

## **Adesina Olugoke Oladipupo, Ph. D.**

Senior Lecturer  
Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences  
University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria  
E-mail: sina.oladipupo@uniben.edu

## **Peter Okeguale Ibadin, Ph. D.**

Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences  
University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

# **DO PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS DRIVE MAGNITUDE OF CORRUPT PRACTICES AMONGST PUBLIC OFFICEHOLDERS IN NIGERIA?**

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### ***Abstract***

*This study critically examines the effects of personal characteristics on the magnitude of corrupt practices amongst public office holders in Nigeria. Data for this study were obtained on ninety public office holders in Nigeria at various levels of government covering a time frame of twelve (12) years (2000-2011) who faced various charges of corruption and corrupt practices. The data included the number of charges, nature of offences, and amounts of money involved. Others were the personal characteristics of the alleged public officeholders like sex, ethnicity, religion, and education qualification. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and ordinary least square (OLS) regression technique. The results show that only sex has statistically significant positive relationship with the magnitude of corrupt practice while ethnicity is the only factor which impacts significantly on the magnitude of corrupt practice amongst public officeholders in Nigeria. We recommend that the undue demand on the men in the society to perform and meet the society demand should be minimized. The religious bodies should also sensitize their members about the evil effects of corruption so that when they get to public offices they will not*

*corrupt themselves. Ethnic groups should also rise to challenge and engage in ethnic moral cleansing to avoid being plagued as corrupt ethnic group(s) in Nigeria. Nigeria should domesticate the United Nations Convention on corruption (2003), which requires countries to criminalize behaviour such as bribery and embezzlement of public fund; influencing trade and the concealment and laundering of proceeds of corruption. This will help to curtail the spate of corruption amongst public officeholders in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** *Corrupt practices, anti-graft agencies, ethnic moral cleansing and magnitude of corrupt practice.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption has been the greatest problem facing Nigeria as a country today. Corruption has eaten deep into every facet and the fabric of the Nigeria. Nigeria has been rated as one of the most corrupt countries of the world. This canker worm has permeated every sector of the nation, right from the legislature through the executive, judiciary, down to ministries departments, and agencies as well as police, prisons customs, and in fact civil service in general. The resultant effects of corrupt practices include poverty, unemployment, infrastructural decay, rot in refineries, bad legislations, brain drain (emigration of potential human resources), square pegs in round holes, etc. The problem of corruption is what gives birth to other problems like insecurity, unemployment and lack of economic growth and development. Among the causes of corrupt practices are greed and avarice, ostentatious display of ill-gotten wealth, lack of the fear of God, lack of political will power to initiate, implement and sustained the fight against corruption; lack of stiff penalties (such as life sentence, and death sentence) against corrupt public officeholders; long military rule, dual loyalties (that is existence of two publics -the civil public and the primordial public) etc.

Successive administrations and governments in Nigeria have attempted the fight against corrupt practices among public office holders. These include the establishment of anti-corruption bodies such as War Against Indiscipline and Corruption (WAIC), due process procedure, Servicom, Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), various legislations etc. Corrupt practices manifest in the form of bribery, gratification, embezzlement, advanced fee fraud (419), kick back and advanced form of begging like “anything for the boys”.

Crave for wealth; greed and ostentatious display of ill-gotten wealth are some personal characteristics of public office holders in Nigeria. This in turn results to corrupt practices in various public offices and by the public office holders in Nigeria (ICPC, 2007). Corrupt practices manifest in various forms such as bribery, advanced fee (419), gratifications, embezzlement, and money laundry e.tc. Corrupt practices have a high damaging effects such as high level of poverty, unemployment, underemployment, under-remuneration of workers,

square pegs in round holes, financial hardship. Economic and infrastructural underdevelopment, and bad image before the international communities are also some other effects of corrupt practices among public office holders in Nigeria (Obayelu, 2009). Tackling the problem of corrupt practices will lead to economic and infrastructural growth and development, employment among the teeming youth and national image at the international level. This will in turn attract investors, both local and foreign.

The personal characteristics of public office holders such as morality and integrity have greatly affected their performance in Nigeria. Morality is a force that propels one to do what is right and to do it at the right time. Good and sound moral will always stand against corrupt practices. Integrity is the quality of having strong moral principle and a state of internal consistency devoid of corrupt tendencies (ICPC, 2007). Lack of public morality and integrity are therefore some basic personal characteristics that aid corruption and corrupt practices in Nigeria. Closely related to this is the problem of over ambition. Over ambition is the crave and craze for material wealth and the insatiable lusts and the desire to explore crook and hook means to satisfy the inordinate ambition. Dishonesty is the manipulation of fact and figures. Lies and deceptions are major personal characteristics of most of African public office holders. A dishonest man is morally corrupt because he is not truthful and lacks credibility. The attitude of some public office holders to ostentatiously display their ill-gotten wealth also encourages corruption and corrupt practices in Nigeria. Lack of financial discipline amongst many public office holders in Nigeria manifest in recklessness when it comes to handing public funds (ICPC, 2007). Corrupt behaviour is therefore motivated by the need for private-gain by public office holders (Alabi & Fashaba (2010).

There is no doubt that corruption generally has affected the effective performance of public office holders, the distortion and poor performance of services in the various public establishments. The overall effects of corruption on the provision of infrastructural amenities, economic growth, as well as national development in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. To this end, various governments at various times in Nigeria have come up with fantastic anti-corrupt practice policies to fight the corruption behaviour in Nigeria. Unfortunately, most at times we often seen the governments latter relaxing or lacking the political will to initiate and implement these polices and some even engaged freely in that corrupt practices thereby resulting to a case of “supposed physicians becoming patients” (Ogundiya, 2009).

The research questions in this study therefore are what are the relationships between the personal characteristics of the public office holders involved in corrupt practices and the magnitudes of corruption in Nigeria? How do the personal characteristics of the public office holders involved in corrupt practices impact on the magnitudes of corruption in Nigeria? The objectives of this study therefore include:

(i) To examine the relationships between personal characteristics and the magnitudes of corrupt practices in Nigeria.

(ii) To determine the impacts of personal characteristics on the magnitudes of corrupt practices in Nigeria.

The following hypotheses were tested in this study.

(i) There are no significant relationships between the personal characteristics of public office holders and the magnitude of corrupt practices in Nigeria.

(ii) The personal characteristics of public office holders do not significantly impact on the magnitude of corrupt practices in Nigeria.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In this section we present a review of some empirical studies related to our study. Iyoha (1995) examines the perennial problems that have hindered civil service planning and implementation of governmental programmes. The problems include retrenchment phenomenon, corruption and federal character or representative bureaucracy. He opines that every other problem takes root from corruption. He outlines some of the effects of corrupt practice to include contagious effect and restrictive and demoralizing effect. The contagious effect is the occurrence of influencing others to engage in the craze for quick wealth. The restrictive and demoralizing effect of corrupt practices is the reduction of serving officials' moral and innovativeness and consequently reduction in productivity and efficiency of serving public officers. Obayelu, (2007) examines the problem, causes and effects of corruption in Nigeria. Corruption is seen to be rooted in almost every aspect of the nation. High level of poverty, unemployment, under remuneration of workers, financial hardship, persuasion by friends and colleagues in public offices, desire to please kinsmen among others were considered as the causes of corruption. Despite enormous resources in the country, corruption in Nigeria is said to hinder economic growth; reduces economic efficiency and development. Corruption is said to create negative national image among the international communities and loss of needed revenue, devalues the quality of human life and discourages foreign investors. It makes the implementation of government reforms unsuccessful. He concluded that education of the populace on the danger of excessive materialism and the culture of "get rich quickly syndrome", creation of jobs and better remuneration systems were some the ways by which corrupt practices can be minimised amongst public officeholders in Nigeria.

As part of its mandate to prolong the statutory function of enforcements, prevention and education as contained in section 6 of independent corrupt and

other related offences commission Act (2000), ICPC (2007) presents how to live a corrupt –free, successful and happy life. It looked at various situations that pose challenges to people’s integrity. National integrity outreach was introduced in 2006 with various projects which include the Integrity First Initiative (IFI); Integrity in Schools and the National Value Curriculum for use at various educational levels; the integrity code for Anti-Corruption and Transparency monitoring Units (ACTU) aiming at enhancing service delivering and eradicating corruption in the public service; and the integrity guides and lectures for members of the Nation Youth Service Corp (NYSC). The author in a nutshell reveals what integrity is all about; its moral value in fighting corruption and the effect of impacting and sensitizing the youth early to prevent corruption tendencies.

Ogundiya (2009) looks at corruption from ethnicity, primordialism, patrimonialism, clientelism, democratic instability, neo-patrimonialism, soft state thesis and existence of two publics point of view. He further posits that corrupt practices have been the trouble of legitimacy, democratic stability and socio-economic and political development in Nigeria. Due to corrupt practices, there is unnecessary wastage of scarce resources, the tragedy of development and democracy. The attempts by previous governments to solve corruption problem have failed and in fact “some that attempted to be physicians have left the offices as patients of corruption”. And various institutions set up to tackle the problem failed as a result of lack of political will to initiate and implement anti-corruption laws and sustain anti-corruption fight. To curb corruption the robbery of the civil public to enrich the primordial public should be discouraged. There is also the need to demystify ethnicity and address the problem of citizenship. In other words, Nigerians should see themselves as citizens of Nigeria and should be above ethnic or tribal sentiments.

On the other hand, Alabi and Fashagba (2010) examine the role of the legislature in the anti-corruption initiatives by the Nigeria government. He sees corrupt practices as major challenge to socio-economic, political and technological development and productive utilization of allocated resources. It leads to lopsided distribution of wealth, malfunctioning and decayed infrastructures and degrading living condition among great number of the citizenry. In fighting corrupt practices, it is discovered that the institutions constitutionally set up to fight corrupt practices are also involved in the corrupt practices. Corrupt practices persist in Nigeria due to long military rule marked by massive corrupt practices and the rule with impunity. The effects of eradicate corruption moved international institutions like World Bank, and International Parliamentary Association (IPA) to continue to champion the need to combat corruption. At the domestic parlance, the three organs of government need to join hands to fight corruption. The legislature has the duty of protecting public fund and other resources but instead the flood of corruption gradually penetrated and eroded the moral standard of the National House of Assembly. They gave a list of people from the legislative arms of government that have rubbished their integrity in the mud of corruption. These include people like Salisu Ibrahim ( the speaker

of the House of Representatives in 1999) falsified academic claim and was forced to resign. Senator Pius Chukka Okadigbo, president of Senate in 2000 was impeached on the ground of corrupt practices. Senator Haruna Abubakar (the Deputy Senate president) was impeached because he embezzled ₦16.9 million as Christmas and Salla gifts. Adolphus Wabara-(president of Senate in 2005) connived with the senate chairman and house committee on education and took bribe of ₦55million from education ministry and was forced to resign. Patricia Etteh (speaker of House of Representative in 2007) awarded contract at inflated price of ₦628 million and she was forced to resign. Iyabo Obasanjo (chairman, senate committee on health of the house of senate in 2008) was arrested and arraigned for collecting ₦10 million bribes; shared unspent budget in 2007; and took a contract of ₦3.5 billion for power generation alongside with an Australian firm but failed to execute the contract after taken certain amount. And Dimeji Bankole (the speaker of the House of Representatives) was alleged to have over invoiced the bill for the purchase of vehicles for oversight functions at rate of ₦2.4 billion although he was after cleared of the offences in a controversial manner. The authors remarked that that failure to curb corruption in the various dimensions and magnitudes has the tendency to threaten democratic sustainability and cripple economic development in a fragile democracy like that of Nigeria.

Enweremadu (2010) reviews the efforts of two governments in Nigeria to fight corruption. These are the Obasanjo and Yar Adua's administrations. Seeing the destructive effects of corrupt practices, Olusegun Obasanjo's administration made the fight against corrupt practices the topmost of its agenda and policies although with loopholes here and there. This resulted in the setting up of anti-corruption agencies like the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) and Economic Financial Crime Commission (EFCC). President Umaru Yar Adua also promised to continue with the reformation policies of his predecessor. In spite of the promises, the anti-corruption fight was inefficient under his administration. Some of the reasons for the failure were that Yar Adua was defending and patronizing public office holders who were indicted by anti-corruption commission especially the ex-governors who were believed to have been very instrumental in his election as the president of Nigeria. However, some governors were prosecuted and convicted. Example was the former Governor of Edo State, Lucky Igbinedion, although he was later released on the payment of fine. It was further observed that President Yar Adua did not permit the prosecution of popular anti-corruption crusaders especially Nuhu Ribadu, the former chairman of Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), thus, distorting the impartiality and independence of the anti-graft agency. The greatest problem observed was that President Yar'Adua was considered not to be forceful enough both in speech and action with his anti-corruption programme. The author observed that there is much of the politicking of EFCC in terms of who the EFCC will prosecute. The case of the former Governor of Delta State, James Ibori, is a typical example. Apart from the name of James Ibori was not included on the EFCC list of corrupt public officers during Yar'Adua regime, he also secured a legal victory or the other. However, James

Ibory was declared wanted and latter arrested in Dubai at the emergence of President Goodluck Jonathan. Thus, the anti-corruption fight was considered more successful during Olusegun Obasanjo's administration than during Yar'adua's administration. It was recommended that the anti-corruption agencies should be removed from the grip and look of political interference to make them effective.

Akawu (2010) presents the report of the international corruption watch dog called Transparency International (TI), an organization that measures the degree of corrupt practices that exist among public officials and politicians in 180 countries across the globe and yearly issues corruption perception index (CPI). Until 2006, Nigeria was ranked the second most corrupt country in the world with lowest corruption perception index (CPI) ranking 1.0 in 2001. Nigeria was rated as the number 130<sup>th</sup> position out of 180 countries and scores 2.5 mark of CPI later. She occupied the position of the 50<sup>th</sup> most corrupt countries in the world in 2009. She occupied the position of 27<sup>th</sup> most corrupt countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The position and CPI score affect the nation's image locally and internationally as well as investments opportunities.

Olasupo (2010) observes that corruption has been the chief cause of backwardness and frustration of the development of Nigeria. He attempts to reveal the decay in the judiciary. He condemns in a very strong term, the activities of the judiciary in frustrating the efforts of anti-graft agencies like the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). He considers the case of Micheal Aondoakaa Kaasa as the Anthony General of the Federation (AGF) of Nigeria. It was opined that the anti-corruption battle suffers serious setback during the tenure of Mr. Micheal Aondoakaa Kaasa (SAN) especially in area of prosecution for the Attorney-General of the Federation took over cases of corrupt public officers who were prosecuted by EFCC. For instance, Mr. Micheal Aondoakaa Kaasa (SAN) was a counsel to the former Governor of Benue and when he became the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) he used his power to defend the former Governor. Other cases of the corrupt activities of the former Attorney General of the Federation include: EFCC versus Orji Uzor; Federal Republic of Nigeria versus Odiri; Federal Republic of Nigeria versus Fred Ajuda 1D/41C/2003, to mention but a few. Some of these corrupt cases were discharged and acquitted without proper trial. It was submitted that the refusal of Mr. Micheal Aondoakaa Kaasa (SAN) as the Attorney-General of the Federation to sign a request under the "mutual legal assistance treaty" (2007) as requested by the crown service in order to frustrate corruption charges pending against former Governor James Onanefe Ibory and three others is a further proof of his corrupt practices.

Ademola (2011) examines some corrupt deals in the National Assembly in Nigeria. Right from the Toronto certificate forgery scandal involving Salisu Buhari, the first speaker of the House of Representatives to the first female speaker in person of Patricia Olubami Ette for attempting to renovate her official

residence with about ₦238 million in October 2007. Only ₦53 million or 25 percent of the sum was paid by her. The case of Dimeji Barkole who succeeded Patricia Olubunmi Etteh as the speaker of the House of Representatives was also reported. In spite of all the promises made to purge the House of Representatives from corruptions, Dimeji Barkole also became a victim of corrupt practices. He was alleged of misappropriating ₦9 billion of the ₦11 billion capital votes of the House in 2008-2009 budget and the corrupt practices in the purchase of cars worth ₦2.4 billion in 2008, buying special vehicles worth ₦335,5 million for the leadership of the lower chamber of the National Assembly and purchase of office equipment at over inflated price. Also a ₦10 billion bank loan was secured by Dimeji Bankole without the knowledge of his colleagues to finance the activities of the House.

Obasi (2012) considers the magnitude of corrupt practices in the law enforcement agency, the Nigeria police. The case of former Inspector General of Police, Tafa Balogun who was convicted for corrupt practices and embezzlement and the corruption role played by the police officer Zakari in the case of Boko Haram terrorism were analyzed. The escape of the Boko Haram kingpin, Kabiru Umar Sokoto who was responsible for the Christmas day (of 25<sup>th</sup> December 2011) bombing of St Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State was as a show of corrupt practice by the Nigeria police. Kabiru Umar was said to have escaped amidst tight security on his way to his house (130 kilometres from Abuja) as part of police investigation at Abuja. It was a national shame and the authority concern never took it lightly. This was what led to the dismissal of Zakari that led the search team by a Commissioner of Police.

Soyinka (2012) examines critically the corrupt situation in the country and that of the legislature. In his own words, he said Nigeria legislature is a 'hydropus' of corruption. According to him, the demonstration/industrial strike action organized by Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC) and the civil society organizations on the removal of oil subsidy was actually a protest against corruption but not just against the increase of fuel price. He further posits that what actually boards the minds of the masses are where the subsidy is that were removed from other products and the one removed from fuel now. Is it in the nations' account or of the greedy politicians and individuals? Describing the magnitude and persistency of corrupt practices in Nigeria, Soyinka coined a word from Hydra and Octopus to form "Hydropus". Like the Hydra when you cut off one head, another one will grow out, and the Octopus (the sea animal) which springs up. This continues like that and thus corruption in Nigeria has an "unending cycle". He showed further that the Nigeria legislature (the highest law making body in Nigeria) can best be described as the hydropus of corruption. He advocated the changing of the legislative-system by calling for national conference excluding the legislators themselves to discuss the new legislative reform.

Corruption has been the brain drain, the dangerous monster, a deadly weapon destroying the nation and a cankerworm that has eaten deep into the



fabric of Nigeria. It has brought a great sect back to the nation Nigeria both at the local, national and the international levels. The retrogressive mark of corruption is seen in every facet of the national development; economic, social and infrastructural developments. Social vices such as armed robbery, killings, and kidnapping are offshoots of corruption. The civil service, which are essentially the executive, judiciary, customs, police, prisons, and other public agencies need overhauling to facilitate their service delivery mandate and to reduce corruption to the barest minimum. The public office holders need reorientation against the culture of corruption and corrupt practice.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### Method of Data Collection

This section presents the methodology used in conducting this research work. The cross sectional survey method of research design was adopted in this study. Data were obtained on the personal characteristics and corrupt practices of ninety (90) public office holders in various establishments in Nigeria from 2000 and 201. A simple random sampling technique was adopted. The data were gathered from the official records of the cases handled by the anti-graft agencies published in books, dailies, news media and Internet. Data included the name of indicted public officer, sex, age, religion affiliation, educational qualification, ethnicity, official status, date/year first arraigned in court or prosecuted, number of count charges, nature of offences or charges, and amount of money involved.

#### Model Specification

The study attempts to determine the personal characteristics (factors) of public officeholders that affect the magnitude of their corrupt practices in Nigeria. Therefore, the functional form of the model capturing the factors as it affects the magnitude of corrupt practice amongst public officeholders in Nigeria is presented in equation 1.

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \sum \beta_n X'_{ni} + \mu_i$$

$$Y_i = f[\text{Personal characteristics of public office holders}]$$

$$\text{MCP} = f[\text{Sex, Age, Rel, Eduqual, Ethn, Count, Nature}] \tag{1}$$

Putting equation (1) into estimating form we have equation 2.

$$\text{MCP}_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Sex}_i + \beta_2 \text{Age}_i + \beta_3 \text{Rel}_i + \beta_4 \text{Edqual}_i + \beta_5 \text{Ethn}_i + \beta_6 \text{Count}_i + \beta_7 \text{Nature}_i + \mu_i \tag{2}$$

where,

|     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| MCP | = | Magnitude of corrupt practices stated in Naira      |
| Sex | = | Sex of the public officeholder (+)                  |
| Age | = | Age of the public officeholder (-)                  |
| Rel | = | Religion affiliation of the public officeholder (±) |

|                            |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Edqual<br>(±)              | = | Highest education qualification of the public officeholder |
| Ethn                       | = | Ethnicity of the public officeholder (±)                   |
| Count<br>officeholder (+)  | = | Number of count charges levelled against the public        |
| Nature<br>officeholder (±) | = | Nature of offences/charges levelled against the public     |
| $\mu_i$                    | = | Error term.  |

### Method of Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Pearson product moment correlation and the ordinary least square (OLS) regression techniques using an econometric software 7.0 series. Test of heteroskedasticity using Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey method was conducted.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the data analyses on ninety (90) individuals' cases of corrupt public officials between 2000 and 2011 in Nigeria are considered. The outcomes are presented as descriptive statistics, correlations matrix, OLS regression and test of hypotheses. The results of the descriptive statistical analyses are presented in Table 1.

Table 1.

Descriptive Statistics

| Variable | Mean     | Standard deviation | Minimum | Maximum |
|----------|----------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| AGE      | 53.32222 | 8.352928           | 25      | 70      |
| COUNT    | 33.51111 | 42.77173           | 0       | 196     |
| EDUQUAL  | 4.588889 | 1.090247           | 1       | 6       |
| ETHN     | 2.733333 | 1.109712           | 1       | 4       |
| MCP      | 27.6168  | 59.95769           | 0       | 277.3   |
| NATURE   | 2.544444 | 1.781056           | 1       | 7       |
| REL      | 1.877778 | 0.858896           | 1       | 3       |
| SEX      | 1.067    | 0.251              | 1       | 2       |

Source: Authors (2013)

A close look at the above variables from table 1 indicates that Age (AGE) has the highest mean value of 53.years. This is followed by count charges (COUNT) with a mean value of 34 count charges; followed by amount of corruption involved (MCP) with a value of ₦27.6168 billion; followed by educational qualification (EDUQUAL) 4.588889 followed by ethnicity (ETHN) 2.733333 followed by Nature (NATURE) of

offence charged for 2.544444 followed by Religion (REL) 1.877778 while Sex (SEX) has a value of 1.067. The table 1 further shows that all the variables have a positive standard deviation values with age (AGE) having the highest value of 8.35 while sex (SEX) has the lowest value of 0.251. From all indications in the table 1, amount involved in corrupt practices (MCP) has the highest maximum value of 277.3 while count charges (COUNT) and amount involved (MCP) have the lowest minimum value of zero (0) each.

A look of the distribution of the variables shows that of the number of the corrupt cases, there were more male (93%) than the female (7%) public officeholders (Table 2)

Table 2.

Sex distribution of corrupt public officeholders

|        | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative<br>Percent |
|--------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Male   | 84        | 93.3    | 93.3                  |
| Female | 6         | 6.7     | 100.0                 |
| Total  | 90        | 100.0   |                       |

Source: Authors (2013)

These corrupt public officeholders are mostly graduates with majority having bachelor degree (43%). This shows that these corrupt public officeholders are highly educated and education does not deter corrupt tendencies (Table 3).

Table 3.

Educational qualifications of corrupt public officeholders

|                                 | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative<br>Percent |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| First Living School Certificate | 1         | 1.1     | 1.1                   |
| Secondary School Certificate    | 2         | 2.2     | 3.3                   |
| Diploma Degrees                 | 6         | 6.7     | 10.0                  |
| Bachelor Degree                 | 39        | 43.3    | 53.3                  |
| Master Degree                   | 18        | 20.0    | 73.3                  |
| Ph.D Degree                     | 24        | 26.7    | 100.0                 |
| Total                           | 90        | 100.0   |                       |

Source: Authors (2013)

These corrupt public officeholders are of different ethnic groups. Most of these are from Yoruba while about 66% of these corrupt public officeholders come from the three dominant ethnic groups of Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa in Nigeria (Table 4).

Table 4

Ethnic groups of corrupt public officeholders

|        | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative<br>Percent |
|--------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Hausa  | 15        | 16.7    | 16.7                  |
| Yoruba | 25        | 27.8    | 44.4                  |
| Igbo   | 19        | 21.1    | 65.6                  |
| Others | 31        | 34.4    | 100.0                 |
| Total  | 90        | 100.0   |                       |

Source: Authors (2013)

Table 5

Religion affiliations of corrupt public officeholders

|              | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative<br>Percent |
|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Christianity | 39        | 43.3    | 43.3                  |
| Islam        | 23        | 25.6    | 68.9                  |
| Others       | 28        | 31.1    | 100.0                 |
| Total        | 90        | 100.0   |                       |

Source: Authors (2013)

Corrupt practices of these public officeholders vary from financial fraud, money laundry, stealing and duping. Others include misappropriation and embezzlement of public fund; conspiracy, illegal award of contracts and obtaining money through false pretence; and criminal breach of trust. Table 6 shows the distribution of the nature of the various corrupt practices committed by these public officeholders.

Table 6

Nature of Corrupt Charges or Offences against corrupt Public Officeholders

|  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative<br>Percent |
|--|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Financial Fraud, Money<br>Laundry, Stealing and<br>Duping                            | 41        | 45.6    | 45.6                  |
| Bribery  | 5         | 5.6     | 51.1                  |
| Misappropriation,<br>Embezzlement of public<br>fund, Stealing and financial<br>fraud | 21        | 23.3    | 74.4                  |
| Conspiracy, embezzlement<br>and illegal award of<br>contracts                        | 14        | 15.6    | 90.0                  |
| Corruption and criminal<br>breach of trust   | 1         | 1.1     | 91.1                  |
| Intent to defraud  | 2         | 2.2     | 93.3                  |
| Obtaining money through<br>false pretence  | 6         | 6.7     | 100.0                 |
| Total  | 90        | 100.0   |                       |

Source: Authors (2013)

**Correlation Results**

Table 7 presents the correlation results of the variables under considerations. The correlation coefficients show the relationships that exist among the variables under consideration.

Table 7

Pair-wise Correlation Matrixes

| Variable | MCP     | SEX      | AGE      | EDUQUAL  | REL     | ETHN    | COUNT   | NATURE |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| MCP      | 1.000   |          |          |          |         |         |         |        |
| SEX      | 0.2098* | 1.000    |          |          |         |         |         |        |
|          | 0.0472  |          |          |          |         |         |         |        |
| AGE      | 0.0255  | 0.0272   | 1.000    |          |         |         |         |        |
|          | 0.8116  | 0.7993   |          |          |         |         |         |        |
| EDUQUAL  | 0.0361  | 0.1424   | 0.4614*  | 1.000    |         |         |         |        |
|          | 0.7353  | 0.1805   | 0.0000   |          |         |         |         |        |
| REL      | -0.1202 | -0.2747* | -0.0994  | -0.0663  | 1.000   |         |         |        |
|          | 0.2593  | 0.0088   | 0.3514   | 0.5349   |         |         |         |        |
| ETHN     | 0.1742  | -0.0565  | -0.0076  | 0.0012   | -0.0582 | 1.000   |         |        |
|          | 0.1005  | 0.5968   | 0.9434   | 0.9908   | 0.5861  |         |         |        |
| COUNT    | -0.1455 | -0.0357  | -0.0295  | 0.0834   | -0.0858 | 0.1580  | 1.000   |        |
|          | 0.1711  | 0.7385   | 0.7826   | 0.4348   | 0.4216  | 0.1370  |         |        |
| NATURE   | -0.1219 | -0.0067  | -0.3412* | -0.2596* | 0.0734  | -0.0281 | -0.1649 | 1.000  |
|          | 0.2524  | 0.9500   | 0.0010   | 0.0135   | 0.4919  | 0.7930  | 0.1204  |        |

Source: Authors (2013)

Values below the correlation coefficients are the probability values. \* Indicates significance at 5%

The magnitude of corrupt practices (MCP) our dependent variable is positively related to sex, ethnicity, educational qualification, and age but negatively related to number of count charges, nature of corrupt practices and religious affiliations in that sequence of importance. However, none of the independent variables are highly correlated. The highest correlations exist between age and educational qualification (0.4614) and between age and nature of corrupt practices (-0.3412). None of this is high to suggest the incidence of multi-colinearity problem.

Our first hypothesis states that there are no significant relationships between the personal characteristics of public officeholders and the magnitude of corrupt practices in Nigeria. A look at the correlation coefficients in Table 7 shows that of all the personal characteristics of the public officeholders considered in this study only sex has statistical significant positive relationship with the magnitude of corrupt practice amongst public officeholders in Nigeria at 5% level.

### Regression Analysis

Here consider the results of the estimated ordinary least square regression analysis that examines the effects of the personal characteristics on the magnitude of corrupt practices amongst public officeholders in Nigeria. The dependent variable is the magnitude of corrupt practices while the explanatory variables are sex, age, religion, and educational qualification, and ethnicity, number of count charges and nature of corrupt practices. Table 8 presents the results of the ordinary least square regression analysis.

Table 8

Results of Ordinary Least Square Regression Analysis

| Variable | Coefficient | Std error | t-statistic | Prob.  |
|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| C        | -4.55846    | 62.54379  | -0.072884   | 0.9421 |
| SEX      | 47.03257    | 25.9721   | 1.810888    | 0.0738 |
| AGE      | -0.32336    | 0.87162   | -0.370991   | 0.7116 |
| REL      | -4.48805    | 7.558841  | -0.593749   | 0.5543 |
| EDUQUAL  | 0.007087    | 6.524784  | 0.001086    | 0.9991 |
| ETHN     | 11.29902    | 5.643453  | 2.002147    | 0.0486 |
| COUNT    | -0.28685    | 0.149826  | -1.914536   | 0.059  |
| NATURE   | -5.35549    | 3.769682  | -1.420675   | 0.1592 |

Dependent Variable: MCP

Source: Authors (2013)

From the Table 8 we present the regression equation in equation 3.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{MCP} = & -4.55 + 47.03\text{SEX} - 0.32\text{AGE} - 4.49\text{REL} + 0.01\text{EDUQUAL} + \\
 & 11.30\text{ETHN} - 0.29\text{COUNT} - 5.36\text{NATURE} \quad (3) \\
 & (-0.07) \quad (1.81) \quad (-0.37) \quad (-0.59) \quad (0.00) \quad (2.00) \quad (-1.91) \quad (-1.42) \\
 R^2 = & 0.13 \quad \text{Adjusted } R^2 = 0.059 \quad \text{S.E of Regression} = 58.14682 \quad \text{F-Stat} = 1.80 \\
 & (0.09) \quad \text{Durbin Watson} = 0.96
 \end{aligned}$$

From the regression model above, it is seen that MCP depends positively on sex, educational qualifications and ethnicity. On the other hand, MCP depends negatively on age, religion affiliation, count charges and nature of corrupt practices but positively dependent on sex, educational qualification and ethnicity. All the independent variables with the exception of number of count charges were correctly signed as they met their a-prior signs. A-priorially, we expect that the number of count charges should impact positively on the magnitude of corrupt practices but this is contrary from the results. Less count charges imply more magnitude of corrupt practices as shown by our results. To test our second hypothesis, which states that the personal characteristics of public office holders do not significantly impact on the magnitude of corrupt practices in Nigeria, we check on the significance of the regression coefficients. The results show that only the factor of ethnicity impacts significantly on the magnitude of corrupt practices amongst public officeholders in Nigeria. This seems to support the claim that corruption is culture-specific.

On the overall performance of the model, the adjusted coefficient of determination (adjusted  $R^2$ ) shows that the all the personal characteristics considered in the study could only explain about 6% of the systematic variations in the magnitude of corrupt practices amongst public office holders in Nigeria. This shows that about 94% of the systematic variations in the magnitude of corrupt practices amongst public officeholders in Nigeria. The low value of F-statistic shows that the model lacks goodness of fit. The low value of Durbin Watson statistic is nothing to worry about because the study is a cross-sectional and not time series study and hence the problem of serial correlation is not an issue. Hence, what is important to check here is whether or not there is incidence of heteroskedasticity. The test of heteroskedasticity is presented in Table 9.

Table 9

Heteroskedasticity Test: Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey

|                     |          |                     |        |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------|--------|
| F-statistic         | 1.340657 | Prob. F(7,82)       | 0.2420 |
| Obs*R-squared       | 9.242409 | Prob. Chi-Square(7) | 0.2357 |
| Scaled explained SS | 33.10974 | Prob. Chi-Square(7) | 0.0000 |

Source: Authors (2013)

From the F-statistic value and the associated probability value in Table 9, it is evident that there is no heteroskedasticity in the cross-sectional data.

## **5. SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

The study shows that more male public officeholders engage in corruption and corrupt practices in Nigeria than their female counterparts. Ironically most of them are graduates of higher institutions and level of education attainment in life is not a panacea to corrupt practices. Ironically, one ethnic group, the Yoruba, was dominant among the reported cases of corrupt practice. Likewise, most corrupt public officeholders in this study are of Christian religion. However, no ethnic group or religious group preach in favour of corruption. Corruption is a condemnable act in any religion. It could well be that these corrupt public officeholders do not imbibe the ethics of their religion such as Christianity. Most of the common corrupt practices amongst the public officeholders include financial fraud, money laundry, and duping. Others are misappropriation of public funds, embezzlement, conspiracy, and illegal of awards of contracts. Of all the personal characteristics considered in this study, sex appears to be positively correlated with the magnitude of corrupt practices while ethnicity impacts significantly on the magnitude of corrupt practices amongst public officeholders. Hence, we can conclude that corruption is gender and ethnicity sensitive amongst public officeholders in Nigeria.

From the foregoing we like to recommend that families should try into inculcate principle of integrity and the fear of God into their children so that when they grow they will not depart from it. The craze for material wealth particularly amongst the men is a reflection of the undue demand on them to perform and meet the society demand. The religious bodies should also sensitize their members of the evil effects of corruption so that when they get to public offices they will not corrupt themselves. A situation where a corrupt public officeholder who was detained and later released went to do thanksgiving in a religious house in Nigeria should be decried. This act gives public approval to corruption in public offices. Again, ethnic groups should rise to challenge and engage in ethnic moral cleansing to avoid being plague as corrupt ethnic group(s) in Nigeria. Nigeria should domesticate the United Nations convention on corruption (2003), which requires countries to criminalize behaviour such as bribery and embezzlement of public fund; influencing trade and the concealment and laundering of proceeds of corruption. This will help to curtail the spate of corruption amongst public officeholders in Nigeria.



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## ***Dr. sc. Adesina Olugoke Oladipupo***

Viši predavač  
Odjel za računovodstvo, Fakultet za menadžment  
Sveučilište u Beninu, Benin City, Nigeria  
E-mail: sina.oladipupo@uniben.edu

## ***Dr. sc. Peter Okeguale Ibadin***

Odjel za računovodstvo, Fakultet za menadžment  
Sveučilište u Beninu, Benin City, Nigeria

# **UTJEČU LI OSOBNE KARAKTERISTIKE NA OPSEG KORUPTIVNIH RADNJI MEĐU JAVNIM DUŽNOSNICIMA U NIGERIJU?**

## ***Sažetak***

*Studija kritički istražuje učinke osobnih karakteristika na opseg koruptivnih radnji među javnim dužnosnicima u Nigeriji. Podaci su prikupljeni na uzorku od 90 javnih dužnosnika koji su se suočili s raznim optužbama za korupciju i koruptivne radnje u Nigeriji na različitim razinama u vladi u razdoblju od 12 godina (2000-2011). Podaci uključuju broj optužbi, privodu kaznenih djela i količinu novca. Drugi uključuju osobne karakteristike navodnih javnih dužnosnika poput spola, etničke pripadnosti, religije, i obrazovne kvalifikacije. Podaci su analizirani deskriptivnom statistikom, korelacijskom analizom, i regresijom metodom najmanjih kvadrata (OLS). Rezultati pokazuju da samo spol ima statistički značajnu pozitivnu vezu s opsegom koruptivnih radnji, dok je etnička pripadnost jedini faktor koji značajno utječe na opseg koruptivnih radnji među javnim dužnosnicima u Nigeriji. Preporučamo da bi trebalo minimalizirati pretjeranu potražnja za muškarcima koji bi obavljali i ispunjavali društvene zahtjeve. Vjerske organizacije bi trebale osvijestiti svoje članove o štetnim učincima korupcije kako ne bi postali korumpirani kada postanu javni dužnosnici. Etničke skupine bi također trebale prihvatiti izazov i uključiti se u etničko moralno čišćenje kako ne bi bile korumpirane. Nigerija bi trebala prihvatiti Konvenciju Ujedinjenih naroda protiv korupcije (2003) koja zahtijeva kriminalizaciju ponašanja poput primanja mita i pronevjere javnih fondova, utjecanje na trgovinu, i prikrivanje i pranje prihoda od korupcije. Ovo će pomoći ograničiti bujicu korupcije među javnim dužnosnicima u Nigeriji.*

***Ključne riječi: Koruptivne aktivnosti, antikorupcijske agencije, etničko moralno čišćenje i opseg korupcije.***

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