**CORRUPTION AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGEIRA 2007-2017**

**BY**

**OZOEMENA IKECHUKWU MICHEAL**

**U13/MSS/POL/022**

**A PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE/ INTERNATIOAN RELATIONS**

**FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY, UGWUOMU-NIKE ENUGU STATE**

**JULY, 2018.**

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**NIGERIA**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWORD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.SC) DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**SUPERVISOR DR. ONWO, D.O**

**JULY, 2018.**

**Certification**

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(Head of Department)

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External Examiner Date

**Dedication**

This work is first and foremost, is dedicated to God lord Almighty who in his infinite mercy, grace, love and strength made it possible for me to successfully accomplish this academic project work.

**Acknowledgement**

I am grateful to God almighty for the strength, grace, and mercy to start and complete this course successfully despite my health challenges and also my mother Mary in calling of her name and saying of her Rosary she intercede for me in this year in school and this project work.

My appreciation to my supervisor, Dr. Onwo .O. who was there for me and showed me guideline throughout this project work, to my lecturers, Mr. Okolie R., Mr. Nwaeke C., Dr. Mbaeze, and academic and non academic staff of the Departments. I also want use this opportunity to thank my able and vibrant H.O.D, Mr. Okonkwo who was hard on us to bring out the best in us, thank you Sir.

To my parent, Chief and Mrs Michael Ozoemena who is there for me in all my needs, both spiritual and finance and also contributed massively to my stay in school and also to see that I come to the end of this project.

And also to special precious woman, Aunty Chibuzor Ozoemena, Mr. Maxwell and also my various aunties, uncle, here in school that has seen me through in project like Aunty Benita, you are like a mother to me and you show me love like a mother, Aunty Nnenna, and mostly Aunty Mrs Adaeze Okolo who asked of my welfare always, you all welcome me as your child and treat me well like your son thank you all. To Brother Oyibe Tochukwu who has helped me very well in the successfully of this project work, and to all my friends am very grateful to you all.

I also appreciate Sis. Ndidi for her endless prayer mercy towards my schools and my health, who also in one way has contribute to my effort in this academic pursuit and years in school, I cannot forget you, the Mizpah, the land of settlement (Kano State) for your prayer and wishes in my year in school and this end of my project work. You all have contributed massively to my spiritual life, thank you all.

**Abstract**

This study was embarked on to evaluate corruption and sustainable development in Nigeria. In the process of this study three specific objectives were formulated and three research questions were poses to guide the research. The major limitation was the inability of the researcher to retrieve some relevant materials for the study from internet sources and the management of time to produce the needed result. The literature review was organized in themes which directly look into the concepts under investigation. The study adopted structural functionalism as a theoretical frame work and expos facto design. The study used secondary source as method of data collection and content analysis as the method of data analysis. Afterword’s, The study found out that corruption has contributed to lack of sustainable Economic development in Nigeria and the study recommends that EFCC and other security apparatus should strategies ways to reduce corruption in Nigeria in order to bring about sustainable economic development in Nigeria.

**Keywords: corruption, economic development and Anti -graft Agency.**

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**Chapter One**

**Introduction**

**1.1 Background of the Study:**

Political corruption in its various forms is generally believed to be the bane of Nigeria development and it has been devastating the country and destroys its image among the comity of nations. It is now fast becoming a way of life in the country as integrity is now being eroded. Little wonder why in recent times, both the past and present government in the country made the fight against corruption a top priority. But none seems to have made a considerable headway.

The reflections of their efforts were made manifest in the establishment of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). Corruption is found and practiced in every sectors of the public office in Nigeria and it is entrenched in nearly all sections of the society with many people deeply involved in it. Although, it is a global phenomenon but it is more prevalent in one environment than the other and Nigeria is a typical example of such. Iyanda (2012) argued that it is a plague that has eaten so deep into the entire fabric of the Nigerian society; it confers undue benefits on few people contrary to legal and moral norms of the society. It undermines authorities’ effort to provide suitable welfare for all citizens as the resources to do this are in the hands or at the reach of few of the populace, prior to its contagious and incurable infection.

In the words of Chinua Achebe as cited in Keeper (2012) that anyone who can say that corruption in Nigeria has not yet been alarming is either a fool; a crook or else does not live in this country. The situation has become bad to the extent that as far back as 1993, keeping an average Nigeria from being corrupt is like keeping a goat from eating yam (Achebe, 1988).This brilliantly explains the state of corruption among Nigerians and why all efforts to establish a just and egalitarian society in the country failed ever since. Corruption made development to be stunted in Nigeria. There is no effective and efficient administration in Nigeria that has not been frustrated by this evil. People bribe to get almost everything done in the country. For instance, Tokunbo (1992) alludes to the fact that you bribe to get your child into a school, you pay to secure a job and you also continue to pay in some cases to retain it. You pay 10 percent of every contract obtained, you dash the tax officer to avoid paying taxes, you pay the hospital doctor and nurse to get proper attention, and you pay the policemen to evade arrest, this catalogue of shame can continue without end. Corruption is the single greatest obstacle to economic and social development. It undermines development by distorting the role of law and weakening the institutional foundation on which economic growth depends (World Bank). It is one of the greatest challenges of the contemporary world. It undermines good government, fundamentally distorts public policy, leads to the misallocation of resources, harms the private sector and private sector development and particularly hurts the poor (Transparency International).

**1.2 Statement of the Problem:**

Corruption remains a universal phenomenon, which has been in existence for a very long time and always have adverse effects on the society ever since. Several people involved in it in the pursuit of the specific purpose or interests. It has overtime ruined the hopes for greater tomorrow and destroyed the value system in the country so much so that the world begins to see us as men and women without honour and dignity.

It has led to slow movement of files in offices, police extortion and slow traffic on the highways, port congestion, and queues at gas stations, ghost workers syndrome, and election irregularities among others. According to Chuta (2004) that the image of the country in the international arena has become so battered that every Nigerian psychologically feel a scorching hurt inflicted on his individual psyche. The dent has gone so far that everywhere in the world, Nigerians are said to be generally dreaded like mad dogs and criminals, cautiously approached like dangerous snakes, and avoided .Corruption is politically destabilizing, that is it has the capacity of engendering political instability, breakdown of law and order, brain drain, inefficient of the public service among others (Lawal, 2006).

The menace of corruption by Nigerian leaders has certainly emerged as one of the main impediments to national development. Corruption by Nigerian leaders has caused the country severe losses economically, politically and socially, and these facts are responsible for decayed infrastructure, downturn of indicators of national development. Agreeing with this, Human Rights Watch (2007:40) stated that Nigeria has some of the worst socio-economic indicators in the world and the overall picture has not improved since the end of the military rule. Research has shown that the prevalence of corrupt leaders in Nigeria has a tremendous adverse effect on the quality of life, living standard and national psyche. The study tends to proffer answers to the questions of whether there are relationships between corruption and sustainable development in Nigeria. And also, to what extent has corruption undermined sustainable development in the country?

**1.3 Objective of the Study**

The main focus of the study is to assess the nexus between corruption and sustainable development in Nigeria. The following are the specific objectives of the study:

- To examine if embezzlement of public treasury affect the provision of sustainable welfare for all citizens in Nigeria;

- To examine if mismanagement of public fund is responsible for the decay of infrastructural development in Nigeria;

-To determine if corruption in the public offices has reduced poverty in Nigeria.

**1.4 Research Questions:**

1. Has embezzlement of public treasury hinder effort to provide suitable welfare for all citizens in Nigeria?

2. Could mismanagement of public fund been responsible for decayed infrastructure in Nigeria?

3. Is there a link between corruption in the public offices reduced and in Nigeria?

**1.5 Significance of the Study:**

The significance of this work upon completion will provide administrative strategies on how to manage the menace of corruption and provide a strong institutional solution toward the daring fight against corruption which will in turn engender economic development. Thus, this work will be significant to EFCC, legislative body, public offices, academic body and the students’ of political science and public administration in Nigerian University.

**1.6 Limitation of the Study:**

During this research work, the researcher encountered some challenges, one of which is time factor, I was hooked up with so many activities in school such as assignments, presentations etc, that I gave little time into carrying out a detailed research work which has always been my desire to do and coupled with the limited time given to submit the work, I had no choice than to maximize the little time I had, I was able to complete the work within the time frame stipulated for it.

Due to the nature of our country where there is limited internet access, I encountered the problem of gathering enough fact through online journals, books and articles. To get an accurate information needed for the research, I had to buy internet bundle for the research work which requires money and getting this finance to facilitate the free flow of the this research work was the major impediment that I encountered during the course of this study.

However, I was able to combat these impediments with the help of my parents who worked assiduously in providing me with financial support to ensure the success of the work.

**1.7 Research Hypotheses:**

To further guide the study, the following hypotheses were put forward for investigation:

1. Embezzlement of public treasury has hindered effort to provide suitable welfare for all citizens in Nigeria.

2. Mismanagement of public fund been responsible for the decayed infrastructure in Nigeria?

3. There is a link between corruption in the public offices and poverty in Nigeria.

**1.8 Operational Definitions:**

**Political Corruption**: politicalcorruption is a form of dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted with a position of authority, often to acquire personal benefit.Political corruption may include many activities but in this study it emphasizes embezzlement of public treasury, mismanagement of public fund and bribery and corruption, although it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries.[Government, or 'political', corruption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_corruption) occurs when an office-holder or other governmental employee acts in an official capacity for personal gain. Public sector corruption includes corruption of the political process and of government agencies such as the police as well as corruption in processes of allocating public funds for contracts, grants, and hiring. Recent research by the World Bank suggests that who makes policy decisions (elected officials or bureaucrats) can be critical in determining the level of corruption because of the incentives different policy-makers face.

**Economic development:** is the process by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social well-being of its people. The term has been used frequently by economists, politicians, and others in the 20th and 21st centuries. The concept, however, has been in existence in the West for centuries. Whereas economic development is a policy intervention endeavor with aims of economic and social [well-being](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Well-being) of people, [economic growth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_growth) is a phenomenon of market [productivity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Productivity) and rise in [GDP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GDP). However, in this study the empirical indicator to address sustainable economic development are the welfare of the citizens, infrastructural development, and poverty and unemployment.

**Chapter Two**

**Literature Review**

**Conceptualization**

**Corruption:**

There is no generally agreed definition as to what constitutes corrupt behaviors. It is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that erodes the socio-economic and political value of any nation. Corruption is also a global phenomenon, intelligible only in its social context. There is a growing worldwide concern over its spread due to so many factors poverty, crime, low rate of saving, unemployment and to mention a few .Therefore, reforming public sector and government policies is essential but poverty a product of corruption limits the available options. Corruptions in developing nations are more pronounced than developed nations hence it remain impediments to good governance and sustainable developments. Developed and developing nations have initiated and established various anti- corruption war and advocacy to eradicate the menace of corruption in their system. Such advocacy are the African Union (AU), the United Nation (UN), the United Nation Development Programme (UNPP), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Word Bank to mention a few (Ogbeidi,2012). The phenomena’s usually encompasses abuses by government officials such as embezzlement and cronyism, as well as abuses linking public and private actors such as bribery, extortion, influence peddling, and fraud, to mention but a few. In this regard, impunity and corruption threatens good governance, democratic process, and fair business practices (Ogbeidi, 2012). Therefore corruption has become of the greatest threats to socio-economic and political development of any nation. The threats of corruption remain a major dilemma issue facing Nigeria since the time of colonial period, although corruption has become a cankerworm that has eaten deep into the fabrics of Nigeria system. Nevertheless, its remedies rely in our hands as a people. That is why many developed and developing nations have put in place different mechanisms to checkmate and curb this ugly incidence. In Nigeria for example, the menace of corruption has been a matter of discourse at different levels of institution of learning yet this pathetic incidence keeps resurface with us at all facets of our endeavors.

The Nigerian government has taken various measures and strategies to address the incidence of corruption and bad governance in the country. These measures includes public service reform (monetization to reduce waste and reduction or over-bloated personnel, reform of public procurement); establishment of anti craft agencies (such as the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Independent Corruption and other Practices Commission (ICPC) and the on-going sanitization in the Nigeria National Petroleum Co-oporation (Adeshina, 2015). Despite the successes attained by these institutions, the situation remains palatable as corruption continues to permeate and pervade every facet in our society and national life in Nigeria (Fatile, 2013). Against this backdrop, this study is to examine corruption in Nigeria public sector and state its dare consequences on good governance and social-economic development and provide possible solution to this menace. The central theme of the argument is that corruption has been responsible for bad governance, socio-economic and political under-development in Nigeria public sector. Therefore, corruption, which has come to survive despite all efforts at curbing it, this is at the center of our discourse.

Corruption is a social problem found in various degrees and forms in all but the most primitive societies as posited by Stauts (1972) in Iyanda(2012). Like most concepts in the social sciences, corruption does not have a single-all-agreeable definition. Etymologically, the word corruption is derived from a Latin word “corrumpo” and it literally mean “to break, loose value, putrid and useless”. Therefore it means loss of purity or integrity. Ogege (2014) submits that corruption is an ethical issue anchored on moral values and conduct. Corruption is a human act, done by a morally responsible individual or group which carries with it moral guilt because such act goes contrary to established and acceptable moral standards in a given society (Alalas, 1980). Ofoeze (2004) as noted in Keeper (2012) corruption refers 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 and hence constituting a travesty of justice, equity and fair play”. Ekiyor (2005) view corruption 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. Similarly, Corruption is also seen as “effort to secure wealth or power through illegal means, private gain at public expense, or misuse of public power for private benefit” (Lipset & Lenz, 2000as cited in Keeper, 2012).The Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Act 2000 saw corruption as a multi-faceted phenomenon that ranges from the giving and accepting of bribe to other kinds of fraudulent practices. Also from the legal point of view, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) through 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”.

It is the misappropriation of government property or revenues made possible through government regulations (Braguinsky, 1996). Otite (2000) further states that corruption is the perversion of integrity or state of affairs through bribery, favour or moral depravity. It takes place when two parties have interacted to change the structure or process of society or the behaviour of functionaries in order to produce dishonest, unfaithful or undefiled situations. Corruption transcends bribery but includes treasury looting and the deliberate bending of rules of the system to favour friends or hurt foes. It is clearly an absence of accountability, law and order (Otite, 2000). The definition of Otite richly encompasses all aspects by which corrupt practices take place.

The unfortunate thing about the issue of corruption is that it does not know time or period; it happens at any time or at any period in any nation’s history. Gould and Kolb (1964) support this assertion that corruption is not a characteristic of a one period in political history nor of any one country…..it is endemic in both authoritarian and party systems of government. Further still as an evidence that the history of corruption is as old as the world, Scott (1972) is of the view that corruption ‘must be understood as a regular, repetitive and integral part of the operation of most political system’. Another view about corruption is that it is intentional. This view was heralded by Brooks (1970) who believed the corrupt official knows his duties “but it is neglected or mis-performed for reasons narrower than those which the state intends. He went further to say the difference between a corrupt official and inefficient one is that “the corrupt official must know the better and choose the worse (but) the inefficient official does not know any better”. He further maintained that “in either case the external circumstances may appear to be closely similar, and the immediate results may be equally harmful” (Brooks, 1970).

Corruption still as a common phenomenon found not only in the so called developing countries and societies, but also in the developed societies such as Europe, America, Japan and the former Soviet Union regardless of their structural and cultural differences. It is not only found in democratic and dictatorial politics, but also in feudal, capitalist and socialist economies. Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist cultures are equally bedeviled by corruption (Dike, 2002).The president of Nigeria (Muhammadu Buhari) at the Anti-Corruption Summit in London in May 11, 2016 said “Corruption is a hydra-headed monster and a cankerworm that undermines the fabric of all societies. It does not differentiate between developed and developing countries. It constitutes a serious threat to good governance, rule of law, peace and security, as well as development programmes aimed at tackling poverty and economic backwardness”. Some authors have argued that corruption is prevalent in third world countries. However, evidence has shown that corruption is even prevalent in developed countries and each of these countries either developing or developed devices suitable means of deal with it. It is logical for one to resolutely assert that a society without corruption would not have put in place an anti-corruption training session or institutions to combat the menace in its society. This further proves that corruption does not know boundary, culture, society and that there is no human occupation that is immunized against its practices. The selection of unsuitable candidates at the expense of the suitable ones usually undermines efficiency and lowers performance in any establishment. This explains the grip that corruption has on such organisation. Act of nepotism and favouritism as a dimension or form of corruption in Nigeria usually be at work in a situation whereby special form of favour is used by office holders to prefer their friends and relatives that may not be qualified at the expense of candidates of high merit. Amundse (1997) and Girling(1997) succinctly summed it up by saying, when one is exempted from the application of certain laws or regulations or given undue preference in the allocation of scarce of resources. Hence, Akinseye (2000) describe it as ‘mother of all crimes’ and identifies four forms of corruption as bribery, pre-bendalism, graft and nepotism. So corruption can be said to be an act which deviates from the formal rules of conduct expected of someone in a position of authority. The World Bank has estimated that over 1 trillion is paid in bribe for business transactions in less developed countries. Corruption is the single greatest obstacle to economic and social development. It undermines development by distorting the rule of law and weakening the institutional foundation on which economic growth depends (World Bank). According to Olugbenga (2007), Odofin and Omojuwa (2007) the word corruption cannot easily be define. Similarly, Ajibewa (2006), Faloore (2010) and Igbuzor (2008) cited in Egwemi (2012) maintains that corruption is not an easy task to define. Indeed, defining corruption is a daunting challenging venture. However, Andrig and Fjelstad (2001:4) view corruption as a “complex and multifaceted phenomenon with multiple causes and effects, as it takes on various forms and contexts”. According to them, one of the major difficulties in conceptualizing corruption is that while it is difficult to disappear it has a capacity to take on new forms (Andrig and Fjelstad, 2001). In a similar fashion, Tanzi (1998) maintains that while it is difficult to define corruption, the crisis associated with corruption is not difficult to recognize. At the opening remarks on conference proceedings titled “Corruption and Governance Challenges in Nigeria” organized by CLEEN Foundation Monograph Series (2010), the chairperson, Ms. Farida Waziri, posits as follows: Etymologically, the word “corruption” comes from the Greek word “corropius” meaning an aberration or we may say a misnomer. The United Nations Global Programme against Corruption (GPAC) defines it as “abuse of power for private gain”. The Transparency International has chosen a clear and focused definition of the term as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”. It can also be defined as a pervasion or change from the general accepted rules or laws for selfish gain (Farida, 2010). The World Bank however defines corruption as: The abuse of office for private gains. Public office is abused for private gain when an official accepts, solicits or extorts a bribe. It is also abused when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public offices and processes for competitive advantages or profit. In view of the above, Agbu (2003:3) observed that public office can 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. Given this development therefore, corruption connotes any behavior that deviates from an established norm with regards to public trust. It also means theft of public trust whether the person concerned is elected, selected, nominated or appointed and it does not matter whether the person affected holds office or not since anybody can be corrupt.

For the purpose of conceptual clarification and to limit the level of ambiguity, which as a rule is hallmark of academic research, it is important to examine some of the concepts and terms that are used in this study i.e corruption , good governance and sustainable development. Corruption was not invented by, nor is it peculiar to Nigerians. On the contrary, it is a global phenomenon with deep historical roots, although it manifests itself with similarities direction in different societies, depending on the peculiar systems of power distribution and the legal and moral norms operating therein (Osoba,1996). In the view of Egwemi (2012) corruption is not an easy task to define. However, Andrig and Fjelstad (2001:4) see corruption as a complex and multifaceted phenomenon with multiple causes and effects, as it takes on various forms and contexts.

United Nations (2012) defined corruption as it as “abuse of power for private gain”. The Transparency International has chosen a clear and focused definition of the term as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”. It can also be defined as a pervasion or change from the general accepted rules or laws for selfish gain (Farida, 2010). The World Bank however defines corruption as the abuse of office for private gains. Public office is abused for private gain when an official accepts, solicits or extorts a bribe. It is also abused when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public offices and processes for competitive advantages or profit. Corruption, like all social phenomena, is intelligible only in its total social context, its peculiar form, dynamics and degree of social and cultural acceptability or tolerance being critically related to the dominant mode of capital accumulation; income, wealth and poverty distribution, power configuration; and the underpinning moral and ethical values operating in a given society (Osoba, 1996, Fatile, 2013). Corruption in Nigeria is a kind of social virus which is a hybrid of traits of fraudulent anti-social behavoiur derived from British colonial rule and nurtured in the indigenous Nigerian context (Usman,2013). The pervasive “climate of corruption” in Nigeria constitutes the greatest impediment to good governance and sustainable development. President Muhammed Buhari in his inauguration speech as the President of Nigeria when taken over power in 2015 he asserted that “corruption is the greatest bane of our society today no society can achieve anything near its full potential if it allows corruption to become the full blown cancer it has become in Nigeria (Adams, 2015). This menace has taken over nearly if not all the public institutions and parastatals likewise the private organizations. In the past administration president Good Luck Jonathan demonstrated no zero telorance to corruption, the level of corruption and impunity was so pervasive where some of his cabinets like economic and finance minister Dr. Okonjo Iweala and CBN governor Lamidi Sanusi disagreed over unremitted fund into CBN account (Adams, 2015).

It is instructive to note that the Nigerian government and citizens have not totally committed themselves to the implementations and measures that can prevent or drastically reduce the extent and consequence of corruption in the country. That is not to say that laws, institutions and programmes for controlling corruption have not been introduced by successive governments (Fatile, 2013). On the contrary, every Nigerian government since 1975 introduced elaborate laws and programmes, only for officials to turn such programmes into fertile opportunity for corrupt practices and enrichment. Consequently, there has been a geometrical growth in the rate of corruption in the country (Adeshina, 2015).

It is an incontrovertible fact that corruption and impunity has been the bane of Good Governance in Nigeria. Thus, the phenomenon has ravaged the country and destroyed most of our cherished national values. Unfortunately, the pubic officials saddled with the responsibility of formulating and implementation the affairs of the country policies, which have been the major culprit in perpetrating this act. Regrettably, since independence a notable surviving legacy of the successive elected leaders have managed the affairs of the country at different times has been the institutionalization of corruption in all agencies of the public service, which, like a deadly virus, has subsequently spread to the private sector of the country (Ogbeidi, 2012).

Agbu (2003:3) observed that public office can be abused for personal benefit even if no bribery occurs, through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets, or the diversion of public resources. Thus, corruption connotes any behaviors that deviate from an established norm with regards to public trust. It also means theft of public trust whether the person concerned is elected, selected, nominated or appointed and it does not matter whether the person affected holds office or not since anybody can be corrupt (Usman, 2013).

**Sustainable Development**

The several contemporary social sciences’ scholars and theorists have variously discuss the term “development” in line with “growth”, “change” “industrialization” and so on. These words are often used interchangeably with development. Okereke and Ekpe (2002) pointed out that the liberal theorists’ views development in terms of economic development that can be evaluated by way of the growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Likewise, Thirlwall (1983) argues that development implies change which often follows a well-ordered sequence and exhibits common characteristics across countries. On the other hand, the radical scholars viewed it as multi-dimensional process. Development to them focuses on man and his well-being rather than being restricted to macro-economic variables. Therefore, human beings constitute the fulcrum on which it revolves (Okereke and Ekpe, 2002). Walter Rodney (1972) in his book titled “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa” logically argued that: Development in human society is a many-sided process. At the level of individual, it implies increase skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material wellbeing…. At the level of social groups, it implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relation. In the past development has always meant the increase in the ability to guard the independence of the social group

Development is a state of progress and a process that explains the condition or state of a society both in positive change and change overtime as it happens in places and regions where people live and work. Conceptualising development as a process according to Olaseni (2007) makes the link with territory very explicit because it alludes to development as occurring in places and unevenly in space and time. Smith (1987) in Olaseni (2007) observed that development refers to the condition of a population defined territorially and is synonymous with such concepts as standard of living, social wellbeing or quality of life. Good quality of life is thus synonymous with development.

In line of the above discussed concepts Seers (1989) as cited in Oyesiku (2003) attempts to put a better construction on the meaning of development when he asserts that “the questions to ask about a country’s development are therefore: what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to inequality? If all three of these have declined from high levels, then beyond doubt this has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these central problems have been growing worse, especially if all three have, it would be strange to call the result ‘development’ even if capital income doubled”. This statement thus explains the state of development in Nigeria. For instance, during the oil boom that the country experience in the 1970s, the mismanagement of economic management became a solid foundation for the dwindling economy that was to follow later in which the country is yet to get out of the problem as demonstrated by the unemployment pattern in the life of the nation. Martin Meredith (2006) in “The State of Africa: A History of Fifty Years of Independent” revealed that Nigeria after squandering an oil bonanza of US$280 billion, remains in a pitiful state.

Olaseni, (2007) discussed that in an attempt to mitigate the imbalance in development between and within generations, and its resulting poverty, coupled with the myriad of challenges confronting the world, the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) was conceptualized and were adopted by 189 member countries of the United Nations including Nigeria and the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) was initiated. The framework of MGDs thoroughly discuss 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators as adopted by a consensus of experts from United Nations (UN), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).These set of eight goals to be achieved by 2015 as adopted by the United Nations is the seventh goals geared towards environmental sustainability for development. For any development to be sustainable it has to fulfill the principles of sustainability. The most frequently used definition of sustainable development as explained by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) a.k.a .Brundt land Commission in 1987 is that “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs”. This definition explains sustainable development as such that will have a major focus on intergenerational equity. Although the definition does not openly mention development, but the subsequent paragraphs, which is rarely quoted, are clear on development. The report states that human needs are basic and essential; that economic growth-but also equity to share resources with the poor-is required to sustain them; and that equity is encouraged by effective citizen participation (Kates, Parris, and Leiserowitz, 2005). Furthermore, the United States National Research Council Policy Division on Sustainable Development explicitly discusses what is to be sustained and developed. It explained that nature, life support and community need to be sustained while, people, economy and society have to be developed (U.S. National Research Council, Policy Division, Board on Sustainable Development, 1999).

As early pointed out that the aim of the concept was with a view to fast track key developmental issues globally and specifically within Nigeria. These views as alluded to in the previous paragraph include but not limited to increasing the availability of basic life sustaining goods, raising the standard of living of the people, as well as expanding the range of economic and social choices. These eight goals to be achieved by 2015 were to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development (Todaro and Smith, 2011).

The Diploma of sustainable development online (2012) refers to the term as the type of economic growth pattern where the use of resources meets the needs of the human population while conserving the environment at the same time. Sustainable development means resources are used in such a way that both current and future human needs can be met. The sustainable development guide online (2012) also describes the term as the development that meet the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. According to Ukaga (2010) ask a sample of people about the term “sustainability” and you are likely to get a variety of answers representing diverse perspectives, experiences and circumstances. This confirms that a “one size fits all” approach to sustainable development is inappropriate, ineffective and unnecessary. He stressed further, scratch below the surface, however, and you will find that while there is a diversity of viewpoints on the concept of sustainable development, as well as specific policy and practice options for achieving it, there is more agreement on some of its core principles such as: meeting basic human necessities fairly and efficiently; preserving options for both present and future generations to meet their needs; promoting community well-being based on broad participation and active citizenship; maintaining that diversity and productivity of nature; managing and utilizing resources with prudence and precaution; linking various aspects of sustainability (i.e. economic, ecological and social); assuring accountability for all; avoiding or at least minimizing waste having a long term view; maintaining a holistic perspective; and fostering cooperation and shared responsibility. Adebayo (2010) also maintains that the concept of sustainable development is the efforts at improving the environment or natural resources for the purpose of improving the quality of human life in such a way that the needs of the future generation are not jeopardized. To this end, sustainable development is the ability to preserve the existing resources of the state for the collective use of the citizens while conscious efforts are made to conserve the resources for the use of future generations

The sustainable development according to Usman (2012) refers to the term as the type of economic growth pattern where the use of resources meets the needs of the human population while conserving the environment at the same time. Sustainable development means resources are used in such a way that both current and future human needs can be met .The sustainable development also describes the term as the development that meet the needs of present, without exposing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, (World Bank, 2013). Adebayo (2013) also maintains that concept of sustainable development is the efforts at improving the environment or natural resources for the purpose of improving the quality of human life in way that the needs of the future generation are not jeopardized. To this end, sustainable development is the ability to preserve the existing resources of the state for the collective use of the citizens while conscious efforts are made to conserve the resources for the use of future generations. Theoretical Analysis The relevant theory to this discourse is the modernization theory. Modernization theorists were concerned with structural change in the economy and a state of primitive organization of production to the modem organization of economic activities (Huntington, 1968). Emphasis on the transformation of a traditional society into a modem one suggests that the outcry against corruption amount to a puritan reaction to modernization. In this view, corruption represents a deviation from ethical norms (Fatile, 2013). Thus, looking at corruption from the modernization perspective reflect a strong anti-state position which Hintington cited by Abu (2007) summarized best by stating that in terms of economic growth, the only thing worse than a society with a rigid over centralized, dishonest bureaucracy is one with a rigid, over centralized bureaucracy.

It is instructive to note that the modernization theory had been replaced with the principal-agent theory by the neo-classical economists. In their view, corruption amounts to principal-agent problem (Abu, 2007). In this case, it is the state which is the principal that entrusts the task of allocation rights to appropriate resources to its agents i.e. the administrators who’s responsibility is to co-ordinate capital projects towards executing some development projects instead of siphoned and misappropriated for self enrichment of few group of undesirable public officials and their crones to the detrimental of the populace and national development. .This means that there would be no corruption if the state had nothing useful for the private interests to allocate selectively.

Historical Background of Corruption in Nigeria Public Sector The Nigerian society has never been well governed because of impunity and corruption since it gained its political independence in 1960 (Oluwasanmi, 2007, Ebegbulem, 2009). Oluwasanmi, (2007); Imhonopi and Ugochukwu, (2013) are of the opinion that from the first democratic experiment in 1960 to military regimes and back to democracy as practiced in the country today, Nigeria has unfortunately been managed by corrupt leaders who are visionless, weak, parochial, morally bankrupt, narcissistic, egoistic, greedy and corrupt. The leadership from 1960 has criminally managed the country’s affairs, accumulate wealth at the expense of national development and throwing the people over the precipice where they now wallow in absolute poverty, illiteracy, hunger, rising unemployment, avoidable health crisis and insecurity (Ebegbulem cited in Imhonopi and Ugochukwu, 2013).

The Formal president Olusegun Obasanjo assumed office in 1999 as poor politician (all his bank accounts amounted to about N20,000) but eight years later he had refurbished and expanded a derelict agricultural (poultry) farm at Ota in Ogun State to be now worth hundreds of millions of naira (Oluwasanmi, 2007). Obasanjo now possesses educational institutions that run from primary level to university, he now has over two hundred millions of shares in various conglomerates, most especially Transcorp Nigeria Limited (Oluwasanmi, 2007). His effort at combating corruption made little or no impact in the war against political corruption as his friends and officials under him were corrupt (Ebegbulem 2012; Oluwasanmi, 2007).

Furthermore, corrupt leadership has also been visible in the past administration. The people of Nigeria and the world have observed the cluelessness and low credibility of the past Goodluck Jonathan administration. New York Times Newspaper of May 6th 2014 describes him as “leading a corrupt government that has little credibility”( Moris,2015). In a similar vein, Jonathan government was also described by former US Republican presidential nominee, Senator McKay as a practically non- existing government that has lost credibility in providing security of life and property (Ijewereme and Dunmade, 2014). In addition, Hillary Clonton, the former US Secretary of State in separate events in New York City said the Nigerian government under President Goodluck Jonathan, squandered its resources, and indirectly helps corruption to fester in the troubled country ( Moris , 2015) . Falana (2012) opines that, under president Goodluck administration: “some of the governors and his party members under investigation posted their orderlies and relations to man departments in the EFCC”. Falana further posits that corruption is being carried out with impunity under past President Goodluck Jonathan administration to the extent that the war against corruption has been lost completely. The minister of petroleum, “Mrs. Daziani Allison Madueke has been indicted of corruption by five different investigative panel Committees reports at different time, yet she confidently remains in charge of the Ministry unperturbed” (Melaye, 2013), without the president demonstrating political will to bring the minister to book. Madueke has also being recently indicted (for squandering 10 billion naira on private jet maintenance expense) by the House of Representative. The house called her to defend the indictment; instead she took court injunction restraining the house from further investigation and indictment of her office (Ijewereme & Dumande,2014). Presently she was indicted in UK for money laundry and charge to court (Punch,2015).

**Classification of Corruption in Nigeria Public Sector Private Corruption:** **private corruption**:

We mean people outside government, private individuals engaging in unethical acts. These could be individuals outside organizations who commit acts of immorality (perversion, show of dementia, and acts of fraud or scamming). The other groups of people is persons in the organized private sector who may loot or carry out other acts of fraud in their companies or who colludes with those in government to perpetrate sharp financial practices.

Private corruption has manifested in Nigeria as everyday bribery to obtain a desired objective, breaking of traffic laws, piracy, plagiarism, alteration of school grades, illegal inflation of petroleum pump prices by dealers, robbery, sexual gratification for higher grades or promotion, et cetera.

**Public Corruption:**

This is the familiar corruption that takes place in government or by government officials and their accomplices in the private sector. Another name for public corruption is official, grand or institutional corruption. This is the kind of corruption involving public office holders. In this case, persons in position of authority exploit the position to take from the commonwealth. i. Political corruption: This is the kind of corruption that obtains in the three arms of government in a democratic rule, namely, executive, legislative and judiciary. Corruption at this level is the highest because it involves state fund. The issues of personal and primordial attachments in appointment, award of contracts; as well inflation of contract monies, embezzlement of funds, and misappropriation of fund are critical examples of public corruption in the executive. The Federal cabinet in Nigeria has in recent times been in the news for high profile bribery scandals (the formal minister of petroleum Alson madueke and others) . The judiciary becomes vulnerable when it looks away from an obvious case of crime, tries to downplay the veracity of a crime, or commits travesty of justice for a particular political interest. The Federal Court of Appeal has been in a state of crisis for sometime leading to the suspension of its president on alleged complicity in election cases involving some western states which the president was said to have served the interest of a political party (Ketefe, 2012).

ii. Bureaucratic corruption: Corruption here is still at the level of government. It involves the technocrats and civil as well as public servants who implement government policies. These include the leadership and personnel in ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). The corruption at this level is the worst as the allocation, release and use of money is executed by these government offices. The staff are the ones that propose and submit financial needs of the units or projects and they are the ones that transfer and effect payment. Corruption becomes rife at this point (Buhari ,2015). We have had cases of heads of ministries and parastatals busted and arraigned before competent courts and tribunals on charges of high profile stealing and fraud. Bureaucratic corruption also manifests in favouritism and nepotism in appointment, promotion and reward systems in public offices. Some persons get rapid promotion and rewards on the basis of family, friendship, ethnic or religious affiliations to the boss; while some never get promotion because of such frivolous considerations.

iii. Military corruption: This was obtainable in Nigeria during military dictatorship. Ironically, the military was an institution that saw itself as a corrective regime in the face of bad leadership and festering corruption. That was the original intention of the army when they struck in January 1966. But we also know that the counter-coup of July was an ethnic-motivated coup meant to avenge the assassination of some persons of northern extraction in the first coup. With this mentality, professionalism that formed the fulcrum of the “corrective” notion of the institution began to fade out as corruption gradually crept in. By 1971, the military had become debased as all sorts of allegations were raised against General Gown’s military ministers and state governors. It got worse with the Babangida and Abacha regimes which came under the spotlight as the two most corrupt leaderships in the country (Folarin, 2014).

iv. Other forms of institutional corruption: The other forms of institutional corruption include that in the media and entertainment industries and even in the labour movement. The media is particularly known for the graft or ‘brown envelope” syndrome in which news reports are only publishable when certain individuals or groups in the story pay their way; or when an image polishing is done for those who can pay the reporter for it; or negative stories are stepped down when money has been paid to destroy such story. In the entertainment industry, persons for musical or movie auditions may have to “sort” or “settle” with money or sexual gratification to be given roles in films even when they are good or very bad. Labour groups are sometimes compromised by government not to embark on industrial action or to betray the cause of the movement by “sorting” labour leaders through the fattening of their accounts (Folarin, 2014).

**Corruption in Nigeria Public Sector: An Impediment to Good Governance and Sustainable Development**

The fraudulent accumulation process has resulted, over time, in the progressive and phenomenal enrichment of Nigerian leaders (both civilian and military), the emptying of the national treasury and the indebtedness of the country as a result of bad governance almost to the point of bankruptcy ( Moris , 2015) hence the critical dearth of resources for investment on the social, economic and overall cultural development of the masses of our people. Nigeria is, therefore in a paradoxical situation in which the scandalous, almost legendary, wealth of key ruling class members exists to mock the unspeakable mass poverty, misery and degradation of the Nigerian people (Fatile, 2013).

This situation is also highly productive, at the attitudinal level, of mass cynicism about, and distrust of the political leaders and constitutes a major factor in the persistence of inter and intra communal disunity, antipathy and strife, as well as the progressively worsening problem of social and economic in the country. Since the public treasury has been the primary and ultimate source of rapid and sensational private accumulation by the Nigerian political leaders the struggle to capture state power (and therefore, the national treasury) among factions of the political leaders has become progressively acrimonious and bitter.

This kind of struggle which ends in a winner-take-all resolution, the losing factions tend to be rigorously excluded from sharing in the loot. Hence, the invariable tendency among political leaders factions to use the poor masses from their areas of origin (village, town, local government, state or ethnic group) as cannon fodder and battering rams against their rivals and competitors from other areas, thus further dividing the people and undermining the stability of a Nigerian state and society that is already profoundly unstable that consequently tend to social unrest and terrorism in the nation (Usman, 2013).

Rampant corruption among the political leaders cabal has, over time, taught a dangerously disruptive lesson to the generality of the people; being honest and law-abiding does not pay (Osoba, 1996). Consequently some of the public officials who have learnt this lesson from the top then try to replicate the corrupt practices of their leaders at their own lowly levels in the form of petty acts of bribery, peculation and embezzlement of public funds. It is in this way that corruption as a way of life has become pervasive and cancerous domiciled in Nigeria democracy.

The obsession of many political leaders with primitive private accumulation at the expense of the public means that they tend to divert resources earmarked for running and maintaining public institutions in their charge (institutions like hospitals, schools, universities, public utilities, the judiciary, the police and even the armed forces) to corrupt private purposes. By so doing, they subvert these institutions and their capacity to perform their assigned tasks efficiently, thereby damaging the substantive interests and endangering the lives of citizens whom these public institutions are meant to serve (Fatile, 2013). According to Osoba (1996) the systematic pillage of the nation’s wealth by its supposed custodians over several decades, many young Nigerians of lowly origins, after successfully passing out of schools, universities and other institutions of learning, cannot find gainful employment. This is because resources, which could have been used for job creation, have been looted by the leaders. As a consequence many of these educated young people are either ‘brain drained’ to other lands in search of greener pastures or get diverted into various criminal ways of making a livelihood like terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery, prostitution, drug peddling and trafficking and all manner of racketeering. In this and other ways, greedy Nigerian leaders have squandered the future of their country and its children there by reduced Nigeria to its present status of a parish in the comity of nations (Osoba, 1996)

**Implications of Corruption on Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Nigeria:**

Leadership problem and corruption are the bane of Nigeria’s socio-economic development. Ijewereme & Dunmade (2014) noted that corruption has largely retarded the quest for sustainable growth and development in Nigeria. It is a cancer attacks the vital structures and systems engender progressive functioning of the Nigeria society (Ogbeidi, 2012).

The implications of bad leadership and corruption in Nigeria are outrageous. In the opinion of Aiyede (2006) “corruption poses a serious development challenge”. Ijewereme & Dunamade (2014) observed that Nigerian political realm shows that corruption have undermined democratic values of trust, credibility of government, and good governance. Corruption in the democratic process reduces accountability, transparency, integrity and distorts quality representation in policy making (Ebegbulem, 2012).Corruption in Nigeria slows down the pace of good governance because it weakens efficiency and effectiveness of public service and discourages genuine prospective investors. Corruption and mismanagement of public funds have direct bearing on the Nigeria’s collapsing infrastructure like potable water, good road networks, health facilities, standard of education, security, justice, employment and other challenges which are interconnected (Ribadu, 2013).Corruption remains the biggest barrier to ending extreme poverty and stands in the way of progress in the development of all areas mentioned here; preventing funds reaching healthcare and education, limiting individuals, abilities to access jobs and social benefits, corroding systems of law and stopping aid working effectively in the poorest parts of the world (Adebayo, 2013).

The past Nigerian leaders from Formal president Olusegun Obasanjo to Good Luck Jonathan administration (that is PDP led government 1999 to 2015) siphoned money that would have been invested in the power sector, while those that invested in the sector misappropriated the money with nothing to show ( Buhari, 2015).The consequences of corruption are largely on the negative side. Corruption widens inequality, aggravates mass poverty, militates against efficient resource planning and allocation, and undermines economic growth by discouraging investment, and compromises economic efficiency, results in high governmental expenditures as a result of inflation of contracts and cost supplies. There is no doubt that corruption is poisonous to good governance in Nigeria (Alemika, 2012).

The Nigeria’s 2011 corruption Index by the EFCC maintains that Nigeria is certainly not immune to corruption. The damage of the scourge to the economy and the fabric of the society is seen in the schools that are not built, the hospitals without medicines, the roads that are not passable and the failure of occur citizens to be inspired (Usman, 2013).Presently in Nigeria, the greatest challenge to corruption is impunity. Because of its sheer scale and level, corruption is no longer secret, it is celebrated (The Nigerian 2011 Corruption Index) Alemika (2012).

**Concluding Remarks**

The critical challenge which the stubborn persistence and growing virulence of corruption poses to all Nigerians of integrity and conscience is, therefore, how to roll back the escalating phenomenon of corruption in our public life and terminate the culture of impunity that underpins it. Meeting this challenge will involve the mounting of a determined and robust struggle to change the constitutional and legal order and the power configuration in the Nigerian society such that the vast majority of marginalized Nigerian men and women are empowered to participate freely, actively and maximally in the politics, economy and overall culture of the society.

The necessary expedient of empowering the Nigerian working people vis-à-vis the corrupt and subversive political leader can be facilitated by pursuing the minimum political agenda of democratic governance. The constitutional entrenchment of the principle that the Nigerian people in their respective constituencies have the power to recall at any point in time any elected official who has been found by due process to abuse or betray the people’s mandate.

The constitutional requirement that only men and women with proven ability and integrity should be appointed to the governing boards of public institutions, corporations and businesses to ensure that the public resources and assets therein will be safeguarded and enhanced rather than looted and squandered by their official custodians as has hitherto been the case ( Buhari, 2015).

Freedom of information as an entrenched legal norm to include:

(a) The requirement of open declaration of assets by all public officers, on entering and leaving office and irrespective of rank or status. Such asset declaration should be available for verification and monitoring by any interested citizen;

(b) open and uninhibited access by interested citizens to all documents relating to, or dealing with any aspect of public policy, (This will mean, effectively, the death of all secrecy laws, behind which past and present governments have covered up all manner of crimes against the people). The constitutional entrenchment of the principle of independence of the judiciary and the insulation of the appointment and tenure of judges from interference by political decision makers whose conducts might be subjects to adjudication by the courts.

**Perspectives of Corrupt Practices in the Nigerian Fourth Republic**

Although, there have been corruption in Nigeria right from the onset, the phenomenon became institutionalized under General Ibrahim Babangida military regime. In view of this, Ogundiya (2009) noted that during the Babangida regime, corruption was raised to a level of state policy and allegation of corrupt practices were treated with utmost levity thereby destroying all the efforts of the previous administration. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo laid the foundation of his civilian administration on the belief that corruption would be eliminated in Nigeria. He signed the anti-corruption bill into law. He established the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC). However, corruption has continued to grow unabated. Some western diplomats had the belief that Nigeria lost between $4 billion and $8 billion per year to corruption during the eight years of Obasanjo’s administration (HRW, 2007). Also, the 2008 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) released by the Transparency International revealed that the country was rated 121 out of 180 countries surveyed. On the scale of 10.0, Nigeria scored 1.6 in 1999; 1.2 in 2000; 1.0 in 2001; 1.6 in 2002; 1.4 in 2003; 1.6 in 2004; 1.9 in 2005; 2.2 in 2006; 2.2 in 2007; and 2.7 in 2008 (TI, 2008). This of course became a source of embarrassment to Nigerian officials travelling abroad and Nigerian nationals all over the world. Ogundiya (2012) observed that the experience of the Fourth Republic indicated that corruption has become a norm. Therefore, it is no longer news that the back covers of our newspaper are always inundated with news about political and bureaucratic corruption. The popular saying by politicians of the Fourth Republic is “thou shall not be caught”. By this, they meant that only those caught are corrupt. Therefore, they evolve different sophisticated methods of perpetrating this crime without being noticed. All the three arms of government and other state institutions are immersed in corruption. For example, corruption creates serious setback in the nation’s Assembly in the Fourth Republic. Chief Evans Enwerem, Chuba Okadigbo and Adolphos Nwabara were all impeached on grounds of corruption (Ogundiya, 2012). Senator Chuba Okadigbo found out among other things that he was involved in the inflation of the street light project to the tune of 173 million Naira; Okadigbo also authorized the payment of 372 million naira to furnish his residence with a sum estimated above 25 million naira and equally installed and commissioned a 100KVA generating set of the Senate President residence at an inflated amount of 15 million Naira (Ogundiya, 2012). In another development, another Senate President, Adolphous Wabara, was also guilty of receiving bribe of 55 million Naira from Professor Osuji (the former Education Minister) to inflate the budgetary allocation to the Education Ministry. Senator Chimaroke Nnamani also faced 124 count charges of fraud, conspiracy, concealment and money laundering amounting to about 5.4 billion naira (Vanguard Newspaper, Saturday, 2008). In a related development, Madam Patricia Olubunmi Etteh, the first female speaker of the House of Representatives was forced to resign following an allegation of misappropriation of public funds in multiple contracts of 628 million Naira (US $5 million) for the renovation of her official residence and purchase of 12 official cars. Likewise, the Senate Committee pronounced the former Vice President under Obasanjo administration, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, guilty of corrupt enrichment, having said to have diverted the sum of US $145 million Petroleum Technology Development Fund (Ogundiya, 2012). As a result of wanton corruption, the international community became so much concerned with the lack of good governance in the country. Consequently, the Obasanjo administration was placed under international pressure and threats of sanctions to implement measures against corruption and other forms of financial offences. The federal government of Nigeria was then promised some financial benefits if reforms were implemented. This included a possible debt cancelation, which eventually materialized when the Paris Club wrote off $18 billion, representing 60% of Nigeria’s debt in 2005 (Ademola, 2011). Following this development, the former Delta State Governor, James Ibori, was arrested on 129 count charge by the EFCC of laundering over N9.1 billion. Another notable case of alleged corrupt practice was by Orji Uzor Kalu, the former Governor of Abia state. He was accused of using his loot of N3.1 billion to fund SLOK Airline and two banks in the Gambia and Sierra Leone. He also owned some houses in the U.K. and U.S.A. (Ademola, 2011). Another ex-Governor, Saminu Turaki of Jigawa state was accused of spending N36 million of public funds to acquire oil blocks from the federal government. Ex-Governor Reverend Jolly Nyame of Taraba state was charged with stealing N1.6 billion belonging to the state. Other former Governors charged for various financial crimes are Edo states Lucky Igbinedion, Ekiti’s Ayo Fayose, rivers Peter Odili and Chimaroke Nnamani of Enugu state. Ex-Governor Nnamani and two of his former Commissioners, Peter Mba and Spine Ejiofor were alleged of stealing N5.6 billion while some companies were also linked to him (Ademola, 2011). Apart from the above, the former President’s daughter, Iyabo Obasanjo Bello, a senator of the Federal Republic was involved in two separate scandals. In December, 2007, Iyabo Obasanjo Bello was involved in a contract scandal amounting to N3.5 billion involving her and an Australian firm. According to the EFCC, the senator used her mother’s maiden name, Akinlawon to hide her identity in the contract (The Punch, March 19, 2008). Senator Iyabo Obasanjo, was again involved in another financial scandal of mismanagement of funds in the Ministry of Health. It was this scandal that led to the resignation of Mrs. Adenike Grainge and her Deputy, Architect Gabriel Aduku. Iyabo Obasanjo was later arraigned in court over N300 million unspent budget scam (Thisday, August, 6, 2008:9).

In another development, the resignation of Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala barely 24 hours after she was sworn in as the Finance Minister was an indictment on the government’s efforts at eradicating corruption. It was reported that she had a disagreement with the leadership style of the President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (The Sunday Sun, July 20, 2003). Other than the removal of the budgeting function to the Presidency, she was not comfortable with the Clearing Regime at the Nigerian Ports. About the same year, the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) called for explanation from the Presidency about what happened to N35 billion meant for local government monthly in addition to repeated allegation that several billion Naira of oil revenue were missing from the Federation Account (Ademola, 2011). In view of the details of this rule and mismanagement that had characterized Nigeria and which has plunged the country into economy misery, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, the former EFCC chairman maintains that the over $400 billion that had been looted from the Commonwealth by the leaders is “six times the total value of resources committed to rebuilding Western Europe after the Second World War (Ademola, 2011). The New York Times (2008) and the EFCC Magazine (2008) as well as the ICPC Monitor (2008) exposed some corruption indications in the first eight years of Chief Obasanjo administration. These are as follows: i. June 1999: In a special closed session, the National Assembly debates whether to increase their housing allowances to N18 million (US$140,000) per year. The debate comes shortly after a divisive campaign by teachers and civil servants to institute a N4,000 (US$30) – per month minimum wage. ii. July 1999: Ibrahim Salisu Buhari, the first Speaker of the House under Obasanjo, resigns when it is discovered that he lied about his academic background and age. Buhari pleads guilty to forgery and perjury and is fined N2,500 (US$20) but is pardoned the following year. iii. June 2000:The National Assembly passes legislation to create the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), which is inaugurated in September. iv. July 2000: A government investigation finds evidence of inflated procurement contracts in the National Assembly, some awarded to companies in which legislators had a financial interest. High – level officials are implicated, including Senate President Chuba Okadigbo and Senate Deputy President Alhaji Haruna Abubakar.

v. August 2000:Okadigbo was impeached for corruption and misappropriation of funds. After his impeachment, Okadigbo is indicted for spending public money on cars and car furnishings and resigns in October. The indictment is eventually dropped. vi. October 2000: President Obasanjo is accused by eight House members of bribing them to help oust Speaker of the House Ghali Na’Abba, who Obasanjo attacked for corruption. The legislators dramatically unload the alleged bribes on the House floor. vii. October 2000: Construction begins on one of Obasanjo’s pet projects – a modern sports stadium in Abuja. The estimated cost of N49 billion (US$380 million) eventually goes hundreds of millions over budget. viii. February 2002: A government Anti-corruption Commission issues its first indictment of a high-level official, accusing Justice Garba Abdullahi of demanding a N1.2 million (US$9,000) bribe from a businessman to reverse an adverse ruling. ix. April 2002: The House unanimously strikes down a measure signed into law that would have outlawed the information of new political parties ahead of the 2003 Presidential election, claiming Obasanjo had inserted new language into the bill after it was submitted to him. x. August 2002: The National Assembly accused Obasanjo of 17 separate indictable offences including incompetence, disregard for the rule of law and corruption. xi. September 2002: The ICPC obtains its first conviction, sentencing local government chairman Emmanuel Egwuba to three years in prison for awarding a contract without budgetary approval. xii. January 2003: Auditor General Vincent Azie’s report covering the 2001 financial year chronicles corruption, including a number of suspicious payments and honoraria to politicians, and criticizes all branches of government. Obasanjo fires Azie in February. xiii. February 2003: The National Assembly passes a bill replacing the ICPC with a less powerful anti-corruption entity, which Obasanjo subsequently vetoes. The Assembly’s attempt to override the veto in May is ruled illegal by the Federal High Court. xiv. April 2003: Obasanjo wins re-election in the first civilian – run Presidential elections since the end of military rule. International observers note serious irregularities during balloting. xv. November 2003: A government report details the systematic looting of the once – prosperous Nigerian Airways Airline and implicates 90 people in its downfall. The report recommends prosecution of several individuals and pursuing the N51 billion Naira (US$400 million) looted by companies and government officials including also the trial of one Makanjuola who was in the dock for stealing N500 million as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defense. xvi. September 2003: Nasir El-Rufai the Minister for the Federal Capital Territory alleged that two Senators close to the President, Deputy Senate President, Ibrahim Mantu and Majority Leader, Jonathan Zwingina, asked him for a bribe of N54 million (US$418,000) to secure approval for his appointment. xvii. December 2003: After the ICPC announces it is probing a bribery scandal involving French firm Sagem SA, Obasanjo fires Labour Minister Hussaini Zannuwa Akwanga. Sagem won a N27 billion (US$214 million) contract to produce national identity cards. At month’s end, prosecutors charge five people, including Akwanga and two other former ministers, with taking up to N128 million (US$1 million) in bribes from Sagem. xviii. June 2004: Shell, one of the largest oil contractors in Nigeria, admits it has inadvertently contribute to the country’s poverty, environmental degradation, violence and corruption through its business activities but spurns calls for the company to leave. As a good faith gesture, Shell contributes millions of dollars to support various community development projects and formulates “13 big rules” to make sure those contributions are not misappropriated. It also claims to have fired 29 employees in 2003 for corruption. xix. March 2005: Education Minister Fabian Osuji was fired for allegedly bribing the National Assembly to secure more funds for his ministry. He formally protests that such behavior is common at all levels of government. In April, Senate Speaker Adolphus Wabara resigns after President Obasanjo accuses him of accepting Osuji’s N51 million (US$400,000) bribe. xx. April 2005: President Obasanjo fires Housing Minister Alice Mobolaji Osomo after it is alleged hundreds of properties were sold below mark value to top officials instead of going on public sale. xxi. November 2005:The European Commission approves €24.7 million (US$31 million) to support the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC0 and other Anti – Corruption agencies. By August 2006, the EFCC in its three years of operation will have arrested and investigated more than 5,000 people, secured 82 convictions and recovered N641 billion (US$5 billion) in looted assets. xxii. November 2005: Former Chief of Police Tafa Balogun is convicted and sentenced to six months in jail for extorting more than N13 billion (US$100 million) during his three year tenure. xxiii. December 2005: Environmental Minister Iyorcha Ayu resigns after lawmakers raise concerns about various procurement deals he handled. xxiv. December 2005: Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, Governor of the oil – rich Bayelsa state is arrested on 40 counts of corruption and money laundering. In July, 2006 the British authorities return about €1 million (US$1.9 million) of the allegedly illicit gains that he stashed in British banks. Six months later, the EFCC proclaims that at least 24 state governors will face corruption charges at the end of their tenures in May 2007 when their Constitutional immunity from prosecution expires. xxv. April 2006: Record high oil prices enabled Nigeria to be the first African country to pay off its debt to the Paris Club, an informal group of financial officials from the world’s richest countries. xxvi. May 2006: The Senate rejects a proposed Constitutional Amendment that would have allowed President Obasanjo to run for a third term in 2007 xxvii. August 2006: Switzerland’s ambassador to Nigeria announces the N90 billion (US$700 million) looted by former President Sani Abacha and deposited in Swiss Banks has almost completely been repatriated to Nigeria. A remaining N900 million (US$7 million) is still being held in the account of an unnamed Nigerian who seeks to prove that the money was honestly earned by Abacha. One other case that requires attention, but yet to be resolved is the Halliburton bribe case. Though Halliburton and its former subsidiary Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR) agreed to the largest corruption settlement every paid by a US company under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) - $579 million – their historic guilty plea was only the latest in a string of high level bribery cases to secure contracts in Nigeria (This Day, March 19, 2007; The Punch, March 19, 2009). Other cases like the Siemens $1.6 billion settlement scandal, Sillbros Inc’s $32 million, Panalpina’s case in the Nigeria’s National Identity Card Scheme with Segem going to about $200 million as bribe to senior government officials cannot but be mentioned. These cases equally draw concern about the unremitting level of official corruption in Nigeria, despite the claims of successive governments that they show “zero-tolerance” for corruption (The New York Times, Dec. 15, 2008, see also EFCC Magazine, 2008:48 and ICPC Monitor, 2008:34). Anti-Corruption Efforts in Nigeria The menace of corruption and the lack of effectiveness of the existing institutions to fight corruption prior to 1999 led to the establishment of the ICPC (2000) and EFCC Act (2004) and the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2004. These Acts made comprehensive provisions to prohibit the laundering of the proceeds of a crime an illegal act, provide appropriate penalties and expands the interpretation of financial institutions, it also provides scope of supervision of regulatory authorities on corrupt activities among others (Ademola, 2011).

**Anti-Corruption Efforts in Nigeria**

The menace of corruption and the lack of effectiveness of the existing institutions to fight corruption prior to 1999 led to the establishment of the ICPC (2000) and EFCC Act (2004) and the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2004. These Acts made comprehensive provisions to prohibit the laundering of the proceeds of a crime an illegal act, provide appropriate penalties and expands the interpretation of financial institutions, it also provides scope of supervision of regulatory authorities on corrupt activities among others (Ademola, 2011). In addition, since 2004, Nigeria has taken significant steps towards complying with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), including conducting comprehensive audits of the petroleum sector (World Bank, 2006). The Yar’adua/Jonathan administration also added the Public Procurement Act and the due process office, i.e. the E-payment (since January, 2009) and the e-procurement (since 2008) to improve transparency in public procurements (Ademola, 2011).

It should be noted that in all these cases none of the culprits is currently being detained or serving jail term apart from Chief James Ibori, the former Governor of Delta state who is currently being jailed in the United Kingdom. Giving this scenario where these offenders are allowed to go scot free in what is presently referred to in Nigeria as ‘plea bargaining’, corruption therefore is a lucrative business in the country. Also, in a situation where people steal billions of naira and after their arrest and prosecutions such persons are only jailed for three or six months make corruption in Nigeria the most lucrative business in the world. **Shortcomings of the Nigerian Anti-Graft Commission**

The shortcomings in the efforts at curbing corruption had been prevalent. The record of success at various levels of government including states and local government had been short of expectations, considering the proportions of funds the country lost to swindlers, contract scams and money laundering (Ademola, 2011). The Acts establishing the Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAS) had been weak and ineffective. The agencies had been poorly funded and there were evidences of lack of political will by the crusaders to actualize an objective anti-corruption campaigns apart from this, the fight has been of sided,, vindictive, selective, biased, one-sided and meretricious/falsely attractive (Ademola, 2011). The effect has not yielded the desired results. Rather than abating it, it is festering uncontrollably. The campaign has been the instrument of the Presidency and his cohort ‘deal’ with opposition in order to serve as a deterrent to others who may want to go against the will of the state (the men in power). The point here is that his double standard, these warped treatments are in themselves acts of corruption (Ademola, 2011).

The EFCC has not done anything about N84 billion Naira that was missing at the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA). Also, nothing has been done about the N311 billion Naira that was missing at NNPC. In addition, about N50 million bribe was given to pro-third term legislators, during the tenure elongation debate in the National Assembly, yet, the Anti-Graft agencies did not do anything to bring offenders to justice. It was also noted that Senator Ibrahim Mantu mismanaged the sum of N400 million in the Failed Hajj Operations in 2005. Nothing was done to bring him to book by the anti-graft agencies (Ademola, 2011). All the aforementioned were aided by the fact that the agencies are not independent of the government who funds and appoints its leaders. With the power to hire and fire, the Commissions could hardly perform their duties without fear or favour. The Yar’adua/Jonathan administration did not only inherit corruption from the previous administration, they also inherited the weak and ineffective campaign against graft. The Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAS) were unable to perform their noble duties. Even when the National Assembly held public hearings into allegations of corruptions that they fail to pass progressive legislations that could help track offenders including freedom of information bill (Ademola, 2011). In December, 2007 for instance, Nuhu Ribadu, the then Chairman of the EFCC took the bold step of indicting the former Delta state Governor, James Ibori. Two weeks later the Nigerian Police Chief, ordered Mr. Ribadu to resign and proceed to attend a year ordered Mr. Ribadu to resign and proceed to attend a year-long training course, because there were many things to cover for loyal party faithful and financiers (Ademola, 2011). In recent times also, the financial scam involving the former speaker of the House of Representatives, Honourable Dimeji Bankole was treated under dubious condition and swept under the carpet. Likewise, the financial scam involving Honourable Farouk Lawan over the petroleum subsidy funds did not receive any good treatment.

**The Challenges of Corruption to Sustainable Development in the Fourth Republic**

Frederick cited in Alemika (2012) links corruption to “damage of public interests” which includes security. Likewise Osoba (1996) cited in Alemika (2012) suggests that corruption may undermine society’s capacity to provide opportunities for citizens to meet the basic necessities of life. Other writers on corruption argue that corruption has beneficial effects (Alemika, 2012). Such benefits according to him, includes circumscribing bureaucratic red-tapism, redistribution of income; promotion of capital formation; etc. However, the balance of the consequences of corruption is largely on the negative side. Corruption widens inequality, aggravates mass poverty, militates against efficient resource planning and allocation, undermines economic growth by discouraging investment; compromises economic efficiency; results in high governmental expenditures as a result of inflation of contracts and cost supplies. There is no doubt that corruption is poisonous to long term development and democracy (Alemika, 2012). The Nigeria’s 2011 Corruption Index by the EFCC maintains that Nigeria is certainly not immune to corruption. The damage of the scourge to the economy and the fabric of the society is seen in the schools that are not built, the hospitals without medicines, the roads that are not passable and the failure of our citizens to be inspired. In Nigeria today, the greatest threat to corruption is impunity. Because of its sheer scale and level, corruption is no longer secret, it is celebrated (The Nigerian 2011 Corruption Index). According to Alemika (2012), corruption in Nigeria has endangered social, economic and political problems among others. The following are some of the ways corruption has threatened sustainable development in the Fourth Republic.

i. Non-institutionalization of democracy, rule of law, human rights and economic development

ii. High incidence of prevalence of conflict, violence, crime, insecurity and instability due to antagonistic competition, inequality, poverty and lack of access to basic necessities of life.

iii. Erosion of values of hard work and integrity

iv. Lack of access to productive opportunities and diverting energies of youth to crime, deviance, violence and sundry forms of anti-social behavior

v. Low foreign investment because of corruption induced bureaucratic and other obstacles

vi. Lack of investment in the real sector by both foreign and domestic investors because of high profitability of contracts in service and supplies motivated by corruption.

vii. Dependence on foreign sources for goods and services resulting in under development of indigenous technological and productive capabilities

viii. Leakages of national assets to foreign countries through money laundering and conspicuous consumption

ix. Misallocation of resources towards programmes and projects amenable to corrupt practices

x. Perpetuation of patron – client relationships that undermine democracy, efficiency in public and private sectors

xi. High cost of doing business and low investment in productive sectors resulting to widespread poverty and unemployment, high prices of goods, low purchasing power resulting in low capacity utilization by producers and manufacturers which in turn result to retrenchment of workers

xii. Political ethno-religious and communal conflicts and violence as different groups in the society struggle to control state power as avenue for corrupt enrichment and ability to disperse patronages to their cronies, relatives and associates

xiii. Loss of public trust and legitimacy by the government

**Empirical Review:**

Boluwaji (2008), he examined “Transparency and accountability in the public sector and the role of the anti-graft agencies”. A descriptive survey research design was adopted. He found out that; lots of accounting and financial control failures exist in the public sector and the public sector officials use these lapses as a shield for their actions. Also in his findings is that so many actions that are not in line with the code of conduct in the public sector are not investigated by the anti-graft agencies, some officials are not even queried at all when at fault and some when queried are not given adequate punishment because they have godfathers. He recommended that the government should install good account control to avoid embezzlement and/or mismanagement of funds in the public sector. He also recommended that the government should publish code of ethics to engender accountability and transparency in the conduct of any public sector officer. He urged the government to help tackle the problem of godfathers and sacred cows in the country and provide management with the techniques that will ensure proper accountability in the public sector in Nigeria.

Babatunde (2009) examined “Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the fight against corruption in Nigeria public sector”. He adopted a survey research design and used questionnaire to generate data. He found that economic and financial crimes are most times not disclosed to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) either out of no confidence in the commission to administer justice or as a result of patron client relationship (god fatherism). Also in his findings is the lack of commitment on the part of the government to appraise and review the financial performance of the public sector and parastatals, making it impossible for public officers to give account of their actions. He recommended that the government should invest more in the procurement of equipment for the commission (EFCC) and create enabling environment for them to be able to stop economic and financial crimes before they are committed and be able to achieve maximum result. He also recommended that the government should as a point of duty appraise and review the financial performance of the public sector as a way to avoid sharp practices by the public officers.

In another study carried out by Nwali (2009), on “Making effective use of accountants in the fight against corruption by the EFCC”, aimed at identifying how the agency EFCC uses accountants in the fight against corruption. The methodology adopted for the work is the exploratory research method leading to deductive conclusions using, secondary data and papers presented at various seminars and the internet. The researcher discovered that EFCC and ICPC are one of the anti-corruption establishments by the government to fight economic and financial crimes in Nigeria. The researcher also concluded that positive changes in the accounting profession will impact largely to the success of the ICPC and EFCC in Nigeria. The EFCC should partner more with bodies like ICAN, ANAN in the area of training of the operatives.

Also, Emechele (2009) on the study titled “A critical Review of the Role of Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) in public sector accountability” focused on effective and efficient system of managing and accounting of public funds. The data for this study were collected through observations, questionnaires and interviews. The population of the study consisted of 50 staff. Stratified random sampling technique was adopted in selecting the staff. Data generated were analyzed using the percentage analysis; the hypotheses formulated were tested using product moment correlation coefficient. It was discovered that not much is done about accountability in Nigeria. Financial statements are usually in arrears and public office holders tend to use the laxity to get with away financial control failures. The researcher recommended that everybody must be ready to collaborate with the EFCC if the move to rid the country of the criminals must succeed.

**Gap in Literature:**

Corruption is still as a common phenomenon found not only in the so called developing countries and societies, but also in the developed societies such as Europe, America, Japan and the former Soviet Union regardless of their structural and cultural differences. It is not only found in democratic and dictatorial politics, but also in feudal, capitalist and socialist economies. Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist cultures are equally bedeviled by corruption (Dike, 2002). Thus, this study chooses to discuss among other things how corruption and its practices introduced bad governance. Ogege (2014) argue that what corruption does is to create legitimacy gap in a democratic dispensation. He said electoral corruption makes it impossible for election results to reflect the genuine wishes and mandate of the people. This ushers in bad governance or government at all levels that lack credibility, legitimacy and public confidence. And after this corruption is inevitable

**Chapter Three**

**Theoretical Framework and Methodology**

**3.1: Theoretical framework:**

A theory is a unique way of describing, analysing, interpreting and predicting phenomena. It is a set of statement or propositions that seek to explain or predict a particular aspect of life (Schrengruber, 2005). Singer (1963) on his part defined theory as a body of internally consistent empirical generalizations of descriptive, predictive and explanatory power. Johnson and Christensen (2007:7), sees a theory as that which explains ‘’how and ‘’why’’ something operates as it does. The basic function of a theory is that if offers explanations to a phenomenon and hence, it helps in the better understanding of phenomenon.

For further clarification on the research work carried out, there is need to adopt a suitable theoretical framework which will enable us make a better assessment of the subject matter. The theoretical framework adopted for research work is ‘’structural-functionalism approach’’.

**The Structural-functionalism approach**

This work is to be anchored on the synthesis of structural-functionalism. This theory was developed by Gabriel Almond and James S. Coleman in their book ***Introduction to the Politics of Developing Area (1960).*** Further development of the approach was carried out by Gabriel Almond and G.B Powell in their book ***comparative politics: A Development Approach (1966).***

Almond and his group contend that all political systems, regardless of their type, must perform a specific set of tasks if they are to remain in existence as a system in working order or in equilibrium. That is, as an ongoing system, these functions are: rule-making, rule application, interest articulation, interest aggregation, political communication, political socialization, and political recruitment.

The emphasis of this approach was on structures of political system (this refers to those arrangements within the system which perform the function) and how best they performed certain functions.

While the functions are the observed consequences which make for the adaptation or readjustment of a given system, functions deal ultimately with objective consequences, but they may be perceived as objective processes or results from various point view and for various purposes.

In final analysis, there was a very close link between functionalism and political development; the idea that countries had to develop in the capacity to perform certain function.

**Applying this theory** to our research, it implies that the government function against corruption serves as a framework for the sustainable economic development.

**3.2: Research design:**

Anikpo (1986), defined research design as a plan or structure of any aspect of the research procedure. Such plan according to him will be realized in the selection of the most appropriate concepts, hypotheses, analytical paradigms and also the most effective format to present research report.

The research design adopted for this work is ex-post facto design. Kerlinger (1977) averred that ex-post factor research is a form of descriptive research in which an independent variable has already occurred and in which an investigator starts with the observation of a dependent variable then studies the independent variable in retrospect for its possible relationship to and effects on the dependent variable Cohen and Menion (1980) further clarifies the pharse ‘’ex-post facto’’ which means ‘’after the fact or retrospectively’’. Therefore, the ex-post facto research is a systematic empirical study where by the research does not manipulate the independent variable because the scenario for the study is already in existence. However, the research can create a scenario which will be subjected to empirical verification. Asika (1991:24) equally noted that the ex-post facto design is also known as a single case study.

Diagrammatically, it can simply be represented as: O1 X O2

Where:

O1=n observation on the dependent variable before the occurrence of the independent variable.

X= the independent variable

O2= observation on the dependent variable after the occurrence of the independent variable.

For instance, O1 stipulates the economic status of Nigeria during the mid 20th century i.e. before the formation of AGOA. Then X which means the independent variable illustrates the U.S unilateral implementation of AGOA in the 21st century. Lastly, O2 stands for the current economic status of Nigeria during the existence of AGOA.

This study adopts the ex-post factor research design, because the study of the events is already in existence and also it explains the relationship between the variables.

**3.3: Method of data collection:**

Data collection is a term used in describing the acquisition of material for carrying out a research. The purpose of collection is to obtain information, make decisions on controversial issues and to pass across information.

In the light of the aforementioned, data was collected through qualitative method relying on secondary sources like text books, journals and online resources.

**3.4: Method of data analysis:**

The data analysis adopted for this study is qualitative descriptive analysis. The adoption of this analysis is neither aimed at statistical test of hypothesis nor to established numeric or statistical relationship between variable. Although qualitative data may occur in few cases but the target here is to establish relationship and validity within the social or concrete reality.

**Chapter Four**

**Data Presentation and Analysis**

**4.1 Causes of Corruption in Nigeria:**

There are several factors that can be linked to the causes and prevalent of corruption in Nigeria. Corruption is perpetuated due to the following fact; the syndrome of getting-rich-quick, moral decadence as a result of degeneration and shaky foundations of our moral upbringing and values in the society, unemployment/underemployment, inadequate motivation(job role, remuneration, work environment, high cost of living-housing, feeding, transportation, education, etc), chauvinism-tribal, gender, self-serving tendencies, taste not commensurate with status in life, saving-for-the-rainy- day syndrome, large/extended family and manipulation of panel by government to mention but a few. Also, it is a common belief that poverty is one of the major causes of corruption and one cannot but submit to the fact that there a great deal it in the land. In another perspective Paolo (1998) mentioned three principal causes of corruption, which are: 1. Government restrictions and intervention, which lead to excessive profits. These include trade restrictions (tariffs and import quotas), favourist industrial policies (subsidies and tax deduction), price controls, multiple exchange rate practices, foreign exchange allocation schemes, government-controlled credit; 2. Natural resources, e.g., (crude) oil whose supply is limited by nature where huge profits are available to those who extract it; officials who allocate extraction rights are likely to be offered bribes; 3. Where civil servants are paid low wages and have to resort to collect bribes in order to feed their families; 4. And to this we may add, lack of adequate and sustainable retirement benefits, under which serving officials would want to provide for their future through corruption and fraudulent practices.

**4.2 Impacts of Corruption on Nigeria’s Quest for Sustainable Development:**

The effects of corruption on all facets of a nation’s development are innumerable. The formal chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), Mustapha Akanbi stated inter alia that Corruption is a dangerous foe… The endemic nature and deliberating effect of corruption on the cultural, economic, social and political foundation of the society has been most harrowing and disconcerting (Akanbi, 2004cited in Orji, 2011). Corruption has been the harbinger of the messy situation in which we find ourselves today and it has always been impacted negatively on the overall development of the country. Orji (2011) gave the following effects of corruption on Nigeria development;

1. It has ruined our hopes for greater tomorrow and destroyed our value system so much so that the world begins to see us as men and women without honour and dignity.

2. It has led to slow movement of files in offices, police extortion and slow traffic on the highways, port congestion, queues at gas stations, ghost workers syndrome, and election irregularities among others.

3. According to Chuta(2004) that the image of the country in the international arena has become so battered that every Nigerian psychologically feel a scorching hurt inflicted on his individual psyche. The dent has gone so far that everywhere in the world, Nigerians are said to be generally dreaded like mad dogs and criminals, cautiously approached like dangerous snakes, and avoided.

4. Corruption is politically destabilizing, that is it has the capacity of engendering political instability, breakdown of law and order, brain drain, inefficient of the public service among others (Lawal, 2006).

5. It causes brain drain as Oloja (2002) asserts that regrettable, “corruption is one of the reasons for the “brain- drain” phenomenon in Nigeria, as talented professionals are leaving the country in search of employment somewhere else.

6. Natufe (2007) said that the corruption is a major hindrance in ensuring good governance and development. He continued that corruption is no doubt an enemy of economic development. He said that in the international scene, it gives a nation and her people a poor image.

7. Ojaide (2000) said that a nation that condones corruption is often besieged with a lot of economic and social vices. In his assertion, he maintained that a corrupt ridden society, trade and commerce cannot thrive, as investors will be unwilling to invest in any trade or business in such country. Thus, corruption discourages honest efforts and valuable economic activities; and it breeds inefficiency and nepotism. 8. In the socio-cultural context, corruption apart from engendering poverty has the capacity of changing the social values of a good and progressive society dramatically to nothing else. This is as a result of crazy pursuit of wealth, affluences, power and societal recognition. People no longer appreciate the virtues of good morale, conduct and practices. They believe in the reverse order, that the means justifies the end.

**4.3 The Nexus between Corruption and Sustainable Development:**

Corruption is a canker worm that has reduced development almost to nothing in Nigeria. Corruption according to the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) (2006) has been the primary reason behind the country difficulties in developing fast. Ribadu (2003) stated that this is the reason why Transparency International has consisted rating of Nigeria as one of the top three most corrupt countries in the world.The2013 ranking of T.I revealed that Nigeria is ranked the 35th position of the most corrupt countries of the World (Transparency International, 2013).Today, Nigeria is endowed with abundant human and natural resources yet the country is dwelling in severe poverty. The country has all it takes to achieve sustainable development because she is richly endowed with human and natural resources particularly oil and gas (Ogege, 2014). With a Gross Domestics Product (GDP) of USD 58.4 billion and population of about 160 million as reported by the World Bank in 2007, Nigeria is among the four largest economies in Africa. Nigeria is the fourth wealthiest nation in Africa, second wealthiest in sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank, 2007). Nevertheless, Nigeria has remained a country of extreme absurdity with persistent poverty in the mist of plenty.

It is a fact in that about 74 percent of the population in Nigeria cannot feed on $1 per day (Koffi Annah, 2000 inAluyor & Shuaib, 2011; Ogege, 2014).To further buttress the above assertion, Nigeria is ranked very low in Human Development Index (HDI). The United Nation Development Programme(UNDP) in 2008 report that Nigeria’s HDI is put at 0.453, which is lower than the average HDI for sub-Saharan Africa of 0.515 (UNDP 2008).Nigeria is currently rated as one of the poorest nations in the globe with devastating youth unemployment, with over ten million youths that are willing to work but cannot find work (NBS 2009, Otto & Ukpere 2012 as cited in Ogege, 2014).Uma and Eboh (2013)state that several policies and programmes have been put in place in this regard but hydra-headed corruption and crises have been militating against positive and meaningful results. Over the years, subsequent governments had put in place a plethora of robust development policies and programmes that can indeed steer the nation on a fast track to sustainability. Regrettably, corruption remains the bane to achieving sustainable development. Lager percentage of the population lack access to health care facilities, qualitative and affordable education, pipe borne water, and electricity to mention but a few out of the need infrastructures lacking in the country.

The general dismal performance and the inability of the various regimes to achieve sustainable development in Nigeria is attributed to corruption. Ogege (2014) argue that what corruption does is to create legitimacy gap in a democratic dispensation. He said electoral corruption makes it impossible for election results to reflect the genuine wishes and mandate of the people. This ushers in bad governance or government at all levels that lack credibility, legitimacy and public confidence. According to him, there are two major implications for sustainable development in Nigeria. Firstly, it creates capacity gap. Since political power is got through corrupt means, inexperienced and evil minded leaders who are not responsible to the plight of the people dominate the political arena. Such leaders put in place institutions and agencies that are incapable of effectively utilising the commonwealth or public resources to provide essential services and other necessities that the people of Nigeria especially the poor are in need of. Secondly, legitimacy gap for sustainable development is that it creates security gap, fraudulent elections. The inability of the Nigerian leaders to allocate resources for the material well-being of its citizenry inevitably leads to frustrated expectations and make the people prone to violent crimes and conflicts. This of course explains the upsurge of insecurity in Nigeria. The state of insecurity is an obstacle to sustainable development.

**Chapter Five**

**Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation**

**5.1 Summary:**

Based on the content analysis of this work the researcher summarize as follows;

* In issues of the causes of corruption in Nigeria, it is a common belief that poverty is one of the major causes of corruption and one cannot but submit to the fact that there is a great of deal it in the land.
* The formal chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), Mustapha Akanbi summarizes the point on the ‘Impacts of Corruption on Nigeria’s Quest for Sustainable Development’ when he stated inter alia that Corruption is a dangerous foe… The endemic nature and deliberating effect of corruption on the cultural, economic, social and political foundation of the society has been most harrowing and disconcerting (Akanbi, 2004cited in Orji, 2011). He also emphasized that Corruption has been the harbinger of the messy situation in which we find ourselves today and it has always been impacted negatively on the overall development of the country.
* However, in point of the relationship/nexus between corruption and sustainable economic development, it is a fact in that about 74 percent of the population in Nigeria cannot feed on $1 per day (Koffi Annah, 2000 in Aluyor & Shuaib, 2011; Ogege, 2014).To further buttress the above assertion, Nigeria is ranked very low in Human Development Index (HDI). The United Nation Development Programme(UNDP) in 2008 report that Nigeria’s HDI is put at 0.453, which is lower than the average HDI for sub-Saharan Africa of 0.515 (UNDP 2008).Nigeria is currently rated as one of the poorest nations in the globe with devastating youth unemployment, with over ten million youths that are willing to work but cannot find work (NBS 2009, Otto & Ukpere 2012 as cited in Ogege, 2014).Uma and Eboh (2013)state that several policies and programmes have been put in place in this regard but hydra-headed corruption and crises have been militating against positive and meaningful results.

**5.2 Conclusion:**

As the concepts of corruption and sustainable development have been discussed, the study reveals that the potential to be prosperous abound in the country; however corruption remains one of the major hindrances hampering the attainment of this prosperity specifically its sustainable development. Corruption has metamorphosed into high rate of poverty, and other all forms of socio-vices among the people. The reduced rate of development has significantly provided for lack of suitable health care services, qualitative and affordable education ,and other infrastructural services that its population are greatly in need of. Nigeria is currently rated as one of the poorest nations in the world with devastating youth unemployment, with over ten million youths that are willing to work but cannot find work (NBS 2009, Otto & Ukpere 2012 as cited in Ogege, 2014).As the number continue to grow exponentially per year. Developmental growth is stunted or probably at a standstill in Nigeria compared to other nations that are well endowed with the petroleum crude oil like Nigeria. Instead of oil being a blessing to the nation it has always being on the other side because of corruption. Several government administrations in the country have been at one point or the other accused of misappropriation of public funds or embezzlement by the successive government. However, available evidence indicates that these resources have not been judiciously used or circulated to meet the needs of the population in terms of human capital development because of high level of corruption in the country. Hence, the study in its aims critically examined the causes of corruption in Nigeria, its negative impacts on developmental growth and the nexus between corruption and sustainable development.

**5.3 Recommendations:**

Based on the above discussions, the study therefore recommends the following;

* The activities or programmes of the anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria such as the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and related Offences Commission (ICPC) should be strengthened in terms of adequate training and retraining and finance.
* Federal government especially and the Politicians must stop interfering in the affairs of the anti-corruption agencies in the country.
* The policies that will enhance the achievement of sustainable development must be encouraged so as to reduce the level of corruption and poverty and increase the level of economic growth and development in all forms.
* There should be free and fair election in Nigeria so that the honest individuals who would serve as role models will be put elected into leadership positions so as to minimize the negative impact of corruption on economic growth in Nigeria.
* Government should encourage leaders that display transparency, honesty, probity, accountability, purposefulness and commitment to good ideals of the society before the followers will be convinced of the ingenuity of such crusade.
* Government should ensure corruption as a theme needs to be discourse on debate by government representatives at Federal, State and local level. This is will create the awareness that corrupt practices are against norms, culture and social value of the society.
* Government should formulate and implement policy on how to combat poverty and unemployment that is engulfing 95% of the Nigerian population. This is severe on the teeming graduates of different universities in the country.

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