

Greed, Family and Friends as Drivers of Corruption in Africa: A Case Study of Nigeria

Dr. Musa Gambo K.K. FNIMN,frpa
Director Academic Planning, Research and Linkages
Federal Polytechnic Daura, Katsina State, Nigeria
gambokk@gmail.com

Abstract

Corruption is generally regarded as unethical behavioural practices that inhibits economic growth and development, affects access to infrastructure, quality education and health care delivery. It is a pervasive global phenomenon, which continues to permeate each and every strata of Nigerian society in various forms including misappropriation, nepotism, favouritism, bribery, embezzlement, money laundering and outright looting of the treasury. This study examines the relationship between greed, family and friends influence and corruption in Nigerian higher institutions. The study applies quantitative approach through a cross-sectional survey of 400 respondents selected using stratified random sampling techniques with a close-ended self-completion questionnaire. A five-point Likert scale will be used to test the dimensions of the three independent variables (greed, family and friends) as possible drivers of corrupt practices in Nigerian higher institutions, with each variable containing five different scores arranged in descending order from 5 to 1 respectively. Data collected was analyzed using multiple regression analysis with the help of SPSS software. The findings reveal that greediness, family and friends influence are real drivers of corruption in tertiary institutions of Nigeria because it establishes a strong and significant relationship between greediness, family and friends and corruption in tertiary institutions of Nigeria. Consequently, it is recommended that people should be less greedy while at the same time government should introduce measures to make punishment against corruption more severe than the proceeds of corruption. In addition, family and friends of top executives in our institutions should not be interfering in their official assignment so as to reduce the probability of corrupt practices and academic malpractices.

Keywords: Corruption, Greed, Family, Friends, Higher Institutions, Nigeria`

DOI: 10.7176/DCS/13-5-03

Publication date: July 31st 2023

NB: This research work was fully sponsored by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (tETFund), Abuja, Nigeria, through its Institution Based Research (IBR) 2022 Intervention.

1.0 Introduction

Corruption is generally regarded as an unethical behavioural practice which inhibits economic growth and development, affects access to infrastructure, quality education and health care delivery. In many African states, particularly Nigeria, corruption is a clog in the wheel of progress, as well as a malaise that inflicts severe damages to every aspect of the society. It is a disturbing national phenomenon, which has continued to permeate each and every strata of Nigerian society in various forms including misappropriation, bribery, embezzlement, money laundering and outright looting of the treasury.

Corruption is a multidirectional factor (Ijewereme, 2015). On one hand, the provider benefits, on the other the recipient also enjoys the perquisite and both are aware of the deed that remains hidden. The third link in the corruption chain is everyone else, the victims. The masses, the economy and institutions all tend to suffer from the adverse effect of this unethical practice. Therefore, corruption is a phenomenon no country is immune to and it has been a well-known fact for quite some time (Enste & Heldman, 2017). The general perception in Nigeria is that, most of the elected and appointed public office holders and top bureaucrats use their position of authority to actively engage in corrupt practices (Obuah, 2010).

The importance of understanding corruption becomes even more revealing when we look at the costs of corruption. For example, according to the World bank, the annual amount of bribes paid is estimated at one trillion US-Dollar, and the total costs of corruption add up to about 2.6 trillion US-Dollar, an amount equal to four percent of the global GDP (OECD, 2014). Similarly, the consequences of corruption are enormous, ranging from reduced economic growth to distortion of public expenses which retard country's development. This study attempts to examine how greed and the influence of friends and family increase the rate of corruption in Nigeria.

1.1 Problem Statement

Corruption is a main threat to economic growth and social security in many countries around the world especially those in African. Although corruption differs from country to country, it is possible to identify some of the common driving forces that generate it. German Economic Institute report identifies some key causes of corruption to include the size and structure of governments, the quality of institutions, economic freedom, salaries of civil service,

press freedom and judiciary, cultural heritage and the natural resources endowment (IW-Report, No. 2, 2017). Another study posits that among the most common causes of corruption are the political and economic environment, professional ethics and morality and, habits, customs, tradition and demography (Šumah, 2018)

Several researchers and institutions like the World Bank Institute, the European Commission and the United Nations have investigated corruption and its impact on macroeconomic and microeconomic indicators (Šumah, 2018) as well as its connection with local customs and habits, and how it affects the everyday lives of people. Other relevant studies include Corruption in Nigeria: Patterns and Trends, (UNODC, 2019), Anatomy of Corruption in the Nigerian Public Sector, (Ijewereme, 2015), Insider Accounts of the Nature and Techniques of Corruption in Nigeria (Zakari and Button, 2022) as well as Nigeria: Evidence of corruption and the influence of social norms (Martini, 2014). However, most of these studies dwell mainly on the effects of corruption on various economic indicators, such as GDP growth, investments, employment, tax revenues and foreign investments [Tanzi and Davoodi, 2000; Smarzynska and Wei 2000], or the study of various forms of corruption in relation to politics and the economic environment (Syndromes, 2005).

Therefore, from all the studies reviewed so far, none has specifically investigated how greed and the influence of family and friends increase the rate of corruption in Nigeria. Consequently, this study attempts to add to the limited body of knowledge in the area. It seeks to provide empirical evidences and justification on how greed, family and friends influences promote corruption and corrupt practices in Nigeria by answering at least three questions about corruption as follows: How does greed push people to engage in corrupt practices in Nigeria? To what extent does family influence increase the rate of corruption in Nigeria? Is there any relationship between the influence of friends and increase in corruption in Nigeria?

Consequently, the main objective of the study is to expand the frontiers of knowledge on the factors that serve as drivers of corruption in an economy. Specifically, the study attempts to;

1. Identify the impact of greediness on corrupt practices in Nigeria.
2. Find out the extent to which family members influence increases the rate of corruption in Nigeria.
3. To examine the relationship between the influence of friends and increase of corruption in Nigeria.
4. To expand the frontiers of knowledge on the factors that serve as drivers of corruption in an economy

1.2 Formulation of Hypothesis

The following hypotheses were formulated for the study.

H₁- There is significant relationship between greed and corruption in higher Institution of Nigeria.

H₂- There is significant relationship between influence of friends and corruption in higher Institution of Nigeria.

H₃- There is significant relationship between Family influence and corruption in tertiary institution of Nigeria.

1.3 Justification of the Study

The justification of this study is to ensure a seamless policy development that will address the interference of family and friends in public governance and administration as well preventing greedy and avaricious individuals from getting closer to public positions and resources. Findings of the study will also pave the way for a detailed and robust strategic framework that will ensure strict implementation of the policies. The pervasive nature of corruption requires a study of this nature since it will raise a broad-based awareness and appreciation for accountability and transparency in the polity.

1.4 Scope of the Study

Federal Republic of Nigeria, a country in western Africa has an area of 923,768 sq km with an estimated population of (.) 217,376,000 as per the 2022 estimate (Britannica.com, 2023). There are more than 250 ethnic groups in the country, including Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba and Igbo as the major languages with English as the official language. Similarly, Nigeria is divided into 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, where the country's capital is located..

The Nigerian economy, which is the largest in Africa, has been built based primarily on the petroleum industry since the late 1960s. On the issue of corruption, it has been reported that out of all Nigerian citizens who had at least one contact with a public official in the 12 months prior to the 2019 survey, 30.2 per cent paid a bribe to, or were asked to pay a bribe by, a public official (UNODC, 2019). This presupposes that although it is still relatively high, the prevalence of bribery in Nigeria has seen a statistically significant decrease since 2016, when it stood at 32.3 per cent (UNODC, 2019).

Based on the above submission therefore, it may be absolutely difficult to study the whole of Nigeria within the stated time frame. Consequently, due to the apparent pervasive of corrupt practices in the country, its impact can be studied from different sectors of the economy. It was against this background that this study was limited to the tertiary education sub sector as a microcosm of the society. In other words, the scope of study was limited to the Polytechnic subsector as the main area of the study.

1.5 Concepts Definition

In its simplest form, corruption is an unauthorized use of one's entrusted authority for personal benefits. The benefit might not always be in cash, but may involve favours, sexual services or gratifications extended to oneself or one's family or friends (Graycar, 2015). Quiroz (2013) conceives corruption as all kinds of personal advantage of the passage of men through positions of power, including the manipulation of electoral results to favor allies or themselves. Similarly, the Civil Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 174) defines corruption as the act of requesting, offering, giving or accepting, directly or indirectly, a bribe or any other undue advantage or prospect thereof, which distorts the proper performance of any duty or behavior required of the recipient of the bribe, the undue advantage or the prospect thereof (Council of Europe, 1999).

On its part, Transparency International (2009) defines corruption as the abuse of delegated power for personal gain, perpetrated by a person with decision-making power in the public or private sector; initiated by said person or caused by a third party who wants to influence the decision-making process. Still, Azelama (2002) also defines corruption as any action or omission enacted by a member of an organization, which is against the rules, regulations, norms, and ethics of the organization and the purpose is to meet the selfish end of the member at the detriment of the organization. Moreover, the World Bank (World Bank Independent Evaluation Group, 2006) defines corruption as "the abuse of office for private gains."

Public office is abused for private gain when an official accepts, solicits, or extorts people of a bribe, award or gratification. This goes to show that corruption can be defined in form of patronage, rent seeking, election rigging, favoritism and nepotism in the award of contract and procurement scam by public officials. Thus corruption is the misuse of entrusted power or a dishonest use of one's office or position for personal gain (Ijewereme, 2015).

From the above definitions, it can be deduced that corruption is generally an illegal, unauthorized and unethical act performed by an individual or group of people aimed at obtaining unmerited benefits for self, family, friends and/or acquaintances. In most cases, the corrupt persons always try to deliberately cover up their unethical behavior.

1.5.1 Types of Corruption

Scott, (1972), identifies two major types of corruption namely rent extraction (seeking) and patronage or clientelism. Rent extraction arises as result of government's ability to create artificial scarcities through licensing or regulation. For example, placing tariffs on imports restricts imports and generates rents for the government. This in turn causes widespread forms of corruption in Africa and the world over when customs officials take bribes to reduce the duties charged or expedites the clearance process so that the importer will have their goods on time.

In contrast, patronage or clientelism relationship is a reciprocal exchange of favours between two individuals of different status and power, usually involving favours given by the patron to the client in exchange for the client's loyalty and political support (Eisenstadt and Roniger 1984). In politics and government, a patronage system is a practice in which government jobs are given to supporters, friends (cronyism), and relatives (nepotism) as a reward for working toward the party's victory, and as an incentive to keep working for the party. An act of patronage requires two parties: a patron who can use their influence to assist, protect, or benefit someone else, and a client, who receives benefits from the patron in exchange for political allegiance or some other services (Ganintegrity.com, 2022). Clientelism thus exists primarily in democratic countries where large numbers of voters need to be mobilized (Piattoni 2001).

Furthermore, according to Boisvert, Dent and Quraishi (2014) the most common types of corruption are; supply versus demand corruption, grand versus petty corruption, conventional versus unconventional corruption and public versus private corruption. Boisvert, et. al (2014) opine that supply-side corruption is used to describe the act of offering an illicit payment or undue advantage, whereas "demand-side corruption" relates to the acceptance or solicitation of such a payment or advantage, while active and passive corruption are terms used synonymously with supply and demand corruption.

Petty corruption, as the name implies, involves small scale extortions usually solicited and given to law enforcement agencies like bribes paid to the Police at check points, customs personnel, health service providers, court officials and other government officials. Services facilitation payments, otherwise known as "elbow greasing" payments also fall under this category. While grand corruption involves bribes offered in connection with large scale government projects such as roads, housing, dams and other construction projects committed by top level government officials, both appointed and elected, who exploit opportunities that are presented through their office jobs. Generally, acts of corruption can be carried out deliberately or reluctantly under duress. Nevertheless, whichever type it is, corruption is corruption and it is illegal, immoral and unethical.

1.5.2 Forms of Corruption

Corruption is a covert phenomenon, often unpredictable, and with characteristics that vary across time, location and context. It takes many forms: bribery, extortion, fraud, embezzlement, collusion, abuse of discretion, favoritism, gift-giving, nepotism, cronyism and patronage. It is conducted by agents of all types; individuals, businesses, public officials, politicians, state and non-state actors. However, corruption is hidden, and extremely

difficult to capture with confidence, accuracy, or a minimal level of resources. Other forms of corruption include greed, family and friends influence. In the context of this study, the concepts of family and friends are discussed under nepotism and favouritism as briefly presented below.

Greed

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines greed as a selfish and excessive desire for more of something (such as money) motivated by rapacious ambition. Greed is the mother of all types of corruption, whether you face it in a government office or private office (morungexpress.com, 2020). Greediness often leads to corruption because in the pursuit of their material needs, greedy people know no bound. They are always ready to compromise moral values and ethics to achieve their goals. Greedy people are never satisfied. They always believe that they deserve more, even if it comes at someone else's peril (The Freeman, 2017)

Nepotism (Family preference)

The word nepotism means employing or promoting a person because of his/her kinship regardless of his/her abilities, success, knowledge, educational level, etc (Kawo and Torun, 2020). It also includes exemption of one's family and friends from the application of certain punitive measures, thereby disrupting the spirit of esprit de corps and trust (Graycar, 2015). Nepotism is an attitude of showing preferential treatments to relatives or friends or both to the detriment of fairness, justice and merit. Most empirical studies recognize that hiring or even promoting an employee in an organization due to a connection of kinship, blood affiliate, family ties, friendship, etc. is regarded as nepotism (Aydoğan, 2012; Farahmand, 2013; Özler and Büyükarşlan, 2011). The implication of this is that the desire to satisfy a family member or friend may influence the decision of a public office holder to be corrupt. In fact, the act of nepotism itself is unethical that leads to victimization and segregation.

Favoritism (Giving Preference to Friends)

This is a form of corruption where a public servant gives undue preference or favor to his or her friends, family, and any close associates in contract award, recruitment, promotion, foreign trips and other perquisites.

Fraud.

Fraud occurs whenever public servants sell or make illegal use of government assets that are entrusted to their care. In the broadest sense, fraud can encompass any crime for profit that uses deception as its primary motive (Orellana and Bossio, 2021)

2.0 Literature Review

Corruption in Nigeria is pervasive and it is believed to have permeated every strata of the society so much so that the general perception is that majority of Nigerians are born and bred in corruption, and that anyone in the leadership position uses it to enrich self including his or her family and close friends (Ijewereme,2015). The civil servants are not insulated from corruption, because they often aid and facilitate corruption as they do not see anything wrong in using their offices to enrich themselves. The recent ₦80 billion allegation against the immediate past Accountant General of the Federation by the EFCC which led to his suspension is a clear attestation to this notion.

2.1 Corruption in Higher Institution

To start with, it should be noted that the National Policy on Education of Nigeria (FRN, 2013) describes higher or tertiary education as the education given after secondary Education in institutions such as Universities, University Centres and Agencies, Innovation Enterprise Innovations (IEIs), Colleges of Education, Monotechnics, Polytechnics, and other specialized institutions such as Colleges of Agriculture, Schools of Health and Technology and the National Teachers' Institutes (NTI) (Atanda,2019). In order to regulate and facilitate the tertiary institutions activities(, the Federal Government established the National Universities Commission (NUC) for Universities, National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) for Polytechnics and Monotechnics as well as National Council for Colleges of Education (NCCE) for Colleges of Education

Agbo (2017) defines academic corruption as the abandonment of expected standards of behaviour by staff and students' as well as other educational authorities in and outside our tertiary institutions with the aim of getting undeserved advantages in the form of personal or material gains. In another view, corruption in tertiary institutions is seen as a manifestation of unprincipled acts which involves the breach and gross abuse of academic ethics, norms, values, standards, conventions, rules and regulations, codes of conduct and general laws of the institution. (Atanda, 2019). Therefore, corruption in higher institutions is all about immoral and illegal behaviours intentionally conducted by staff, students or management in order to get academic, financial or non-financial benefits at the expense of the system, group or individuals.

Unarguably, corruption exists in higher institutions of Nigeria and it manifests in many ways and forms from examination malpractice, admission racketeering, to extortion of the students, abuse of office, sorting, forgery of certificates and statements of results. Others include sexual harassment on female students, embezzlement of funds, corruption in recruitment and promotion of staff as well as government's or management's interference in Students Union election during students' politics on campus (Okobi, 1997). Corruption also manifests in resource inspection

and accreditation of programmes when staff of the accrediting bodies and members of accrediting panels compromised to by-pass the assessment criteria in order to favour the department or institution. Thus by implication, corruption in tertiary institutions generally affects the recognition and credibility of our tertiary institutions to the extent that most of our Universities, for instance, cannot meet up with international standards especially when it comes to ranking with their counterparts worldwide.

Moreover, other government entities involved in education like the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, and the Universal Basic Education Commission, to name a few— have experienced corruption scandals in recent years (Page, 2018). One such incident that went viral was a JAMB official accused of embezzling ₦36 million (\$100,000), who claimed that a snake had sneaked into her office and swallowed the money (BBC News, February 12, 2018). Although very funny, this incident shows the massive scope of corruption in the Nigerian education sector.

2.2 Measurement of Corruption

In 1978, Peters and Welch successfully identified the process of judging corruption into four significant dimensions; the “public official” involved, the actual “favour” provided by the public official, the “payoff” gained by the public official and the “donor” of the payoff (Dormael, 2014). They concluded that judgments or assessment of corrupt behaviour do not only vary between different social groups, but that they also differ in relation to the nature of the acts. As a result, the methodological framework elaborated by Peters and Welch presented new perspectives for the empirical study of corruption (Dormael, 2014). This methodology allows researchers to observe, in a very meticulous way, the influence of the significant features of various acts and to verify whether or not different social groups judge activities to be corrupt or not.

Because corruption is usually hidden and both victims and beneficiaries are not always willing or ready to admit it, collecting accurate data on it is apparently difficult and challenging. In such situations, measurement of corruption favours the use of indirect approaches like expert assessments or composite indices. Another important distinction in the measurement of corruption is whether the methods rely on perception or experience of corruption. Perception-based indicators rely on the subjective opinions and perceptions of levels of corruption among citizens, business representatives, civil servants or other stakeholders in a given community, while experience-based indicators, as the name implies, attempt to measure actual personal experience of corruption.

Several organizations used different indirect measures of corruption over the years including the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, Control of Corruption Indicator of the World Bank Governance Indicators and the Global Integrity Index by Global Integrity (UNODC, 2009). The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is the most widely-used global corruption ranking in the world. It measures how corrupt each country’s public sector is perceived to be, according to experts and businesspeople. A country’s **score** is the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0-100, where 0 means highly corrupt and 100 means very clean, while a country’s **rank** is its position relative to other countries in the index (www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2012). Specifically, the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI) measures bribery, diversion of funds, nepotism, public disclosure of finances, excessive red tapism, legal protection for corruption whistle blowers, among others.

Table 1 Nigeria Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2012 – 2021

YEAR	SCORE %	RANK	REMARKS
2012	27	139 out of 176	Baseline
2013	25	144 out of 177	More Corrupt
2014	27	136 out of 175	Less Corrupt
2015	26	136 out of 168	More Corrupt
2016	28	136 out of 176	Less Corrupt
2017	27	148 out of 180	Stable
2018	27	144 out of 180	Stable
2019	26	146 out of 180	More Corrupt
2020	25	149 out of 180	More Corrupt
2021	24	154 out of 180	More Corrupt

Score Key: Scale of 0-100, where 0 = highly corrupt; 100 = very clean

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Generally, the perception of corruption has been studied by several researchers in many different ways; descriptive, empirical or experimental or a combination of any methods. However, regardless of the methods used, research on corruption studies is very difficult because of its illicit nature (Boehm, Isaza and Villalba, 2015). Many theories have been advanced by different scholars in an attempt to explain the causes of unethical behaviour and corruption in Nigeria. Some of these theories are briefly discussed below.

The first among the theories is the Idealistic Theory which explains corruption in terms of some selfish ideas,

which are prevalent in the value system of the society (Anazodo, Okoye, & Ezenwile, 2012). It is based on the premise that corruption is the nature of social and moral values prevailing in the society (Nkom, 1982). The next is the Theory of Resource Curse proposed by Auty (2004) and Ross (2001). The theory postulates that the availability of oil money, which a nation did not really work for, retards innovativeness, breeds corruption, and promotes laziness and indolence. In fact, empirical studies have shown that that oil-dependent nation especially in developing African countries that have at least 25% of their exports from natural resources are more likely to have conflicts (Bamiduro, 2012). This situation is evidently seen in Nigeria where five decades ago, Indonesia and Nigeria had similar per capita incomes. But today, Indonesia is 10 times better than Nigeria and the per capita income in the latter has drastically declined because of corruption sustained by oil revenue (Ijewereme, 2015).

Another relevant theory is the Low Risk–High Benefit Theory which holds that in a situation where punishment for unethical and corrupt practices is light and the benefits are high, people will not be deterred from involving in corruption (Ijewereme, 2013). But if the punishment is severe, public servants will be scared in engaging in corruption and unethical practices (Azelama, 2002). In other words if there is no fear of consequence for corruption, it will continue unabated as public office holders can dupe the state and use their influence to cover up (Ijewereme, 2013).

The last but not the least is the Anomie Theory which explains the pressures that society exert on its members which makes them to engage in unethical behaviors. This theory is ascribed to Merton (1957) and Chinoy (1967) who argue that when society sets goals for individuals and these individuals do not have the means of attaining the goals set for them by the society, this may lead or breed corrupt and unethical behaviors. Thus Nigerian society tends to over emphasize the individual goal attainment at the expense of the legitimate means of achieving the set goals (Anazodo, Okoye, & Ezenwile, 2012). This theory is apparently operational in Nigeria based on ‘the ends justify the means’ mentality where material acquisition becomes the ultimate goal irrespective of how one makes it. So, based on the above discussions, two theories are adopted for this study because of their relevance. They are the Low Risk–High Benefit Theory and the Anomie theory.

3.0 Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This study adopted quantitative research method so as to allow for numerical representation and manipulation of observations for the purpose of describing and explaining the phenomena that those observations reflect (Jia, Cheae, Pei and Yam, 2012). In addition, survey method of research was employed in collecting data using cross-sectional approach.

3.2 Study Population

The population of the study consists of all staff and students in the Nigerian Tertiary Institutions. However, this study is limited to the Polytechnic sector. According to Adedigba (2020) 96,423 students were admitted into National Diploma (ND) Programme in 2019 by the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB). So, using this figure as the baseline, the total population of ND and HND students for year one and two is $96,423 \times 4 = 385,692$. This constitutes the population of the study.

3.3 Sampling Technique

The researcher adopted dual sampling strategy in which a proportionate stratified random sampling was first used to arrive at the Polytechnic sector before a simple random sampling was employed using the random sampling table to determine the sample size. According to Ross (2005), variables used to stratify populations in education research include location, size, age, sex, grade level, and socio-economic status. Three Polytechnics at Katsina, Kano and Jigawa were selected because they are more accessible and convenient for the researcher to cover. Therefore, using Yamane’s (1967) sample size determination formula, as cited by Israel (2009), the computed sample size for the study was 400 respondents.

3.4 Research Instruments

As stated earlier, corruption is difficult to be measured in practical terms because it is usually done in secret. That is why most of the scholars who studied corruption looked at people’s perception as part of the indirect approach. Perception-based indicators rely on the subjective opinions and perceptions of levels of corruption among citizens, business representatives, civil servants or other stakeholders in a given community. This study follows the same trend.

Research questionnaire was the main instrument employed for this study. The questionnaire contains three sections. Section one elicit data on the demographic variables of the respondents. Section two lists the three independent variables where respondents were asked to evaluate each service attribute using a five-point Likert scale with following options; Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Somewhat agree (3), Disagree (2) and vehemently Disagree (1). Lastly, section three assesses respondents’ general perception about corruption using the same five-

point Likert scale as stated above.

3.5 Test of Reliability of the Constructs

The researcher used Cronbach's Alpha to check the consistency of the intended measure. As shown in Table 1 below, the Cronbach's Alpha coefficients for most of the constructs in the pilot study had an acceptable level of internal consistency based on the suggestion of Nunnally and Bernstein (1994). In fact, Hair et al. (2010) point out that 0.6 is the minimum acceptable level of Cronbach's Alpha for any construct to acquire an adequate reliability. Consequently, the entire construct have adequate reliability.

Table 2: Reliability of Constructs

Variable	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha
Greed	6	.601
Friends	4	.703
Family	9	.606
Corruption	10	.761

3.6 Operationalization of the Variables

In this study the three independent variables and the dependent variables are used as described below.

Greed. It is used here as an individual's selfish and insatiable desire to accumulate money and other material assets for private use. It is an excessive desire for more of money and property than what is ordinarily needed. In Nigerian context, greed is a situation where one individual will steal money that 100 people can use adequately for 100 years or more. The Heintzelman Greed Scale (HGS) developed by (Lambie & Stickl, 2019) was adapted for the study

Friends. It refers to the case of favouritism in which a public office holder use his position to give undue preference or favor to his or her friends and other close associates in contract award, recruitment, promotion, foreign trips and other perquisites. It also refers to the influence of friends in making public office holders to be corrupt. Items used to measure this variable were developed and tested by the researcher and found to be reliable at 0.703 Cronbach Alpha.

Family. It refers to the act of nepotism in showing preferential treatments to family members to the detriment of fairness, justice and merit. It explains how the desire to satisfy a family member may make a public office holder to be corrupt. The misuse of family tie can take place in the form of preferential hiring, promotion, or general treatment in the workplace. Measures of this variable are adapted from the work of Kawo and Torun (2020) the relationship between nepotism and disengagement: the case of institutions in Ethiopia.

Corruption (DV)

In this context, corruption is used as an illegal, unauthorized and unethical act performed by an individual or group of people aimed at obtaining unmerited benefits for self, family, friends and/or acquaintances. In most cases, the corrupt persons always try to deliberately cover up their unethical behavior. Items used to measure corruption as dependent variable were adopted from Ahmed, Ahmad and Lodhi, (2010) from their study titled: Measuring Corruption Perception: Application of Split-Questionnaire Methodology in Management Studies.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Data Analysis Techniques

The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS 16.0) software was used to analyse the data using multiple regressions analysis. The regression model was employed in testing the hypotheses. ,

The fundamental assumptions of normality, linearity, multicollinearity and homoscedasticity, for regression analysis were carefully examined to ensure that none of the assumption is violated in this study, thus, making the conduct of multiple regression analysis appropriate. Similarly, R² model was examined to determine the overall prediction of the independent variables to the dependent variable. In the same vein, to test for the relative contribution of each independent variable to the dependent variable, the t value should be 1.96 and above for the hypotheses to be supported and the significance value should be 0.050 and below for the hypotheses to be accepted (Shehu, 2014; Hair, et.al. 2010; Pallant, 2001).

4.2 Data Analysis

A total of 400 copies of questionnaire were distributed to the selected respondents at Polytechnics in Katsina, Jigawa and Kano respectively. Table 2 shows the response rate for each airport involved in the study.

Table 3. Summary of Questionnaire Distribution and Collection.

	Number Distributed	Number Collected and Completed	Percentage of total completed
Kano	200	187	49.6%
Katsina	100	97	25.72%
Jigawa	100	93	24.67
Total	400	377	100

Of the 400 copies of questionnaire circulated, a total of 377 copies were duly completed and returned, representing a response rate of 94.25%. The distribution was done in proportion to the sample size as indicated in the table.

Table 4 Demographic Profile of Respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	253	67
Female	124	33
Total	377	100
Age Group		
18-20	99	26
21-30	142	38
31-40	112	30
41-50	17	4
Above 50	7	2
Total	377	100
Employment Status		
Employed	186	49
Not Employed	19	5
Self-Employed	32	8
Student	140	37
Total	377	100
Level of Education		
Primary school	24	6
Secondary school	47	13
University	199	53
Masters Degree	90	24
Doctorate degree	17	4
Total	377	100

Table 3 above shows the demographic profile of respondents. Majority of the respondents are males with 253 responses or 67% while the remaining 33% are females. Similarly, most of the respondents fall within the age interval of 18-40 which constitute 94% or 343 respondents, consisting of 186 or 49% staff and 140 or 37% students. In addition, majority of those contacted hold University degree (199 or 53%), 24% with Masters Degree, 4% with Doctorate Degree while the remaining holds primary school (6%) and Senior Secondary School certificate.

4.3 Direct: Multiple Regression Analysis and Hypotheses Test

Multiple regression analysis was conducted to determine the relationship between the dependent variable (corruption) and independent variables (greed, friends and family influence). The results show the overall relationship between the predictors and the dependent variable (R^2) to be 0.345 with F value = 36.51. Therefore, the predictors accounted for approximately 35% of the variance in the extent of corruption at 0.05 significance level. Based on the Cohen's (1988) classifications, the value of R^2 is significantly substantial. The significant F-test shows that the relationship (36.51, $p < 0.001$) signifies the overall significant prediction of independent variables to the dependent variable.

Table 4: Multiple Regression Results between greed, friends and family influence and Corruption Model Summary

Hypothesis	Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		t value	P value	Decision
		B	Standard error		Sig. F	
H1	Greed	.031	.047	3.019	.007	Accepted
H2	Friends	.075	.053	5.423	.000	Accepted
H3	Family	.183	.127	5.840	.000	Accepted

Dependent Variable: Corruption

F value 36.51

F Sig. .000

R2 0.345

Table 4 shows the results of the multiple regression analysis. It shows that all the three independent variables (greed, friends and family influence) are found to have significant relationship with customer satisfaction; greed ($p < .007$), friends ($p < .000$) and family ($p < .000$). Therefore, to test the hypotheses, the P value has to be lower than 0.05 i.e. $p < 0.05$ at 95% significance (Torres-Reyna, 2014). Consequently, all the three hypotheses were accepted (H1, H2, and H3) as indicated in table 4.

4.4 Results and Discussion

The results indicate that there is a significant relationship between greediness and corruption in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Therefore, an increase in the number of greedy staff of increase in the degree of greediness inform of desire to acquire more and more, siphoning money without fear of consequences and avaricious tendencies to accumulate more money, will result to significant increase in the level of corruption in the institution. This goes in tandem with the view of (Atanda, 2019). Furthermore, the influence of friends has significant and positive relationship with corruption in the operation of higher institutions in Nigeria. Consequently, an increase in friends influence on lectures which make them (lecturers) to compromise standards such that they engage in admission racketeering, examination leakages and other academic cheatings, will lead to a corresponding increase in the level of corruption in the institution. This finding tallies with the views of (Okobi, 1997) who opines that corruption exists in higher institutions of Nigeria in many ways ranging from examination malpractice, admission racketeering, to extortion of the students, abuse of office, sorting, forgery of certificates and statements of results. Moreover, the influence of family members is positively and significantly related to corruption in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Therefore, the more we give in to family pressures and influence in form of giving preferential treatment to family or relatives, the more will be the rate of corruption in the institution. This finding is supported by the views of (Aydoğan, 2012; Farahmand, 2013; Özler and Büyükarşlan, 2011).

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

The findings from this research illustrate the endemic status of corruption in Nigeria which permeates every strata of the society including the tertiary institutions. The dominance of corruption in Nigerian society poses significant challenges for policy-makers. Generally, the study has established that greed, family and friends influence are key drivers of corruption in our institutions of higher learning in Nigeria. To this end, it can be inferred that greediness and the desire to satisfy the selfish interest of family and friends play a major role in promoting corruption. Consequently, it is recommended that people should be less greedy while at the same time government should introduce measures to make punishment against corruption more severe than the proceeds of corruption. In addition, family and friends of top executives in our institutions should not be interfering in their official assignment so as to reduce the probability of corrupt practices and academic malpractices.

References

Adedigba, A. (2020). UTME: *Almost Half of Admission Quota in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions Unused*. Available at <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/398922>

Agbo, G.C. (2017). Educational Corruption in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria: Implications for Global Peace, Development and Progress in the 21st Century. *IMT International Journal of the Arts and Sciences (IJOTAS)*, 2(1), 1-10. Available at <http://imtijotas.org.ng/node/112>

Ahmed, A., Ahmad, M. and Lodhi, S. (2010). *Measuring Corruption Perception: Application of Split-Questionnaire Methodology in Management Studies* (June 25, 2010). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2542739>

Anazodo R., Okoye J. C., Ezenwile U. (2012). Leadership-Corruption: The Bane of Nigeria Development. *African*

- Journal of Social Sciences*, 2, 124-134.
- Atanda, A.I. (2019). Corrupt Practices In Tertiary Institutions In Nigeria: Management Tips Towards Alleviation of Corruption. *East African Journal of Educational Research and Policy* - 14, (June, 2019), 277-288
- Auty R. (2004). The political economy of growth collapses in mineral economies. *Minerals & Energy—Raw Materials Report*, 19(4), 3-15.
- Aydoğan, I. (2012). The Existence of Favoritism in Organizations. *African Journal of Business Management*, 6(12), 4577-4586. Available online at <http://www.academicjournals.org/AJBM>
- Azelama J. U. (2002). *Public enterprises management in Nigeria*. Benin-City, Nigeria: Ambik Press.
- Bamiduro J. A. (2012). Nigeria and the Petroleum Resource Curse: What Ghana can Learn for Improved Management of Oil and Gas Revenues. *Global Journal of Human Social Science*, 12(1), 1-10.
- Boehm, F., Isaza, C. Y. and Villalba, M.L. (2015). Análisis Experimental de la Corrupción y de las Medidas Anticorrupción. Dónde estamos, hacia dónde vamos? *Revista Opera*, 17,105- 126.
- Boisvert, A. L., Dent, P. and Quraishi, O.B. (2014) *Corruption in Canada: Definitions and Enforcement*. Prepared by Deloitte LLP. Ottawa, ON: Public Safety Canada, 2014.
- Britannica.com (2023). Facts about Nigeria. Available at <https://www.britannica.com/facts/Nigeria>
- Chinoy F. (1967). *Society: An introduction to Sociology*. New York, NY: Random Houses.
- Cohen, J. (1988). *Statistical Power Analysis for the Behavioral sciences*, (2nded), New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Council of Europe (1999). *Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption 1999*. Available at (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/con...>)
- Dormaels, A. (2014). *Perceptions of Corruption in Flanders: Surveying Citizens and Police. A Study of the Influence of Occupational Differential Association on Perceptions of Corruption*. Doctoral Dissertation in Criminology in Criminological Science at Ghent University, Faculty of Law
- Eisenstadt, S. N. and Roniger, L. (1984). *Patrons, Clients and Friends: Interpersonal Relations and the Structure of Trust in Society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ekeh P. P. (1975). Colonialism and the Two Publics: A Theoretical Statement. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 17, 91-112.
- Enste, Dominik; Heldman, Christina (2017) : *Causes and Consequences of Corruption: An Overview of Empirical Results, IW-Report*, No. 2/2017, Institut der deutschen
- Farahmand, N. (2013). *Impact of Nepotism on Turnover Intention and Service Recovery Performance: The Case of Private Hospitals in TRNC*. Unpublished Master's Thesis. Gazimağusa, North Cyprus: Eastern Mediterranean University, Institute of Graduate Studies and Research.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria, FRN (2013). *National Policy on Educational*. Abuja: NERDC.
- GAN Integrity Inc. (2022). <https://www.ganintegrity.com/compliance-glossary/patronage/>
- Graycar, A. (2015). Corruption: Classification and Analysis : *Policy and Society*, Volume 34, Issue 2, June 2015, Pages 87–96, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polsoc.2015.04.001>
- Hair, J. F., Andersen, R. E. and Tatham, R. L.(2010). *Multivariate Data Analysis (7thed.)*, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Ijwereme, O. B. (2015). Anatomy of Corruption in the Nigerian Public Sector: Theoretical Perspectives and Some Empirical Explanations. *SAGE Open*, 5(2). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244015581188>
- Israel, G.D. (2009). *Determining Sample Size. PEOD6*, Agricultural Education and Communication Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Available at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
- Jia, E. A., Cheae, L. S., Pei, T. P. and Yam, Y.C. (2012). *A Study of Customer Satisfaction Towards Service Quality in Airasia Malaysia* (Unpublished B.Sc. Project). Universiti Tusku Abdulrahman, Malaysia.
- Kawo, J.W. and Torun, A. (2020). The Relationship Between Nepotism and Disengagement: The Case of Institutions in Ethiopia. *Research Journal of Business and Management (RJBm)*, V.7(1), 53-65
- Lambie, G.W. and Stickl, J. (2019) Heintzelman Greed Scale (HGS): *Theoretical Framework and Item Development*, Haugen University of Central Florida, College of Community Innovation and Education. Project Supported by the Robert N. Heintzelman Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair Fund. Version: 05/22/2019.
- Martini M. (2014). *Evidence of Corruption and the Influence of Social Norms. U4 Expert Answers*. Anticorruption Resource Centre. Available at https://www.transparency.org/files/content/corruptionqas/Nigeria_overview_of_corruption_and_influence_of_social_norms_2014.pdf
- Merton H. K. (1957). *Social theory and social structure*. Glencoe, UK: Free Press.
- Moroung Express (2020). *Greed Mother Corruption*. Available at <https://morungexpress.com>
- Nkom S. A. (1982, May 10-13). *Ethical Revolution? The Futility of Bourgeoisie Idealism*. Paper Presented at the Nigerian Anthropological and Sociological Association Seminar, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.
- Nunnally, J. C. and Bernstein, I. H. (1994). *Psychometric Theory* (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw- Hill, Inc.

- Obuah E. (2010). Combating Corruption in Nigeria: The Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). *African Studies Quarterly*, 12(1), 17–44
- OECD, 2014a, OECD Foreign Bribery Report, Paris
- Okobi, R. S. (1997). *The Rot in Educational System*. Paper Delivered at the Ikwere Youths Congress, Orakami, Benue State.
- Orellana, G. and Bossio, S. (2021). Construction of a Scale of Attitudes Towards Corruption in University Students. *Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Science*, 9(6), 57-66
- Özler, D. E., and Büyükarıslan, A. (2011). The Overall Outlook of Favoritism in Organizations: A Literature Review. *International Journal of Business and Management Studies*, 3(1), 275-285.
- Pallant, J. (2001). *SPSS Survival Manual: A Step by Step Guide to Data Analysis Using SPSS*, Berkshire: Open University Press.
- Piattoni, S. (2001). *Clientelism, Interests and Democratic Representation: The European Experience in Historical and Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Quiroz, A. W. (2013). *Historia de la corrupci3n en el Per3*. Lima: Instituto de Estudios Peruanos e Instituto de Defensa Legal.
- Ross M. L. (2001). Does Oil hinder democracy? *World Politics*, 53(3), 325-361. Retrieved from <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/uploadedfiles/exed/sites/ldf/academic/ross%20-%20does%20oil%20hinder%20democracy.pdf>
- Scott, J. (1972). *Comparative Political Corruption*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall. World Bank. 2014. Worldwide Governance Indicators. Available online at <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#phone>
- Shehu, A. M. (2014). *Market Orientation, Knowledge Management, Entrepreneurial Operation and Performance of Nigerian SMEs*. Ph.D Thesis, Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia, October, 2014.
- Smarzynska, B.K., Wei, S. J. (2000). *Corruption and Composition of Foreign Direct Investment: Firm-Level Evidence*. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research
- Šumah, S. (2018). *Corruption, Causes and Consequences*, Open Access Peer-Reviewed Chapter, Trade And Global Market, Vito Bobek Ed. Available at
- Tanzi V, Davoodi H.R. (2000). *Corruption, growth, and public finances*. *IMF Working Paper*. Available on: <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2000/wp00182.pdf>
- The Freeman (2017). *The Seven Signs of Greed Syndrome*. Available at <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-lifestyle>
- Transparency International (2009). *How Corruption Perception Index is Calculated*. Available at <https://www.transparency.org/en/news/how-cpi-scores-are-calculated>
- Transparency International. (2012). *Transparency global barometer*. Available from www.transparency.org
- Trapnell, S.E., Feigenblatt, H., Torres, H. and Timilsina, A.R. (2015). *UNDP Global Anti- corruption Initiative (GAIN) User's Guide to Measuring Corruption and Anti- Corruption*,
- United Nations Office On Drugs and Crime, UNODC (2019). *Corruption in Nigeria: Patterns and Trends: Second Survey on Corruption as Experienced by the Population*. UNODC, Research and Analysis Branch, NBS, National Bureau of Statistics Information Desk Wirtschaft (IW), Köln
- World Bank Independent Evaluation Group. (2006). *Engaging with fragile states: An IEG review of World Bank support to low-income countries under stress*. Washington, DC: The World Bank. Available at www.worldbank.org/ieg
- Yamane, T. (1967). *Statistics: An Introductory Analysis*, 2nd Ed., New York: Harper and Row.
- Zakari, M. B., & Button, M. (2022). Confronting the Monolith: Insider Accounts of the Nature and Techniques of Corruption in Nigeria. *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime*, 3(2), 100–108. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2631309X211004567>