**JOURNAL OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE**
ISSN Print: 2992-2763 – ISSN Online: 2992-4618 | Vol. 2, Issue 1, No. 2 / March 2024
https://www.jopd.com.ng

# CORRUPTION IN NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT: MANIFESTATIONS, EFFECTS AND POSSIBLE CURE.

**Keneth Mela**
Department of Public Administration
Federal University Gashua
Yobe State, Nigeria
Email: kenethmela228@gmail.com
**Lydia Yakubu**
Department of Public Administration
Faculty of Social and Management Science
Gombe State University
**Amanda Paul**
Department of Public Administration
Faculty of Management Science
Bauchi State University, Gadau.

**Abstract**
*In Nigeria, Billions of Naira have been voted for several programmes such as youth empowerment, women empowerment, Oil subsidy and lots more but had been diverted in personal use. Corruption is a serious challenge to the success of these programmes. Due to corruption, these programmes have been stunted in both high and low places. The paper gives an overview of the Nigeria's recent experience of corruption. It discusses Manifestations, causes, effects and possible remedies of corruption on public financial management in Nigeria. The paper adopts qualitative research design to draw its argument from secondary data which include scholarly journals, textbooks, newspapers, official documents and internet sources. In addition, this study found a negative correlation between corruption and public financial management in Nigeria. Corruption creates unemployment among the youth, it affects governance and promote social vices in Nigeria. In Nigeria, corruption also affects economic growth; reduces economic efficiency and development despite the enormous resources in the country. It also creates negative national image and loss of much needed revenue. The paper recommends among others that, the success of public financial management is feasible when death penalty against corrupt practices is introduced in Nigeria as it is obtainable in other developed countries like China who were able to apply death measures as deterrent against corrupt practices in public organization.*

***Keywords:*** *Corruption, Conceptual analysis, Death penalty, Nigeria*

## Introduction

Corruption is an act which diverges from the formal rules of conduct governing the actions of someone in a position of public authority because of private motives such as wealth, power or position The issues of corruption is indeed a matter of urgent concern in Nigeria; the problem has undermined the country's national security which indeed can be seen as a major concern for national survival, national self-defense, the safeguarding of government's sovereignty or even the broader focus on social justice and the realization of peace and progress for the Nigerian society.

The past few years have seen growing public recognition and discussion of the problem of corruption in public finance. The World Bank have all established internal task forces on corruption. Equally telling is the willingness of many public officials in emerging economies to discuss the challenges of corruption in their respective countries. As cited in U Myint (2020), in a recent survey of 150 high level officials from 60 third world countries, the respondents ranked public sector corruption as the most severe obstacle confronting their development process. Countries in the Asia and Pacific regions are also very worried about this problem and they are in substantial agreement that corruption is a major constraint that is hindering their economic, political and social development, and hence view it as a problem requiring urgent attention at the highest level. What is corruption as applied to public finance? There are many different definitions of this concept. The simplest, and broadest, definition of corruption is "the misuse of public or private position for direct or indirect personal gain. Various

factors contribute to corruption. Some of these factors have a direct impact while others only an indirect impact. As cited in Mela et-al (2023), the factors which have a direct impact include: regulations and authorizations; complex tax systems; government spending decisions; public provision of goods and services at below market prices; and situations in which public employees have discretionary power over economic decisions. Among the indirect causes of corruption must be included: the professionalism of the civil service, the level of public wages, institutional controls, the transparency of rules, laws, and process, and the severity of the penalty system if caught
A consensus has now been reached that corruption is universal. It exists in all countries, both developed and developing, in the public and private sectors, as well as in non-profit and charitable organizations. Second, allegations and charges of corruption now play a more central role in politics

Increasing public interest and concern over corruption have resulted in a large amount of scholarly research on the subject. Admittedly, there are still wide gaps in the current state of information and knowledge on the matter and much more remains to be done. Nevertheless, theoretical and empirical research that has been conducted thus far has yielded fresh insights into the problem. We now have a clearer understanding of the underlying causes of corruption, its consequences, and ideas and approaches on possible measures to combat it. At the same time, a better perspective has been obtained on the reasons why corruption persists in so many countries, and why it is difficult to deal with, although people throughout the world view it with disfavour.

The paper seek to presents issues that emerged from the current discussion and ongoing debate on the manifestations; causes and effect of corruption on proper financial management in Nigeria. It considers the manifestations, causes, and consequences of corruption, which seem to have generated a lot of public attention in Nigeria..
The study is relatively different from the previous studies on the issue of corruption as it seek to examine the current effects and tolls corruption have on the socio economic lives of Nigerian citizens. Attempt at achieving this objective has led to the segmentation of the paper in to five sections. Section one cover the introduction; section two contain conceptual review; section three covers the methodology; section four cover the discussion while section five contain the concluding part respectively.

**Conceptual Clarifications**
According to Lipset& Lenz, (2000).Corruption is an "effort to secure wealth or power through illegal means, private gain at public expense, or misuse of public power for private benefit Ofoeze (2004) sees corruption as referring to "any action or inaction of any person, or group (public or private) deliberately perpetrated to secure advantages for oneself, a relation, associate or group(s) in a manner that detract from the accepted regulations, morals, and/or ethical standard or code; hence, a mockery of justice, equity and fair play".

Ekiyor (2005) in his broad view of corruption defined it as the unlawful use of official power or influence by an official of the government either to enrich himself or further his course and/or any other person at the expense of the public, in contravention of his oath of office and/or contrary to the conventions or laws that are in force. It is very unfortunate that this menace knows not any time nor period; it happens anytime or period of any nation's history.

Ngwakwe (2009) defines corruption from economic perspective as "the non-violent criminal and illicit activity committed with objectives of earning wealth illegally either individually or in a group or organized manner thereby violating existing legislation governing the economic activities of government and its administration"

From the foregoing definitions of corruption, one can see that there is hardly consensus on the meaning of the term. However, one thing that is certain about those various definitions is that they lack precise elements that constitute corruption. Nonetheless they all have enough indicators as to conducts that might be "judged as corrupt and the distinguishing element of such conduct is some moral failing or depravity".

The former Vice President of U.S.A, Al Gore held that corruption is a serious crime with devastating consequence; he says it is a cold vicious, often violent sacrifice of citizens' security for a narrow, greedy, private, personal profit by a crooked official (Zhang 1996 in Tony, 2008); corruption asa multi-faceted phenomenon that ranges from the giving and accepting of bribe toother kinds of fraudulent practices ICPC Act (2000:25). Corruption is an act which is contrary to the formal rules of conduct governing the actions of someone in a position of public authority because of private motives such as wealth, power or status (Khan,1996). Black and Garner (2000) perceived corruption as an official or fiduciary person who unlawfully or wrongfully uses his status or character to procure some benefit for himself or for another person, contrary to duty and rights of others, they further posited that corruption covers any illegal use of power by any person(s) for personal or arbitrary purposes.

Toyo (2006) said, corruption "consist of depravity, venality or peculation in playing a social role "and that the act normally involves some kind of cover up or diversionary conduct such as falsification, hypocrisy, tyranny, violence, torment or property. Beside operationalizing corruption, Otite ( 2006 ) went on to say that the concept is fostered by a particular economic system of which capitalism is noted for its acquisitive philosophy and emphasis on individualism; He insist that Nigeria as a peripheral capitalist country is immersed in corruption; the logical implication of Toyo (2006)postulation is that the inequalities in socio-economic status of the income of the higherand lower income earners in the country is an added impetus for corruption where most civil servants are paid starvation wages, as in Nigeria, it can also serve as a stimulus to bribe taking in order to keep up with the joneses. It is thus not surprising that in-spite of measures put in place to check-mate the scourge of corruption such as oath system for public official and the code of conduct statue enshrined in the 1999 constitution, corruption has continued unabated. Corruption occurs in many forms and it has contributed immensely to the impoverishment and misery of a large segment of the Nigerian masses. It is the misappropriation of government property or revenues made possible through government regulations Braguinsky, (1996). Otite (2006) observed that, corruption is the perversion of integrity or state of affairs through bribery, favor or moral depravity. It takes place when two parties have interacted to change the structure or process of society or the behavior of functionaries in order to produce dishonest, unfaithful or undefined situations. Corruption transcends bribery but includes treasury looting and the deliberate bending of rules of the system to favorited or hurt foes. Unwavering rate of the twin evils of corruption and insecurity in Nigeria pose a great threat to governance and have become issues of public concern. In spite of all efforts, corruption is still manifested in different sectors of governance in Nigeria. For instance, with the return to democratic governance to Nigeria in 1999 and establishment of many anti-corruption agencies Shehu (2011) citing a research conducted by the Human Rights Watch in 2007 estimated that during the eight year period of Obasanjo Administration, Nigeria lost between US$4 billion and US$8 billion annually to corruption. Between 2005 and 2007 alone, state Governors and politicians, allegedly embezzled US$250 billion hidden in Western banks and other offshore financial centers (Shehu, 2011).

As cited in Alege et- al (2014), the World Bank defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private gains. Public office is abused through rent seeking activities for private gain when an official accepts, solicits, or extorts a bribe. Public office is also abused when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for competitive advantage and profit. Public office can also be abused for personal benefit even if no bribery occurs, through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets or the diversion of state resources. A public official is corrupt if he accepts money for doing something that he is under duty to do or that he is under duty not to do. Corruption is a betrayal of trust resulting directly or indirectly from the subordination of public goals to those of the individual.

In an elaborate analysis, C.B.N (2006) divided corruption into seven distinct types: autogenic, defensive, extortive, investive, nepotistic, supportive, and transitive. Autogenic corruption is self-generating and typically involves only the perpetrator. A good example would be what happens in cases of insider trading. A person learns of some vital information that may influence stocks in a company and either quickly buys or gets rid of large amounts of stocks before the consequences arising from this information come to pass. Defensive corruption involves situations where a person needing a critical service is compelled to bribe in order to prevent unpleasant consequences being

inflicted on his interests. For instance, a person who wants to travel abroad within a certain time frame needs a passport in order to undertake the journey but is made to pay bribes or forfeit the trip. This personal corruption is in self-defense.

Extortive corruption is the behavior of a person demanding personal compensation in exchange for services. Investive corruption entails the offer of goods or services without a direct link to any particular favor at the present, but in anticipation of future situations when the favor may be required. Nepotistic corruption refers to the preferential treatment of, or unjustified appointment of friends or relations to public office, in violation of the accepted guidelines.

The supportive type usually does not involve money or immediate gains, but involves actions taken to protect or strengthen the existing corruption. For example, a corrupt regime or official may try to prevent the election or appointment of an honest person or government for fear that the individual or the regime might be probed by the successor(s). Finally, transactive corruption refers to situations where the two parties are mutual and willing participants in the corrupt practice to the advantage of both parties. For example, a corrupt businessperson may willingly bribe a corrupt government official in order to win a tender for a certain contract, Girling, (1997) cited in Alege et- al (2014),

This paper will focus on the extortive, nepotistic, and transactive corruption, not only because they appear to be at the core of the corruption phenomenon, but also because the other forms appear to be the offshoot of these three fundamental types.

**Research Methodology**

This study adopts qualitative method and it relies on secondary data. The authors carefully reviewed the relevant research reports of the different scholars both within and outside the country. The researchers were not able to incorporate sufficient data both quantitative and qualitative due to paucity of capital. Hence, in this research paper emphasis has been given on qualitative analysis. The new dimension of this research paper is to explore causes, dimensions and effects of corruption in Nigeria.

**Discussion**

As cited in Ediba (2018), Since, 1960, cases of corruption in official cycle have become rife. Massive misappropriation of funds by government officials has intensified over the years and the degree of corruption in both private and public lives in Nigeria have reached an unprecedented level, accompanied with the collapse of the sense of responsibility, sense of guilt, shame and remorse. Both the military and civilian administration had inflicted grievous harm on the Nigerian society due to the institutionalization of corruption especially in high places

Although the drivers of corruption are numerous, the most common causes of corruption in Nigeria identified in this paper includes:

***Politicization of the Civil Service*** **:** When civil service positions are used as rewards for political support or swapped for bribes, or used to meet obligations to one's ethnic cleavage the opportunities for high levels of corruption increase significantly (Mbaku, 1997). According to Okochuwu (2002) in most developing countries civil service job appointments often depend on factors that have nothing to do with qualifications or competence. Instead, appointments are based on party loyalty, friendship, and cronyism. The net result of having a highly politicized civil service is among other things producing unethical civil servants who are prepared sacrifice the interest of public to please their political masters.

***Poor Remuneration and Compressed Salary Scales***: Corruption in Nigeria and other developing countries in part can been explained in terms of low public pay .Public officials in developing countries are corrupt because their salaries are so low that they cannot make ends meet by depending solely on their meager earnings.(Obuah, 2010).The problem of low pay is in the civil service is accompanied by the compression of salary scale, or in adequate differentials between the highest and lowest grades. In the face of perceived internal (in relation to their junior colleagues) and external equity (in relation to their counterpart in the private/NGO sector) higher-level civil servants in the civil service may be tempted to augment their pay illicit means in a bid to meet their needs. Mbaku (1996) argues that the African extended family places a significant pressure on the government bureaucrat forcing him to engage in corruption.

***Problem of Career Advancement within the Civil Service***: The highly hierarchical and rigid structure of the civil service is a factor contributing to the administration corruption existing in the government bureaucracy. The very rigid career paths available for the more competent civil servants mean that they cannot make progress pastlong-serving civil servants who are sitting in their positions on the sole basis of seniority without link to performance on the job. For instance Habib Zafrullah et al. (2000), state that the promotion system in the civil service of Bangladesh is aberrant and overwhelmingly in favor of the incompetent and inefficiency.

***Lack of Accountability in Public Organizations*:** The very low quality of accountability in government stems from two main important sources: the legacy of colonialism and lack of fully-fledged democratic system. (Padam, 1999)The post independence governmental bureaucracy that emerged in most countries contributed to institutional instability, the politicization of the state, and patrimonial economic management and incentives, whereby political and personal loyalty and obedience were rewarded more than merit.((Dia, 1996 cited in Hope, 1997).With no effective restraints on government behavior, corruption became widespread, and favoritism and cronyism undermined the very substance and neutrality of public power by failing, among other things, to satisfy the civic requirement for public accountability and integrity. (Hope, 1997). Mbaku (1998) asserts that, in the case of post-colonial Africa the capture of governance systems by indigenous elites instead of increasing the welfare of the previously marginalized people has resulted in the manipulation of state power by the ruling elites to plunder the economy for their own benefit.

***Weak Institutions for Enforcing Ethical and Accountability Standards*:** Corruption is principally a governance issue –a failure of institutions and a lack of capacity to manage society by means of a framework of social, judicial, political and economic checks and balances.(Mbaku,1998). When these formal and informal systems break down, it becomes harder to implement and enforce laws and policies that ensure accountability and transparency. ***Excessive and Opaque Regulations*:** A fertile ground for growth of a thoroughly corrupt system will emerge in a country if it has a large number of laws, rules, regulations, and administrative orders to restrict business and economic activities and thereby creates huge opportunities for generating economic rent, and especially if these restrictive measures are complex and opaque and applied in a selective, secretive, inconsistent and non-transparent way.(Mynit, 2000) Public officials may raise a firm's costs by introducing delays and unnecessary requirements as a way of inducing payoffs, for instance, in contracting and auctioning or in administering regulatory and tax laws.(Rose-Ackerman, 1999)In many countries, and especially in developing countries, the role of the state is often carried out through the use of numerous rules or regulations. The existence of numerous the regulations where some of them are nontransparent or are not even publicly available and that an authorization can be obtained only from a specific office or individual-that is, there is no competition in the granting of these authorizations gives the bureaucrats a great amount of power and a good opportunity to extract bribes.(Tanzi, 1998)

From the above discussion, we can opine that developing countries are more prone to be affected by corruption as cited in Mela et-al (2022) for a variety of reasons, which includes:

i. the widespread poverty and low level of public sector salaries
ii. lack of any risk spreading mechanisms such as insurance and a well-developed market opportunities presented by complex, poorly-defined, constantly changing and inadequate rules and regulations
iii. The widespread poverty and low level of public sector salaries
iv. lack of properly established laws and principles, or code of conduct applicable to public officials and
v. lack of institutions to enforce them

**Dimensionsand Manifestation of Corrupt Practices in Nigeria.**

Corruption in the civil service encompasses government officials' behaviors and actions that involve lack of accountability, unethical behavior and corrupt behavior. Corrupt practices include bribery, patronage, nepotism, embezzlement, influence peddling, use of one's public position for self-enrichment, bestowing of favors on relatives and friends, moonlighting, partiality, absenteeism, late coming to work, abuse of public property, leaking and/or abuse of government information and the like (Sedigh & Ruzindana, 2004) . The typical manifestations of corruption in Nigeria which affect effective public financial management include but not limited to the following:

**Bribery:** Bribery involves the promise, offering or giving of a benefit that improperly affects the actions or decisions of a public servant.Bribery is widely considered as the commonest type of corruption.Poor countries tend to have the highest levels poverty and the poor, who depend most heavily on public services, often, face demands for bribes to obtain them. (Warf, 2017)

In Nigeria, where bribery is widespread and endemic, it is often accepted simply as another part of doing business.Bribery may be viewed simply as a means to get the bureaucratic machinery to move forward, and enriching oneself at public expense may not be seen as particularly loathsome.

According Mynit (2000) bribes operate in a numberof ways:

i. Bribes can influence who gets the contract, the terms of the contract, as well as terms of subcontracts when the project is implemented
ii. Bribes can influence the allocation of monetary benefits such as credit subsidies and favored prices and exchange
iii. Bribes can be used to reduce the amount of taxes, fees, dues, custom duties, and electricity and other public utility charges collected from business firms and private individuals.
iv. Bribes can speed up the granting of permission, licenses and permits to carry out activities that are perfectly legal. This is the so-called "grease money".

**Extortion:** Extortion involves coercing a person or entity to provide a benefit to a public servant (s) in exchange for acting (or failing to act) in a particular manner. It is similar to bribery only that the money is extracted using violence or threat of violence to extract money. (Varga-Hernandez, 2012) Whereas bribery is voluntarily offered by a citizen to public official, extortion is considered involuntary as the bribe-giver is offering bribe to avoid the wrath of overbearing and rent-seeking public official.(Okochukwu, 2002)

**Embezzlement:** Embezzlement involves theft of public resources, monetary or otherwise, by public servants entrusted with the authority and control of such resources. As an effect of embezzlement plundering of public resource is taking place. Embezzlement is characterized by the taking or conversion of money, property or other valuables for personal befits from the coffers of the government. (Varga-Hernandez, 2012)

**Fraud**: Fraud involves actions or behaviors by a public servant (s) that misleads other persons or entities (government, NGOs, or private business) into providing benefit that would not normally accrue to the public servant. Fraud is considered as an economic crime that involves some kind of deceit for the purpose of individual or group enrichment.(Mela et-al 2022).

**Abuse of Power**: Abuse of power involves a public servant using his/her vested authority to improperly benefit another public servant, person or entity. It also can involve a public servant using his/her vested authority to discriminate against other public servants, persons or entities. Thus abuse of power involves the practice misusing discretion for personal gain without external inducement or extortion. The administrative structure functioning from high national levels to the local levels is established by corrupt government premised on enabling government bureaucrats to comprehensively abuse citizen rights for their own personal benefits and in complicity that of their partners and extended network.(Varga-Hernandez, 2012)

***Conflict of Interest***: Conflict of interest cases involve situations where a public servants acting or failing to act on a matter where the personal interest of the public servant or the interest of persons or entities related to the concerned official is directly or indirectly affected.

***Insider Trading/Abuse of Privileged Information***: Insider trading/abuse of privileged Information involves the use of privileged information or knowledge that a public servant possesses by virtue of occupying a public office to advance his/her interests of the interest of persons or entities related to the official.The abuse of privileged information for private gain is evidenced by the leaking of civil service examination papers, school examination papers, classifies government documents, and terms of contracts in advance of competitive bidding for government contracts. (Zafrullah and Siddiquee, 2001)

***Favoritism***: According Suleiman & Othman (2017) favoritism denotes bestowal of preferential treatment or favor by an entrusted office holder on the basis of prejudices such as family relationship, ethnic, party or religious affiliation, or even friendship. Cronyism, nepotism and patronage-favors and opportunities bestowed on friendsfamily and supporters without regard to qualifications, individually or in combination, are the core to corrupt practices (Caiden, 2001

)In this aspect favoritism is considered as broader concept than nepotism. Favoritism in the civil service involves thesale of official's posts, positions, or promotion; nepotism; or other actions that undermine the creation of professional, meritocratic civil service. Favoritism also known as cronyism entails to grant offices or benefits to friends regardless of their abilities. A special form of favoritism is nepotism. Nepotism means that an office holder will favor his/her relatives and family members. Another instance of favoritism is cronyism which involves bestowing benefits and privileges to one's friends and acquaintances .(Mela et-al 2022).

**Collusion with Business Interests**: Collusion involves payments to government officials to foster or to sustain monopolistic or oligopolistic access to markets in the absence of compelling economic rationale for such restrictions. Corruption can be collusive in nature where individuals escape officialregulations or sanctions by paying payments to government officials. (Varga-Hernandez, 2012)

**Obstruction of Justice**: Obstruction of justice occurs when the natural process of justice or fairness is subverted to the benefit of few wealthy, well-connected, and powerful individual and groups to the detriment of the wider public.The selective application of laws would be a case in point.In most developing countries the people who are rich and well-connected to powerful government officials do not face justice or penalty for serious infarctions of the law. .(Mela et-al 2022).

**Procurement Contract/Bid Rigging:** Procurement contract/bid rigging includes procurement fraud, including collusion, overcharging, or the selection of contractors, suppliers, and consultants other than the criteria other than the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bidder. Project related corruption permeates both public and private sector contracting. A substantial commission must be paid to secure large public sector contracts.

**Influence Peddling*:*** Influence peddling popularly known as trading in influence refers to a situation where a person misuses his/her influence over the decision making process for a third party (person, institution or government) in return for his/her loyalty, money or any other material or immaterial undue advantage.(Slingerland, 2010). Thus when civil servants engage in influence peddling they unlawfully or illegally using their influence over the decision making process with the intention of benefiting a third party.(Slingerland, 2010). The natural expectation is that the benefiting third party would reward the government bureaucrats with money, wealth or any advantage.

**Effect of Corruption in Nigeria**

As cited in Mela et al (2022) corruption have the following effect:

1. Corruption acts as obstacle to the credibility of democratic system; it weakens ordinary people's confidence in government and subverts the rule of law and other tenets of democracy.
2. It encourages inefficiency and waste: It is an undeniable fact that in a corrupt political system where bribery and kickbacks reign supreme, contractors and suppliers always prefer to offer bribe as against efficiency and high productivity. In other words, they prefer to do hasty job against good delivery of work. Effective and efficient services are not working as expected(roads are bad, infrastructures and institutions are in a deteriorating condition). Today religious and ethnic origin determines what you get in the Nigerian system as all the institutions have been tainted by trials and settled bribes.
3. Corruption affects good education Standard**:** One of the problems that many nations are facing in their education sector is because the youth are not empowered. But when the youths are empowered, they will support the educational facilities to primary, secondary and even to tertiary institutions. The challenges many tertiary institutions in Africa are having today is lack of practical background. The machines and other equipment needed for this practical can be provided by youths who were empowered by the government. They do this in appreciation to what the government did for them. Empowering the youths academically accelerates the spirit of patriotism in education.
4. Corruption affects good governance which is attainable with youth empowerment. An empowered youth stands to empower the masses. Any youth who was empowered in his time of hardship will lead his people through the right path. He does anything possible to see that he meets up with the demand of the society. This is because he has been trained on how to

lead people. He applies what he learnt who do not know their left from their right, a well empowered youth on leadership skill gives "first class" rule to his nation. With youth empowerment on leadership, embezzlement of public fund by top governing officers becomes a history.

5. Corruption affects our National Growth: Biologically, growth is the irreversible increase in body size and weight of organism. Based on this paper, growth is the increase and improvement in many areas of the country. The infrastructures of many nations are built with the tax paid by the citizens. Workers who earn much because they were empowered contribute more of their money through tax payment. When the taxes are gathered, they are used for national development. The banking, educational agricultural and industrial sectors are developed with the money generated from these empowered youths.
6. An economy marred with corruption has the effect to scare foreign investment and aids donors. This will consequently result in shortage of money for empowerment programme.
7. Corruption leads to depletion of national resources, as money meant for development of the country is being taking out of the economy and kept somewhere in another country. The effects have been job losses and significant reduction in foreign investment in the economy.
8. Corruption, according to Gumede (2011), has a disproportionate impact on the livelihood of the poor
9. Increase poverty among the youth there by promoting social vices like crime, prostitution, cultism and lots more (Mynit 2021)
10. Late payment of salary and allowance: there is widespread complain of non payment of N-power allowances to the beneficiaries. Hence, mismanagement of resources due to corruption among public officials.
11. waste skill: Example,GIS which seeks to create opportunity for eligible graduate youths to be placed in reputable public/private sector firms to build the manpower requirement, ensure that their skills have been developed towards empowering them to be employable in the short/medium/long term, ensure that youths are attached as apprentices in reputable public/private firms for a period of one year where the skills of such individuals will be sharpened. Under this programme, skills were wasted due to mismanagement and poor programme implementation.
12. We can also opine that, there is reduction in quality of good and service in Nigeria due to act of corruption. Corruption reduces public spending and lead to poor state of infrastructural development

**Conclusion**

Corruption acts as obstacle to the credibility of democratic system; it weakens ordinary people's confidence in government and subverts the rule of law and other tenets of democracy.

It encourages inefficiency and waste: It is an undeniable fact that in a corrupt political system where bribery and kickbacks reign supreme, contractors and suppliers always prefer to offer bribe as against efficiency and high productivity. In other words, they prefer to do hasty job against good delivery of work. Effective and efficient services are not working as expected (roads are bad, infrastructures and institutions are in a deteriorating condition). Today religious and ethnic origin determines what you get in the Nigerian system as all the institutions have been tainted by trials and settled bribes.

Corruption also affects good education Standard**:** One of the problems that many nations are facing in their education sector is because the youth are not empowered. But when the youths are empowered, they will support the educational facilities to primary, secondary and even to tertiary institutions. The challenges many tertiary institutions in Africa are having today is lack of practical background. The machines and other equipment needed for this practical can be provided by youths who were empowered by the government. They do this in appreciation to what the government did for them. Empowering the youths academically accelerates the spirit of patriotism in education.

Corruption affects good governance which is attainable with youth empowerment. An empowered youth stands to empower the masses. Any youth who was empowered in his time of hardship will lead his people through the right path. He does anything possible to see that he meets up with the demand

of the society. This is because he has been trained on how to lead people. He applies what he learnt who do not know their left from their right, a well empowered youth on leadership skill gives "first class" rule to his nation. With youth empowerment on leadership, embezzlement of public fund by top governing officers becomes a history .(Mela et-al 2022)..

**Recommendations**

The paper recommends the followings;

1. In keeping with the three primary objectives of public expenditure management, the budget preparation process should aim at: ensuring that the budget fits macroeconomic policies and resource constraints ;Allocating resources in conformity with government policies; and providing conditions for good operational management. In minimizing the corrosive influence of public financial management corruption, it is essential that these three items for effective budget preparation be improved.
2. The coverage of the budget should be comprehensive. The budget should include all revenues and expenditures of the government, whatever the arrangements may be for managing some particular programs. Operational efficiency requires taking into account the specific characteristics of different expenditure programs when designing budget management rules (e.g., rules concerning transfers of resources from one budget item to another). When there is a strong link between revenue and benefit, earmarking arrangements maybe considered thereby enhancing performance in public service delivery. Weaknesses in the budgeting process depend in large part on political factors and on the organization of the government (e.g., lack of coordination, unclear lines of accountability, and overlaps in the distribution of responsibility).
3. Unclear lines of accountability and overlaps in the distribution of responsibility all contribute to increases in public financial management corruption.
4. Mechanisms for budgeting and policy formulation should be explicitly designed to reinforce coordination and cohesion in decision-making. Strengthening the budget preparation process requires improvements in the following directions: Decisions that have a fiscal impact should be scrutinized together with direct expenditure programs.
5. The external audit staff must have the professional skills required for the audits being performed. For an external auditor to move fromex-ante and regulatory audits to financial assurance and value-for-money (performance) audits, its present staff will have to be more extensively trained in the more complex audits. In order for the external audit function to be effective, especially when pursuing the strategic objective of improved management controls or undertaking more advanced type of audits, an effective means of communicating audit results and a sound approach for encouraging effective appropriate corrective action must also be developed.
6. Death penalty against corrupt practices can be enacted in to the Nigerian constitution just as it is obtainable in other developed countries like China and syngapoa who were able to apply death measures as deterrent against corrupt practices in public organization

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