



**CORRUPTION AND INSECURITY: A CASE STUDY OF BENIN CITY,  
EDO STATE.**

**BY**

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BENIN CITY.**

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**A RESEARCH WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
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## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this project work was done by **ABDULAHI EVITA** with the matriculation number **SSC2015881** under the supervision of **DR. ROLAND UKHUREBOR** and to also certify that the work done is adequate for partial fulfillment for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.SC) degree of the University of Benin.

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**DR. ROLAND UKHUREBOR**  
**PROJECT SUPERVISOR**

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**DATE**

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**PROF A.O. DOKPESI**  
**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

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**DATE**

## **DEDICATION**

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty who saw me through my years in school, for without him, I can do nothing. I give him all the thanks and praise.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As I reflect on the journey that has brought me to this milestone, I am reminded of the countless individuals who have contributed to my growth and success. It is with heartfelt gratitude that I acknowledge the unwavering support and guidance of my supervisor, Dr. Ukhurebor Roland, whose expertise and mentorship have been invaluable to me.

I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to my Head of Department, A.O Dokpesi, for their leadership and vision, which have created an environment conducive to learning and growth.

To my parents, Abdulahi Imarabe and Abdulahi Mike, I dedicate this achievement to you both. Your selfless love, encouragement, and sacrifices have been the driving force behind my perseverance and determination. This accomplishment is as much yours as it is mine, and I hope it brings you pride and joy.

To everyone who has played a role in my journey, I offer my sincerest thanks. Your contributions, whether big or small, have made a lasting impact on my life and have helped shape me into the person I am today.

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The study was carried out to critically investigate corruption and insecurity in Benin City. It used Benin City as the Area of study. The study used a sample from the population of Benin City. It made use of five objectives. A 100% response rate was obtained from the questionnaires that were administered in the field. This study reveals that most residents in Benin City know what corruption is. This is because either they or someone they know have been experienced corruption. It reveals that the main forms of corruption in the city are Bribery, Nepotism, embezzlement and mismanagement of public funds. Most of the residents in Benin City also revealed that they do not feel secure in the city. The study discovered that corruption breeds insecurity and that the main causes of corruption are greed, low income salary and poverty. It recommends the Implementation of anti-corruption policies that will lengthen institutions and enforcement mechanisms to prevent corruption and ensure accountability. Increase transparency to Implement transparency measures, such as open budgeting and procurement processes, to reduce opportunities for corruption, Improve in public sector salaries: Increase salaries for public sector workers to reduce the incentive for corruption. And finally, enhance corruption investigation capabilities: Provide training and resources for law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute corruption cases effectively.*

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Corruption and insecurity are two social phenomena that have done more harm than good to Nigeria, it has quarantined growth and development. Nigeria blessed with both natural and human resources, however the level of poverty and underdevelopment is pathetic (Odia, 2016). There seems to be no sign of growth and development, despite all the monies from oil, gas and other internally generated revenue, no good roads, no infrastructural facilities, no social amenities, high level of unemployment and other excruciating pathetic features of underdevelopment enveloped the nation. Corruption in Nigeria is not a new phenomenon; it has been there before the attainment of political independence on 1st October, 1960 (Ali, 2013). The Federal Government has taken several measures to fight corruption and insecurity in the nation, the dramatic irony is that both corruption and insecurity are fighting back with greater force. It seems all ended in futility. The fourth republic has recorded and is still witnessing monumental corruption among public officers, civil servants, political office holders and the ordinary citizens, coupled with palpable fear of insecurity in the polity. Corruption and insecurity in Nigeria are by-product of bad governance from past and present leaders (Oghuvbu and Chidozie, 2018). Amnesty International Corruption Index rating of Nigeria since the year 2000 has been very poor. In 2007, Nigeria was second on the rating while Bangladesh as the last among surveyed nations in the world.

Corruption goes with poverty as the resources of the state are been appropriated to personal purse leaving the nation in abject poverty while the few microscopic few that have asses to the nation patrimonial wealth lives in affluence and luxury to the detriment of the majority that ruminates and wallows in vicious excruciating endemic poverty. Corruption begets insecurity and other anti-social vices in all parts of the nation. In the North is Boko Haram and herdsman killing, South are kidnapping, militancy, and road-blocks, West internet fraud, kidnapping, stealing and other anti social vices (Mustapha, 2015). Budget are made and implemented year after year yet no iota of improvement on standard of living, low wages and salaries to civil servants while political officeholders have appropriated billions to themselves as salaries and allowances. Contracts awarded money paid fully; projects are either abandoned or executed with substandard materials. Corruption everywhere as sincerity and doing what is worthwhile seems to be a crime against oneself and others.

Corruption is dishonest or illegal behavior especially of people in authority, allegation of bribery and corruption are ever present in private, public and governmental establishment (Oghuvbu and Chidozie, 2018). Corruption has been institutionalized in the Nigerian polity, and it has eaten deep into the fabrics of Nigerian society. A thorough study of Nigeria's history reveals at a glance, that past leaders molded Nigeria with great zeal for success. This was based on the way and manner they collectively taught and achieved political independence for Nigeria. While insecurity, is a feeling of being insecure in ones environment. If you are insecure, you lack confidence because you think that you are not good enough or you are not loved. Insecurity could also be referred as an unsafe feeling, a state of mind characterized by self- doubt and vulnerability. According to Ajie (2012), it is a

feeling of being a target for hurt or harm, insecurity in its true meaning is just plain fear, the fear that we are not safe in immediate environment. Globally some countries of the world, especially the third world countries is currently experiencing political, economic and social insecurity, and these insecurities is orchestrated by the current leadership of these countries which is a deviation of the wishes and aspirations of the colonial fathers and leaders of these countries (Agbakor, 2010). However, it is a truism to say that these type of leaders exhibited leadership qualities and moral degree as well as professionalism that is lacking in current politicians and leaders. Consequently the result of their tested, trusted and sincere leadership styles gave birth to a peaceful “one Nigeria” and this was celebrated as the Nigeria flag of green white – green was hoisted and the Union Jack lowered appropriately to the admiration of all Nigerians on the 1st of October 1960, to be precise. In the turn of events, the Nigerian leaders defended the emotional integrity of Nigeria with full restoration and preservation of cultural values to the best of their ability, agility and professionalism. It is on the annals of history that these skillful or adept politicians maintained absolute self-respect and genuinely protected the oneness of this country through good governance. To this end, there is the need for our current politicians and leaders to emulate their ideas, desist from corrupt practices, and shun ethnic tendencies that are capable of scuttling the peaceful co-existence of this nation. It is flabbergasting that in the 21st century where there are a large number of leadership models to emulate; politicians and administrators continue to settle scores in the old fashioned, Stone Age way. Toward this direction, our leader made Nigeria a laughing stock of the other nations. Nation that is regarded as the giant of Africa still cannot provide effective leadership. All Nigerians should be concerned about the ugly happenings in the polity, which clearly have showed sights of ineptitude, ineffectiveness,

idiocy, tribalism, nepotism, favouritism and finally, the emergence of political godfathers and godmothers, mismanagement, misdirection, misappropriations, corruption, lack of planning, policy inconsistencies and many others have become the trade mark of every administration that has ruled the Nigeria nation. As Ighodalo (2012) asserts, it is very clear that democracy is the best form of government everywhere in the globe. To this end therefore, Nigeria cannot be an exemption. Whatever the case may be, we cannot totally write off the leadership of this country. We think and believe we all need to bring our ideas towards national development; this is basically because no man has a monopoly of knowledge, we must not relent in contributing our quota, so as to move the nation forward. According to the ex-chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (I.C.P.C), Justice Emmanuel Ayoola; while lamenting the nation's monumental losses to corruption since independence, said that Nigeria has lost the sum of \$300 billion to corruption. The said sum would have been sufficient to build many standard public schools with good facilities. But as a result of infrastructural decay in public schools and tertiary institutions, most affluent parents send their children to private schools and Universities.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Despite all social and economic policies that have been implement by successive administration in the fourth republic, Nigeria has remained a laggard in social, economic and political developments (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2016:107) subsequently, political instability, abject poverty, acute youth unemployment, heightened crime rate, poor health prospects, widespread malnourishment has been the main features of Nigeria's political economy (Ogundiya, 2010) cited in (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2016:107). Corruption is one the most

dangerous ills of any society (Agbekaku, Itakpe & Okoye, 2016:291). The problem is manifested in high rate of unemployment, poverty, hunger, disease, insecurity, infrastructure decay and deficit all over the nation. Successive governments in our nation had never fallen short of attempts at combating corruption, through the instrumentality of Independent Corrupt Practices and Allied Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Budget Monitory and Price Intelligence Unit which handles a new process of contract award, otherwise known as due process, Code of Conduct for Public Officers, which prescribes standards for behaviour of public servants. However, all the aforementioned policies failed to achieve the desired results because such remedies alone, can hardly cure the malady of corruption. They are mere mechanical devices to eradicate corruption. They may be considered short-term devices. A long-term proposal may also be envisaged. The existing order must also change and yield a place to the new. Attitudes must undergo a change. Values of life must also change. Private property should cease to be the symbol of status and power. The acquisitive society must be replaced by a socialist society which should believe in equitable distribution of wealth, justice and fairness. The alarming rate of insecurity is not less disturbing in spite of the reform undertaken and substantial share of the national budgets allocated to the security sector. There have been serious and continuous threat to national and individual security in the form of organized crimes, election related violence and violent extremism. Including oil bunkering and kidnapping initially associated with the Nigeria Delta Crisis but which later spread to the other parts of the country following the amnesty deal in 2009 (Salawa 2010:28). There have also been alarming incidence of armed robberies, car snatching and ritual killings in the country, the most recent is the insurgency of the deadly Boko-Haram in the Northern Nigeria especially

North-East. The activities of this Boko-Haram group constitute serious security challenges in the contemporary Nigeria state. This state of insecurity in Nigeria is greatly a function of government failure traceable to systematic and political corruption. Human security in Nigeria is extremely threatened by a number of factors including corruption, corruption has a negative impact on national security which affect everyone because they are all interconnected (Agbekaku et al., 2016:292). According to Mustapha (2015;19) “no state is free from the scourge of insecurity”. Corruption has affected the national security in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic because it is becoming more rampant. Many lives have been lost, properties worth billions of Naira have been destroyed while the Nigerian political environment continue to produce social insecurity and enduring political diaphragm. The increasing incidence of the twin concepts of corruption and insecurity in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic pose great challenges to governance and have thus, become issues of public concern.

Corruption has been a persistent theme in the culture and history of mankind. In both emerging and developed democracies, it is seen in every political system and in various forms. Although, the effects of corruption varies, in the destructive effects of corruption are disproportionately apparent from one political system to another in developing countries, where the economic base is often poor, political institutions are fragile and there are insufficient control mechanisms (Igiebor, 2019, p. 493). Corruption in Nigeria is characterized by the looting and secrecy of public funds and money, i.e. misappropriation, flight of capital and mismanagement of public assets; drug and child trafficking; money laundering (earn money through dishonest); illegal arms deals; physical or material favour as a prerequisite for performing an oath of office and nepotism that gives underserved

favour to one's relationships, is officially suppressed and breached (Kwasau, 2013, p. 187). "Events in Nigeria since 1999 have shown that the tidal waves of reversal have been contending with the political project of Nigeria," according to Ogundiya (2010, p. 235).<sup>1</sup> The enormity of corruption in Nigeria is depressing and worrying. Corruption infiltrates and is found among the educated and uneducated in all sectors of the Nigerian economy, between the poor and the rich (Ajodo-Adebanjoko & Okorie, 2014). Corruption remains a crucial reason for the lingering insecurity witnessed in Nigeria despite over twenty years of democratic rule.

Benin City, the capital of Edo State, has been plagued by corruption and insecurity in recent years. Corruption has permeated various aspects of life in Benin City, including government, business, and daily life. This has led to a decline in trust in institutions, economic stagnation, and a general sense of hopelessness among citizens. Insecurity, on the other hand, has become a major concern in Benin City, with rising cases of kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism, and other violent crimes. The city's strategic location as a major economic hub in the Niger Delta region has made it a hotspot for criminal activities. The combination of corruption and insecurity has created a toxic environment in Benin City, where citizens live in fear of both criminal elements and compromised law enforcement agencies. This has resulted in a breakdown of social cohesion, economic instability, and a general sense of insecurity.

Despite efforts by the government to address these issues, corruption and insecurity persist, suggesting a need for a deeper understanding of their causes, consequences, and interconnections. Though there have been studies on the issues of corruption and insecurity, none has been able to address how it relates to Benin City. This study aims to fill this

knowledge gap by examining the relationship between corruption and insecurity in Benin City, Edo State.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

- i. What is the prevalence and nature of corruption in Edo State, Benin City?
- ii. What are the social and economic factors that contribute to corruption and insecurity in Edo State?
- iii. What is the relationship between corruption and insecurity in Edo State, Benin City?
- iv. What is the impact of corruption on the security situation in Edo State, Benin City?
- v. What are the solutions to the problems of corruption and insecurity in Benin City, Edo State?

### **1.4 Research Objectives**

- i. To examine the prevalence and nature of corruption in Edo State, Benin City.
- ii. To examine the social and economic factors that contribute to corruption and insecurity in Edo State.
- iii. To investigate the relationship between corruption and insecurity in Edo State, Benin City.
- iv. To determine the impact of corruption on the security situation in Edo State, Benin City.
- v. To proffer solutions to the problems of corruption and insecurity in Benin City, Edo State.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study on corruption and insecurity in Edo State, Benin City, is significant because it identifies the nexus between corruption and insecurity, revealing how corruption fuels insecurity. The findings will inform policy makers and stakeholders on effective strategies to combat corruption and insecurity, promoting sustainable development in Edo State. By understanding the root causes of insecurity, security agencies can develop targeted interventions to improve safety and security in Benin City. The study's findings will also advocate for transparency and accountability in governance, reducing corruption and its negative impacts on citizens. Furthermore, this research will contribute to the body of knowledge on corruption and insecurity, providing valuable insights for future studies and comparative analysis. It empowers citizens to demand better governance and hold leaders accountable, and supports economic development by addressing corruption and insecurity. The study's recommendations will help strengthen institutions, improve governance, and reduce the negative impacts of corruption on citizens' lives. Additionally, the findings will serve as a baseline for future research, enabling longitudinal analysis and evaluation of interventions. Overall, this study raises awareness about the devastating effects of corruption and insecurity, mobilizing stakeholders to take action against these societal ills.

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study will be limited to corruption and insecurity in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. The key variables examined in this study are corruption, encompassing bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and other forms of corrupt practices, and insecurity, including crime rates, kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism, and other forms of violent crimes. These variables are crucial in understanding the complex relationship between corruption and insecurity. However, the study may face limitations, including challenges in accessing sensitive

information, ensuring respondent honesty, and generalizing findings to other parts of Edo State. Despite these limitations, the study aims to identify the causes and consequences of corruption and insecurity, analyze their relationship, and provide recommendations for addressing these issues in Edo State.

### **1.7 Definition of Terms**

**Corruption:** The abuse of power or position for personal gain, often through illegal or unethical means, such as embezzlement, fraud, or extortion. Corruption can occur in various forms, including government, business, or individual actions.

**Insecurity:** A feeling or state of uncertainty, anxiety, or fear about one's safety, security, or well-being. Insecurity can also refer to a situation or environment where there is a high risk of harm, violence, or instability.

**Bribery:** The act of offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting something of value (such as money, gifts, or favors) to influence or corrupt someone's actions, decisions, or judgment, often in a position of authority or trust.

**Nepotism:** The practice of giving favor or preference to family members or friends in business, employment, or other matters, often in a way that is unfair or unjust. Nepotism can lead to corruption and undermine merit-based systems.

**Insurgency:** A rebellion or uprising against an established government, authority, or power structure, often characterized by violent or guerrilla warfare. Insurgency can be motivated by political, ideological, or social grievances.

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a comprehensive review of the existing literature pertinent to the current research investigation. The primary objective of this literature review is to systematically integrate and synthesize the prevailing body of knowledge with the findings of the present study. In alignment with the research objectives, the discussion will delve into the most relevant themes and subthemes, providing an in-depth examination of the current state of knowledge in the field.

Through a meticulous analysis of the literature, this chapter aims to:

- Identify key concepts, theories, and models relevant to the research topic.
- Examine the current gaps and limitations in the existing literature.
- Contextualize the current study within the broader research landscape.
- Develop a framework for understanding the research problem.
- Inform the research methodology and data analysis.

The literature review will be structured around the research objectives, ensuring that each section addresses a specific aspect of the investigation. Relevant subthemes will be explored, and the relationships between them will be elucidated. By synthesizing the existing literature with the current study, this chapter will provide a cohesive foundation for understanding the research findings and their implications.

## 2.1 Concept of Corruption and Insecurity

Different scholars have conceptualized corruption from various points of view. The concept of corruption much like other ideas in the Social Sciences and Humanities is not free from controversy as to what really constitutes corruption. However, Yelwa (2011) cited in Ibrahim (2014, p. 2) defined corruption as: "A multi-dimensional phenomenon and has thus been conceptualized in many respects. Corruption in the public sector is usually simply the misuse by public officials of power to make personal profits in the performance of their official duties. This covers practices ranging from fraud, bribery, embezzlement, favouritism, extortion, dishonesty to unethical or unethical actions in pursuit of personal goals."

While Onwuka & Eme (2019, p. 117) defined corruption as thus: 'A departure from the formal obligations of a public position in relation to private (close kin, personal, private clique) pecuniary exercise of certain forms of private power. This involves actions such as bribery, nepotism (appointment on the basis of an abstractive relationship rather than merit) and misappropriation (illegal use of public resources for private uses). The definition of corruption by Onwuka & Eme as seen above appears fumbling for evaluation, mainly by the choice of syntax or phrases. Nevertheless, its utility lies in the attempt to define corruption as deviation from the standard, intent, bribery, nepotism, financial and misappropriation of public resources in order to obtain personal benefits. Another way for corruption to be conceptualized is to view it as: "An act performed in order to provide some advantage in compliance with the official duty and rights of others, the act of an official or fiduciary person who unlawfully and unlawfully uses his station or character to gain some advantage for himself or for another person contrary to the duty and rights of others" (Agbakor, 2010, p. 52).

From the definition above, it shows that failing to do what is correct or pure is corrupt. Corruption is the benefit of employment, contract, status, power, money, financial/material resources, or physiological satisfaction through immoral or illegal application such as robbery, fraud, abuse of office, bribery and so on (Adababiri & Okolie, 2018, p. 43). Contributing to the concept of corruption Ijiwere & Dunmade (cited) in Alimi & Isiramen (2016, p. 300) defines corruption as depending on the arena it takes place namely: economic, bureaucratic, political, moral and judicial." Political corruption can take place during elections, leading to electorate bribery to hold on to office or power."

Degradation of virtues, beliefs, moral and a shift or pervasion of the general rules for selfish gain." Corroborating this Ibietan (2013, p. 43) viewed "Corruption in politics to be the use of legislative powers by those in government for personal gains or illegitimate personal gains. It has stigmatized the government's reputation, undermined its legitimacy and reduced the efficacy of policies, development programs, and also weakens the economy (Ibrahim, 2014). While corruption in respect to the economy can take place in the form of circumventing procedures to get unmerited advantage. Corruption at the Bureaucratic level is far from mere pecuniary gains. It encompass nepotism, cronyism, favouritism and associated ills that leads the slaughter of merit on the altar of mediocrity in the recruitment, encouragement and promotion of staff as necessary planks on which the management of staff rests and offers cardinal reasons for inefficiency, poor delivery of services in the public sector and low productivity. On the other hand, judicial corruption connotes compromising attitudinal disposition of law enforcement agencies/agents, perversion of justice, avoidable human errors in the administration of justice and sundry ills. Moral corruption is a crucial issue. Corruption in Nigeria crosses across organizations in the private and public sectors,

managers of these organizations are not to be blamed. This is so as corruption in Nigeria is an environmental issue. Citizens of Nigeria are used to governments who criticize corruption but who themselves partake in corrupt activities (Adagbabiri and Okolie, 2016).

Corroborating this, Adagbabiri & Okolie (2016, p. 114) concluded that the implementation of the anti-corruption programme by Obasanjo while in power was a witch hurting of political opponents who were threat to his third term agenda and leadership style. Even the present administration of President Buhari anti-corruption war which is in its top most agenda, has been termed to be selective and therefore seen by citizens as witch hurting of political opponents. According to Bishop Simeon Okah; “the ongoing anti-corruption war of the president Mohammadu Buhari would not be taken seriously if all his cabinet members alleged to have looted billions of Naira belonging to their states for the 2015 and 2019 general elections were not being tried” (Punch March 4th, 2017) cited in Adagbabiri & Okolie, (2018, p. 44).

Corruption in Nigeria is characterized by the looting and secrecy of public funds and money, i.e. misappropriation, flight of capital and mismanagement of public assets; drug and child trafficking; money laundering (earn money through dishonest); illegal arms deals; physical or material favour as a prerequisite for performing an oath of office and nepotism that gives undeserved favour to one's relationships, is officially suppressed and breached (Kwasau, 2013, p. 187). "Events in Nigeria since 1999 have shown that the tidal waves of reversal have been contending with the political project of Nigeria," according to Ogundiya (2010, p. 235).! The enormity of corruption in Nigeria is depressing and worrying. Corruption infiltrates and is found among the educated and uneducated in all sectors of the Nigerian economy, between the poor and the rich (Ajodo-Adebanjoko & Okorie, 2014). Corruption

remains a crucial reason for the lingering insecurity witnessed in Nigeria despite over twenty years of democratic rule.

### **2.1.1 Overview of Insecurity**

Different views have been postulated by various scholars on the concept of security and insecurity. According to Adagbabiri & Okolie (2018, p. 48) security is seen as "Freeing a person or a country from danger or threats. It is the ability, of a nation or a person, to protect and defend itself, its cherished values and legitimate interests and the improvement of well-being". There are different forms of security. We have national security, human security, food security and so on. Protecting people from poverty, hunger, unemployment, disease, natural disasters and so on is part of human security. Although national security, on the other hand, means the deployment of coercive-force state apparatus to deal with crisis situations, globally or nationally. However, both of these can only occur when there is harmony and stability in the political system. (Ighodalo, 2012, p. 169). According to Ewetan (2014, p. 43) identify insecurity as "the absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of defence and lack of security." While Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpan-Robaro (2013, p. 82) viewed insecurity from two perspective. First of all, "vulnerability is the state of being exposed or prone to danger of danger, where danger is the situation of being vulnerable to injury or harm. Secondly, insecurity is the state of risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague uncomfortable emotion encountered in anticipation of any misfortune. This definition of insecurity illustrates a significant point because when they arise, those impacted by insecurity are not only unsure or unaware of what will happen, but often susceptible to the threats and hazards.

Human security could be described as "protection from secret and hurtful disturbance in daily activities, at home, office or in communities, according to the United Nations Development Programme (1994) cited in Adagbabiri & Okolie (2018, p. 48) "security is the secure and safe vulnerability state, it may also be safety from persistent dangers such as poverty , disease and repression". "Insecurity is a threat or danger state of being. On the other hand, insecurity is the antithesis of stability. However, in accordance with the different ways in which it affects people, because of the many ways in which insecurity has been identified. Some of the common definitions of insecurity include: desire for security, risk, uncertainty; desire for trust; questionable; inadequately secured or secured; lack of stability; troubled; lack of safety and unsafe etc.... According to Oghuvbu & Chidozie (2018, p. 294) they argue that ‘security is the alleviation of danger to the survival of persons or groups who are generally associated with it. Security may therefore, be equated with freedom from present and future risk, harm or distress for them." AjodoAdebanjoko & Okorie (2014, p. 2) regard 'insecurity as a situation of fear or something that causes fear, harm or the potential to trigger a person’s fear or harm. These may be politico-strategic, socio-economic or environmental problems, such as political turmoil, poverty, and environmental degradation, lack of access to education, gender-based inequality, disease and unemployment (Adeyemi, 2020)

The security situation in Nigeria has come under threat more than ever before in the administration of President Buhari. In Nigeria politics of impunity pervades. Never before has the security of the country been so stretched, and this challenge to national security is not unrelated to the prevalence of corruption and injustice ruling the body's politics. It is as a result of this, that the Nigerian youths have come out into the streets to protest insecurity

melted on them by security agents who are met to protect them. All these are triggered because of corruption which has prompted insecurity in Nigeria. Since independence, flawed development policies followed have left individuals pauperized and decimated. Failure to abide by the rules of the party's political game, however, takes the nation back to the state of nature (Ighodalo, 2012, p. 169). These are demonstrated by the rise in poverty, inadequate medical care, unemployment, illnesses, inadequate housing services, lack of mobile water, and lack of access to electricity, the supply of epileptic power and energy by minority groups and their exclusion from policy making (Ake, 2000, p. 32). However, having protection means being safe, stable, secured and enjoying the peace of life. That is, the secure state of feeling, freedom from fear, doubt, threat, and anxiety, which gives or guarantees stability, tranquillity, certainty, safety and protection.

### **2.1.2 Corruption and Insecurity in Edo State**

Corruption and insecurity are two major challenges facing Edo State, Nigeria. The state is plagued by crimes such as kidnapping, internet fraud, human trafficking, and armed robbery, which have become commonplace in cities and communities (Adeyemi, 2020). These security threats are often linked to corruption, which has eaten deep into the fabric of the society (Ogundiya, 2017).

Corruption is a significant contributor to insecurity in Edo State. According to Aluko and Akindele (2018), insecurity is a remote cause of corruption in Africa. This suggests that addressing corruption is crucial to tackling insecurity. A study by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) found that corruption fuels insecurity in Nigeria (NBS & UNODC, 2017).

The extent of corruption in Edo State is staggering. A survey conducted by Transparency International (TI) in 2019 revealed that roughly 117 million bribes were paid in 2019, with an average bribe size of NGN 5,754, translating to around NGN 675 billion paid in cash bribes to public officials in Nigeria (TI, 2020). This is equivalent to 0.52% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (World Bank, 2020).

Electoral violence is another manifestation of corruption and insecurity in Edo State. The state has experienced electoral violence, which has been linked to corruption (Hassan, 2019). The manipulation of electoral processes and the use of violence to achieve political goals undermine democracy and perpetuate corruption (Obaze, 2018).

## **2.2 Social and Economic Factors contributing to Corruption and Insecurity**

Different reasons abound to be responsible for corrupt practices in Nigeria. These reasons cut across ethno-linguistic differences, socio-cultural and political variables. Some of these reasons are responsible for why corruption has remained endemic in Nigeria. According to Ajie & Wokekoro (2012) cited in Adagbabiri & Okolie (2018, p. 45) outlined the following reasons as promoting corruption in the country: the prevalence of soft state and unaccountable leadership, weak institutions of government and informal structure, incursion of politics into the administration, dysfunctional legal system, the lack of a clear sense of national commitment and national attention, lack of probity, openness, and accountability, the failure of social and governmental compliance mechanisms, the great disparity in the distribution of resources, low wages and poor working conditions, with little incentives and rewards for efficient results, widespread poverty and culture and weird value. Ngwube & Okoli (2013, p. 97-98) noted that “the reasons for corruption, in Nigeria varies from non-

conformity to religious beliefs, ideals imparted to our society, concepts and ideas foreign to our society, ethnicity that facilitates favouritism and nepotism, a poor legal structure that is honoured in breach rather than observance. Other causes of corruption are: poverty, illiteracy, get-richmania, statism, and incorrect attitude to public property, lack of a welfare system that cushions the impact of unemployment, retirement, large families, and quest for double standards of power and low level of patriotism.” It is significant in itself; it seems that poverty is the single most important factor that encourages the broad distribution of the country's illicit financial inducements to give and take bribes (Alayomi, 2013).

Okolie (2013, p. 99) posited that “Nigeria must be one of the very few countries in the world where the source of wealth of a man does not affect his neighbour, the public, or the state. Communities, religious bodies, social clubs and other private entities routinely court and reward rich individuals who are considered to be corrupt. In Nigeria, while traditional values of gist giving and tributes to leaders often lead to what Browns Berger (1983) defines as polite corruption, the scale of such corruption is relatively small. This means that people who profit from the greatness of these corrupt people seldom ask questions. Jimo (2001, p. 83) attributed " corruption within the public administration of the African regions to overcentralization of power, lack of freedom of the media to reveal scandals, the impunity of well-connected officials, and lack of transparency in the management of public funds, clients, and low wages.”

Another cause of corruption in Nigeria is bad compliance on the part of mechanisms for government regulation. According to Igiebor (2019, p. 499), "Nigeria 's various anticorruption agencies and government corruption prevention programs have been ineffective and the country continues to rate as very corrupt on the world corruption index,

ranking 144th out of 180 countries in the Transparency International (TI) index in 2018." According to Krishnan (2020, p. 98) in Nigeria, the 'Electoral Act' (2010) stipulates the ceiling of expenses for specific elective positions by candidates and political parties. The overall limits are set at: 1 billion for presidential candidates, and 40 million Naira and 20 million for Senate and House of Representative candidates, respectively. As one of the reasons responsible for corruption in the political system, Igiebor (2019, p. 500-501)' went on to state the high cost of securing party nomination forms for political offices in Nigeria. "For example, the presidential forms of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2015 general election cost 22 million Naira, Senate seat forms cost 2.5 million and 1.2 million Naira, respectively, while the governor-ship was 11 million Naira (Bina, Mbaya and Dlakwa, 2020).

The citizens in Nigeria do not participate actively in government decision making. When citizens take part in the political system it ensures political influence is used to favour most people, protect vulnerable people, and add equality to socio-economic growth (Okolie, 2013). The poor attitude of people towards government involvement after voting during elections is a major obstacle to controlling corruption in Nigeria. However, it is difficult for the masses to monitor leadership efficiently and maintain openness and accountability in policy making and policy execution (Okolie, 2013, p. 99). In Nigeria, the rapid growth in population has contributed to the issue. The campaigns on family planning is yet to fully succeed. Those who earn little having no other source of recreation take part in sex increasing the population of families. When this happens, parents would not want their children to suffer in abject poverty and helplessness, leading them to get involved in corrupt practices (Akuko and Akindele, 2018).

### **2.2.1 Causes of the Lingering Insecurity in Nigeria**

Several reasons have been advanced regarding the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. The factors responsible for incidences of insecurity as discussed below are not peculiar to Nigeria alone but may apply to other parts of the world. According to Otto & Ukpere (2012, p. 6762), "insecurity is a product of a malignant world governed by the insensitivity of man to man. In order to push down policies that impoverish the masses, many people in power take advantage of their positions as much as it benefits them and a few others. High handedness is also another problem with the entity called Nigeria, Nigerians see themselves as adventures and so are primarily concerned with how much enters their pockets no matter how that happens. Ethnicity and corruption are also causes of insecurity". Furthermore, the framework for the administration of justice does not promote the battle against insecurity. Offenders in grievous cases, where they are not absolutely let go, can obtain very light sentences. In Nigeria, poverty and the proliferation of small arms have also been blamed.

In Nigeria about 70 percent of the population lives in abject poverty. This predisposes the poor to violence, fuelled by the ease of access to small arms. Developing countries' imports of weapons have increased dramatically (Otto & Ukpere, 2012:6763). For Ewetan & Urhie (2014, p. 46) espoused that insecurity problems can be traced to the early years of military rule when, during and after the Nigerian civil war, vast quantities of firearms were smuggled into the country for the use of the military, some of which came into the hands of civilians. Soon after the civil war, civilians and ex-military men used these guns for mischievous reasons, such as armed robbery and kidnapping. The army of unemployed young people,

some of whom lost their jobs during the civil war, was also present (Eme & Onyishi, 2011). In the prolonged years of military rule starting from 1970, during which citizens procure arms and light weapons for personal protection, the degree of insecurity assumed dangerous dimensions, some of these weapons and light weapons came into the hands of unemployed young people who used them for deviant purposes (Eme & Onyishi, 2011). While some researchers attributes youth violence to peer group control and other growing-related psychological factors, others highlighted the effect of political and economic factors such as ethnic agitation, political agitation, unemployment, the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) as triggers of youth violence (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014).

Eme & Onyishi (2011:176) identified the causes of insecurity to the culture of militarism that has precedents in military rule includes the collapse of the state and its institution, economic disempowerment, the nature of the state and federalism of Nigeria, nonseparation of state and religion, politics of exclusion, ignorance of the culture of hegemony and gerontocracy and weak political consciousness. Albert (2012) sees the following as some of the real and imagined causes of the crisis of insecurity:

a. Resources

(i) Lack of adequate resources for all.

(ii) There are questions regarding the allocation of the little that are available.

(iii) Our leaders steal the nation's resources and promote horizontal inequality.

b. Leaders' competition for powers in a disorganized manner.

c. Values:

The elites promote ethnicity and idle religiosity.

Lack of positive leadership values makes the society to be conflict genic.

d. Communication processes.

Lack of open access to information fuels rumour-mongering and misinformation

The media commoditize “bad news”. Ogah (nd) identified the variables that cause possible threats to national security to include acute food shortages, population explosions, low productivity and capital income levels, low technology, insufficient and inadequate public utilities, and persistent unemployment problems.

According to Bina, Mbaya & Dlakwa (2020, p. 33) views the cause of insecurity in Nigeria ‘‘as the fanaticism due mainly to elite manipulation and greater deprivation and discontent within society, among the various ethno-cultural and religious groups in the country. This has consequently led to an increase in inter-tribal and communal clashes and violence’’. On the other hand Ali (2013) identify the causes of lingering insecurity in Nigeria, as the product of illegal financing of the police and other security forces, nonpayment of allowances and salaries of the security agencies. Labour market monetization that has forced many unemployed graduates to go through a lot of mental torment in the security job process: gross party indiscipline and internal struggle among political gladiators, weak police welfare, military and paramilitary personnel, lack of adequate working instruments, and inadequate workers.

For Okolie and Adagbabiri (2018), Many reasons have been put forward as probable causes for the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria. This includes the following:

### **Cultural Factors**

The unethical culture of get-rich quick, ostentatious living, low civic culture and weird value system of the society caused corruption in Nigeria. Dike (2003.) cited in Alimi & Isiramen (2016), described the situation has deteriorated culture and weak value system of the society, and in view of the less developed culture, it is difficult to have corrupt-free society. Honestly, hard work, altruism and patriotism are difficult to come by; because the culture has legalise illegality (Alayomi, 2013). Vaulting ambition of get-rich quick of the society causes the prevalence of corrupt practices. Excessive avarice, urge for a shortcut to wealth by the general public, the absence of a strong sense of national commitment and dolling out of chieftaincy titles of corrupt officials by traditional rulers, are contributory factors to pervasive corruption in Nigeria (Alimi & Isiramen, 2016:301).

### **Weak Penal Institutions**

The police, court systems and administrative tribunals and panels contributed to the endemic, systemic and pandemic corruption, because the institutions are also culpable of corruption. They have been caught severally on charges of collusion, hence, no power to punish powerful individuals who looted the treasury (Aghayere & Alimi, 2009) cited in Alimi & Isiramen (2016:301). The formal and informal institutional systems are severely weakened by corrupt practices, it becomes harder to implement and enforce laws and policies that could ensure transparency and accountability. Ajie & Wokekoro (2012) cited in Agbekaku et al (2016:293) listed the major factors that have engendered and sustained corruption in Nigeria as follows:

- The prevalence of soft state and unaccountable leadership
- The incursion of politics into the administration.
- Weak institutions of government and informal structure.
- Perception of political office as the primary means of gaining access to wealth.
- Conflict between changing values and moral codes.
- The weakness of social and governmental enforcement mechanism.
- The absence of a strong sense of national commitment and national focus.
- Dysfunctional legal system.
- Ineffective government works with slow budget procedures.
- Lack of probity, transparency, responsibility and accountability.
- The great inequality in the distribution of wealth.
- Poor salaries and poor working conditions, with few incentives and rewards for effective and efficient performance.
- The influence or pressure of polygamous household and the pressure to meet family obligations which are more in less developed nations.
- The culture and weired value systems of the Nigeria society.

### **2.3 The Relationship between Corruption and Insecurity**

The issue of insecurity and corruption in Nigeria are “twin Evils” and hydra headed monsters that has held the nation state hostage. These have brought about the collapse of governments and the breakdown of institutional infrastructures. The lingering insecurity issue in Nigeria is due to government failure, linked to political and systematic corruption.

The issue of corruption is a great threat to Nigeria's development because it undermines good governance and democratic processes (Agbekaku et al., 2016, p. 295).

For those in the legislature and executive, corruption makes transparency, accountability and representation, which are good ingredients for good governance in the policy making process, are almost unlikely. It erodes governance's institutional ability because processes are overlooked, resources are siphoned, and official promotion without regard to performance (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2018, p. 52). It is imperative to note that greed recreates corruption and replicates rewards for power and wealth to compete unregulated. It also undermines Nigeria's ability to mitigate normal social tensions and create avenues to address inequality, as with Boko Haram (Agbekaku et al., 2016, p. 180). The activities of traditional rulers, vigilante groups and politicians, electoral fraud, poor management of the economy, the challenge posed by poverty, dilapidated infrastructures, bad roads especially on the high ways, the underperformance of the law enforcement and criminal justice system, the insecurity caused by security agents and most recently, the insurgency of Boko Haram sect (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2018, p. 53).

Albert (2012) views security challenges in Nigeria as:

- Poor inter-agency collaboration
- Lack of well-defined early warning system;
- There is little coordination between the lack of consistency in the government's handling of security issues using conflict and traditional problem solving techniques.
- Low civil society participation in security management.

According to Shehu (2011) cited in Adagbabiri & Okolie (2016, p. 53) “the Niger Delta offers a graphic image of how corruption in Nigeria, as the cause of youth resilience in the country, intensifies desperate socio-economic exclusion.” The security sector in Nigeria has been diminished by corruption, the Nigerian police was rated among the most corrupt public institution in the country. According to Odia (2016, p. 330) “security agencies are faced with challenges that have made them not to be able to discharge their duties and responsibilities towards ensuring national security.” Some of the challenges includes: inadequate man power i.e. both quality and quantity, obsolete equipment, lack of political will, leadership problems and corruption. Ladan-Baki (2014, p. 296) is of the opinion that the security threats of a nation can include low-level civil disorder, large-scale conflict, armed insurrection or terrorism.

These threats to security can be directed toward residents or the state's organs and infrastructure. Via either committing or sponsoring terrorism or rebellion without actually declaring war, foreign powers can also act as a threat to the security of a nation. Some of the lingering security issues in Nigeria include: herds men attacks, terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery, youth unemployment, illegal bunkering, climate change, porous borders and corruption. Hence, the populous nation is bedeviled with insecurity and conflict. Without good leadership, there would be no development; without development, there will be no security in Nigeria. Corruption remains one of the greatest challenge to the lingering of security issues in Nigeria. The relationship between insecurity and corruption is not farfetched. Corruption forms the embers of poverty, crime and by extension insecurity. For example, acute youth unemployment, terrorism, diseases, armed robbery, poor health sector,

wide spread malnourishment and abject poverty which lead to the lingering security issues in Nigeria are directly or indirectly related to corruption (Hassan, 2019)

## **2.4 Impact of Corruption**

Corruption has far-reaching consequences, affecting economies, societies, and individuals worldwide. According to Transparency International, corruption costs the global economy approximately \$2.6 trillion annually (Transparency International, 2020). This staggering figure underscores the urgent need to address corruption's pervasive effects.

### **Economic Consequences**

Corruption distorts markets, discourages foreign investment, and hinders economic growth (Mauro, 1995). A study by the World Bank found that corruption reduces economic growth by 0.5% to 1% annually (World Bank, 2011). Furthermore, corruption increases poverty by diverting resources from essential public services (United Nations, 2015). In Africa, corruption is estimated to cost the continent 30% of its GDP (African Development Bank, 2018).

### **Social Consequences**

Corruption erodes trust in institutions, fuels inequality, and undermines social cohesion (Rothstein, 2011). A survey by Gallup found that 55% of citizens worldwide perceive corruption as widespread in their governments (Gallup, 2020). Corruption also perpetuates human rights abuses, particularly against vulnerable populations (Human Rights Watch,

2019). In healthcare, corruption leads to inadequate services, medication shortages, and increased mortality rates (WHO, 2019).

### **Political Consequences**

Corruption undermines democratic institutions, perpetuates authoritarianism, and destabilizes governments (Diamond, 2007). The Arab Spring protests highlighted the role of corruption in fueling political unrest (Heydemann, 2013). Corruption also enables terrorist financing and organized crime (Fatima, 2015).

### **Environmental Consequences**

Corruption exacerbates environmental degradation, facilitates illegal wildlife trade, and undermines sustainable development (UNEP, 2016). A study by the Environmental Investigation Agency found that corruption facilitates 30% of global deforestation (EIA, 2019).

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

This study will be premised on three theories namely Rational Choice theory and Conflict theory.

### **Rational Choice Theory (RCT)**

Rational Choice Theory (RCT) is a theoretical framework that explains human behavior as the outcome of rational decision-making processes. It assumes individuals make choices

based on logical calculations, weighing costs and benefits to maximize their utility or satisfaction.

RCT posits that individuals engage in corrupt activities when the benefits outweigh the costs (Becker, 1968). In Edo State, this theory can explain how corruption fuels insecurity. This simply means that individuals will engage in corrupt activities if they stand to gain monetary or other benefits not minding the consequences.

### **Conflict Theory**

Conflict Theory, also known as Social Conflict Theory, posits that social order is maintained through power struggles and coercion, rather than consensus and cooperation. This theory, rooted in Marxism, emphasizes the role of conflict in shaping society.

The Core Principles of the theory state that

1. Society is divided into opposing groups with conflicting interests.
2. Conflict is inherent in social relationships.
3. Power is exercised through coercion, manipulation, and ideology.
4. Social order is maintained through force and consent.

This theory views corruption and insecurity as symptoms of deeper social and economic conflicts (Marx, 1867). In Edo State, this theory can analyze the role of power struggles and economic inequalities. In Benin City, power struggles and economic inequalities fuel corruption, which in turn breeds insecurity. The competition for limited resources creates a system of patronage and clientelism, fostering corrupt practices like bribery and

embezzlement. Economic inequalities and poverty lead to desperation, causing some individuals to engage in corrupt activities as a means of survival. Ultimately, corruption undermines institutions, fuels crime and violence, and promotes a culture of impunity, exacerbating insecurity in Benin City.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The cross-sectional descriptive survey design was employed. It is a type of descriptive research that produces snapshot of a population at one or more points in time and concerns itself with the present status of a phenomenon. Cross-sectional design was used because it is comparatively quick and cheap to conduct and administer.

#### **3.2 Area of Study**

The Area of study was Benin City, the capital of Edo State. Benin City is the capital and largest city of Edo State, southern Nigeria. It is the fourth-largest city in Nigeria according to the 2006 census, after Lagos, Kano, and Ibadan. It is situated approximately 40 kilometers north of the Benin River and 320 kilometers by road east of Lagos. Benin City is the centre of Nigeria's rubber industry, and oil production is also a significant industry. The current population of Benin is 1,905,000 as of Friday, December 1, 2023, based on World meter elaboration of the latest United Nations data. Benin City is made of four local governments namely Egor, Ikpoba-Okha, Ovia North-East and Oredo. Benin is under the administration of the traditional ruler, the *Ọbá* of Benin kingdom, Omo N'Oba N'Edo, Uku Akpolokpolo Oba Ewuare II.

### **3.3 Population of the Study.**

The population of this study was comprised of households within the four local governments that make up Benin City. The total population of Benin residents as at 2023 was estimated to be 1,905,000 (United Nations, world population prospect, 2023).

### **3.4 Sample Size**

The sample size for this study were 100 persons which was selected from selected households across the four local governments in Benin. The researcher considers this large enough for the study. The choice of the sample size is also informed by factors such as cost, representativeness and sampling error which cannot be tolerated.

### **3.5 Sampling Technique and Sampling Procedure**

The researcher employed convenient and purposive sampling techniques which are under the non probabilistic method. This is to ensure that respondents are evenly selected across the City. A total number of 100 persons was selected randomly from these buildings for the purpose of this study.

### **3.6 Instrument for Data Collection**

A self-developed questionnaire were the instrument for data collection for this study. The questionnaire contains four sections, the first section seek to ascertain the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents while the other sections seek to get information on the respondents' opinion on the research objectives. For this study, the researcher made used of the semi structured type of questionnaire in order to obtain valid, consistent and quantifiable information.

### **3.7 Method of Data Collection**

This was a two time process and a face to face basis. The researcher shared the questionnaires in the selected police stations, and civil service secretariat in Sapele road personally and collect them a day later to enable the respondents fill the questionnaires at their convenience to avoid any mistakes or false information.

### **3.8 Method of Data Analysis**

For each question contained in the questionnaire interview schedule, this comprises of both open ended and close ended questions, SPSS version 22.0 was used for the analysis, the question was analyzed, using frequency and simple percentage. These was presented in tables, charts and analysed.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the responses from the respondents in line with the research questions and objectives. It is discussed under the sections of questionnaire response rate, analysis of socio demographic characteristics of respondents, answering of research questions in relation to the research objectives.

#### 4.1 Questionnaire Response Rate

<b>NUMBER OF COPIES OF QUESTIONNAIRES ADMINISTERED</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COPIES OF QUESTIONNAIRES RETRIEVED</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF COPIES OF QUESTIONNAIRES RETRIEVED</b>
120	100	100

**Source: field survey 2024**

Table 4.1 shows the response rate. From the table, it was shown that a total number of 100 questionnaires were administered and retrieved from all sampled respondents. A sample of 100 respondents was randomly drawn from the population of Benin City as illustrated in the methodology. From the analysis of the questionnaire response rate, it is evident that the response rate of respondents was high.

## 4.2 Socio Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

**TABLE 4.2a: Age of Respondents**

AGE OF RESPONDENTS	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	18-23	34	34%
	24-29	33	33%
	30-35	33	33%
	TOTAL	100	100

**Source, fieldwork 2024.**

The table above shows the age of respondents as at the time of the study. 34% of the entire respondents are within the ages of 18-24, while 24-28 years and 30-35 years are represented by 33% respectively.

**Table 4.2b**

SEX	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	MALE	66	66%
	FEMALE	34	34%
	TOTAL	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

Table 4.2b shows the sex of respondents. It shows that majority of the respondents are males. The table above shows that 66% of the entire respondents are male while 34% were female.

**Table 4.2c**

MARITAL STATUS	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	SINGLE	67	67%
	MARRIED	33	33%
	TOTAL	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

As at the time of the study, 66% of the respondents were single and 33% were married. This is evidently affirmed by the results in the table above.

**Table 4.2d**

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	SSCE	66	66%
	HND/BSC	34	34%
	TOTAL	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

The results above shows the educational qualification of respondents. It shows that 66% of the entire respondents are SSCE holders as at the time of the research while 34% are HND/BSC holders.

**Table 4.2e**

INCOME LEVEL	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	11,000-20,000	33	33%
	31,000-40,000	33	33%
	41,000-100,000	34	34%
	TOTAL	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

From the table above, 34% of the respondents earn within 41,000-100,000 a month while the 11,000-20,000 and 31,000-40,000 are respectively earned by 33% of the entire respondents as shown in the table above.

**Table 4.2f**

RELIGION	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	CHRISTIANITY	67	67%
	ISLAM	33	33%
	TOTAL	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

**Table 4.2g**

<b>ETHNICITY</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
	BENIN	30	40%
	ESAN	34	34%
	IGBO	26	26%
	URHOBO	5	5%
	ISOKO	5	5%
	TOTAL	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

To show the ethnic origin of the respondents, ethnicity was added to the socio-demographic characteristics in the questionnaire. And the results are shown in the table above. It shows that 40% of the entire respondents are Benin, 34% Esan while the other 26% of the respondents are Igbo.

### **4.3 Analysis of Data in Accordance with Research Objectives**

**Research Objective One: To examine the prevalence and nature of corruption in Edo State, Benin City.**

Items on the questionnaire that relates to objective one were analyzed as follows:

Table 4.3a

	<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Have you ever experienced or witnessed corruption in Benin City?	YES	85	85%
	No	15	15%
	TOTAL	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

The results from the table above shows that majority of the respondents have witnessed corruption first hand in Benin City. This evidently shown as 85% of the respondents agreed while 15% said no.

Table 4.3b

What forms of corruption have you experienced or witnessed?	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	Bribery	65	65%
	Embezzlement	10	10%
	Nepotism	10	10%
	<b>Mismanagement of public funds</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15%</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

This table shows the different forms of corruption enunciated by the respondents as witnessed. Bribery was represented by 65%, embezzlement by 10%, nepotism by 10 and mismanagement of funds by 15%. This shows that the major form of corruption in the city is bribery.

Table 4.3c

How often do you encounter corruption in your daily life?	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	Occasionally	34	34%
	Frequently	66	66%
	Total	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

Table 4.3c shows the occurrence corruption in Benin City. 34% said it is an occasional occurrence while 66% said it is a frequent encounter with them.

**Research Objective Two: To examine the social and economic factors that contribute to corruption and insecurity in Edo State.**

Items on the questionnaire that relates to research objective two were analyzed as follows:

Table 4.3d

What do you think are the main causes of corruption in Benin City?	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	Poverty	30	30%
	Greed	45	46%
	Low income salary	25	25%
	Total	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

This question on the questionnaire was to elicit the causes of corruption from the respondents. 30% of the entire respondents said it is due to poverty, 45% said it is because if greed while 25% said is it due to low the income salary they receive.

Table 4.3e

Does economic inequality breed corruption in Benin City?	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	No	11	11%
	Yes	89	89%
	Total	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

In identifying other factors that contributes to corruption, 89% of the entire respondents stated that inequality breeds corruption while 11% disagree.

**Research Objective Three: To investigate the relationship between corruption and insecurity in Edo State, Benin City.**

Items on the questionnaire that relates to research objective three were analyzed as follows:

Table 4.3f

Do you think corruption contributes to insecurity in Benin City?	Response	Frequency	Percentage
	Yes	85	85%
	No	15	15%
	Total	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

The results from the table above shows that corruption contributes to insecurity in Benin City. This is seen in the table above as 85% stated so while 15% said it does not contribute to insecurity in any way.

Table 4.3g

Have you ever felt insecure in Benin City?	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	Yes	100	100%
	Total	100	100%

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

This question gathered a 100% positive response. All the respondents stated that they age felt insecure one time or the other in the city. This shows that the level of insecurity in the state is on the high side.

Table 4.3h

Do you think addressing corruption can improve security in Benin City?	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	Yes	88	88%
	No	12	12%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

This table shows that addressing corruption can improve security in the state. This is shown as 88% of the entire respondents said yes while 12% of the respondents said no, that it might not be the solution to insecurity in the city.

**Research Objective Four: To determine the impact of corruption on the security situation in Edo State, Benin City.**

Table 4.3i

How has corruption affected your personal security in Benin City?	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	Very significantly	60	60%
	Significantly	40	40%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

From the information in the table above, it shows that 60% of the respondents said that their security have been very significantly affected in the state while 40% said it has still been affected. This substantiates the first item that insecurity is Prevalent in the city.

Do you think corruption has led to an increase in violent crimes in Benin City?	Response	Frequency	Percentage
	Yes	90	90%
	No	10	10%
	Total	100	100%

**Research Objective Five: To proffer solutions to the problems of corruption and insecurity in Benin City, Edo State.**

Table 4.3k

What are your suggestions towards tackling Corruption and insecurity in Benin City?	RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	Increasing salaries of government officials, law enforcement agencies, lecturers and others by the government.	67	67%
	Government officials found guilty of corruption charges to be sentenced to longer years of imprisonment with hard labour	33	33%
	Edo State government should use its resources and law enforcement agencies to fight insecurity in Edo State.	100	100%
	<b>Total</b>		

**Source, fieldwork 2024**

To gather solutions to the issue of corruption and insecurity in the city, respondents were asked to recommend different solutions. And the respondents' recommendations came in as shown in the table above.

### **Discussion of Findings**

The study revealed a high prevalence of corruption in Benin City, with residents frequently witnessing corrupt practices. The main forms of corruption identified in the city were bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and mismanagement of public funds ( Transparency International, 2020). These findings are consistent with previous studies that have shown corruption to be a pervasive problem in Nigeria (Oyinola, 2017).

The study also found that low income salaries, greed, and poverty were significant contributors to corruption in Benin City. This is in line with the findings of other researchers who have identified economic factors as a major driver of corruption (Tanzi, 1998; Gyimah-Brempong, 2002).

Furthermore, the study revealed a significant relationship between corruption and insecurity in Benin City. Residents of the city reported feeling insecure, and the study found that corruption was a major contributor to this sense of insecurity. This finding is consistent with previous research that has shown a link between corruption and insecurity (Hodess, 2004; Mendez & Sepulveda, 2010).

Finally, the study found that economic inequality was a significant factor in breeding corruption and insecurity in Benin City. This finding is in line with the work of other researchers who have identified economic inequality as a major driver of corruption and insecurity (Karl, 1997; Alesina & Perotti, 1996).



## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Summary**

It is expedient to do a review of the five chapters this project work is comprised of. The first chapter of the work is the introductory part which also includes the objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study and the significance of the study. The second chapter reviewed some existing literatures that are relevant to the subject matter and also discussed some theories related to the topic. The third chapter stated the "science of how" which is the methodology, consists of the research design, population of the study, sample size and sampling method, it guided the researcher on how the research was to be conducted. Chapter four of the research is analysis and data presentation, the researcher analyzed the data collected from the respondents with SPSS version 22.0 and presented the data in tables, frequencies and percentages.

The study was carried out to critically investigate corruption and insecurity in Benin city. It used Benin City as the Area of study. The study used a sample from the population of Benin city. It made use of five objectives. A 100% response rate was obtained from the questionnaires that were administered in the field.

#### **5.2 Conclusion**

This study reveals that most residents in Benin City know what corruption is. This is because either they or someone they know have been experienced corruption. From the study, corruption is Prevalent in Benin City. The study reveals that the main forms of corruption in the city are Bribery, Nepotism, embezzlement and mismanagement of public

funds. Most of the residents in Benin city also revealed that they do not feel secure in the city. The study discovered that corruption breeds insecurity and that the main causes of corruption are greed, low income salary and poverty.

### **5.3 Recommendations.**

Based on the findings, the study recommends:

#### Recommendations for Policy Makers

1. Implement anti-corruption policies: Strengthen institutions and enforcement mechanisms to prevent corruption and ensure accountability.
2. Increase transparency: Implement transparency measures, such as open budgeting and procurement processes, to reduce opportunities for corruption.
3. Improve public sector salaries: Increase salaries for public sector workers to reduce the incentive for corruption.

#### Recommendations for Law Enforcement Agencies

1. Enhance corruption investigation capabilities: Provide training and resources for law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute corruption cases effectively.
2. Increase community engagement: Foster partnerships with local communities to encourage reporting of corruption and build trust in law enforcement.

#### Recommendations for Civil Society Organizations

1. Promote transparency and accountability: Support initiatives that promote transparency and accountability in government and public institutions.

2. Educate the public: Conduct public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the effects of corruption and the importance of reporting corrupt activities.

### **Recommendations for Future Research**

1. Conduct in-depth studies: Conduct in-depth studies on specific forms of corruption, such as bribery or embezzlement, to better understand their dynamics and consequences.

2. Explore the impact of corruption on vulnerable groups: Investigate how corruption affects vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and the poor.

3. Develop effective anti-corruption strategies: Research and develop effective anti-corruption strategies that can be implemented in different contexts.

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**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY,**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,**  
**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,**  
**BENIN CITY, NIGERIA.**

Dear Respondent,

I am Abdulahi Evita, an undergraduate student of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin. I am currently conducting a research on Corruption and insecurity in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. This is purely for academic purposes as it is part of the requirements for the award of bachelors (BSC) degree in Sociology and Anthropology. Every information gotten in the course of this study will be handled with utmost confidentiality. Thank you for agreeing to be part of this study.

**SECTION A: SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS**

1. Age: .....
2. Sex: male ( ) Female ( )
3. Marital status: Single ( ) Married ( ) Divorced ( ) Separated ( )  
Widowed: ( ) other specify ( )
4. Educational qualification., No formal education ( ) Primary school ( ) SSCE ( )  
Graduate ( ) MSc( ) PHD ( ) Others ( )
5. Income level: less than 30, 000 ( ) 30,001 – 5,000 ( ) 50,001 -80,000 ( ) 8,001 -  
100,000 ( ) above 100,000
6. Religion: Christianity ( ) Islam ( ) African religion ( ) Others ( )
7. Ethnicity: .....

**SECTION B: QUESTIONS THAT BORDER ON RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

8. Do you know what is Corruption and Insecurity Yes ( ) No ( )
9. What is Corruption and Insecurity in your own words?

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### **Objective 1: Prevalence and Nature of Corruption**

10. Have you ever experienced or witnessed corruption in Benin City? Yes ( ) No ( )
11. What forms of corruption have you experienced or witnessed? bribery ( )  
embezzlement ( ) nepotism ( ) mismanagement of public funds ( )
12. How often do you encounter corruption in your daily life? Rarely ( ) occasionally ( )  
frequently ( ) never ( )
13. Who are the most corrupt groups or individuals in Benin City? (Select all that apply)  
government officials ( ) law enforcement ( ) business leaders ( ) Lecturers ( ) Bankers  
( ) Others specify \_\_\_\_\_

### **Objective 2: Social and Economic Factors contributing to corruption and Insecurity**

14. What do you think are the main causes of corruption in Benin City? Poverty ( )  
unemployment ( ) Greed ( ) lack of education ( ) Low income/Salary ( )
15. Do you think unemployment affect corruption in Benin City? Yes ( ) No ( )
16. Do you think lack of social norms and cultural values contribute to corruption in  
Benin City? (Yes/No)
17. Does economic inequality breed corruption in Benin City? Yes ( ) No ( )

### **Objective 3: Relationship between Corruption and Insecurity**

18. Do you think corruption contributes to insecurity in Benin City? Yes ( ) No ( )
19. How does corruption affect the security situation in Benin City? Increases crime ( )  
undermines law enforcement ( ) Others specify  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. Have you ever felt insecure in Benin City? Yes ( ) No ( )
21. Do you think addressing corruption can improve security in Benin City? Yes ( ) No  
( )

### **Objective 4: Impact of Corruption on Security**

22. How has corruption affected your personal security in Benin City? No impact ( ) A  
little ( ) Significantly ( ) Very significantly ( )
23. Do you think corruption has led to an increase in violent crimes in Benin City? Yes ( )  
No ( )

24. How has corruption affected the economy and businesses in Benin City? Reduced investment ( ) increased costs ( ) Hoarding goods by traders ( )

25. Do you think corruption has undermined trust in institutions and law enforcement in Benin City? Yes ( ) No ( )

**Objective 5: To proffer solutions towards the corruption and insecurity level in Benin City.**

26. What are your suggestions towards tackling Corruption and insecurity in Benin City? Increasing salaries of government officials, law enforcement agencies, lecturers and others by the government. ( )

Government officials found guilty of corruption charges to be sentenced to longer years of imprisonment with hard labour. ( )

Vigorous campaign against corruption should be carried out by all and sundry and at every nook and crannies of the City. ( )

Edo State government should use its resources and law enforcement agencies to fight insecurity in Edo State. ( )

