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CORRUPTION AND NIGERIA'S DEVELOPMENT

Olatunji Abdulganiy

Department of Sociology, University of Ilorin
larrygey@gmail.com; +2348033926164;

Fagbamila Olumide

Department of Psychology, University of Ilorin
&

Lawal, Ejalonibu Ebenezer

Department of Political Science
University of Ilorin

Abstract

The discovery and development of nuclear weapon is one of the most outstanding discoveries in human history. This is because of its destructive abilities to human and material living. Thus, it has become political-economic machinery that a country may use to threaten or silence her opposition in the course of competition or rivalry. Though, Nigeria has not been attacked by an atomic bomb before nor has she possessed the atomic weapon but unfortunately over the years, she has been plagued by a dreadful monster called corruption which catastrophic effects on the people of Nigeria could be likened to the effects of weapon of mass destruction. In this respect, the paper highlights some of the destructive effects of corruption in Nigeria by presenting corruption as a cankerworm, an evil, a catastrophe, an instrument of retrogression and above all, a weapon of mass destruction. The study observed that corruption has eaten deeply into every fabric of our social living of Nigerians and has caused much decay in it. The paper recommends a general overhaul of the Nigerian social system and that corruption needs to be tackled by all and sundry in Nigerian society before it leads to the total collapse of the Nigerian social system.

Keywords: Corruption; development, social system, masses, Nigeria

Introduction

The discovery and development of nuclear weapon is one of the most outstanding discoveries in human history. This is because of its potential as political-economic machinery that a country may use to threaten or silence her opposition in the course of competition or rivalry. In August 1945, United States of America dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in Japan, the gravity and the intensity of that bomb attack on both physical and human properties in the area made Japan to surrender to the Allied Forces immediately (Olakunle, 2013). They surrendered because the effects of the atomic bomb reflect that it was indeed a weapon of mass destruction. Today, the possession of this weapon is one of the yardsticks to determine how powerful a nation is; India, China, USA, Russia are some of the countries in possession of this weapon of mass destruction.

Although Nigeria did not possess this weapon and has not been attacked by it neither, it has unfortunately been attacked over the years by a social malady called corruption which has exposed the people to lot of vulnerabilities, and whose malicious effects made it to be best described as a weapon of mass destruction. This is due to the

high level of physical and human havoc the malady is causing the nation. According to Metiboba (2002) and Omotola (2004) in their separate but similar positions, corruption has become so endemic in Nigeria such that over the years, Nigeria has always been ranked among the most corrupt countries in global comparative ranking. Similarly, it has become a consensual fact that corruption is a cankerworm which has eaten deep into the fabric of the Nigerian society, from private to public life, (*The Nation*, May 7, 2013), in the formal and informal sector (Soyombo, 2006), in white collar and blue collar jobs (Dukur, 2006) and even among the educated and non-educated individuals in the country (Falore and Asamu, 2006). It has been conceived as the major impediments to actualising development at all levels in the country (Okosie-Simbine, 2006, Dahiru, 2012). The magnitude of corruption in the country is so alarming that it has become an abnormal (normal) way of life in public and private spheres of life (Adetola, 2012, Idowu, 2011).

The popularity and intensity of corruption in Nigeria could make one erroneously conclude that it is a problem that has come to stay in the Nigerian society. This fact notwithstanding, corruption has done lots of havoc to the Nigerian society; the consequential effects of corruption on the social fabric is manifested in high level of poverty, high profile of youth violence, general insecurity, loss of lives and properties, social unrest, social mistrust and general under-development. The trend is so worrying that the anathema of corruption could be best described as a weapon of mass destruction in the country. It is against this background that this work tends to examine corruption and its prevalence and the level in which it has manifested itself as a weapon of mass destruction to the people of Nigeria.

Corruption Conceptualised:

Corruption is a social malady found among human beings across nations and in all known human history. Several authors such as Akpoto (2000); Mommoh (2006) have described corruption as a universal phenomenon because it has been observed that no society can be said to be entirely free of corruption. In essence, corruption is a social fact because it is not a one-man affair as it involves at least two parties and usually has a short term or long-term effects on the victims which are usually the masses. The nature of human animal as material-conscious being makes corruption a universal phenomenon. Numerous verses abound in the Quran and the Bible to support the fact that corruption is an age-long practice in human social living (see Quran 2:188; 4:29-30; 26:183; 30:41). So, because it is a universal phenomenon and indeed a global social problem, social scientists have offered varying definitions regarding what act, constitutes corruption. Generally, the definition of the concept is situational and contextual depending on who, where and why it is being defined (Idowu, 2011). While some societies speak of corruption mainly in terms of illegal acquisition of material things, others tend to stress it further by bringing moral and social values under it (Metiboba, 2002). The term corruption has been defined by various social scientists in Nigeria; common to their definition is that they see it as a form of transaction which violates the duty of the office holder with the partial motive of acquiring or amassing resources illegally for personal advancement and self-gratification (Odekunle, 1986; Otite, 1986; Abdulahi, 1987; Ighovojah, 2002).

Otite (1986) in his own view argued that when at least two parties have interacted to change the structure or process of the society or behaviour of functionaries in order to provide dishonest, unfaithful or defiled situations, then we can say that corruption has taken place. According to Jain (2003:11), "corruption is the abuse of public office for private gains". In other words, corruption is the stealing of public funds, receiving of public funds, receiving bribes, unjustly seeking and giving gifts, money or advantages other than the lawful salary for personal advantage. In a more exclusive list, Soyombo (2006:31) listed activities that constitute corruption to include:

Corruption is the perversion of public affairs for private advantage. Corruption including bribery or the use of unauthorised reward to influence people in position of authority, either to act or refuse to act in a way beneficial to the private advantage of the giver and that of the receiver, misappropriation of public funds and resources for private gains, nepotism and so on.

Hoarding, collusive price-fixing, smuggling, transfer pricing, un-necessary inflation of prices, election rigging, illegal arrest for harassment or intimidation purpose, abuse/misuse/non-use of office, position or power, dumping of obsolete machinery or outdated goods, illegal foreign exchange transaction, legal but unfair and unjust acquisition of wealth, 'gilded crime', certificate forgery, false accounting and claims, diversion of public, corporate or other person's money or property, to direct or indirect personal use and so on.

Another observable trend in the definition of corruption over the years is that, in the 80's, the incidence of corrupt practices is not as intense as it is today and corruption in those days is peculiar to the political sector alone but today, corruption has eaten deep into every sector of the society from politics, (Agara, 2006) to economy, (Idowu, 2011) the banking sector (Dagacci, 2012) and the family. It has been entrenched even into the educational sector (Idowu, 2011; *The Nation*, April 16, 2013).

Today, in Nigeria, children are socialised into a system where corruption is seen as 'normal' and honesty is regarded to be an 'abnormal' behaviour. Parents have submitted themselves to the social malady that they now deem it necessary to assist their wards in various malpractices because they have concluded that it is the common and normal practice. In short, activities which could be referred to as corruption in Nigeria today are endless. Today, lots of Nigerians have been consumed by this social malady; our social institutions have been critically affected so much so that some have concluded that Nigeria could be best described as a 'rogue state' filled with corrupt minded individuals. What could be inferred from the foregoing is that though corruption is a universal phenomenon but its incidence has reached an alarming stage in Nigeria; and it

has been a source of concern because it is a social malady. In order to have an insight into the worrisome phenomenon of corruption in Nigeria, the next section of this chapter will look into incidence and prevalence of corruption in Nigeria.

Prevalence of Corruption in Nigeria

Experiences have revealed that corruption is a widespread and endemic phenomenon in Nigeria. This is evident in all spheres of private and public lives of the people. Nigeria, has consistently over the years, been ranked among the most corrupt nations in the world (*The Punch*, 24 Oct, 2004; Transparency International, 2002, 2003, 2004; 2011 and 2012). Nigeria is ranked 139th of 176 countries in the Transparency International's 2012 Corruption perceptions Index. Similarly, the United Nations Human Development Index rated Nigeria as 159th out of the 172 countries polled. Because of the high level of incidence of corruption in Nigeria, the country is generally referred to by analysts as a failed state. A United States of America Foreign Policy Journal placed Nigeria in the 144th position of its annual ranking of 177 failed countries (*The Nation*, May 7, 2013 pp29-31). If one is not convinced enough of these international reports, the way in which pages of national newspapers in Nigeria are filled with cases of illegal acquisition of wealth by public officials and private individuals through fraud, embezzlement, gratification and all manners of bribes are justifiable evidences, prevalent reports on different types of corruption on the pages of the newspapers are virtually an everyday situation (*The Nigeria Tribune*, August 12, 2009; *The Nation*, December 1, 2009; *The Nation*, May 5, 2010; *The Punch*, June 11, 2011; *The Leadership*, August 4, 2012; *The Nation*, April 30, 2013; *The Nation*, May 7, 2013). Corruption has engulfed the social structure in Nigeria that Adetola (2012) in her own way concluded that corruption is very likely to pervade the unborn future generation of Nigeria. Corruption is such a general practice in Nigeria that all Nigerian presidents since the beginning of the Fourth Republic have always attested to the prevalence of corruption in the polity. For instance, a former President, Olusegun Obasanjo since the assumption of office in 1999 till he vacated office and up till now has consistently expressed the existence of corruption in the polity (Obasanjo, 2103).

According to Obasanjo (1999) cited in Okosie-Simbie (2006), the rules and regulations for doing official business were deliberately ignored or by-passed in order to facilitate corruption in the management of government businesses. Based on this observation, Obasanjo expressed his intentions to fight the scourge tooth and nail; he made the following statement to express his stance on corruption "... some say I should compromise a little, but I will not. And I constantly pray to God that rather than allow me to compromise, he should take the job away from me" In another instance, he commented that about US\$20 billion was stolen in Nigeria (*New Nigerian*, November 25, 1999). Obasanjo acknowledged the prevalence of corruption and initiated measures to curb the menace, during his tenure in office; he established two anti-graft agencies; the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) (Okosie-Simbie, 2006; Soyombo, 2006).

It is however ironical that instead of reducing the incidence of corruption in Nigeria, the anti-graft agencies have actually contributed to the spate of corruption in the country. This is because the level of corruption developed unabated in the country's

private and public life during the Obasanjo civilian regime. Invariably, the anti-graft agencies established by the Obasanjo civilian regime are practically referred to as colossal failure and critics have argued that the anti-graft agencies are loosing the anti-graft war because of their subjectivity as they serve as bulldogs for the Presidency. In the words of Keyamo (2007), the measures adopted by President Obasanjo to fight corruption was actually initiated as a result of fear on the side of the Obasanjo to cover his lapses and also to deal extensively with his political opponents. Following the footsteps of their predecessor (Obasanjo), subsequent governments in Nigeria till today have been using the anti-graft agencies for the same purpose and this has been one of the reasons why corruption has not reduced in the Nigerian polity.

The incidence of corruption in high and low places in Nigeria continued unabated that President Yar-Adua on assumption of office testified to the menace, Yar-Adua agreed that his election was marred by electoral corruption and he commented that his government will give zero tolerance to corruption (Onwubiko, 2013). More recently, President Goodluck Jonathan admits that there is corruption in Nigeria, just that it is not as prevalent as it is being reported (*The Nation*, May 7, 2013; *Premium News* May 8, 2013 (online)). It is worrisome that despite the electioneering campaign of Jonathan to fight corruption in all ramifications, evidence abound that Jonathan administration is fast becoming one of the most corrupt regime in Nigeria (*National Mirror*, May 30, 2013). This is because Jonathan administration is not only treating corruption with kid gloves but also fond of recognising past corrupt public officers with national Honours, state pardon and federal appointments. For instance, the former Governor of Bayelsa State (D.S.P Alamiesiyegha) who was convicted of corruptly enriching himself (Idowu, 2011) was granted state pardon by the Jonathan-led administration (*The Nation*, May, 2013). Similarly, an online newspaper - Sahara Reporters was quoted by (*Osun Defender* on May 29, 2013) that 'Jonathan's recent list of University Boards officially endorses corruption'. This, as the list of the appointments, includes names of unscrupulous individuals with different records of fraud and scandals. Such individuals include the former Inspector General of police - Mike Okiro who, was implicated in a Police Fund scandal. Also, Salisu Buhari, who was involved in certificate racketeering scandal when he was the Speaker of the House Representatives and the former Minister of Works - Adeseye Ogunlewe, who was fired by Obasanjo in 2006 on the account of embezzling #300 million while in office - all were given University Board appointments in the recently announced University Governing Council appointments.

Unfortunately, corrupt charges and practices are not particular to the executive arm of government alone as the Legislative arm of government is not left out. Since the beginning of the Fourth Republic, the legislatures have always been charged with one form of corrupt practices or the other. The issue of falsification of age and academic qualifications by Salisu Buhari, the first speaker of the House of Representatives during the Fourth Republic, financial recklessness levied against the then Senate President, Senator Chuba Okadigbo (*Tell*, May, 2001); the indictment of Patricia Etteh (who was the speaker of the House of Representatives in 2007) of N628 million contract scam, and arresting and charging of Dimeji Bankole and his Deputy Usman Nafada by EFCC for 17 count charge of various offences related to corruption allegedly committed by them while they were in office (*The Punch*, June 11, 2011, *The Punch*, May 13, 2012) are

numerous examples of prevalent rate of corruption in the Legislative arm of government in Nigeria.

The magnitude of corruption in the legislature has gone unabated. In 2013, Lawan Farouk, a member of the House of Representatives was accused of asking and receiving bribe of US\$620 million from an oil baron Femi Otedola (*National Mirror*, May 2013) in order to remove the name of his (Otedola) oil company from the indicted firms that embezzled the subsidy fund. Generally, examples abound on how the members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Chamber in Nigeria are being accused of one corrupt practice or the other. Generally, the incidence of corruption is prevalent in Nigeria that over the years there has been serious accusations of misappropriation of fund and embezzlement of public fund by officials of successive governments in the country, even the executive, legislative and the judicial arm of government are not left out.

The judicial arm which is seen as the last hope of the masses has also been consumed by the menace of the hydra-headed monster of corruption (*The Nation*, April, 30th 2013). Officials of the judiciary especially judges are being accused of un-ethical conducts which usually influence the adjudication of law in Nigeria. For instance, recently, the National Judicial Council announced the suspension of one Justice Abubakar Talba of the Federal Capital Territory High Court for "un-reasonable exercise of judicial discretion" on a convicted public offender, John Yusuf who pleaded guilty to stealing 23 billion Pension Funds (*The Nation*, May 7, 2013). Aside the three arms of government, corruption has also engulfed the activities of private and corporate organisations doing businesses with government in Nigeria. For instance, the EFCC discovered what was tagged, the Daimler Scandal that purportedly took place in 2006 (Idowu, 2011) Also, #2.5 billion fraud was discovered in the Anambra Motor Manufacturing Company (ANAMCO) which involved the past French Managing Director of the company Jacques Gelin (*The Nigeria Tribune* August 12, 2006). Another instance of private/public corrupt practice is the indictment and admittance of Albert J. Stanley - Co-Executive, Kelong Brown and Root (KBR) (a subsidiary of Haliburton) in the United States of America in 2008 on the \$180M bribe given to senior government officers in Nigeria. This was popularly christened The Halliburton Scandal (*The Nation*, December 1, 2009). Similarly, a German firm (Siemens) admitted that it was involved in about 1.3b Euro bribery payment out of which 17.5m Euro was given as bribe to some ex-ministers, PHCN and NITEL officials in Nigeria. The EFCC grilled about 21 officials of PHCN and NITEL allegedly involved in the scandal and some ex-ministers and the officials confessed benefiting from the bribe (Idowu, 2011).

Corruption is so synonymous with holding a public office in Nigeria that virtually, most (if not all) of Nigerian political office holders and many civil servants and uniform officers are usually accused of corruption. Dagacci (2012) made an exclusive list of notable Nigerians that have been accused of one corrupt activities or the other.

Table 1: Table showing some notable Nigerians who have involved in Financial Scandals

Name Involved	Designation	Year	Amount
Dr. Chimaroke. Nnamani	Former governor of Enugu	2007	N42 billion
Mr. Alamesiegha D.S.P	Former governor of Bayelsa state	2005	\$1.7 million
Chief Lucky Igbenedion	Former governor of Edo state	2008	N2.9 billion
Mr. Tafa Balogun	Former I.G of Police	2005	N2.3 billion
Mr. Joshua Dariye	Former governor of Plateau State	2007	N2.33 billion
Prince Abubakar Audu	Former governor of Kogi	2008	\$1.7 million
Mr. Boni Haruna	Former Gov. of Adamawa state	2008	NA
Alh. Bukka Ibrahim	Former Gov. of Yobe state	2007	Na
Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu	Former Gov. of Abia state	2007	N2.8 billion
Mr. Ayodele Fayose	Former Gov. of Ekiti State	2007	N1.4 billion
Alh. Saminu Turaki	Former Gov. of Jigawa state	2007	N36 billion
Alh. Muhammed Abacha	Businessman/Contractor	2005	N2.6 billion
Prof. Adenike Grange	Former Minister of Health	2008	N300 million
Arch Gabriel Aduku	Former Minister of Health (state)	2008	300 million
Prof. Babalola Borishade	Former Minister of Aviation	2008	19.5 million
Mr. Michael Botmang	Former Gov. of Plateau state	2008	1.7 billion
Rev. Jolly Nyame	Former Gov. of Taraba state	2008	2.6 billion

Source: Dagacci (2012)

What could be inferred from the foregoing is that corruption is a very common practice in the business of governance in Nigeria and this menace has reached an alarming stage that it has caused lots of adverse effects on the socio-economic and well-being of individuals and the public in the Nigeria society. Corruption has eaten so deep into the fabric of the Nigeria society that the country has been described as one of the most failed states in the world (HDI report, 2012). The effects of corruption on the individual and collectivity in Nigeria are dreadful that the menace could be best described as a Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD). In this regard, it is pertinent in this work to look into the extent of adverse effects of corruption on the people of Nigeria that it could be fit to regard it as a Weapon of Mass Destruction.

Corruption: A Weapon of Mass Destruction in Nigeria: A critical Analysis.

Having explained the meaning, the manifestation and prevalence of corruption among all levels of people in the Nigerian society, it is important to explain its debilitating and destructive effects to the individual and the country in general. Generally, corruption is a social problem in Nigeria, this is manifested in the prevalent rate in which it occurs and the level of damage it is causing to the well-being and general development of the people of the country. This is because the prevalent level of the social malady has affected the lives of the people of the country in various devastating ways. In other words, this malady has brought lots of destructions to the people in such a way that the malady is threatening the individual and collective well-being of the people of the country. Corruption has also destroyed the goodness and fitness of democracy in Nigeria that the last 15 years of democratic rule is nothing but a corrupt-ridden government that has neglected lots of fundamental democratic principles which have made the electorate not to experience the much anticipated dividends of democracy (*National Mirror*, June 3,

2013). The recent Nigeria Governors' Forum election which culminated into crises as regarding who is the exact winner was an example of how corruption has devastated democratic principles in Nigeria. Corruption is destroying national institutions and social organisations. Because of its incessant occurrence in high and low places in the country, the country is said to be on the verge of peril and collapse. In this study, several ways in which this social malady has been a weapon of mass destruction of the people are highlighted below.

I *Destructions arising from Lack of basic Infrastructural Facilities*

Infrastructures are those social amenities which make life easier for the people of a society. Conventionally, the provision of these facilities is always one of the basic duties of government and it has been established that the level of infrastructural development of a society is one of the yardsticks for measuring the level of development of that country. This is because infrastructures are required for personal well-being and societal general development. Infrastructures such as good standard roads, stable power supply, viable rail system, good water transportation system, standard housing facilities and provision of good health services are important ingredients of good life and where these facilities are lacking, life is bound to be short, brutish and nasty. The findings of this study have revealed that the prevalent rate of corruption in all government businesses in Nigerian have made the government fail in the provision of these basic social infrastructures, and these have been a source of havoc and an instrument of mass destruction of the people of Nigeria. The prevalent rate and effect of corruption on the poor state of infrastructures in Nigeria is confirmed by one time Speaker of the House of Representatives (1999-2003) Ghali Na' Abba thus:

While we cannot rule out the incidence of corruption and bribery in almost every facet of our society, it is particularly resident in the infrastructure areas, in ministries or monopolistic parastatals saddled with the task of making infrastructure available to the public... water, telecommunications, electricity, roads and railways Na' Abba, 2003).

a. *The problems of poor road network and bad state of the existing ones*

Most states and Federal roads in Nigeria are not in good shape despite the huge amounts of money allocated for their construction and maintenance. The bad states of these roads have made them a death trap as accidents have become an everyday occurrence on the roads and the roads are recording higher numbers of casualties than ever. For instance, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), (2012) reported that at least 905 persons died in Tanker/Trailer road crashes/accidents in 2011. Similarly, it also reported that about four crashes were recorded daily in the year 2012 and each crash occurred with people having different degrees of injuries, some sustaining permanent disabilities and loss of lives. In the same year, it was also reported that 109 Tanker/Trailer crashes were averagely recorded in a month (*The Tribune*, 29th August 2012). It also reported that the crashes are on the increase as the records for the first few months of 2012 show that 62-72 crashes have been recorded (*The Leadership*, August 4, 2013). More recently, it was reported that about 51 accident victims got mass burial

amidst anger, tears and confusion (*The Nation*, April 14, 2013). The concern of this article is that prevalent rate of corruption in the polity could be held responsible for these ugly incidents because, had it been that the roads are well maintained, most of these deaths would have been avoided and hence the thrust of this paper that corruption is a weapon of mass destruction.

In addition to the above, the poor situation of rail transportation in Nigeria is another concern. It is a concern because corruption has not made the Nigeria rail system function as proper as supposed (*The Leadership*, August 4, 2013). The non-functionality of the rail made people to put more pressure on the available land transportation and this has invariably increase the incident of vehicular accidents leading to more deaths on the bad roads. The *Leadership*, (2012) reported that "the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has failed several times on their self-imposed dates of the completion of the rehabilitation of the railways"; it noted further that "25 billion Naira has been expended on the Lagos-Kano track and 77.33 billion Naira has been allocated to complete the Eastern track. The worry about this report is not only the enormous amount of money allocated and expended on the projects but that, for over four years, the NRC has failed to meet four delivery dates.

In other words, new rail systems are not built and the old ones are not maintained. For example, the rail system constructed by the colonial masters is still in use till today in Nigeria; such rail lines and their engines are not only slow but out-rightly outdated when compared with modern rail engines used in other developing parts of the world. This has made it difficult to move goods and people with rail in Nigeria. Heavy goods such as vehicles, iron rods, timbers and inflammable goods such as petrol and diesel which are supposed to be moved by rail carts are moved by trailer tankers, and this has made the incident of vehicular accidents and emergencies prevalent on the deplorable roads (Olatunji, et al., 2013). The painful aspect of all these incidents is that billions of Naira are being awarded for these projects, but because of the prevalent rate of corruption in the polity, such money are embezzled by few individuals in government and some corruptible contractors who use such money meant for public projects to enrich themselves. Basically, what could be inferred from the analyses above is that despite the enormous amount awarded for the construction of roads in the country, the roads are not well maintained due to the high rate of corruption among government officials in the country. The state of many roads in Nigerian is so bad that most of these roads could be best described as death traps. Examples of such roads are the Ilorin-Ibadan express which have been awarded as earlier as year 2000 and which is yet to be completed until now (2013). A similar example is the Lagos-Ibadan express road which has become another death trap due to the bad state of the road which has been awarded to several contractors over the years. In a nutshell, the conception of this paper is that corruption is the reason why these roads have become so bad and have become a "life-waster".

II *Destructions caused by poor Health sector:* Health facility is another infrastructural facility which corruption has severely affected in Nigeria. Provision of good health facilities is another important function of government the world-over. This is because good health is un-doubtedly the foundation of good living and every other activity of man depends on his/her state of health (Metiboba, 2011). That is why it is

often said that 'health is wealth'. In other words, a healthy individual is a wealthy one; similarly, a healthy nation is a wealthy nation and vice versa. However, it is important to know that one of the ways by which good health could be promoted among the populace is by providing quality and standard health facilities for the people of the society. In Nigeria, corruption has brought about a situation whereby money meant to equip hospitals is always misappropriated by some few individuals in government. Reacting to the prevalence of such practices, Soyombo (2006) observed that corruption is lethal and kills because several lives have been lost due to corrupt practices by public officials who for instance embezzle or misappropriate health funds, thereby depriving hospitals of essential equipments and essential materials, and as a result, causing untimely deaths. In other words, the health sector in Nigeria has been marred by corruption and probably one of the most corrupt sectors in the country. Corruption is so rife in the health sector in Nigeria that our health providing institutions are not trusted to give a standard health services for the people. Health service provision is so un-trusted that scores of Nigerians have to travel abroad to get good health services. Whereas, it is not that funds are not allocated to the sector on a yearly basis but because of the deep-rooted status of corruption in the society; this has made the stakeholders in this sector misuse most of the health funds for their own personal gain through corrupt means. As a result of the failure of the sector, people die of curable diseases due to lack of facilities or negligence in the hands of health providers. In other words, lack of adequate health facilities which was mainly caused by corruption is another way by which corruption is massively destroying the lives of people in Nigeria.

III Destructions caused by Chronic Unemployment Problems: High level of youth unemployment is one of the major consequences of high level of corruption in Nigeria. Unemployment is a serious social problem in Nigeria due to the catastrophic effects it has on the present and the future of Nigeria. Although the 2011 Federal Office of statistics put the unemployment rate in Nigeria at 23.9% (FOS, 2011), critics of this figure claim that it does not represent the actual figure of unemployment rate in Nigeria (Olatunji, 2012). They are of the view that the rate would have been well over 40% if well measured. In a report from *The Guardian* (25th June 2012) unemployment rate in Nigeria is put at 37% noting that over 40 million Nigerians are jobless and the poverty index is put at 60.9%. Generally, some of the reflection of the high level of unemployment in Nigeria is manifested in the numbers of criminal activities carried out by the youths in the country; that is the reason why some have tied the Boko-Haram uprising in Nigeria to high rate of youth unemployment in the country.

Another devastating consequence of un-employment in Nigeria is reflected in the number of Nigerian youths living in foreign lands illegally or living there legally but engaging in illegal activities since youths could not find a secure economic future in the country, they migrate to foreign lands, most of them without appropriate travelling documents, some with valid travelling documents but do engage in different types of illegal deals which most often lead to their untimely deaths or leading to their arrest and eventual jail. Holders of the Nigerian passport are often singled out for thorough scrutiny and sometimes embarrassed and or dehumanised. President Goodluck Jonathan (2012) explained by the numbers of Nigerian youths in South Africa Prison (*Premium Times*,

June, 2012). Similarly, it was reported that Nigerians are walking prisoners in Australia. More so, there are several reports on the worrisome numbers of Nigerians in Chinese prisons and many in-human treatments they were often exposed to.

Generally, one of the main reasons why Nigerians especially youths are rushing out of this country is because of lack of gainful employment in which corruption has been identified as the major cause. For instance, lack of adequate power supply by the PHCN is one of the major reasons why lots of indigenous business failed in Nigeria and the same reason why most multi-nationals have migrated to other African countries such as Ghana and South Africa. NACCIMA (2012) reported that over 800 companies close shop in Nigeria in two years due to harsh condition of operation in the country. Generally, instances such as this have combined to make unemployment and poverty endemic in Nigeria.

By and large, what could be inferred from the foregoing is that high level of unemployment is caused by too much corruption in the polity and thus unemployment has been a destroying factor for the present and the future of youths in this country. Another devastating effect of high rate of unemployment is capital flight and brain drain. Virtually because the economy of Nigeria is in a moribund state, business people and corrupt government officials move huge capital out of this country to develop other countries, sometimes to import some finished goods into the country or to save such in foreign accounts. This is evident in the rate at which Millions of Dollars meant to be laundered out of the country were often intercepted at the Airports in Nigeria (*The Nation*, 18th May, 2011; *National Mirror*, 7th October, 2012). Moreso, it is an un-arguable fact that the best brains are leaving the shores of this country because they never foresee a better future for themselves in this country.

IV Destructions Caused by insecurity: Insecurity is another serious social problems confronting Nigeria today. Insecurity as a problem in Nigeria is mainly caused by prevalent rate of corruption in private and public sector of the society. Insecurity has several destructive implications on the lives of people and properties. For instance, it was reported lately that Nigeria recorded 400 bomb explosions between 2010 and May 2013 (*The Guardian*, May 22, 2013). In Nigeria, houses have been burnt and properties worth trillions of Nigerian Naira have been damaged and human lives are being wasted on daily basis in Nigeria as result of insecurity. Instances such as the Baga massacre in which close to 200 persons were killed (*The Nation*, 24th June 2012), the Ombatse cult which killed over 180 security officials and so on and so forth are minimal examples of how insecurity have been destroying lives and properties in Nigeria. However, it would be erroneous to assume that issues raised above are the only areas in which corruption have been a weapon of mass destruction to the people of the country, an attempt to list all the areas and the extent in which corruption has destroyed the Nigerian society will take lots of time. In this regard, the above enumerated problems are just a tip of an iceberg because there are lots of other means that are not mentioned in this paper.

Conclusion and Recommendations

By and large, what could be inferred from the discussion of corruption in Nigeria thus far is that corruption is a universal phenomenon because it is an unavoidable consequence of social reality. However, the paper has observed that the incidence of corruption in

Nigeria has reached an alarming stage because it has become a common practice virtually among people in public and private institutions, and also a situation common among people of higher and lower social class in the country. So corruption has become a malignant tumor that has penetrated into the every angle of Nigeria's social fabric and is severely affecting the people of the country. Thus, corruption is the major problem confronting Nigerian nation and its polity. As corruption becomes a very prevalent practice among the people in the Nigerian society, it is causing lots of havoc and problems to the Nigerian social system. The level of destruction caused by the prevalent rate of corruption in the Nigerian polity makes these authors to describe it have been an anthem, catastrophic, frustrating and threatening to socio-economic development of the country. This study likened corruption to a hydra-headed monster, a social malady, an instrument of retrogression and above all a weapon of mass destruction.

Against this backdrop, this study recommends a general overhauling of the Nigerian social system - the family institutions, religious institutions, the political institutions and educational institutions. These basic social institutions need to be rejuvenated and re-directed because it could be said that prevalent corruption rate in any society are a reflection of failure of these basic social institutions. In other to achieve this, there is the need for general value re-orientation among the people, both old and young. Also, there is the need for ethical revolution in all of these social institutions so that the problem of corruption can be brought under control. It is the conception of these authors that if the incidence of corruption is minimised in the country, all of the problems enumerated above will not only be solved but the country will be among the developed countries of the world. It is also important to note that until the problem of corruption is brought under control in Nigeria, the malady will continue to parade itself as a monster that will be causing massive destruction to the lives and properties of the people of the country.

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