



THE ENDEMIC CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS THROUGH THE LENS OF THE PROGENITOR THEORY OF CORRUPTION

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Corruption in Nigeria has become a societal norm, significantly hindering national development. This persistent challenge has given rise to various theoretical explanations aimed at understanding its root causes. This paper investigates the causes of corruption in Nigeria through psychological and sociological lenses, arising in the progenitor theory of corruption. The public choice theory of corruption, institutional theory of corruption, and the principal-agent theory were adopted as the main theoretical framework of analysis. Additionally, attachment theory, and Baumrind's parenting style theory were employed to structure the study's psychological and sociological analysis of the progenitor theory of corruption as propounded in this paper. The research utilised the qualitative approach, based on primary data sourced from semi-structured interviews, and complemented with secondary data. Findings indicate that ill parenting styles significantly contribute to the prevalence of societal corruption, thus, providing sufficient evidence for our progenitor theory of corruption. Based on these findings, the paper recommends that parents should instil moral values and ethical behaviours in their children. Furthermore, they should provide holistic care by addressing the social, spiritual, and financial needs of their wards to prevent the development of corrupt tendencies.

Introduction

Every country exists primarily for the purpose of the protection of life and property, and societal development. To help the state achieve this, it became imperative to have a seeming standing power evolving from, but placing itself above the society. Such power, which alienates itself more and more from the society is being exercised on behalf of the state by certain institutions, structures and agencies, the bureaucracy being the most important (Arowolo, 2004:2). However, achieving such feats has gradually become a mirage in some underdeveloped and developing countries especially in Africa. This is largely because of the prevalence of corruption in such countries. This also explains the infliction of underdevelopment, insecurity and weak political institution in many of the African states. According to Egwaikhide (2009), the phenomenon called corruption manifests in Africa in at least, nine(9) various forms, such as political corruption, electoral corruption, bureaucratic corruption, bribery, embezzlement, extortion, fraud, nepotism, favouritism, examination malpractice, impersonation, sex for favour, and other unholy activities that have become a clog on the wheels of economic growth

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and development on the continent.

In the midst of the endemic corruption in Africa, Nigeria inclusive, it became imperative to answer such questions as: is corruption part of state? What are the causes of corruption? How best can corruption be tackled? Is corruption manageable or preventable? In order to proffer answers to these questions, scholars have embarked on academic voyage which has given birth to academic recipe to unveil the causes of corruption and its management. Arguably, corruption may not be preventable as exemplified in developed countries where corruption also prevails, albeit, in a much subtle manner compared to many African states. As a result of this, it could be safe to infer that corruption has gradually become a way life of a state, but its escalation becomes detrimental to the welfare of a state. To further elucidate this, different theories have been propounded. Theories like Klits Guard's corruption formula, Scotts' moral economy theory, and transparency international corruption theory. These theories explain corruption in tandem with their proponents' lenses and experiences.

Whereas, a number of studies exist on corruption in Africa and Nigeria, including the many corruption theories propounded, there remains scanty research that attempts to interrogate corruption in Nigeria from sociological and psychological perspectives. This is the gap this paper fills, by critically analysing the endemic corruption in Nigeria through the lens of the progenitor theory of corruption as espoused in this paper. The paper therefore, attempts to explain the endemic corruption in Nigeria with new lens, and through another dimension by using sociological and psychological approaches to explain the causes of the persistent and endemic corruption in the Nigerian state, and by extension, Africa. Relying on relevant sociological and psychological theories of corruption that align with the objectives of the paper, the authors coined 'the progenitor theory of corruption' to provide explanations for how parenting styles could cause and perpetuate corruption in a state.

Conceptual Discourse

Corruption has been conceived as an act of utilizing both human and non-human resources of the public for personal gains. This implies that corruption is an act of deviation from offices principles. Hence, the World Bank refers to corruption as the abuse of public office for private gains. In the view of Dike (2003), it is a behaviour which deviates from the formal duties of the public roles because of private gains or expectation of private gains. In essence, corruption entails an abuse of official position for private gains. Dike's definition of corruption highlights the features of deviation from principle and hedonistic nature of humans, which was portrayed in Thomas Hobbes' political thought. However, we argue that this definition of "using public office for private gains" has not completely described corruption because corruption does not only entail a deviation from principle because of private gains alone. It can therefore, also be seen as an act of deviation from the norms in pursuit of both private and public gains. For example, when a governor from a specific town in a state awards a project that is meant for another town for his own town, the governor's action is for both private and public gains. Arising from the complexity of the concept of corruption, Tanzi (1998) argued that corruption is not easy to define, but the crises associated with corruption are not difficult to recognise. This assertion is correct to the extent that what constitutes corruption is clouded with different



variables that are overt to some scholars and covert to others. Hence, the appearance of these variables to their perception reflects on their definition of corruption.

Also, according to Nye (1967: 419), corruption is a “behaviour which deviates from the normal duties of a public role because of private-regarding (family, close private clique), pecuniary or status gains; or violates rules against the exercise of certain types of private-regarding influence.” Before an action could be tagged as corruption, there should be an existence of at least three elements, which suggests its complete manifestation. The first element of corruption is ‘bias.’ Before an action could qualify as a corrupt action, there should be an element of bias. For example, it is as a result of bias that a public office holder will expropriate the public fund that was meant for public services to his private account or pocket. Secondly, there should also be an existence of the perpetrator and perpetrated who are characters in the action. For example the public office holder who siphons public funds into his private pocket, is the perpetrator while the poor citizens who the public office holder cheats, are the perpetrated. The last elements is the pay off – that is, the objects and/or resources that are meant for the perpetrated which attracts the perpetrator to divert them for their personal use. This pay-off could be in the form of money, position, office, or other valuable items and resources.

In Africa, corruption is bi-faceted in which it is driven by both internal and external factors. What is meant by internal factor of corruption in Africa is that corruption which is carried out internally in Africa, whose perpetrators are solely Africans, and the setting of the act is in Africa. Externally, corruption involves the collaboration of Africans and foreigners to perpetrate the act in Africa. The causes of corruption in Nigeria have been attributed to weak government institutions, poor pay incentives, lack of openness and transparency in public service, absence of key anti-corruption tools, ineffective political processes, culture and acceptance of corruption by the populace, absence of effective political financing, poverty, ethnic and religious differences, and resource scramble (Nurudenetal, 2014).

An Overview of Corruption in Nigeria

Corruption has become the order of the day in Africa because of its intense and diverse manifestations across most African states. Even though it is a phenomenon that is present in every country, albeit, with variance in its management measures and degree of manifestation. Corruption is one of the reasons why Africa, but especially Nigeria is toddling in the pit of underdevelopment, because it births dormant state, and many of its institutions are in limbo. A country that is plagued with corruption cannot develop its citizens to their fullest potentials. Therefore, corruption, like transparency and good governance affects all facets of a country’s existence – economy, society and polity, which in turn leads to underdevelopment (Momoh, 2013). Hence, the assertion that the level of underdevelopment in which Nigeria finds itself is a result of intense manifestations of corruption. One critical area is money laundering which the UNDP Thematic Programme on Anti-corruption report indicates that Africa lost an estimated of US \$ 100 billion annually to corruption (UNDP, 2014). The United States estimated that Africa losses an estimate of US \$ 148 billion annually to corruption which is around 25% of the entire continent’s GDP. Within this amount, between US\$ 20 to US \$40 billion is lost due to the payment of bribes to government officials. Anyone who had the



opportunity to count the number of times African states have been accused of being “corrupt” in foreign media will loss count. Thus, without any obscurantism, there are no doubt all the charges are true, as there are both domestic and foreign investigations of corruption cases in Africa. All these have raised genuine questions about the capacity of African leaders to deal with the issue of corruption heads on (Momoh, 2015). Although, corruption has received global condemnation in recent years, albeit, the growth and development of corruption in Africa has been sustained due to the fact that African states are undergoing rapid socio-economic cum political changes which affect human behaviour, and sometimes corruption serves the purpose of lubricating commerce (Momoh, 2013).

For examples on the above, Premium Times reported that Betta Edu, former Minister for Humanitarian Affairs in Nigeria siphoned 585 million Naira that was meant for public purpose to her account. Also, The Guardian (2008) reported that Honourable Kanbashi, Zambian Minister of Community Development was relieved of his position for embezzling 3.5 Million pounds of aids payments. Furthermore, BBC report shows a notable example during President Goodluck Jonathan’s administration in Nigeria. Investigations revealed that approximately 2billion naira allocated for military equipment to combat insurgency was misappropriated (BBC, 2015). High ranking government officials, including former National Security Advisers, Sambo Dasuki, were implicated in diverting these funds for personal and political purposes.

In bribery and corruption aspects it was also reported by The Premium Times in February 2024 that Ibrahim Sulaimanone, a high ranking custom officer, was said to have extorted 500,000 Naira from a car buyer named Muhammad Ahmad along Mokwa–Jebba Road in Niger State on 22 February, 2024. Moreover, in Africa, terrorism is an example of corruption because scholars opined that the relationship between terrorism and corruption is akin to that of cause and effect, in which corruption is a cause and terrorism is an effect. In other words, any country that is experiencing corruption will most likely be plagued with terrorism because terrorism is often triggered by dissent arising from societal inequalities. Hence, Le Billon (2003) highlights how resources mismanagement and corrupt practices in conflict zones can provide both a motive and opportunity for terrorist activity. Lukarawa, Boko Haram, ISWAP, Banditry, and Biafra agitators, etc. could be safely sub-summed as products of corruption. All the above instances integrated together, prompted the report by the United Nations Development Programme (HDI, 2024) that Nigeria’s Human Development Index (HDI) is at 0.548, placing it at 161st position out of 191 countries. This indicates poor human development in Nigeria. Also, Nigeria’s corruption perception index level is 25 out of 100, indicating a high perception of public sector corruption. This places Nigeria at 145th position out of 180 countries (Transparency International, 2023).

A Theoretical Review on the Factors that Drive Corruption

Social scientists have propounded different theories to both explain, and tackle social, economic, and political problems. These theories come from different social sciences field. While theory building is an inherent feature of the natural sciences, social scientists have since adopted theory building in its field. For example, theory building was revolutionised in the field of political science during the Eastonian era during the 1950s. This era witnessed the



transformation of political science from value laden field to fact laden field. To this end, David Easton developed a system theory to explain the decision making process in the society, which entails both input and output models. Thus, David Easton argues that research without theory is futile as work without data is trivial. This assertion implies that theory is not built for frivolity, but for purpose. Cox (1986: 207), as cited by Hazbun (2017: 656) argues that “theory is always for someone and some purpose. Moreover, socioeconomic theories as pointed out by David Easton in his book, “The Political System” shows that a basic criterion of a theory is that it must meet the requirements of either a value theory or causal theory (Easton 1953: 52-56).

With the aim to explain corruption and proffer solutions to the emergence of corruption in Nigeria, how it emerged; how it can be solved; and why it emanates, different scholars have propounded myriad of theories to explain corruption and manage its manifestations. We examine some of these theories in this section. One of the propounded theories on corruption is the public choice theory of corruption. Propounded by Gordon Tullock and James M. Buchanan in 1960, the theory stresses that corruption emerges as a result of deviation from the normalcy of the position of public office holders, by using the resources that were meant for the public for their private interests. This theory underscores the fact that public office holders prioritise their private interests over public interests (John, 2008). Moreover, Shielfer (2001) argues that strict regulation can lead to less competition and more corruption, which is a key tenet of public choice theory. What he means is that intense regulation in formal or informal organizations will enhance more prevalence of corruption in that organization. He uses this to critique Pigou’s work, in which Pigou opined that unregulated markets exhibit negative externalities. However, public choice theory was criticised for neglecting power dynamics and inequality, and also for ignoring complex historical and economic factors that may influence corrupt practices.

Another theory is the institutional theory of corruption which was propounded by North (1990). This theory stresses that corruption emanates as a result of flaws that occur in the institutions (formal and informal) that constitute the government of the state. This theory tagged the corruption that occurs in a state as a result of weak institutions that carry out the day to day activities of government, and the weakness in the institutions’ frameworks, such as laws, regulations, and norms. The reason therefore, why the institutional theory emphasises the role of institutions in encouraging corruption, and gifting out opportunities for corrupt behaviours. For example, if the formal institutions of a state (executive, judiciary, and legislature) do not perform their official tasks in a democratic state, nor expend their vital task in federal state—check and balances, this could encourage corruption. Rohtsein (2011) therefore, argues that corruption is as a result of low-quality government institutions, characterised by, partiality, weak rule of law and inefficient bureaucracy. Nevertheless, it was criticised for oversimplifying the impacts and behaviour of individuals in the society. Hence, Ackerman’s (1999) assertion that institutional theory of corruption ignores individual behaviour, character, agency, and motivation, while laying emphasis on institutions as parameter to measure the accountability of a state.

Finally, the principal-agent theory (PAT) was propounded by Jensen and Meckling (1976). This



theory of corruption views corruption from economic lens. It opines that corruption occurs as a result of conflict of interest between the principal (citizens and government) and agent (bureaucrats and politicians). This arises when the principal delegates tasks to the agent on the agreement of implementation for a specific purpose, and the principal will reward the agent. This theory argues that there will be an 'information asymmetry' between them. It means that the agents will have more information than the principal; there will also be an existence of 'moral hazard'. This means the agent will pursue personal gains at principals' expense; there will also be an existence of 'agency cost', in which the principal incurs costs in monitoring and controlling agents. Ackerman (2010) therefore, argues that PAT explains corruption in situations where agents have discretion and principals lacks information. She also emphasises that an enhancement in the principal-agents relations; improvement in accountability and transparency; and implementing robust monitoring mechanisms will reduce corruption. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that the afore-mentioned theories are not the only theories that explain corruption, as a plethora of other theories, exist. Among others are the Marxism theory, and dependency theory. All of these theories explain how corruption emerges in society. For example, Marxism theory explains how corruption emerges in primal epoch, current epoch, and next epoch. While dependency theory explains how corruption occurs between the European and African countries at the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial eras.

The Progenitor Theory of Corruption

We advance the progenitor theory of corruption with the aim to fill existing gap in corruption theory, that is, a theory that provides explanations for, and proffers solutions to societal corruption using interdisciplinary approach. It is the belief that such an interdisciplinary approach (political science, sociology, and psychology) to understanding corruption, including its societal causes and consequences, will present a better and more feasible roadmap towards addressing the menace heads on. This theory examines corruption through the lenses of political, sociology, and psychology. This theory was advanced through theoretical analysis, key informant interviews, and relevant literature.

The theory hypothesises that corruption could be triggered and perpetuated in the society as a result of mal-nurturing from parents. The theory therefore, classifies parents into two categories: the unresponsive one and the corrupted responsive one. The theory proposes that corruption could be escalated or otherwise in the society through the effect of these types of parents. This is anchored on Baumrind's (1966) assertion that parenting is a compound activity of many particular behaviours working individually or together that affect the behaviour of children. Baumrind identified three parenting styles based on parental demandingness and responsiveness, which include authoritative parenting, authoritarian parenting, and permissive parenting. Juvenile delinquency is directly linked to the behaviour of parents they adopt to treat their children (Coste, 2015).

The unresponsive parents are those who procreate children without evoking or exhibiting any responsibility upon them. They either possess the status of financial buoyancy or out of financial buoyancy. As a result of this, the future of the children will be in fuss because they will lack proper care from their parents, and that in turn, exposes such children to the higher chances of being dipped in poverty. This existence of poverty will exacerbate the delinquency



behaviour and criminal act in these children. The products of these kinds of parents become the instrument of corruption for the devilish people in society. In other words, these kinds of children will be the ember of unrest in the society that the corrupt political leaders or elites will use to carry out their heinous plans in an immoral way. To corroborate this, while delivering a convocation lecture, Nuhu Ribadu concluded that Northern Nigeria is susceptible to insecurity as a result of existence of mass youth illiteracy in the region (This Day Live, 2024). This has contributed to the rise of different insurgent groups, extremists, and terrorist groups like ISWAP, Boko Haram, and Lukarawa, among others that are troubling the peace of Nigeria. A study which was conducted by Dickson et al. (2024) found that 98% of prison inmates involved in burglary lacked post-secondary education, and 90% of those convicted of robbery were either illiterate or had qualifications below undergraduate level. The study concluded a significant relationship between low educational levels and the propensity to commit crimes such as robbery and weapon-related offenses. These facts point to the failure of parenting to provide education to their children.

Moreover, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2024) reveals that the lowest rate of literacy is in Northern Nigeria compared to Southern Nigeria. The data shows that the literacy rate in the North-East is 47.8%, North-Central 55.3%, North-West 44.6%. Comparing this to southern part where South-East is 79.2%, South-South 84.1%, and South-West is 83.1 %, it is obvious that the North is far behind. This data shows that a lack of education which is one of the feature of unresponsive parenting contributes to the existence of corruption and insecurity in Nigeria. On the other hand, the corrupted responsive parents. This theory hypothesised that this class of parents will possess wealth, and are also in higher strata of society, but they are corrupt and even amass their wealth from their corrupt acts. The children who fall into the category of such parents are innocent at the onset because they know nothing about corruption, but it is their parents that initiate them into corrupt activities through their behaviour. This will in turn ensure that corrupt activities become normal behaviour to the children with such class of parents. This affirms John Locke's rejection of the idea of innate knowledge and argues that humans are born without pre-existing ideas or knowledge, making the mind a tabula rasa or blank slate (Locke, 1689). He posits that all knowledge is derived from experience, which can be divided into two sources: sensation (external experiences from the world) and reflection (internal experiences or thoughts derived from sensation).

Locke contends that through sensory experience, the mind acquires ideas, which are then processed and reflected upon to form knowledge. Bowlby (1969) further asserts that disruptions in the attachment bond during the critical period of early childhood may lead to long-term emotional and behavioural challenges, highlighting the profound impact of parental behaviours on shaping a child's worldview, emotional resilience, and interactions with others, thereby, underscoring the importance of nurturing, consistent, and responsive caregiving in fostering healthy behavioural outcomes and well-adjusted relationships throughout a child's lifespan. This leads us to the conclusion that children's corrupt behaviour is a reflection of their parents' corrupt behaviour, because it is their parents that serve as their attachment. Many Nigerian civil servants and politicians fall into this category. They will engage in kleptocratic behaviour while in service, and also transfer this behaviour to their children who they help to



secure political positions and jobs. Furthermore, there are many instances where the children of corrupt politicians have been implicated in corruption cases, suggesting a potential pattern of inherited corrupt behaviour from their parents. For example, Daily Trust (2017) reported how former Governor Sule Lamido of Jigawa State and his sons were arrested and arraigned over allegations of a N10 billion fraud, indicating how political corruption can involve both parents and their children. Under the Nigerian situation, it becomes really difficult to find civil servants and/or politicians who are in service for the purpose of achieving the state ends (state development and people welfarism), but they are often there to enrich themselves and families. That is why most politicians introduce and mentor their children into the business of politics in Nigeria. Hence, most of the children of Nigerian politicians are also vying for, or have assumed one political position or the other. For example Nigeria's incumbent President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's wife is also a past senator in Lagos state, while his son is also into politics in Lagos State. President Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigeria's former president, his daughter Iyabo Obasanjo was also a past senator. Likewise, Nasir El-Rufai's son, Muhammed El-Rufai is also a Representative in Kaduna State parliament. These are but very few cases.

Methodology

This paper adopts the qualitative research design, using primary data sourced from in-depth interviews, and secondary data. Data was collected from selected male and female parents, some victims of ill-parenting, and an anti-corruption agency. This included four (4) purposively selected key informant interviewees made up of two parents, one (1) victim of bad parenting style and one (1) official of anti-corruption agency. This research method is used in qualitative research when the researcher wants to have an in-depth information on the research question, and also wants to unanimously test the research hypothesis. Yin (2013) also explains that in this methodology, the researcher has no control over the events and the major focus of the researcher is on "a contemporary phenomenon within some real-life context" (p.1). Therefore, while secondary data were retrieved from relevant journal articles, textbooks and magazines, and online sources, primary data were extracted from in-depth interviews as the model of data collection. An in-depth interview is a widely used qualitative research method designed to explore participants' experiences, perceptions, and motivations in detail. Unlike structured interviews, in-depth interviews offer flexibility, allowing the researcher to delve into topics that arise organically during the conversation (Patton, 2015). The method is particularly valuable for understanding complex social phenomena, as it provides rich, nuanced data that is difficult to capture using quantitative approaches (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2015). In-depth interviews were conducted in order to allow for robust analysis, and not limit the research to secondary data which may be insufficient. Data so collected were analysed using the qualitative thematic analytical approach.

Discussion and Results

Corruption is a major cankerworm that impedes development of nations. It compels nations to become static and not make any significant progress in terms of development. In an attempt to adopt holistic approach in the combat of the negative manifestations of corruption, different theories of corruption have been propounded by different scholars according to their perspective of the phenomenon. For instance institutional theory of corruption emphasises



weak institutions as the causes of corruption; traditional theory of corruption also shifts the causes of corruption in the society on the culture and traditions of the society. From personal experiences on corruption from a country that is deeply embedded in corruption, the paper examines the causes of corruption as a product of parenting style. With the aim to validate and empirically test this view, the paper relies on in-depth interviews.

Sharing their perspectives on whether parenting style can affect children's behaviour, the first parent opined that children's behaviour can immensely be affected by parenting styles because parents are the first teacher of their children. He buttressed the point by asserting that: "Children's behaviour is shaped by parenting style. This occurs because they are the first teacher for them, and also use most of their life with them. People with good and bad behaviour are determined by their parents' parenting style, and most of what we do is emulated by them [the children]."

Furthermore while asking him that could neglecting children by not providing for their needs prompt them to engage in vice behaviour, with the aim to test the hypothesis of the theory that emphasises that neglect from the parents towards their children, tempt their juvenile-like behaviour which encourages them to act in tandem to acceptable behaviour in society. The parent emphasised that:

Our wards (children) were born by us to attend to all their needs (moral, financial, and spiritual needs), failure of doing so can tempt them to engage in a bad behaviour because they need someone to guide them, put them through on their endeavour because they know nothing about life. Also, the children that were not provided his/her financial need by her parents could prompt such children to engage in vice activities because they could want to find any means to have the financial freedom by themselves, which may include stealing or doing other vice activities.

From another perspective, a female parent shared her own thoughts on the subject matter. Asked about the benefits of taking care of ones' children, and how that effects the lives of children, her thoughts go thus:

Parental care is sacrosanct in the life of the children, this serves as a shaper that shapes the life of children in the society. Parents who take care of their children will see the results in their children because it will reflect on their lives and behaviours. Even, listening to them, accepting their opinion will guarantee confidence in them. This makes me always say that the parents are the custodian of peace in the society because their works and efforts in the life of their children determine the rate of peace in the society. The higher the care, the higher and healthier their lives and behaviours will be, and vice versa.

The above response emphasises the essence of parents' care in the life of children and society. This also affirms the hypothesis of Diana Baumrind (1966), who affirms that parenting style affects the life and behaviour of children. Moreover, the study also spreads to victims of ill



parenting style. This includes the children that are wandering around the street without any destination. They would be easily recognised with tattered cloth, bushy hair, begging for alms on the street, and also not having access to formal education. This category of children will be on the street begging for alms when other children are in school receiving lectures. While interviewing one of such victims of poor parenting, on the reasons for his present predicament, he replied as follows:

I know that education is good, but I am unable to have access to it because there wasn't prowess to do so. I am living with my grandmother and she doesn't have financial ability to take care of me. As a result of this, I have to be on the street to beg for alms or do menial and dirty job like helping people to dispose their dirty in order for me to get something to eat.

The above response depicts that his current conditions is not in his will but in the will of situation that he finds himself – lack of proper parental care. He also affirms that he knows that education is good but the unavailability to do so, leads him not to be under the four walls of a classroom. Moreover, when also asked about his future, about any optimism of becoming a good person in the future, in order to test his hope and self-confidence, he noted that:

I have no hope in the future for myself for now because I am wandering on the street to find what I will eat without engaging myself in any formal or informal education. Am I going to beat the people that are in class which have good parental care? Though, I am also optimistic on the betterment of my future if I see someone that will send me to school and will be responsible for my financial needs.

Lastly, from the viewpoint of anti-corruption agents on the subject matter, an EFCC agent expressed his opinion on the role of the parents and the government in cultivating corruption in the society. He asserted that:

As part of efforts to stem the tide of corruption in the society, parents and guardians have been urged to instil in their wards and children, the right values, such as integrity and empathy, that will help them shun graft. The EFCC advice was handed to every Nigerian in a non-governmental organisation programme Step-Up Nigeria, who launched a Parent Anti-Corruption Champion Initiative (PACCI) with the charge to parents to exhibit the right values. Also, parents should create empathy culture in their children, this will enable them have empathy on others. Lastly, the government should also let the anti-corruption agency to be independent from government in order to carry out their task independently.

All the foregoing views would suggest that parenting has a role to play in both shaping the lives of the children, and how they come to perceive and partake in corrupt practices. These findings are further evidence and re-affirmation of our progenitor theory of corruption which suggests that societal corruption could be explained in a number of factors – political, social, and psychological. The theory presupposes that parental upbringing can dictate whether a child is corrupt or not, and the perception of such a child of corruption.



Conclusion and Recommendations

Corruption is a cancer that destroys the vitality and the development of any nation, and it has the potentials to reverse the development of nations. This has led social scientists and scholars to view corruption in different lights, and hold different perception of corruption, which has in turn led them to propound different theories on corruption in society. In the same vein, this paper engages the subject matter of corruption from the prism of political, sociological, and psychological causes of corruption. This paper finds that the causes of corruption in society could be associated with the parenting style prevalent in such a society – thus, birthing the progenitor theory of corruption.

Owing from this theory, and findings from the paper, the following recommendations are put forward:

1. Parents should take care of their children and provide their financial, physical and spiritual needs;
2. The parents should also instil moral values in their children;
3. Children should also associate themselves only with good peers that will promote moral values in them;
4. Government should include moral values education to the academic curriculum among Nigerian schools; and
5. Parents should also exhibits good behaviours at home in the presence of their children.

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