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This maiden edition of NJCSS is dedicated to PROF. SAM OBADIAH SMAH, the pioneer professor in the Department of Criminology & Security Studies, NOUN.

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OCCUPATIONAL STATUS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS CORRUPTION AMONG NIGERIAN POLICE OFFICERS IN ILORIN METROPOLIS

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Abstract
There are a number of records that clearly prove the intensity of corrupt practices among Nigerian police officers. On daily basis, police officers are said to extort money from motorists, traders, and innocent people and endanger their lives. In some cases, they allegedly align with armed robbers and other deadly people and put the lives of people in great risk. The study employs the descriptive survey research design and lean on the social disorganisation theory in its analysis. It is clear that there are many factors contributing to corrupt practices and the writer focus on occupational status. Occupational status involves individual wealth, income, prestige among others. It should be noted that most Nigerian police officers are receiving ridiculous low salaries and as expected, these salaries are not enough to take care of their basic fundamental needs. Since they cannot satisfy their needs, they may need to find alternatives. These alternatives may revolve around collecting bribes and engaging in many corrupt practices. In order to minimize corrupt practices among Nigerian police officers, government should endeavour to review salaries of police force since they deal with life. 120 respondents were considered for this study and responses were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). From the responses, it can be deduced that occupational status truly influence attitude towards corruption.

Keywords: Nigeria police, police officers, occupational status, Ilorin metropolis, corruption.

Background of the Study

Corruption is by all measures a global phenomenon which cannot be primarily likened to a particular country, society or an organization because it definitely surpasses national borders and it largely signifies global un-wellness and ungodliness Aluko (2009). This seemingly endless problem of corruption have led to many socioeconomic and political problems ranging from extortion, misappropriation of public fund, bribery, denigration of human rights, underdevelopment, bad reputation, wariness about present government among other problems. Corruption has in fact eaten deep into the fabric of Nigerian society and there is a major concern if indeed Nigeria can escape from this disease as its effect is being felt in every corner of the country. Corruption can be said to be dishonesty, venality and all sort of illegal behaviours perpetuated most especially by the public office holder in order to satisfy their own private interests. It is an infectious malignant which has over the years affected the socioeconomic and political development of the country.

From years of military coups, to years of defective electricity supply, bad roads, inadequate health care facilities, poor educational activities, unemployment and high mortality rates, corruption has indeed affected the glory of the country. It should be expressed that corruption in Nigeria can be in many forms which can nepotism, tribalism, ethno-religious conflicts, over charging, misappropriation of allocated

funds, embezzlements, circumventing human rights, looting, bribery and so many others. On the same track, most elected or appointed officials, agents, bureaucrats and representatives have reported use their positions for corruption and corrupt deeds (Obuah, 2010).

However, corruption and corrupt deeds among Nigerian police has over the years been recognized as one of the obvious indications of high level of corruption in the nation (Ladapo, 2013). Precise and exact data about the level of corruption among Nigerian police officers is very difficult to acquire since the corrupt deeds are usually done secretly but there are many empirical evidences about police corruption in the country (Kratcoski, 2012). It is indeed very common to see police officials/officers extorting money from motorists across checkpoints throughout the country. In fact many commercial motorists are already used to it. Reasons for the high-level of corrupt practices amongst police officers in Nigeria are numerous. The reasons may include poor remuneration, poor facilities, inappropriate and insufficient disciplinary measures, financial capacities among others.

Occupational status can be said to be a vital assessment and evaluation of social standing of an individual that exposes the circulation as well as distribution of power, prestige and privilege that are related and connected to positions in the occupational hierarchy. Socioeconomic status (SES) is mostly examined to evaluate individual's economic, educational, social and political standing, household income, occupational status and earnings. SES can be used to know individual's level or position in the social hierarchy (i.e high, middle and low). It should be noted that individual socioeconomic and political position can determine their tendencies to engage in corrupt practices. Many literatures have revealed that individuals occupying "lower position" are usually susceptible to corrupt practices in order to satisfy their needs. This is even more applicable to Nigerian police force.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Corruption in Nigeria is a very big issue. It is even a bigger issue as far as Nigerian police force is concerned. As an act of corruption, many police officers demand bribe in many occasions and usually accuse innocent commercial motorists, young guys, shopkeepers, traders, taxi drivers and other innocent people. Many criminal cases have been swept under the carpet by police officers especially when the cases involve influential people and high officials in the positions of power. One of the ways influential people buy their way out is through bribe payment (Ladapo, 2013). Many evidences are available about the corrupt practices of Nigerian police officials; according to 2012 Human Rights Watch Report (HRWR), Nigerian police officers commit many crimes against people that are supposed to or authorized to protect and safeguard. This report concluded that Nigerian police officers are the emblem of high corruption practices, misappropriate and violence of human rights.

It should be noted that apart from immoral corrupt activities perpetuated by police officers against the citizens, they also commit or engage in corrupt practices even against the institution itself. A lot of money allocated for the procurement of important equipment and facilities is being syphoned by top officials in the force. Because of this fact, the force is lagging behind in detectives and technical assessment of crime scenes. This is very disheartening because the reputation of Nigerian Police Force (NPF) is being dragged to the dirt. Occupational status can influence the attitude of Nigerian police officers towards corruption. This is because some officers believe that their salaries are not enough to satisfy their basic needs – hence, the inclination to perpetuate corruption inclined crimes. On the same lane, officers' earnings and socio-political positions are more like to influence their decisions to engage in corrupt practices. However, the aim of this study is to examine the influence of occupational status on attitude of police officers towards corruption in Ilorin metropolis. The specific objectives are to:

1 To know the effect of occupational status on officers' attitude towards corruption in Ilorin metropolis status.

2 To understand the effect of personal emolument and attitudes of police towards

the corruption in Ilorin metropolis.

3 To assess improper implementation of sanctions on officers towards corruption in Ilorin metropolis.

Literature Review

Corruption and Bribery in Nigerian police force

According to "The Africa Report" (TAR, 2014), officers in Nigerian police are known for prohibitive corruption. Though the structures of Nigerian police have changed over time, corruption in the institution still remains relatively constant and unceasing. Almost every single day, Nigerian news outlets and social media are filled with incidences and cases about corruption or other illegal activities propagated by police officers in the country especially those officers of low rank. Corruption in Nigeria is very virulent and Nigeria has always scored very high in the corruption ranking evaluated by bodies like Transparency International (TI). According to the body, Law enforcement unit of the country is crammed with corrupt practices and there is now emerging social panic about the fate and future of ordinary Nigerian citizens. Correspondingly, CLEEN (Centre for Law Enforcement Education) organized a survey about corruption in Nigeria. This survey reveals that; practically, police is the most corrupt institution in the country (TAR, 2014). Collecting money (inform of bribe) from motorists in the checkpoints, business people have become the norm and rule for Nigerian police officers. In fact, some officers detain, torture and prosecute innocent ones in order to extort money from them. Human Rights Watch (2010) posits that police officers collect money from taxi drivers, private motorists, travellers, okada riders, and mini-bus drivers on every checkpoint in the country.

In some bitter cases, police officers arrest nonconforming people and get them detained until their family come for them in order to negotiate bail. Because of this reason, citizens have conceived Nigerian police officers as scallywags instead of protectors that they are constitutionally made to be. Killing of unarmed and innocent ones, looting of people properties, lying against innocent citizens and harassing guiltless people is now becoming the true nature and attribute of Nigerian police officers. Hence, very sturdy and serious crimes like kidnapping, organized crimes, political corruption, killing among others have been abandoned or ignored by the Nigerian police officers because they collect money inform of bribe (Okeshola, 2008). Corrupt practices among Nigerian police officers chain distribution – simply put, the lower level or rank-and-file officers are expected to meet a particular monetary target on daily or weekly basis in order to meet their goals. In fact, money is being demanded from low ranked officers by senior ones for promotion or transfer to 'favourable' areas. Apart from corrupt practices against the general public, officers also engage in corruption internally. Money allocated to the institution to facilitate smooth and effective operation is usually syphoned by top officials in the Nigerian police.

Corruption in Nigerian Police force and rule of law in Nigeria

Corruption among Nigerian police is practically infectious and has affected the reputation of the nation in many ways especially in terms of security. The nature and extent of corruption among Nigerian police officers is massive and disheartening. Various anti-corruption units such as Human Rights Desk and X-Squad and other anti-corruption bodies established to tackle corrupt practices among Nigerian police force are relatively ineffective due to many internally and externally generated reasons. It should be noted that corrupt incidents among police officers affect ordinary or poor masses more than the wealthy influential ones. This is relatively heart breaking because the results of convictions and verdicts are always against the poor. To a greater extent, the rule of law is not primarily designed to cater for the needs and views of ordinary citizens. Nigerian police officers have used their power to augment interests of the rich at the detriment of the poor. In the view of Ladapo (2013), in Nigeria context, justice and fairness is primarily sold to the richest or highest bidder. Funnily, police is meant for the utmost security of life but the avenue has been

used heartbreakingly for evil and immoral activities.

A new survey released on March 2019 by Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) reports a large degree of corruption in public organizations for the past five years. The report posits that Nigerian police force has the highest percentage of corruption; the probability that officers will collect bribe in all interacts is 73% according to the report. Also, out of three, two officers will demand for bribe. Nigeria's police was relatively ranked worst (that is, most corrupt) by 2016 world Internal Security and Police Index. Global Corruption Barometer Survey also posited that more than 70% of Nigerians believe Nigerian police force is the most corrupt institution.

Occupational Status and Police Corruption

Occupational status means individual's social standing specifically in terms of privilege, income, political status among others. In order to relate occupational status with attitude towards occupation, we may need to review income (salary of Nigerian police officers). According to 2015 report from guardian website, a police constable in Nigeria earns about N25, 000 depending on their accommodation and other plans. The Nigerian sergeant earns N30, 000, police inspector earns about N50, 000, an assistant superintendent of police earns only above N80, 000. These salaries are relatively low and disheartening. Police officers in other countries earn impressively well compare to their Nigerian counterparts. Since police officers are earning ridiculously low salary which is tantamount to the fact that corruption in the country may not become the thing of the past. Nigerian government must indeed review the salary of police force since the institution is saddled with a great responsibility which is securing lives and property. We should be noted that when salary is not enough to take care of basic needs, organizing another means of livelihood will become inevitable. Corruption in Nigerian police force can better be attributed to low salary and this scenario only affects the poor people. Some set of individuals especially motorists, travellers, and traders are on daily basis force to bribe officers in order to find their way out of police pressures.

Most Nigerian police officers have very low occupational statuses and this can make them susceptible to all forms of illegal and immoral activities since they must satisfy their basic and essential needs. This scenario is likely to continue until the appropriate bodies review police salaries of the nation.

Theoretical Review

Social disorganization theory

Social learning theory emphasizes on studying problems in light of the social processes that bring them about. The theory extensively based on the argument that behaviour is influenced and determined primarily by one's environment, and that corruption and other deviant and criminal behavior are a result of weakened and debilitated mechanisms of social control and management (Steenbeek & Hipp, 2011). The theory has been applied to how antisocial attitudes develop and advances in individuals, families, and communities, and how those attitudes conflict with larger social norms (Johnson, 1998). According to social disorganization theory, bad and unwelcomed behaviour has political, cultural, and economic causes (Akers & Sellers, 2009). Established communities experience increases in deviance and crime when their way of life and the established order change. Disorganized communities experience crime because informal social controls break down, resulting in the emergence of deviance and criminal cultures. Such communities lack the collective efficacy to fight crime and disorder (Hochstetler & Copes, 2008; Vito, Maahs, & Homes, 2007).

In summary the prevalence of corruption in the police force has weakened mechanisms of social control in the Nigeria police force as a result of disorganisations. Also the frequent and rampant occurrence of corruption and immoral activities in the Nigeria police force was as a result of the lack of proper sanction for those highly ranked officers that engaged in corrupt practices. Thus every officer saw corrupt act as a custom for all.

This could be tagged the reason why corrupt practises and incidents grew devastatingly in the Nigeria police force.

Methodology

This study focuses on occupational status and attitude towards corruption among Nigerian police officers in Ilorin metropolis. The study area is Ilorin metropolis where male and female officers of the selected police station in the Ilorin metropolis (F. Division Tanke, police headquarters government house road and A division unity round about) Kwara state Nigeria were selected. This study employs the descriptive design through a survey. The survey research was used in collecting data from the study area this design is appropriate for research of this sort because it study a small population and generalize the finding on the entire population. The three selected area of study (F. Division Tanke, police headquarters government house road and A division unity round about) in Ilorin metropolis were divided into strata before the respondents were randomly selected from the strata. Forty (40) samples were randomly selected from each stratum totaling one hundred and twenty (120). The sources of data were primary and secondary as this study was an original study. A close and open -ended questionnaire for respondents was used as the main instrument to collect data. Data collected were analyzed quantitatively using the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS). Before starting the analysis process, the researchers processed the data by editing, categorizing and coding it appropriately. Descriptive statistics was used to obtain frequency counts and percentages of various coded responses.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Demographics Characteristics	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Male	93	77.5
Female	27	22.5
Total	120	100.0
Age		
20-30	15	12.5
31-40	45	37.5
41-50	36	30.0
51-60	12	10.0
61 and above	12	10.0
Total	120	100.0
Marital Status		
Married	113	94.2
Single	3	2.5
Divorce	2	1.7
Widow	2	1.7
Total	120	100.0
Academic Qualification		
NCE/OND	8	6.7
HND/B.Sc. and above	2	1.7
Secondary School Certificate and below	110	91.7
Total	120	100.0
Religion		
Christianity	8	6.7
Islam	111	92.5
Traditional	1	.8
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field survey (2019)

Discussion

Respondents' Socio-demographic Characteristics

Table 1 reveals the Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. Sex distribution of the respondents shows that 93 (77.5%) of the respondents are male, while the remaining 27 (22.5%) of the respondents are female. Age distribution of the respondents shows that 15 (12.5%) of the respondents are within age range 20-30 years, 45 (37.5%) of the respondents are within age range 31-40 years, 36 (30%) of the respondents are within age range 41-50 years, 12 (10.0%) of the respondents are within the age of 51-60 while the remaining 12 (10.0%) of the respondents are within age range 61 and above. Marital distribution reveals that 113 (94.2%) of the respondents are married, 3 (2.5%) of the respondents are single, 2 (1.7%) of the respondents are divorced, 2 (1.7%) of the respondents are widows. In this wise, majority of the respondents are married (94.2%). More so, academic qualification reveals that 8 (6.7%) of the respondents are NCE/OND holders, 2 (1.7%) of the respondents are HND/B.Sc. certificate

holders, 110 (91%) of the respondents have only obtained secondary school certificate and below. Religion distribution of the respondent shows that 8 (6.7%) of the respondents are Christians, 111 (92.5%) of the respondents are Muslims. Only one person (0.8%) still believes in traditional religion.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis 1. There is no significant relationship between occupational status and officers' attitude towards corruption in Ilorin metropolis

Table 2 Summary of Simple Regression Analysis Test of Significance effect of occupational status on officers' attitude towards corruption in Ilorin metropolis.

Model	Coefficient	Standard error	t-statistics	p-value
Constant	2.167	.108	19.984	.000
Operational facilities	-.583	.080	-7.298	.000

R Square: 0.212 No. of Observation: 120 Adjusted R Square: 0.208 R: 0.460
F-statistics: 53.266

Source: Researcher's Survey (2019)

Interpretation of findings

Judging from the regression analysis result in the above table, it can be deduced that there is a significant relationship between the **occupational status** and officers' attitude towards corruption. In other words, the salaries of police officers are likely to influence them on how they see corruption

The p-value which is 0.000 is lesser than the alpha level of 0.05; this implies that there is a significant relationship between **occupational status** and officers attitude towards corruption. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted. This can be reported as F (1,198) =53.266, P=0.000. From the correlation coefficient table, R, is 0.460, this shows that the correlation between **occupational status** and attitude towards corruption is 46.0%; this indicates a strong relationship between **occupational status** and attitude towards corruption and from the R Square 0.208, this indicates that **occupational status** will have 20.8% effect on police attitude towards corruption. The correlation coefficient value -0.583 also shows that there is an inverse relationship between **occupational status** and attitude towards corruption.

H2: There is no significant relationship between personal emolument and attitude of police officers towards the corruption of Ilorin metropolis.

Table 3: Summary of Simple Regression Analysis Test of Significance effect of personal emolument and attitudes of police towards the corruption in Ilorin metropolis

Model		Standarderror	t-statistics	p-value
(Constant)	3.012	.132	22.838	.000
Personal emolument	-0.720	.097	-7.408	.000

R Square: 0.217 No. of Observation: 120 Adjusted R Square: 0.213 R: 0.466
F-statistics: 54.878

Source: Researcher's Survey (2019)

Interpretation of findings

Judging from the regression analysis result in the above table, it can be deduced that there is a significant relationship between personal emolument and attitudes of police towards the corruption in Ilorin metropolis. In other words, the personal emolument and attitudes of police towards the corruption in Ilorin metropolis has influence on the labour management relations. The p-value which is 0.000 is lesser than the alpha level of 0.05; this implies that there is a significant relationship between personal emolument and attitude of police towards corruption. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted. This can be reported as F (1,198) =54.878, P=0.000. From the correlation coefficient table, R, is 0.213, this shows that the correlation between personal emolument and attitude of police towards corruption is 21.3%; this indicates a strong relationship between personal emolument and attitudes of police towards corruption. And from the R Square 0.466, this indicates that personal emolument will have 46% effect on attitude of police towards corruption.

H3: There is no significant relationship between improper implementation of sanctions and officers towards corruption in Ilorin metropolis

Table 4: Summary of Simple Regression Analysis Test of Significance effect of improper implementation of sanctions on officers towards corruption in Ilorin metropolis.

	Coefficient	Standard error	t-statistics	p-value
(Constant)	3.389	.084	40.383	.000
Sexual Behaviour	-1.194	.062	-19.307	.000
R Square: 0.653 No. of Observation: 120 Adjusted R Square: 0.651 R: 0.808				
F-statistics: 372.758				

Source: Researcher's Survey (2019)

Interpretation of findings

Judging from the regression analysis result in the above table, it can be deduced that there is a significant relationship between improper implementation of sanctions and attitude of officers towards corruption.

The p-value which is 0.000 is lesser than the alpha level of 0.05; this implies that there is a significant relationship between improper implementation of sanctions and attitude of officers towards corruption. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted. This can be reported as F (1,198) =372.758, P=0.000. From the correlation coefficient table, R is 0.808, this shows that the correlation between the improper implementation of sanctions and attitude of officers towards corruption is 80.8%; this indicates a very strong relationship between the between improper implementation of sanctions and attitude of officers towards corruption. And from the R Square which is 0.653, this indicates that the level by which improper implementation of sanctions and attitude of officers towards corruption is 65.3%. The coefficient value -1.194 also shows that there is a negative relationship between improper implementation of sanctions and attitude of officers towards corruption.

Conclusion

Corruption in the Nigerian police force is a heart-breaking issue which need undiluted and swift attention. Corruption in the institution is now popular and common and there is now a major concern about the fate and future of ordinary Nigerians. Since security of life and property is one of the essentialities necessary to survive, corruption in the police must be paid special attention. Over the years, there are number of evidence and reports about immoral activities being perpetuated by Nigerian police officers in all ranks. If this is not treated urgently, people can be exposed to all forms of dangers especially those that can threaten people's lives. Occupational status of many police officers is very low. They earn little remunerations which cannot be enough to take care of their basic needs. It should be noted that when they cannot satisfy their immediate needs, police officers can result to taking of bribes in order to fulfil their needs. Also, operational facilities available for police officers are not sufficient and adequate which can affect their activeness and effectiveness.

Recommendation

In line with the findings of the study, the following suggestions are made to help reduce police corruption in Nigeria:

- Adequate and constant personnel emolument/salary increment/rise: Dedicated efforts should be made by the government and police service commission to increase the salary of police officers in the country. This will evidently go a long way in curbing corrupt practices and incidents of corruption can therefore be minimized if not eradicated. It should be expressed that when police officers are satisfied monetarily, they may not be attracted to illegal activities. Hence, their salaries should be reviewed and increased. Many reports have surfaced about how Nigerian police officers are paid poorly compare to their counterparts in other countries.
- Improved Recruitment Processes, Procedures and Plans: Recruitment processes should be rigorous and effective in order to select and appoint best police officers into different police units. Also, tests especially those related to medical, physical, mental and aptitude should be

carried out for applicants before they are appointed. Also, police officers should be appointed based on merit and not favouritism. Those who have passion for the job should only be appointed in order to minimize the incidents of corruption.

Adequate and Steady Supply of Operational Facilities: Nigerian police force is lagging behind when it comes to operational facilities. Most of their facilities are in the state of comatose which can hinder their effectiveness. Police officers need to be provided new sophisticated equipment that will enable them to perform their tasks and duties effectively. Also, money for the procurement of operational facilities should only be allocated to appropriate individuals or organization so as to mitigate any form of embezzlement or mismanagement of fund. When they are supplied with good facilities, Nigerian police officers can become more active and refined. Hence more patrol vans, ammunitions, and detective equipment, kits etc. should be supplied and maintained.

Adequate and constant Funding: All institutions need funding. In fact, without funds, no institution can survive. This is very applicable to Nigerian police force. They need to be more funded in order to reduce the incidences of corruption. More money should be allocated to the institution for the proper management of the institution. Disbursement of funds should also touch individual officer's life. This could be in form of housing allowances and other allowances.

Information and Education: Nigerian police officers should be informed and educated about the consequences of engaging in bribes and all other illegal activities. They need to be acquainted with the fact that security of life and property is significant and should not be compromised or ridiculed. Anti-corruption campaigns should be intensified and sound mechanisms should be put in place to fight corruption among police officers of Nigeria.

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