	Number of Responses	%
Constitute anti-corruption body and organize regular seminar	48	9.6%
Disciplinary measures, prosecution or dismissal of those caught in corrupt practices	30	6%
Public officers to declare assets periodically	15	3%
Appoint honest people to position of authority	35	7%
Use SERVICOM or other anti-corruption agencies	40	8%
Pray for Nigeria and Nigerians alike against corrupt practices	20	4%
Self-discipline, resist temptation from corrupt officials	35	7%
Very hard to fight in a country like Nigeria	20	4%
Regular auditing of public servants	30	6%
Being honest, self-discipline, upholding ethical principles	24	4.8%
Speak out against corruption and refuse to join	17	3.4%
Leaders should lead by example	55	11%
Personal decision not to be corrupt	25	5%
Enact strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws	19	3.8%
Proper remuneration and motivation for workers	27	5.4%
Through Unions and Associations of workers	13	2.6%
Only people of integrity should head institutions	20	4%
Indifference	12	2.4%
Ethical training for civil servants before employment	15	3%

Hypothesis 1

The first hypothesis was concerned with ascertaining if there were difference between the reference mean score and the student's perception mean score. The result is presented in table 4 below.

Table 4: Summary of *t*-test for mean differences in the reference score and students' perception score

Variable	N	X	SD	df	t-cal	t-crit	Decision
Students mean score	500	82.56	15.39	469	4.83	1.96	Reject null hypothesis
Reference mean score	20	50	0.00	-	-	-	

P<.05

The table shows that the calculated $t(4.83)$ is greater than the critical t (1.96) thus the null hypothesis of no significant difference in the perception score and reference mean score was rejected.

Hypothesis 2

The second hypothesis sought to establish if there were differences in the perception of male and female students on the causes of corruption. The result is presented in table 5.

Table 5: Summary table for *t*-test for mean differences in the perception of male and female students.

Gender	N	F	SD	DF	t-cal	t-crit	Decision
Male	225	61.29	15.55	449	1.38	1.96	Do not reject null hypothesis
Female	225	57.84	14.20	-	-	-	

P<.05

The table reveals a calculated $t(1.38)$ less than the critical t (1.96), the null hypothesis of no significant difference in the perception of male and female students is upheld.

5.1 Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study reveals that students perceived compulsion for affluence, glorification of ill-gotten wealth, display of wealth by public officials as the most causes of corruption and this fact goes a long way to project the fact that there is problem with our societal values. This finding is agreement with is in line with Nzewi (1986) who reported that Nigerian societal value now emphasizes monetary wealth often acquired through foul means as a gateway to prestige and recognition. Mba and Uchendu (2007) in their study noted that many boys and girls drop out of school to make fast money as a result of the band wagon effect of this societal change on the youths.

The nonchalant attitude of law enforcement officials, lack of control, supervision and auditing and lack of commitment by leadership are also key factors as identified by the study to rank among the top ten factors which is indication that corruption has become a legalized phenomenon in government circles. This according to Myint (2000) is because corruption is a low-risk high-profit activity. There is no shame, no loss of prestige, no pains in being corrupt, so people engage in corruption knowing fully well that they will get away with it (Dike, 2002). This finding is also in line with an expert panel survey of corruption in South Africa (2001) which identified weak checks and balances as the most common causes of corruption in the country.

From the study findings, all the items were significantly perceived as causes of corruption. These points to the fact that there is need for value, attitude and moral reorientation of both individuals and the society. To tame the surge of corruption in Nigeria, as noted by Dike (2002), the general population should be reoriented towards a better value system. The reorientation of the youth in Nigeria to a good value system will help in the war against corruption.

Development of values, attitudes, emotions and feelings is one of the three domains (cognitive, affective and psychomotor) of educational objectives instituted by Bloom (Gege Berlinger, 1997). However, it seems the emphasis on our educational system has been in the cognitive and psychomotor domain neglecting the affective. The affective domain which has to do with value development has not been given proper attention. According to Krathwohl in Gege and Berlinger (1997), affective objective, are concerned with the “inner growth that takes place as persons become aware of, and then adopts the attitude and principles that support his value judgement and guide his conduct”.

The acquisition of positive values will enable the individual to determine how reasonable, right or wrong, true or appropriate his actions as well as relationships with others are. This has an implication for our educational curriculum developers and other stakeholders in education, since education is expected to be a transmitter of worthwhile values. As pointed out by Olatunji 1990 (in Olowuninojuaro, 2005) if our learning and training cannot make us persons of good value then our education is a failure.

The findings of no significant difference between the perception of male and female students shows that corruption cuts across gender and affects both young and old, male and female alike. There is therefore the need for the family, religious institutions and the society to help people develop internal and check of conscience and moral values and for the government to make corruption a very dangerous exercise. Value education is therefore recommended at all levels of education and should be included as general study course in our tertiary institutions.

5.2 Conclusion

The causes of corruption from the findings of the study fall under two categories, first is societal value system which lead them to deem acceptable behaviours that breed corruption. The second category emphasizes the role of economic and political institutions in the country. More research is however needed to determine the relative impact of these groups of causes of corruption so that reforms can target scarce resources, where they will be most effective. Measures to address the causes of corruption in Nigeria therefore have to be aimed more at value reorientation, improvement of systems and controls.

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