

Corruption a Bane to Development in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

There is a mixed opinion in the economics literature on whether corruption promotes economic development or not. The complexity of corruption in terms of its definition and measurement has also deterred many studies to be carried out in terms of its effect on economic development. In order to have a good clarification, the study investigates the extent at which corruption affects development in Nigeria between 1982 and 2015 using cointegration and ECM methods of analysis to determine the long and short run effects of the variables. The findings from the study suggest that there is a long-run relationship among the variables (economic development (ED) and corruption) while the ECM explains that the previous year disequilibrium is adjusted back in this current year at 88.67% speed of adjustment. Overall, it is concluded that corruption has significant negative effect on economic development in Nigeria thereby slows down development in the country. The study therefore recommended among others, the need to strengthen anti-corruption agencies and also give them autonomy so as to enable them discharge their duties effectively.

Keywords: Cointegration, corruption, development, economic performance, ECM

INTRODUCTION

Basically, lack of economic development in Nigeria has been as a result of institutional deficiency due to misplaced priority of

pursuing self-interest at the expense of the nation. Generally, corruption spreads faster when the institutions that intend to correct and monitor it are very weak and inefficient.

Over the past four decades, Nigeria which is one of the largest oil producing countries has been finding it difficult to reduce its unemployment rate, income inequality among others (Igbaekemen et al., 2014; Omenka, 2013; Olatunji et al., 2014). Therefore, the thinking that the abundant human and natural resources should serve as

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catalysts for rapid development in Nigeria is misleading. Dagaci (2009) and Global Witness (2012) identified this to high level of corruption among the elites in Nigeria.

Ogbuagu et al. (2014) and Sachs (2007) explained further that corruption had scuttled critical development in Nigeria and had resulted into political and economic challenge for Nigeria. So, socio-political corruption has been bedeviled Nigeria for a long time.

Against this background, many researchers and policy-makers have been trying to identify the causes and effects of corruption so as to design appropriate policy interventions that could alleviate this phenomenon. In line with the above, this study addresses the role corruption plays in the development process of Nigeria and provides the quantitative estimates.

Majorly, in this study we examine the extent at which corruption affects economic development in Nigeria. The rest of the study consists of literature review, methodology, results and discussions, and finally conclusion.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretically, principal-agent theory which is a prevalent theory to this study states that corruption reduces economic development. It is a situation where government is the principal and corrupt official acting as agent by demanding bribes from individuals who require certain obligation to be rendered by the principal. The theory emphasizes on two types of corruption in government; the first is corruption without theft which makes the

agent to charge excess fees than government prescription while corruption with theft is a situation where the agent obtains the bribes without rendering anything to government. Corruption with theft is very rampant in Nigeria because individuals' benefits are more paramount than the nation's interests. Under this theory, corruption hurts development two ways. In the first place, bad governance allows for high level of bribes taking by the agents which can deter the execution of projects and also discourage investments which may affect further growth. Second, secretly corrupt practices encourage diversion of investment and resource allocation from high productive projects (education) to less productive projects (defense). This is possible because bribery on the defense projects can be done secretly but in the education sector collective responsibilities of the people is required. Thus, less productive projects promote secrecy of bribery which deters investments and development.

Gray and Kaufmann (1998) identified two types of corruption. The chaotic type of corruption subjected the bribe giver to bribe many officials without limitation as to the amount and assurance of obtaining anything in return. As for the well-planned corruption, the amount involved is fixed and there is assurance that the purpose for which the bribe is obtained will be achieved. These two types of corruption are very peculiar to Nigeria.

In defining corruption, the International Monetary Fund (International Monetary Fund [IMF], 2000) stated that it was misuse of trust imposed on somebody for

self-interest which permeates in public and private enterprises and non-profit organizations. One strand of the literature considers corruption a “grease the wheels” instrument that helps overcome cumbersome bureaucratic constraints, inefficient public services, and rigid laws (Lein, 1986), especially when countries’ institutions are weak, and ill functioning (Meon & Weill, 2010; De Vaal & Ebben, 2011). Senior (2006) in his own perception of corruption provided a condensed definition as a situation which made the bribe collector to influence certain things in which the bribe giver had interests. Accordingly, Ayoola (2005) emphasized that corruption in Nigeria had moved beyond bribery but in recent time it had transformed into embezzlement and theft of public funds, misuse of public power for self-interest, favouritism and nepotism, conflict of interest, and illegal political party financing. Consistent with the World Bank’s philosophy to eradicate corruption, Kim (2013) stated that corruption had become a permanent feature in developing countries and that any form of corruption was a denial of a pregnant woman who needed health care; or a girl or boy who deserved an education; or communities that needed water, roads, and schools. This is also buttressed further by Hakimi and Hamdi (2015) that a USAID opinion poll survey found that 60 percent of aid ended up in the hands of corrupt officials, while the Department for International Development in the United Kingdom found that 57 percent of the population reckoned that giving aid was pointless because of

the level of corruption. Furthermore, the World Bank (2015) observed that the goal to eradicate poverty by 2030 and improve people’s welfare could only be achieved when there was proper accountability and zero tolerance for corruption. So, corruption deters development.

Basically, developing is a general term that applies to those countries which are economically and socially underdeveloped and institutionally weak. Sorkaa (2003) asserted that development was the process by which goods and services were produced and distributed from the society’s resources for human welfare. It is emphasized further that for meaningful development to be achieved there must be improvement in the welfare of the people, in terms of their well-being and sense of belongings. Ujo (1995) in his own view described development as the transformation of institution which also required the citizens to reason positively. Iyoha (1996) and Hoff and Stiglitz (2000) observed further that development entailed progressing and having sustainable growth in the GNP and organizational change. Growth which is a prerequisite for change to occur is explained in Solow-Swan growth theory as the long-run growth rate of output based on two basic exogenous variables such as population growth rate and level of corruption in the country. This theory explains technological changes that occur from the rate of capital stock, human capital development, reduction in corruption and investment rate which serves as foundation of our modeling.

The Effects of Corruption in Nigeria

Despite all the achievements made by Nigeria in terms of being the largest oil exporter and other minerals and natural resources the economy suffered setbacks as a result of decadence of high level of corruption coupled with the bad governance, misappropriation of funds and high level banking frauds (Olatunji et al., 2014). The citizens are living below the poverty line at a per capital income of \$1,220 and one of the top three most corrupt countries in the world (Ribadu, 2003). Also ranked the 38th most corrupt country in the world, that is, 136th out of 175 countries assessed (Transparency International [TI], 2014).

In the last twenty five years more than \$200 billion out of \$300 billion of oil revenue have been mismanaged through fraud and wastage. This corruption which affected the entire nation also extended to Ajaokuta steel mill and Alcon aluminum plant which were constructed with seven billion dollars and three billion dollars respectively but produced no steel or aluminum up to date.

Corruption has been bedeviled Nigeria since independence in 1960 and also dented the image of the county externally due to the people's flamboyant affluence and high level of tastes. These have tempted many Nigerians to engage in fraudulent activities and rituals. The reason for this is as a result of inept attitude of past administrations in Nigeria because successive regimes subdued the rule of law. This is also buttressed further by Oyinola (2011) that despite anti-graft/anti-corruption laws in Nigeria the criminals

are still committing the act and facing the consequences.

The various empirical studies on corruption and economic growth have mixed results. For instance, Mo (2001) and Drury et al. (2006) identified political instability as the main channel through which corruption negatively impacted growth. In their own studies, Abed and Davoodi (2002), Hakimi and Hamdi (2015), Odi (2014), and Svensson (2005), results showed that corruption had negative impact on economic growth, while the studies of Chamseddine (2016) and Nwogu and Ijirshar (2016) result also found negative but no significant relationship. In another dimension, Kutan et al. (2009) found that higher levels of corruption were related to higher levels of GDP in those countries of study. In a related study, Rotini et al. (2013) results showed that corruption impaired and impacted economic growth. In the same vein, Akinpelu et al. (2013), and Muhuda (2013) using co-integration test and vector error correction model found a long run relation between corruption and economic growth in Nigeria.

In this study we observed that most empirical studies focused on the corruption-growth relationship rather than corruption-development nexus and failed to establish the existence of short and long run relationships with policy implication. There is need to fill this gap.

METHODS

The study employs Augmented Dicker-Fuller test, granger casualty test and co-

integration test in analyzing the secondary data collected from World Bank Database, Central Bank of Nigeria and Transparency International from 1982-2015. The study made use of co-integration test to see whether there exists a co-integration relationship among the variables in both the long and short run term.

Empirical Model

The empirical model of this study is based on Solow (1956) growth model, which examined economic growth in terms of capital accumulation and technological change. The study utilized Hicks-Neutral production function in the form of:

$$Q=Af(K,L) \tag{1}$$

where, Q, A, K and L denote output, technological change, capital and labor respectively. In this study technological change which serves as an increasing scale factor in the function is not relevant. Premise on the agency theory assumption that corruption reduces economic development the model was extended by including corruption and other controlled variables identified in the literature.

Thus, the linear expression of the above model is expanded and can be re-written as follows:

$$ED_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FDI_GDP_t + \beta_2 LABOR_t + \beta_3 CPI_t + \beta_4 EXD_GNI_t + U_t \tag{2}$$

where, ED is economic development, FDI_DGP is foreign direct investment as percentage of GDP, LABOR is the labor force, CPI is a corruption perception index, EXD_GNI is external debt as percentage of gross national income and U, as the error term.

The logarithm of the model can be specified as:

$$\log ED_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \log FDI_GDP_t + \beta_2 \log LABOR_t + \beta_3 \log CPI_t + \beta_4 \log EXD_GNI_t + U_t \tag{2.1}$$

The dynamic model of the long run relationship equation is specified as follows:

$$\Delta \log ED_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \Delta \log FDI_GDP_{t-1} + \beta_2 \Delta \log LABOR_{t-1} + \beta_3 \Delta \log CPI_{t-1} + \beta_4 \Delta \log EXD_GNI_{t-1} + ECM_{t-1} + V_t \tag{2.2}$$

Where Δ represents the first difference operator, ECM_{t-1} the error correction term, and V_t is a disturbance term.

Operationalization of the Variables

Table 1 below shows the brief description of the variables and the sources of their data.

Table 1
Variables exposition

Variables	Description	Sources
Dependent		
EDt	Economic development is a proxy for GDP. World Bank (2016) defines GDP as the sum of goods and services produced in a country.	World Bank Database

Table 1 (continue)

Variables	Description	Sources
Independent		
CPI _t	Corruptions Perceptions Index is proxy for corruption. The score is between 0 and 10, that is a country is highly corrupt at 0 point and very clean at 10 point.	Transparency International
LABOR _t	It consists of people who are 15 years and above and within economically active population, ILO defined them as all people (both employed and unemployed) who supply labor for the production of goods and services during a specific period.	World Bank Database
FDI_GDP _t	It is the inflows of foreign direct investments as a percentage of GDP.	World Bank Database
EXD _t	It serves as the value of total external debt owed by a country. It is included as percentage of GNI.	Central Bank of Nigeria

Source: Author's compilation, 2017

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive Statistics

The results in Table 2 below show that all the variables probabilities except corruption are less than the Jarque Bera chi-square and significant at the 5% level. The hypothesis which states that all the variables are normally distributed cannot be rejected because they pass the significance test at the 1 percent level. The Kurtosis coefficient indicates normal curves for all the variables with the values ranging between -3 and +3, while the positive skewness indicates

too few cases at the tail of the distribution. So, these results suggest that the use of a Johansen Cointegration model is justified since the hypothesis that the error vector is Gaussian white noise, that is, zero mean and finite variance, cannot be rejected.

Correlation

As depicted in Table 3 below, economic development is positively correlated with corruption but not significant, foreign investment and external debt while it is negatively correlated with labour force.

Table 2
Descriptive statistics

	ED	CPI	FDI_GDP	LABOR	EXD_GNI
Mean	3.665714	1.128286	3.008000	65.97714	1147.678
Std. Dev	7.672715	1.090603	2.268444	17.24344	1354.088
Skewness	1.172247	0.146831	1.737447	1.110701	1.434451
Kurtosis	8.559254	1.353963	6.184037	2.244564	3.933123
Jarque-Bera	53.08619	4.077025	32.39394	8.028574	13.27275
Probability	0.000000	0.130222	0.000000	0.018056	0.001312
Observations	35	35	35	35	35

Source: Author's compilation, 2017

This implies that increase in corruption, foreign investment and external debt are rather correlated with increased economic development while increased in labour force are correlated with decrease in economic development. Corruption has a negative

correlation with foreign investment and labour force but positive correlation with external debt. Foreign investment negative correlated with labour force and external debt. Finally, labour force is negatively correlated with external debt.

Table 3
Correlation results among the study variables

	ED	CPI	FDI_GDP	LABFORCE	EXD_GNI
ED	1				
CPI	0.379746	1			
FDI_GDP	0.068872	-0.148706	1		
LABFORCE	-0.459750	-0.633791	-0.258809	1	
EXD_GNI	0.522876	0.370475	-0.040582	-0.493190	1

Source: Author's compilation, 2017

Regression Results

The results of ADF unit root test in Table 4 below shows that economic development (ED) and corruption perception index (CIP), investment (FDI_GDP), labor force (LABOR) and external debt (EXD) are

integrated of order one (1(I)). Since the results show that all variables are non-stationary in levels, but stationary in first difference satisfies the condition of using Johansen's multivariate cointegration method to estimate the study model.

Table 4
Augmented Dickey Fuller Unit Root Test

Variables	ADF Test Statistic	1% critical values	5%critical values	Order	Remarks
EDt	4.800716	3.639407	2.951125	1(1)**	Stationary
CPIt	4.598834	3.646342	2.954021	1(1)**	Stationary
FDI_GDPt	3.461534	3.639407	2.951125	1(1)**	Stationary
LABORT	5.883406	3.646342	2.954021	1(1)**	Stationary
EXDt	3.611605	3.646342	2.954021	1(1)**	Stationary

*, **, *** are at 1%, 5% and 10% level of significant respectively.

Source: Author's compilation, 2017

Analysis Johansen Cointegration Results

The results of Johansen's multivariate cointegration test in Tables 5 and 6 show that

both the Trace and maximum Eigen value statistics exceeded the critical values at 5% significant level. More so, Eigenvalues are greater than zero and significant. So, the

null hypothesis which states that there is no cointegration has to be rejected in three equations which is an evident of a long-run relationship among some variables under the study. This is in line with the results of

Akinpelu et al. (2013) and Muhuda (2013) In order to absolve the short run fluctuations caused by the existence of a long-run relationship an Error Correction Mechanism (ECM) test was carried out.

Table 5
Unrestricted Cointegration Rank Test (trace)

Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Eigenvalue	Trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
None *	0.590888	61.01692	47.85613	0.0018
At most 1 *	0.472474	32.41641	29.79707	0.0244
At most 3 *	0.141594	4.885692	3.841466	0.0271

Source: Author’s compilation, 2017

Table 6
Unrestricted Cointegration Rank Test (maximum eigenvalue)

Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Eigenvalue	Trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
None *	0.590888	28.60051	27.58434	0.0370
At most 3 *	0.141594	4.885692	3.841466	0.0271

Source: Author’s compilation, 2017

Error Correction Model

Since cointegration is proven to exist, there is need to carry out error correction test to determine dynamic relationship. The purpose of the error correction model is to indicate the speed of equilibrium to the long-run equilibrium state. The results of Error Correction Model (ECM) in Table 7 below of -0.8886746 show that the system corrects itself back to equilibrium at the rate of 88.68% speed of adjustment after one year period. Also, since the value of R² of 0.477368 is lesser than Durbin Watson (DW) value of 1.91, it is evident that the ECM is not spurious model. More so, it shows that corruption and other related variables accounted for up to 47.74% variations in ED.

Table 7
Error correction model

ECM	-0.886746
R ²	0.477368
Durbin Watson Statistics	1.906038

Source: Author’s compilation, 2017

Granger Causality Test

The study carried out Granger Causality test based on lag 2 and 33 degree of freedom using F-tabulated value of 2.65 significant at 5% level in Table 8 below. The results show that EXD_GNI granger causes ED because the F-statistics of 3.80 is greater than 2.65 and also significant at 5% level. This implies that there is a uni-directional relationship between EXD_GNI and ED which is an evident that external debt slows

down economic development. Also, the FDI_GDP granger cause LABOR because the F-statistics of 5.04 is greater than 2.65 and also significant at 5% level, therefore,

there is uni-directional relationship between FDI_GDP and LABOR and this is evident that investments promote employment.

Table 8
Pairwise Granger Causality Test

Null Hypothesis	Obs	F-Statistic	Prob.
EXD_GNI does not Granger Cause ED	33	3.80369	0.0346
ED does not Granger Cause EXD_GNI		1.89257	0.1695
LABOR does not Granger Cause FDI_GDP	33	0.17088	0.8438
FDI_GDP does not Granger Cause LABOR		5.03500	0.0136

Source: Author's compilation, 2017

CONCLUSION

This study examined the effect of corruption on development of Nigeria. The outcomes of this study confirm some previous studies' result. Our findings show that corruption has negative but significant effect on development, and also hinders economic development through foreign investment in Nigeria. The foundations of sustainable development can only be shaped if the society could get rid of corruption which may invariably reduce poverty if not completely eradicated. Trillions of Naira which have been stolen by few Nigerians would have been put into providing the socio-economic needs of the people. So, it is concluded that meaningful development cannot take place in Nigeria in a situation where corrupt officials, politicians and their cohorts engaged in reckless misallocation of resources due to lack of proper monitoring and inability to apply the basic rules and regulations. Overall, this study will be of benefit to

the government in terms of formulating and implementing anti-corruption policy initiatives that will promote investment in human capital development that aids economic development.

In line with discussions and findings in this study the following recommendations were made:

- There is need for the general populace to change their perception of material wealth for a better value system.
- Strong anti-corruption campaign must be put in place by the government.
- The country perception of the culture and legacy of corruption need to be transformed.
- There is need to strengthen anti-corruption agencies and also give them autonomy so as to enable them discharge their duties effectively.

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