

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Corruption and Development in Nigeria: A Study of Ondo State

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OPEN ACCESS

Citation: Ejumudo, K. B. O., & Ejumudo, T. B. (2021). Corruption and Development in Nigeria: A Study of Ondo State. *Law Research Review Quarterly*, 7(2), 153-166.
<https://doi.org/10.15294/lrrq.v7i2.45573>

Submitted : September 12, 2020

Revised : November 21, 2020

Accepted : March 18, 2021

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ISSN 2716-3415

Law Research Review Quarterly published by Faculty of Law, Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia. Published quarterly on February, May, August, and November.

Abstract

This study investigates corruption and development in Nigeria using Ondo State as a case study. Four null hypotheses were formulated for the study. The design of the study was descriptive survey. Three hundred (300) staff were drawn from the six selected ministries using stratified and simple random sampling techniques. The instrument used for data collection was corruption and development questionnaire. The data were analyzed using chi-square. The findings of the study revealed that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in the road infrastructure sector in Ondo State. The study also showed that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in the education sector in Ondo state. The study equally indicated that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in agriculture sector in Ondo State. The study also showed that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in the health sector in Ondo State. The study recommended among others that the Nigerian government should not be selective in its application of the anti-corruption laws as enshrined in the legislations that created the anti-corruption agencies irrespective of the culprit's stature or position in the society. The study also recommended that there should be a change in the public sector get-rich-quick as well as service mentality and practice in such a way that it will bring about genuine commitment by government at all levels to the provision of social services to the citizens who should be recognized and accepted as customers and truly empowered to utilize their voting rights to reward

performing and non performing governments through a credible electoral system.

Keywords: *Corruption; Development; Infrastructure; Ondo State; Nigeria*

1. INTRODUCTION

Development has become arguably inevitable globally. This is patently because societies, people, organizations, institutions, and governments at different level desire and seek to actualize innovation which is at the centre of any development agenda. The importance of development can also be rationalized from its multi-dimensional and multi-sectorial nature, especially as its holistic realization depends on tangible all-embracing efforts to crystalize development in the different sectors. It should be emphasized that the out-put of development in the sundry sectors demands critical inputs from the individual sectors without which development in an integrated fashion will be an illusion ([Andrew, 2018](#)).

Besides, the actualization of development requires a functional inter-relationship between continuously generating resources (natural, material, financial and human) and efficiently allocating, actualizing and managing same through appropriate deployment of technology and implementation of well-conceived policies. To this end, institution, processes, systems, procedures and people have to constantly undergo innovation and transformation for development to take place on a sustainable basis ([Adeyemi, 2017](#)). The fact that people seem be the central constant in the development process and at the same time the major beneficiaries of the development output may well explain the humanization of development beyond more increase in gross domestic product (GDP) of countries to embrace progress in tackling social problems including poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Today, government at the multi-layered levels and different societies are in varying degrees concerned about radical or significant improvements in the various sectors of their economy. Issues of economic growth as well as the way each sector can develop rapidly so as to contribute to over-

all development have engaged the attention of government policy makers, advisors and executors as well as regional and global financial players. The concern for economic diversification that has necessitated the need to emphasize revolution in agriculture, mining, information and communication technology, tourism and significant others has been variously expressed by governments in the developing and transitional countries and sundry policy frameworks are being developed supposedly to translate efforts into concrete realities. In the recent past in Nigeria, for instance, several efforts whether cosmetic or genuine, have been made to diversify the economy by shifting the excessive focus on oil production and exports to other sectors like agriculture and mining. No doubt, some measures of success have been achieved particularly during the immediate past administration of Goodluck Jonathan and the present administration of Muhammadu Buhari. Different states across the six geo-political zones in Nigeria have equally embarked on sundry sectorial projects expectedly aimed at contributing to their development agenda (Adeola, 2016).

In the face of the recognition of the inevitability and actability of development for the progress, welfare and survival of institutions, organizations, societies, nations, governments and their citizens, actualization has been constrained and limited by sundry factors such as poor inefficient and ineffective generation, management and utilization of resources. At the heart of this problematic is corruption.

The contention of this study is that corruption seems to have persisted in Nigeria to the extent that it has produced corrosive effects on development by limiting investments, distorting markets, frustrating sectorial growth, deterring capacity building and undermining governance.

Statement of the Problem

Development has long been recognized and accepted as multi-dimensional. Its cross-cutting importance in society is evident in the fact that every sector benefits and is expected to contribute continuously so as to achieve intra and inter-generational sustainability. Despite the pivotal role of development in the growth, survival and renewal of

societies as well as the efficient and effective functioning of government of the multi-layered levels, corruption seems to have permeated the generation of as well as the allocation, utilization and management of available resources such that investments are distorted and development undermined due to inadequate returns. This study therefore examines corruption and development in Nigeria using Ondo State as a case study.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine corruption and development using Ondo State as a case study, while the specific objectives are to:

- 1) Assess the impact of corruption on development in the road infrastructure sector in Ondo State.
- 2) Investigate the role of corruption in undermining development in the education sector in Ondo State.
- 3) Examine the role of corruption in limiting development in the agriculture sector in Ondo State.
- 4) Assess the impact of corruption on development in the health sector in Ondo State.

Hypotheses of the Study

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

- 1) There is no significant relationship between corruption and development in the road infrastructure sector in Ondo State.
- 2) There is no significant relationship between corruption and development in the education sector in Ondo State.
- 3) There is no significant relationship between corruption and development in the agriculture sector in Ondo State.
- 4) There is no significant relationship between corruption and development in the health sector in Ondo State.

Empirical Studies on Corruption and Development

Alexander (2018) examined the existence of the relationship between corruption and development: The status of England towards the eradication of corruption and the lesson for Africa. It is discovered that there is a relationship between corruption and development. This is largely because there is a very serious relationship between development and corruption and the separation of the two

needs political support from the top leaders. Sorin, Monica and Monica (2017) empirically investigated the relationships between corruption and shadow economy among the European Union countries, over the period of 2005 to 2014. The findings of the study revealed a high level and positive relationship between corruption and shadow economy, therefore a higher level of corruption involves a higher level of shadow economy. Regarding the influence of corruption and shadow economy on economic growth, a high level and negative relationship was found. This means that increasing corruption and shadow economy negatively affects economic growth.

Girijashankar and Shrabani (2016) also investigated the relationship between growth by employing a hierarchical polynomial regression after controlling economic and institutional factors. The results of the study indicated that there is a cubic relationship between growth and corruption, such that, for the least corrupt countries corruption impedes growth, but at intermediate levels corruption increases growth, and finally, at a higher level it substantially reduces growth. Keith and Rashmi (2015) examined corruption, development and demography. The study carried out an analysis of the joint, endogenous determination of bureaucratic corruption, economic development and demographic transition. The study found out that low levels of development are associated with high level of corruption and low rates of life expectancy.

Olatunde (2017) assessed the effect of corruption as a social impediment to development. The result shows that socio-political and economic development, politics, power, history, and globalization have continued to reproduce and transform the institutional structures and actors which have facilitated corrupt practices in developing countries. This has resultantly undermined social welfare and also investment in the public services, thereby eroding the quality of life and producing a decline in average life expectancy. Omenka (2013) examined the effect of corruption on Nigeria's developmental efforts. It identifies the causes of corruption to include poverty, pressure from families, community ethnic loyalties among others. In a similar vein, Kamalade, Gunu and Abdul (2013) investigated the impact of corruption on economic development in Nigeria. The findings revealed that corruption has a

significant negative effect on economic growth and development in Nigeria. Urien (2012) explored the impact of corruption on the socio-economic development of Nigeria. The study revealed the country's scandalous underdevelopment in spite of her huge revenue, promotion of kidnapping, decline in public morality, absence of basic amenities and infrastructures.

2. METHOD

The study utilized descriptive survey design. The adoption of this design was evident because the researcher used questionnaire to obtain information on the variables under study. Descriptive survey design enables the researcher to collect factual information that explain the existing phenomena in their natural setting, identify problems, make evaluation and determine what others are doing with similar problems (Nwankwo, 2015). The population of the study comprised all male and female staff in the Ondo State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Ministry of Works, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance.

Three hundred staff was drawn from level ten (10) to level 16 from six ministries in the Ondo State Civil Service using stratified and simple random sampling techniques. The choice of stratified is to ensure equal representation of all the ministries in the civil service. Simple random sampling technique was used based on the fact that every staff in the two sampled departments from the six ministries have equal chances of been selected. Corruption and development questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. The various indicators used for the construction of the questionnaire were based on corruption and development in road infrastructure, education sector, agricultural sector and health sector. All the research hypotheses were tested for significant difference at 0.05 level of significance using Chi-Square with the help of SPSS statistical package.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Presentation and Discussion of Results

The results of the analysis are presented in the tables with the interpretation of the results following immediately

after the table. The results of the data analysis are presented in accordance with the hypotheses that guided the study. A total of three hundred (300) copies of questionnaires were administered by the researcher and he was able to retrieve 285 from the respondents.

Hypothesis 1 (Ho₁)

There is no significant relationship between corruption and development in road infrastructure sector in Ondo state.

Table 1 Chi-square analysis of questionnaire for the relationship between corruption and development in road infrastructure sector

Items	SA/A	SD/D	Total	Df	X ² -cal.	X ² -cri.	Decision
1	61	39	285				
2	61	39	285				
3	79	21	285	3	53.07	7.82	Ho ₁ is Rejected
4	86	14	285				
5	84	16	285				
6	74	36	285				
7	72	28	285				
8	58	42	285				

Source: Field Work, 2019

P>0.05

Table 1 above, with alpha level of 0.05, the degree of freedom (DF) of 3, the critical value is 7.82 while calculated value is 53.07. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the null hypothesis is therefore rejected. This shows that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in road infrastructure sector in Ondo state.

Hypothesis 2 (Ho₂)

There is no significant relationship between corruption and development in education sector in Ondo state.

Table 2 Chi-square analysis of questionnaire for the relationship between corruption and development in education sector

Items	SA/A	SD/D	Total	Df	X ² -cal.	X ² -cri.	Decision
1	86	14	285				
2	70	30	285				
3	80	20	285	3	77.74	7.82	

4	79	21	285	Ho ₁ is Rejected
5	60	40	285	
6	74	36	285	
7	73	27	285	
8	67	33	285	

Source: Field Work, 2019

P>0.05

Table 2 above, with alpha level of 0.05, the degree of freedom (DF) of 3, the critical value is 7.82 while calculated value is 77.74. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the null hypothesis is therefore rejected. This shows that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in education sector in Ondo state.

Hypothesis 3 (Ho₃)

There is no significant relationship between corruption and development in agriculture sector in Ondo state.

Table 3 Chi-square analysis of questionnaire for the relationship between corruption and development in agriculture sector

Items	SA/A	SD/D	Total	Df	X ² -cal.	X ² -cri.	Decision
1	65	35	285	3	41	7.82	Ho ₁ is Rejected
2	67	33	285				
3	67	33	285				
4	60	40	285				
5	64	36	285				
6	68	32	285				

Source: Field Work, 2019

P>0.05

Table 3 above, with alpha level of 0.05, the degree of freedom (DF) of 3, the critical value is 7.82 while calculated value is 41. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the null hypothesis is therefore rejected. This shows that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in agriculture sector in Ondo state.

Hypothesis 4 (Ho₄)

There is no significant relationship between corruption and development in health sector in Ondo state.

Table 4 Chi-square analysis of questionnaire for the relationship between corruption and development in health sector

Items	SA/A	SD/D	Total	Df	X ² -cal.	X ² -cri.	Decision
1	64	36	285				
2	70	30	285				
3	67	33	285	3	44	7.82	Ho is
4	68	32	285				Rejected
5	70	30	285				
6	64	36	285				

Source: Field Work, 2019

P>0.05

Table 4 above, with alpha level of 0.05, the degree of freedom (DF) of 3, the critical value is 7.82 while calculated value is 44. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the null hypothesis is therefore rejected. This shows that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in health sector in Ondo state.

B. Discussion of Findings

1. Corruption and Development in the Road Infrastructure Sector

The finding of the study showed that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in road infrastructure sector in Ondo state. This study gives credence to Olatunde (2017) who opined that socio-political and economic development, politics, power, history, and globalization have continued to reproduce and transform the institutional structures and actors which have facilitated corrupt practices in developing countries like Nigeria. He added that large sums of government revenue that are meant for the execution of projects in road infrastructure sector, education sector and other sectors of the economy have been undermined by the corrupt practices of the political and economic elite (both local and international), which have enriched a few, but impoverished most. This has resultantly undermined social services and welfare and also investment in the public services, thereby eroding the quality of life and producing a decline in average life expectancy.

2. Corruption and Development in the Education Sector

The study revealed that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in education sector in Ondo state. This study is in agreement with Olatunde (2017) who underscored that socio-political and economic development, politics, power, history and globalization have continued to reproduce and transform the institutional structures and actors which have facilitated corrupt practices in developing countries like Nigeria. He concluded that corruption has played a major role in causing serious damage to the economic and social landscape in developing countries.

3. Corruption and Development in the Agriculture Sector

The findings of the study equally indicated that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in agriculture sector in Ondo state. One plausible explanation is that corruption has a significant negative effect on economic growth and development especially in Agriculture and health sectors of the economy (Kamalde, Gunu and Abduk, 2018).

4. Corruption and Development in the Health Sector

The study also revealed that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in health sector in Ondo state. One plausible explanation for this finding is that the relationship between corruption and development is like the relationship between medicine and disease. This is because there is a high level relationship between development and corruption and the separation of the two needs political support from the top leaders. He added that corrupt practices amongst government functionaries have undermined development in the health sector and other sectors of the economy (Alexander, 2018).

4. CONCLUSION

This study examines corruption and development using Ondo State as a case study. Four null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significant. The study adopted descriptive survey design and three hundred (300) staff was sampled from six ministries in Ondo State. Corruption and development questionnaire was utilized for

data collection and the data was analyzed using Chi-Square. Conclusively, since there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in road infrastructure and education sector, it is concluded that corruption has negatively constrained development in road infrastructure sector in Ondo State. In like manner, the study lucidly showed that there is a significant relationship between corruption and development in agriculture sector and health sector, it is concluded that corruption has negatively constrained development in agriculture sector in Ondo State.

The study recommended that the Nigerian government should not be selective in its application of the anti-corruption laws as enshrined in the legislations that created the anti-corruption agencies irrespective of the culprit's stature or position in the society. The study also recommended that there should be a change in the public sector get-rich-quick as well as service mentality and practice in such a way that it will bring about genuine commitment by government at all levels to the provision of social services to the citizens who should be recognized and accepted as customers. Finally, the study recommended effective intra and inter institutional framework that will guarantee accountability and a credible electoral system that will promote citizenship participation and place them in a vantage position to monitor and compare investment of resources with the pace of development so as to be able to reward performing and non-performing governments through periodic elections.

5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS

The authors state that there is no potential conflict of interest in the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

6. FUNDING

None

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

None

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Quote

Without strong watchdog institutions, impunity becomes the very foundation upon which systems of corruption are built. And if impunity is not demolished, all efforts to bring an end to corruption are in vain. “

Rigoberta Menchú, Nobel Prize laureate

“Integrity, transparency and the fight against corruption have to be part of the culture. They have to be taught as fundamental values.”

Angel Gurría, OECD secretary general

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