

**DEPENDENCY AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA; THE
NIGERIA EXPERIENCE.**

BY

MARVELLOUS VINCENT PAUL

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was carried out by **PAUL MARVELLOUS VICENT**, of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria, it is adequate in scope and content for the award of B.Sc. Degree in Political Science.

MS. R. OMORUYI
(Project Supervisor)

DR J. O. AIHIE
(Head of Department)

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty who gave the divine wisdom, strength, provision, his protection and guidance which he bestowed on me during the course of my academic programme.

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ABSTRACT

Dependency describes a situation in which a country's economy is vulnerable because it depends on the growth and prosperity of another country. In the global system while countries are able to expand while remaining self-sufficient, other countries who dependent ones, like Nigeria have only been able to do so as a reflection of expansion which may have either a negative or positive effect. It is necessary to conduct this research since Nigeria's heavy reliance on foreign aid has led to significant gaps in the country's growth. The goals of this research were to better understand the dynamics at play in Nigeria's development crisis, to assess the factors that contribute to dependency which are apparent across Africa and in Nigeria, to educate Nigerians on the complexities of these twin problem of dependency and underdevelopment, and to suggest strategies for addressing them. These four questions were formulated specifically for the current investigation. Data was analyzed using both quantitative and qualitative methods in this study. The dependency theory served as the framework for the analysis, which was based on both primary and secondary sources. The study found that a lack of internal stability, such as a skewed value system and failing institutions, contributed to Nigeria's dependence on other countries. This leads to a weak government and a loss of political independence. Instead of looking inward for measures to strengthen finances, governments frequently turn to borrowing money in order to pay for ongoing capital expenditures. The study also observed that dependency is responsible for the substantial disparity in Nigerian savings and investment, worsening the country's poverty, insecurity, and unequal development. It was believed that moving away from a monoculture economy would help the government break its reliance on a single commodity. The study concluded that in order for the government to be effective in its fight against social maladies that leads to underdevelopment, it must boost its efforts to reorient the society by setting rigorous ethical standards that everyone is obligated to follow. As an added measure, auditing and consulting organizations can be brought in to investigate whether or not government projects and records are being carried out in accordance with established protocols and all institutional and structural loopholes within the government should be nipped in the bud to foster true and even development.

CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Since the dawn of time, most of sub-Saharan Africa and Nigeria have been plagued by the scourge of underdevelopment. There are societal roots to the malignant repercussions of underdevelopment that are displayed in a seemingly complete loop of cause and effect interactions. Dependency is undoubtedly the most prominent of these characteristics, and as a result, it can be considered a key cause of the country's underdevelopment. The topic of underdevelopment is a multidimensional one that has drawn attention and controversy from academics alike. According to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, underdevelopment is simply defined as a state's low production capabilities and low level of living when compared to other states." Talberth, (2009) defined development as democracy, life expectancy, education, social infrastructure, and level of living.

A "developing country," as defined by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), refers to an economically underdeveloped country. The people of Nigeria are among the world's poorest, and the country itself is among the world's least developed, despite having Africa's largest economy, at least in terms of GDP at buying power parity. Socioeconomic underdevelopment and widespread poverty characterize most countries in Africa,

Asia, and Latin America. Economically and technologically disadvantaged, third world countries are characterized by underdeveloped structures e.g., high maternal mortality, high child mortality, poverty, mass literacy and a over-population in the rural areas (Abraham, 2010). The United Nations Development Program's most current Human Development Index Report ranks Nigeria 152 out of 187 countries, with an HDI value of 0.514, with a population of more than 170 million people (UNDP 2015). Due to the large gap between economic growth and social progress, the country is suffering from poor levels of human development.

Nigeria was placed ninth in a list of 42 countries with Nepal, Pakistan, and Kenya taking the top three spots and Central African Republic, Congo, and Niger taking the bottom three spots. Owing to colonial-imposed dependency economic structures, the third world as a whole has historically been plagued by underdevelopment. In this context, it refers to the historical integration of the third world economy into the global capitalist economy and its subsequent reliance on Western economies (Ake, 2002). Structural disarticulation, which is linked to dependency, is a major obstacle to socioeconomic progress in the developing countries. In proving this, Haung (1995) asserted that structural disarticulation, an economic and social trait exhibited by uneven sectorial growth and a lack of correspondence between domestic production and consumption patterns, is a contributing factor to third-world underdevelopment. Nigeria's recent foreign trade patterns (i.e., import/export patterns) are a good indicator of the incoherence

of the country's production and consumption. This study is therefore conceived as a theoretical and empirical contribution to the literature on Nigerian development crises resulting from dependency. Without demonstrating its ability to be imaginative and creative, no country or region has ever been able to solve the problems of poverty reduction.

Nigeria is not an exception to this rule. Leaders in Nigeria appear to be stuck in their ways (Dweck, 2007). The country's democratic experiment is in jeopardy because its leaders do not act according to democratic norms. To make matters worse, the system is plagued by rampant corruption, non-functioning healthcare and education systems, and institutions and infrastructure that work against the development of human capital. Economic weakness, increased youth unemployment and poverty have all been a direct effect of these forces. They don't seem to realize that empowering the people will affect the future of society. People have noticed that no civilization can isolate poverty from the societal political and economic forces as well as the leaders' mindset because they determine the human condition in every country.

1.3 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

Using the nation's political history from the first civilian republic to the military era and civil war periods, this research study aims to examine dependency as the primary factor that underlies Nigeria's underdevelopment. The

research centers on the need to present alternative arguments for the core problems of developing countries using evidence from the nation's political history. Nigeria's economic potential and substantial GDP have led to a variety of theories about the country's underdevelopment, but this research aims to establish an empirical basis for the case that dependency is the single most important factor that is not only responsible for underdevelopment, but one that effectively necessitates other proposed causal factors of underdevelopment. It's time for a paradigm shift in our thinking as people and as a society because today's economy is a network of local and global eco-systems that work together (Scharmer and Kaufer, 2013).

Nigeria's economy is not an exception to the rule. In many ways, Nigerians appear to have entrepreneurial abilities; they are creative and original in their thinking. However, their passion has been stifled by unreliable and not conducive political structures as well as a hostile economic climate. As a result, there is no room for new ideas or approaches in this environment. The people of Nigeria are not politically empowered because the country is economically underdeveloped, and this has a negative effect on the country's morale. Charmer and Kaufer (2013) opined that government investment in infrastructure, education, and public health is constrained by Nigeria's mounting debt burden. Especially, if there is no proper system in place to handle the debt. The exchange rate, inflation rate, investment, and degree of economic development could all be adversely

affected by poor debt management. This leads to an increase in the cost of servicing public debt (both domestically and externally), which may be too great for the economy to bear, and hence has an adverse effect on economic growth of the country. These conditions provide a backdrop against which to conduct an empirical investigation of dependency and underdevelopment in Africa: the Nigerian experience.

1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of this study include:

1. To explore the causes of underdevelopment in Nigeria.
2. To appraise why dependency seems to be to be institutionalized in Africa and in Nigeria.
3. To establish awareness to citizens of Nigeria on some of the issues involved in dependency and underdevelopment.
4. To propose solutions on how to curb dependency and underdevelopment in Nigeria.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This research study will be hinged on the following questions:

1. What exactly is underdevelopment?

2. Why has dependency continued to be entrenched despite its widespread condemnation in Nigeria?
3. What are the core issues of dependency and underdevelopment?
4. What measures can be adopted to control or eradicate dependency and underdevelopment in Nigeria?

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The significance of this basically stems from the fact that it addresses the issues of dependency, making a case for what we have left undone and the need for a more holistic approach in the quest for attainment of development. Financial institutions saddled with the responsibility of combating underdevelopment will find this study useful as it will provide insightful steps on breaking free from dependency.

Also, the expected result of the study, other things being equal, will encourage government and policy makers to entrench policies and measures that can increase both domestic and foreign savings as a fundamental for capital accumulation. It is also expected that the study will address what measures to adopt to ensure adequate utilization of accumulated capital in production process, hence, increase in output level.

1.6 SCOPE AND DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This study is limited to investigating dependency and underdevelopment in Africa, with Nigeria as the main focus. Therefore, the study will be based on Nigeria's economy and will cover the period from 1960-till date. The choice of this period is informed by data availability and the need for a precise time series analysis.

1.7 ORGANIZATION OF STUDY

For the purpose of this research, the work will be organized into five chapters.

- **Chapter one** deals with background of study, a brief historical background, statement of problem, objectives the study, research questions, scope and delimitation of study, significance of the study, and organization of study.
- **Chapter two** covers literature review and theoretical framework.
- **Chapter three** covers research design, method of data collection, and sources of data.
- **Chapter four** covers an in-depth analysis on trends of corruption in Nigeria.
- **Chapter five** covers summary of major findings, conclusions and recommendations

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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 INTRODUCTION

To have a better understanding and analysis of the phrase “underdevelopment,” there is need to understand the term development. The term “development” encompasses a wide range of ideas and activities. Both on an individual and a societal level, progress is a multifaceted process. Changes in social structures, popular attitudes and institutions, as well as an increase in economic growth, a reduction in inequality, and the elimination of poverty, are all part of Todaro and Smith’s (2012) view on the development process. This means that development encompasses all actions related to the re-orientation, restructuring, and re-establishment of the entire economic and social system. It’s a procedure that aims to improve the quality of life for people. When these two factors are considered together, one could conclude that a country is considered underdeveloped if its average individual production and living standards are both poor.

According to Edame (2010), underdevelopment is the prevalence of poverty, illiteracy, as a result of a lack of economic opportunity, government inefficiency, and social incoherence. Features of underdeveloped countries are widely known and accepted to include those that have unstable economies, less

democratic political systems and a poorer health care and education system. Other variables like low per-capita income and a low standard of living are some of the things to consider. Others include rapid population growth, illiteracy, technological lag, lack of financial resources, high levels of unemployment, and a shaky institutional framework.

A high population, notwithstanding the foregoing characteristics of underdevelopment, is acceptable except for the question of whether China is on the ladder of development with her big population. The following demonstrates once again that the term of underdevelopment is a relative one. Underdeveloped countries perpetuate and reinforce absolute poverty, thus it's crucial to highlight. As a general rule, underdevelopment and absolute poverty go hand in hand. Subsidized economies are characterized by low per capita real incomes in comparison to those in North America and Western Europe. This is known as underdevelopment. As a result of the lack of education in these countries, poverty, overpopulation, and sickness are all prevalent. In many ways, this concept is consistent with the perspective of dependency scholars and schools of thought that underdevelopment is a result of external causes like slavery, colonialism, and imperialism, rather than internal factors. The absence of development variables in all senses and the predominance of extreme poverty, bad health, and a weak educational system are all part of our discussion. In addition, a distinction must be

made between “core” and “periphery” countries in order to adequately describe the concept of dependence.

With an emphasis on international capitalism as a factor in underdevelopment in the periphery, “the international system” or “global system” is used as a unit of analysis by most dependence theories (Sekhri 2009). Periphery and semi-periphery countries have “a high penetration by foreign capital, a heavy technological dependence from leading countries, and the overall subordination of the country’s productive capacities to the evolving international division of labor” as their main characteristics, says. (Tausch, 2010)

2.1 ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Over the past few decades, the Nigerian economy has been plagued by high inflation, a depreciated currency, reliance on imports, massive unemployment, and deteriorated infrastructures, among other issues (Eme 2013). Development issues Nigeria faces are clearly illustrated by these features, which demonstrate the country’s dependency on foreign capitalist economies and aggravated by leadership crises, as evidenced by corrupt and inefficient leadership (Nnadozie 2010). We don’t have to look far to see the causes of the country’s economic woes and overall socioeconomic deprivation. Nigeria’s economic issue may be traced back to slavery, colonialism, and neo colonialism, according to

Adeyeri and Adejuwon (2012), who conducted a detailed examination of Nigeria's economic crisis. According to Babawale (2007), the economic problem in Nigeria can be traced back to British colonialism, which disrupted and dislocated the country's pre-production. As he saw it, colonization led to economic skewedness and a greater dependence on the metropolis. Colonial-era British rule over Nigeria's economy was based on a preference for cash crops and other raw commodities, such as tin and columbite for British industry and imported manufactured goods (Adeyeri and Adejuwon, 2012). With the help of colonial merchants' companies like the United African Company (UAC), United Trading Company (UTC), the African Timber and Plywood Company, the colonial export import strategy was successfully executed. The local merchants suffered as a result of the monopolization of trade and commerce by these businesses. As a result of the colonial economic structure, Nigeria's economy was unable to become self-sufficient. Than becoming a mere conduit for European economic institutions, the economy will be swallowed up by the global capitalist system (Adeyeri and Adejuwon, 2012).

Due to the country's dependence on externally-oriented imports, it has become increasingly dependent on foreign dominance of the local economy, as well as a foreign firm's claim on the country's surplus value (Falola, 2007). According to Babawale (2007), Nigeria was given an economy that was not only distorted but also responsive to the vagaries of the international capitalist system

into which it had been incorporated and it is characterized by a low productive base, with poorer technology, reliance on a narrow range of cash crops, and later crude oil dependency. Adeyeri and Adejuwon (2012) correctly highlighted that the Nigerian economy has been perennially reliant on foreign markets, foreign aid, and foreign technology since the country's independence in 1960. The disintegration or dislocation of the Nigerian economy is one of the primary development difficulties connected with the colonially imposed externally oriented system of production.

Disarticulation, according to Ake (2002), suggests a lack of coherence in both the forward and backward movement of a nation's economy. "A disarticulated economy is one whose pieces or sectors do not complement," he said. Regional and/or sectoral complementarities and reciprocity can be found in a cohesive economy. If, for example, the agricultural sector relies on manufactured goods from another location, this interdependence will assure a sectorial reciprocity of trades characterized by a forward and backward linkage in production. The Nigerian economy, both in colonial times and since independence, has lacked these kinds of connections, complementarities, and reciprocity. Colonial economic policies promote development of raw materials and cash crops for European industries, not for the benefit of indigenous industrial output. In Nigeria, local industrialization was stifled by this scenario, and the resulting distortion of local food production was also detrimental. As stated by Ake (2002),

local food producers cultivate food for their own consumption, rather than selling it on the exchange market, resulting in a lack of exchange value.

According to Okosun et al. (2016), this has led to a decrease in the country's manufacturing capability and a lack of food security for its ever-growing population. Disarticulated economies of the least developed countries are characterized by 'extroversion,' which means that economic output focuses primarily on exports and durable commodities required by foreign markets, as stated by Amin (1976). Exports and durable items, according to Haung (1995), can often be sold at a price that exceeds the purchasing capacity of the great majority of the population. The absence of correlation between production and consumption patterns in the least developed countries prevents consumers from increasing their spending, hence impeding economic progress. When considering Nigeria's current economic dependency position, it can be seen that the current global economic crisis and the economic advancement of some countries previously seen as underdeveloped have caused a shift in Nigeria's dependency pattern or loyalty.

The economies of China, Brazil, Singapore, and even South Africa have grown to be so important to Nigeria's economic well-being that the country appears to be dependent on them. Nigeria's oil riches still plays a significant role in this economic connection, but worries have been expressed about whether

Nigeria is slowly falling into the same abyss of dependency that existed during the initial post-independence period. The expanding global economic and political influence of China, in particular, has made engagement with her conceivable or “necessary” for virtually all states (Kalu, 2011). The United States of America is now only a few points behind China in terms of global economic dominance. The Chinese perspective and her current position as key driver of development may be another reason why it seems vital for countries like Nigeria to turn to China for economic dependency. Some academics believe that China’s economic history makes it easier for China to grasp Nigeria’s challenges and markets; hence China is interested in working with Nigeria on a multilateral level. It’s also possible that Nigeria’s newfound reliance on countries other than the West stems from sentimental reasons for dependence on them. Concerns about Western-style development policies and programs, geophysical similarities between Nigeria and these rising nations as well as the rigorous terms of Western development assistance have been voiced repeatedly.

There are multiple organisations (such as the Nigeria-China Joint Commission for Cooperation) that have been set up to support Nigeria’s rising economic dependent on these emerging economies. Trade between China and Nigeria, in particular, is growing, as are economic and political ties between the two countries. There was 7.5 billion dollars worth of commerce between Nigeria and China in 2010, making Nigeria the fourth largest trading partner of China in

Africa and the second largest exporter market in Africa (Okoh, 2011). Other than trade, Nigeria relies on China in a variety of other fields, including military weaponry and construction. In order to safeguard its vast economic investments in Africa and Nigeria, China has boosted its military presence there despite “the One China Policy” prohibiting military engagement and control of political systems. African governments, particularly those under threat from civil conflict, insurgency, or even political opposition, benefit from military cooperation and the growth of arms exports, according to Alden (2007). To secure China’s economic interests, the Nigerian military greatly benefits from its relationship with the Chinese government, especially during this period of rising security concern.

Effects of Borrowings on the Nigerian Economy

Governments often seek loans from neo-capitalist institutions in order to pay their large budget deficits. Third-world countries could turn to financial institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank, the Paris Club, the G8, and even financial alliances formed by emerging economies (BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). If you are dependent on someone else’s economy for both commodities and financial support, you are putting yourself at a serious disadvantage. Industries would be unable to progress past a certain point if they were to be so reliant on the supply of their products. Another possibility is that a Third world economy may stay in the early stages of primary production and

industrialization, but would be limited by foreign imports of manufactured goods. As a result, it becomes increasingly difficult for dependent countries to properly exploit their natural resources for the common good. This could also have a negative impact on the international payments balances (mostly in dependent countries). With the current global economic crisis, the vulnerability of Third World countries to economic shocks and recession that could damage Western economies has become abundantly clear.

As Nigeria's debt-to-GDP ratio continues to rise, so does the country's dependence on foreign aid. Data from the Debt Management Office shows that Nigeria's debt increased by N20.8 trillion between July 2015 and December 2020 as a result of its reliance on external sources. On May 29, 2015, Muhammadu Buhari was elected as the country's president. On June 30, 2015, Nigeria's overall debt was N12.12 trillion, according to data gathered from the Department of Management and Budget (DMO). \$63,806.45 was Nigeria's total public debt profile in 2015, which included domestic debt. According to DMO data, this figure had risen to \$86,571.80 as of June 2021. In accordance with Everest et al. (2021) the country's debt portfolio, on the other hand, was N32.92tn as of December 31, 2020. This demonstrates that the country's debt has increased by N20.8tn in just 66 months (five and a half years). As a result, the country's debt portfolio grew by 171.62 percent during the time period. Of the overall debt of N 32.92 trillion, N26.91tn is held by the Federal Government, leaving a balance of

N6.01tn for the 36 state governments and FCT Administration. This means that the federal government has 83.78 percent of the nation's debt, while the sub-national government holds 16.22 percent.

Furthermore, N12.71tn came from external sources and N20.21tn came from domestic sources. Internal and foreign loans comprised a total of 61.4% and 38.6% of the entire debt portfolio, respectively. (Everest et al. 2021) The rising cost of servicing the nation's debt has been a mockery of the nation's declining earnings in recent years, as has the country's rising debt profile. N10.26 trillion was spent on debt servicing throughout the 66-month period under study. During the period from July 2015 to December 2020, servicing domestic debt consumed N8.53 trillion, while servicing external debt consumed N1.72 trillion (external debt servicing converted to Naira at the exchange rate prevailing at the time, provided by the DMO). From July to December of last year, N489.59 billion was spent on servicing local loans, according to the figures provided by the DMO. In 2016, a total of N1.23tn was spent on domestic debt servicing from January to December. In 2017, the total amounted to N1.48 trillion. B The total cost of servicing Nigeria's domestic debt increased to N1.8tn in 2018. To N1.69tn, the cost of servicing the country's domestic debt decreased slightly in 2019. N1.85tn was the figure in 2020.

In contrast, foreign debt servicing accounted for \$353.09 million in expenditures last year. In 2017 it grew from \$464.05 million to \$1.47 billion. External debt servicing costs the country \$1.33 billion in 2019. The service of external debt will consume \$1.56 billion in 2020. (Everest et al., 2021) As the country's commitment to external loans increased, so did the country's debt servicing. Because of the high expense of servicing local debt, the Federal Government decided to seek out additional loans from outside. When it comes to debt, the government's goal was to shift the country's portfolio from a 60/40 split between domestic and foreign debts. Government officials faced a conundrum because of the drop in revenue from oil and gas exports. Falling currency and the necessity to maintain foreign exchange reserves made it difficult for the government to reduce its reliance on foreign borrowings, notwithstanding the risks. He has requested that the Senate authorize an additional \$6.18 billion in foreign borrowing for the federal budget. Buhari stated that the planned N2.3 trillion loan will be used to cover the N5.6 trillion projected budget shortfall for 2021. In accordance with Everest et al. (2021) In addition to transportation, health, and education, he said, the loan would allow the federal government to support other important infrastructure projects. The debt portfolio of the government will rise if the National Assembly accepts the new debt plan.

The lending agencies have also granted loans that have not yet been paid back. As a result of these loans being disbursed, the company's debt portfolio will

be elevated. The DMO recently revealed that Nigeria had approved but not yet released more than \$5.83 billion in foreign loans as of December 31, 2020. More of the financing would come from the World Bank's International Development Association. As of December 2020, the group had \$3.27 billion in outstanding loans. The Export-Import Bank of China was also expected to provide \$1.25 billion. China has been the country's largest creditor, apart from multilateral institutions. 2020 is the year that the DMO will be in operation. Many Nigerians are wary of government borrowing because of the lack of transparency and the likelihood that the money will be used for ongoing expenses, even if experts say it is important to keep the economy afloat during a recession. We need to know exactly what the government is borrowing money for. There is a debt-to-GDP ratio that allows them to borrow money, but the issue is that GDP does not pay off debt. Debt is repaid by revenue. If you look at the debt revenue ratio, you'll see that Nigeria is paying interest on its debt but not using any of the principal as a resource.

Nigeria owes China a total of \$1.38 billion as of June 30, 2015, according to data from the Debt Management Office (N567 billion). Since its beginning in 2015, the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has borrowed N830 billion (\$2.02 billion) from China in loans. In June 2015, Nigeria's overall debt to China amounted at \$1.38 billion, according to data from the Debt Management Office (N567 billion). (Sahara Reporters, 2021)

Implications of Borrowings

While Nigeria's economy relies on Western and rising economies, she hasn't had the same opportunity as other countries to grow at the same rate. There is no doubt that Nigeria's economic capacity has been harmed by the country's reliance on foreign direct investments. Neo-colonialism has been defined as the practice of maintaining the economic remnants of colonialism in order to promote the re-colonization of Nigeria by Western or rising economies. Nevertheless, what are the repercussions of these tendencies on Nigeria? (both past and contemporary). Nigeria's ongoing reliance on foreign countries has led to a wide range of consequences, which are outlined below. Dependence on borrowings affects the economy and weakens the country's political independence and makes it more vulnerable to outside influence. Nigeria's economic ties to the United Kingdom were strong soon after the country gained its independence, as evidenced by the amount of commerce and the presence of numerous multinational corporations in Nigeria. As a result, the Nigerian government found it increasingly difficult to express its independence on local and foreign issues.

As a result, the relationship between Nigeria and other African countries will be affected. Voting at the United Nations, for example, would always be prioritized in terms of economic gain before considering the overall benefit to Nigeria as a nation. To perpetuate this dependent status quo, western nations

could subtly or overtly intervene in the political processes of countries in the Third World. As a result of having a large number of foreign-owned businesses, the economy of these countries have been bolstered and the trend of dependency and underdevelopment has been perpetuated. These foreign corporations might drain more resources out of a Third World country because of their reliance on the country. In Nigeria, for example, investment outflows were 6.5 trillion US dollars between 1970 and 1980, while inflows totaled 3.8 trillion US dollars (UN, 1983). This figure does not include the money that the corrupt bourgeoisie class in power in Nigeria plundered from the country's treasury over the same time period. Nigerian dependency has another economic effect, which is that the burden of debt increases. Specifically, because Third World countries are unable to compete with their industrialized counterparts in terms of economic rivalry, they must resort to borrowing.

The country's unemployment rate has also risen to one of the world's highest levels. Nigeria's unemployment rate jumped from 27.1 percent to 33.3 percent between December and March of this year, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Poorer Nigerians have been unable to contribute to the economy since a third of Nigerians have lost their jobs. The country overcame India in 2018 to become the world's most impoverished nation. Over half of Nigeria's population is thought to be impoverished. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has pledged to pull 100 million people out of

poverty by the year 2030. Shocks hitting 90 percent of households and 64 percent of households in the farming and business sector continue to be the most extensively felt in the country, according to the World Bank. (Olorounbi, 2021) According to the most recent figures, the country owes almost one-quarter of its gross domestic product (GDP).

By 2024, debt service could consume up to 75% of government revenue, according to recent warnings from the International Monetary Fund. Without major revenue reforms, debt service could reach 36% of GDP. As of June 30, Nigeria's entire debt stock (foreign and domestic) was N35.465 trillion, according to the Debt Management Office (DMO). Nigeria's total national debt as of March 31, 2021, was N33.107 trillion, or \$87.239 billion in US dollars. Of the total debt, 54.88 percent is held by multilateral institutions (the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank Group), followed by commercial debt (Eurobonds and Diaspora bonds) at 31.88 percent and bilateral debt (debt held by countries in the P5 plus China, France, Japan, India, and Germany at 12.70 percent). 0.54 percent of the total is comprised of Promissory Notes (PN). (Olorounbi, 2021)

2.2 CORRUPTION, INCOME INEQUALITY AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

The prevalence of corrupt practices is another sign of dependency in Nigeria. Rent-seeking behavior of those with administrative or market authority is

closely linked to corruption. Estimated bribes paid in less developed nations by the World Bank total more than \$1 trillion. One of the greatest obstacles to economic and social progress is corruption. Economic growth depends on a strong institutional framework that is undermined by the distortion of law's role (World Bank). For two reasons, endemic corruption can contribute to a high poverty rate. Firstly, it has been found that income inequality has a negative effect on economic growth, and as corruption exacerbates income inequality, both the reduction of income inequality and poverty reduction are inhibited by corruption (Ravallion and Chen, 1997).

There is a strong correlation between the extent of corruption in African countries and the difficulty in allocating money to growth-enhancing projects, according to empirical studies. Investment in infrastructure and development projects is seriously harmed by kickbacks, over- and under-invoicing of contract amounts, etc., which explains why grants and aids from more developed countries are suspended or outright cancelled when it is discovered that these funds are embezzled and fall into the hands of corrupt individuals (Ogunlana, 2011). It is one of the most pressing issues of our time. In the long run, it harms the development of both the private and public sectors, especially the poor. It undermines good governance and fundamentally distorts public policy (Transparency International). Over 80 million Nigerians are projected to be living below the poverty line, making it one of the most unequal and poorest countries in

the world, according to a report released in September by the Center for Community Action (CCA) (Opejobi, 2016). Corruption is also linked to poor administration of both public funds and public services, which decreases the average level of living (Nevin, 2016).

UNDP's African Human Development Index (HDI) released in 2016 ranks Nigeria 152nd out of 188 nations in terms of human development, meaning it falls into the group of countries with poor levels of human development. Due to the country's widespread poverty, Nigeria's HDI value has stayed low for the past several years. A score of 0.507 was assigned to it in 2010, 0.507 in 2011, 0.514 in 2013, and 0.525 in 2014. 2016 marked a return to an HDI of 0.514 (United Nations Development Programme, 2016). Corruption contributes to greater poverty by diverting public monies meant for economic development, poverty reduction, and human capacity development to corrupt officials and their corrupt clients. Because they can't pay bribes and don't get any of the benefits of corrupt public programs, people with low incomes are disproportionately affected by corruption. Due to this, state institutions have been unable to function and the economy has suffered as a result (Agwu, 2011).

A high level of corruption in Nigeria's political class has been connected to the country's high level of poverty and underdevelopment during recent decades. There were six geopolitical regions in Nigeria where the average poverty

level (percentage of population living in poverty) was as follows: South West-19.3%, South South-25.2%, South East-27.36%, North Central-45.79% and North East-76.89%; and Nigeria's national average poverty level was 46.9%; Based on data collected between 2004 and 2014, the estimates were generated (United Nations, 2015). Corruption in Nigeria is one of the many issues that have impeded and distorted the country's progress. A serious political and economic dilemma for Nigeria will continue to exist. Cankers have devoured the nation's social and economic fiber. Systemic corruption can range from the most minor to the most egregious forms of graft (International Center for Economic Growth, 1999). Corruption is both endemic and a threat to society. It had slowed development across the board. As a result, the country has had a tough time progressing to the point where it can call itself developed. Nigeria has consistently been ranked as one of the world's ten most corrupt countries by Transparency International. Corruption is rampant in Nigeria, and the list of wrongdoers and wrongdoing activities is as long as the country's coastline.

2.4.1 CONSEQUENCES OF CORRUPTION

A few of Kunhiyop's (2008) findings on corruption are as follows:

- Moral values are eroded as a nation's sense of right and evil is distorted. Right and wrong get corrupted in a corrupt society.

- Social problems such as tribalism, nepotism, dishonesty, selfishness, kidnapping, human trafficking, maladministration, and armed robbery can thrive in the fertile soil provided by this type of environment. If this happens, it can lead to murder, religious prejudice and civil war, among other things.
- Lack of transparency encourages people in power to eschew openness and responsibility, which leads to a vicious cycle. When people demand that public leaders be more open and accountable, they often respond with defensiveness and vindictiveness.
- Corruption encourages individuals, organizations, and institutions to disregard the rule of law, which in turn encourages them to cut shortcuts and disregard legal requirements.
- As a result, innocent civilians, imagined enemies, and opposition party members are detained without due process by the federal government. In this case, it might be incredibly difficult to get the justice that is due to you.

More serious effects of corruption include oppression of the minorities, the loss of public trust, a shift toward utilitarianism in ethics and the demise of the moral fiber of society. To lessen reliance on the West, there is a pressing need for accountability. It is the responsibility of bureaucrats to ensure accountability in their positions by achieving the necessary values. To say that the government and its personnel are held to a high standard of public accountability and transparency

is to say that their operations are open to the public. Unless there is a matter of national security, the public should be able to access the records of the government's operations. An individual must explain and justify their actions to someone else in order to be held accountable for their actions (Bovens 2007).

2.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

International relations have evolved a wide range of theories and approaches to explain the reliance of developing countries on wealthy countries. Scientifically correct explanations of and elements underlying the country's dependency on foreign economies are the goal here. However, dependency theory is used in this study to explain the nature of international relations and the causes that have made it easier for one set of countries to become dependent on another. Economic prosperity has divided the world's nations into two camps: the rich and the poor. Economically strong and politically stable countries are referred to as "Developed Countries," while economically underdeveloped countries are often referred to as "Developing Countries" or "Third World Countries." To put it in another way, economic reliance refers to the country's lack of ability and inability to control its productive processes, which means that the country's economy relies on foreign economic institutions to direct or indirectly regulate its growth or expansion through regulations. The goal of the dependency theory is to identify the elements that have aided or hindered the growth of developing countries.

Assumption: Resources go from a “periphery” of impoverished and underdeveloped nations to a “core” of wealthy states, benefiting the latter while depleting those states’ resources is foundational to this theory. According to dependence theory, it is the integration of poor countries into the "global system" that causes them to become poorer, while rich countries benefit (Todaro, 2003).

As stated in dependency theory’s premise, the rich countries’ high level of living would be impossible without the natural resources, inexpensive labor, and a destination for outdated technologies provided by poorer governments. A situation of dependency is purposefully maintained by wealthy countries through numerous tactics. Economic, media, political, banking and finance, education, culture, sport, and human resource development all have a role to play in this influence. Economic sanctions and/or military force are used by wealthy states to counter the resistance attempts of dependent nations to their influence (Todaro, 2003). According to dependency theory, nations in the periphery aren't poor because they aren't completely integrated into the global system, as many free market economists contend, but rather because of the way in which they are integrated. There are two main schools of thinking on this subject, each having their own unique take on the situation. One of these is bourgeois scholars, and the other is neo-Marxian political economics radical intellectuals. It is generally accepted that underdevelopment and dependence in many developing countries can be traced back to their own insecurities. Owing to their lack of close

integration, the spread of capital (including technology and institutions), bad leadership, corruption (and mismanagement) etc.

This problem was also explained by (Momoh and Hundeyin, 1999). In this perspective, underdevelopment and dependency in developing countries are not caused by external factors, but rather are the result of their own internal failings. According to this view, the solution to the problem is for developing countries to look for outside help in the form of aid, loans, investments, and so on, and to allow multinational corporations to operate freely (MNCS). It is suggested that multinational corporations (MNCs) can facilitate growth by transferring technology, finance, and managerial, creative, and marketing expertise (Ajayi, 2000). Even so, bourgeois scholars argue that the bad socio-political records of the developing countries make their argument about the reasons of underdevelopment and dependency and the possible solutions out compelling. Because of the shallow and obscurantist nature of their assessments they serve the interests of global capitalists. Political economy radicals have criticized the modernization thesis as simply Eurocentric, teleological, and that it will only irreversibly link developing countries to the chain of capitalist exploitation of the metropolis (Momoh and Hundeyin, 1999).

It has been suggested by other experts that underdevelopment can be traced back to the inclusion of developing countries into the global capitalist

process. Global capitalist expansion, according to Marxian political economy, is to blame for the growth of the Western metropolis in the West. Scholars in this school of thought include Paul Baran, Samir Amin, Colin Leys, Cardoso, Walter Rodney, and Geoffrey Kay. The nature and causation of national riches and poverty can be unearthed through research into the capital accumulation process. Neo-Marxist scholars argue that instead of bringing civilization to “Dark Africa,” colonialism decapitalized the Third World, introducing all kinds of distortion and dislocation into its economic and social systems, contrary to the assertions made by bourgeois scholars who strongly supported colonialism. In addition, third-world economies were disintegrated and compelled to specialize in the production of raw commodities for export to the metropolis in an international division of labor typified by an uneven exchange of labor (Momoh and Hundeyin, 1999).

This dependence on the West for nearly everything from technology to aid to technical assistance to loans and culture is a result of the underdeveloped nature of most developing countries. As a result of their reliant status, many emerging nations have been subject to the intrigues of the West and Breton Woods organizations (Ajayi, 2000). The dependency theory explains in great detail the factors that have led to the Third World's underdevelopment and dependency on the developed world, whether one accepts the bourgeois scholars' eloquent submission or the European explanations of the neo-Marxian theorists.

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CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

Agbonifoh and Yomere (1999:106) define research methodology as the methods, procedures, and modalities used by researchers to achieve their goals. This chapter focuses primarily on the study's methodology. The sample size, the research instrument, the validity of the instrument, the data collection method, and the data processing strategies are all covered. The researcher selects a sampling method that yields a sample. This chapter also includes sections on data collection methods, data presentation, and data analysis techniques.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

Using this method, researchers can draw conclusions about the relationship between variables under consideration (Nachimas and Nachimas, 1981). The methods and procedures used to collect and analyze data in accordance with the research objectives are referred to as research design (Creswell, 2014). This study will use a survey approach of data collection as its research design. "Dependency and underdevelopment in Africa: The Nigerian experience" is a social phenomena, and so this is the case. Descriptive surveys will be the research method employed in this study. In this type of study, the

independent and dependent variables will not be manipulated in any way during the research process.

3.2 POPULATION OF STUDY

Students from the University of Benin in Benin City make up the majority of those participating in this research. All sorts of bigotry and prejudice are eliminated since the population is diverse.

3.3 SAMPLE SIZE/SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

One hundred (100) respondents who are students of the University of Benin's will be selected for this study. Random sampling will be used to accomplish this.

3.4 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The primary and secondary data will be used in this study's data collection. Questionnaires will serve as the primary source of data in this study, and they will be the primary tool employed. A questionnaire will be used to collect data from participants in the study. Before administering the test, responders will be asked for permission. The questionnaire will be created in accordance with the study's questions and goals. Respondents will fill out the questionnaire on their own, with the researcher on hand to answer any questions. There will be two sections to the questionnaire as well. Section A of the questionnaire will ask about the

respondents' socio-demographics. The questions in Section B will be based on the subject of the study.

Research from the past will be used to gather secondary data for this project. Past studies that focus on this particular subject matter are to be sourced from journals and websites, case study research and any other relevant publications. Search engines of a high quality will be used to also gather secondary data.

3.5 DATA PRESENTATION

The use of contingency tables and charts will be used for clear and easily understandable result presentation.

3.6 STATISTICAL INSTRUMENT FOR DATA ANALYSIS

In the analysis of our data, two analytical methods will be used.

The simple percentage will be used in the representation of the responses which was used as a major guide on the level of assessment of the subject of discourse. This would be used to determine the level of responses gathered during the field survey.

The formula for simple percentage is given as:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Responses}}{\text{Total number of respondents}} \times 100$$

Total number of respondents 1

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CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is concerned with the presentation and analysis of the data collected from the field survey using the questionnaire with respect to “Dependency and underdevelopment in Africa: The Nigerian experience.”

Section A: Personal data of Respondents

Table 4.1.1: Sex of Respondents

Sex	Responses	Percentage %
Male	56	56
Female	44	44
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 56% of the respondents were Male and 44% of the respondents were Female. This shows that they were more male respondents than female so as to remove any form of gender bias.

Table 4.1.2: Age of Respondents

Age	Responses	Percentage %
18-28 years	51	51
29-39 years	31	31
40-50 years	10	10
50 years and above	8	8
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 51% of respondents were of the age bracket of 18-28 years, 31% of respondents were of the age bracket of 29-39 years, 10% of respondents were of the age bracket of 40-50 years and 8% of respondents were 50 years and above.

Table 4.1.3: Marital Status

Marital Status	Responses	Percentage %
Single	63	63
Married	37	37
Widowed	-	-
Divorced	-	-
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 63% of the respondents were Single, 37% of the respondents were married, and no response was gotten for divorced and separated respectively.

Table 4.1.4: Educational Qualification

Qualification	Responses	Percentage %
Primary	-	-
Secondary	-	-
Tertiary	100	100
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, no response was gotten for primary and secondary education, 100% of respondents had tertiary form of education owing to the study setting being the University of Benin.

SECTION B: Dependency and underdevelopment in Africa: The Nigerian experience.”

Table 4.1.5: Corruption and economic mismanagement is a consequence of dependency in Nigeria.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	57	57
Agree	28	28
Undecided	10	10
Strongly Disagree	2	2
Disagree	3	3
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 57% of respondents strongly agreed, 28% of respondents Agreed, 10% of respondents were undecided, 2% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 3% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that corruption and economic mismanagement is a consequence of dependency in Nigeria. As evident in the table where 57% strongly agreed while 2% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.6: Unpredictable, inconducive, extractive political institution and unfriendly business environment is a cause of underdevelopment in Nigeria.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	48	48
Agree	45	45
Undecided	-	-
Strongly Disagree	4	4
Disagree	3	3
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 48% of respondents strongly agreed, 45% of respondents Agreed, no response was gotten for undecided, 4% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 3% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that unpredictable, inconducive, extractive political institution and unfriendly business environment is a cause of underdevelopment in Nigeria. As evident in the table where 48% strongly agreed while 4% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.7: Corruption and political patronage is a major hindrance of women in politics in Nigeria.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	70	70
Agree	10	10
Undecided	5	5
Strongly Disagree	6	6
Disagree	9	9
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 70% of respondents strongly agreed, 10% of respondents Agreed, 5% of respondents were undecided, 6% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 9% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that corruption and political patronage is a major hindrance of women in politics in Nigeria. As evident in the table where 70% strongly agreed while 6% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.8: Increased dependence on foreign assistance is a reason for increased debt burden in Nigeria.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	62	62
Agree	20	20
Undecided	3	3
Strongly Disagree	6	6
Disagree	9	9
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 62% of respondents strongly agreed, 20% of respondents Agreed, 3% of respondents were undecided, 6% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 9% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that increased dependence on foreign assistance is a reason for increased debt burden in Nigeria. As evident in the table where 62% strongly agreed while 6% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.9: Skewed value system and decayed social structure are consequences of dependence in Nigeria.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	46	46
Agree	26	26
Undecided	11	11
Strongly Disagree	8	8
Disagree	9	9
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 46% of respondents strongly agreed, 26% of respondents Agreed, 11% of respondents were undecided, 8% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 9% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that skewed value system and decayed social structure are consequences of dependence in Nigeria. As evident in the table where 46% strongly agreed while 8% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.10: Dependency undermines political independence and creates a weak government susceptible to control

Responses	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly Agree	50	50
Agree	5	5
Undecided	2	2
Strongly Disagree	10	10
Disagree	33	33
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 50% of respondents strongly agreed, 5% of respondents Agreed, 2% of respondents were undecided, 10% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 33% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that dependency undermines political independence and creates a weak government susceptible to control. As evident in the table where 50% strongly agreed while 10% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.11: Dependency creates huge reliance on foreign economies both for goods and economic sustenance.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	54	54
Agree	22	22
Undecided	6	6
Strongly Disagree	10	10
Disagree	8	8
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 54% of respondents strongly agreed, 22% of respondents Agreed, 6% of respondents were undecided, 10% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 8% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that dependency creates huge reliance on foreign economies both for goods and economic sustenance. As evident in the table where 54% strongly agreed while 10% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.12: Foreign dependence is a form of neo-colonial control and should be discontinued.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly Agree	61	61
Agree	21	21
Undecided	3	3
Strongly Disagree	8	8
Disagree	7	7
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 61% of respondents strongly agreed, 21% of respondents Agreed, 3% of respondents were undecided, 8% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 7% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that foreign dependence is a form of neo-colonial control and should be discontinued. As evident in the table where 61% strongly agreed while 7% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.13: Widening gap between savings and investment are root causes of dependency and underdevelopment.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	37	37
Agree	32	32
Undecided	6	6
Strongly Disagree	14	14
Disagree	11	11
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 37% of respondents strongly agreed, 32% of respondents Agreed, 6% of respondents were undecided, 14% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 11% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that widening gap between savings and investment are root causes of dependency and underdevelopment. As evident in the table where 37% strongly agreed while 14% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.14: Dependency also takes the form of excessive loans/borrowings which inhibits true development.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	22	22
Agree	14	14
Undecided	5	5
Strongly Disagree	41	41
Disagree	18	18
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 22% of respondents strongly agreed, 14% of respondents Agreed, 5% of respondents were undecided, 41% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 18% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that majority of the respondents do not agree that dependency takes the form of excessive loans/borrowings which inhibits true development. As evident in the table where 22% strongly agreed while 41% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.15: Unemployment, Poverty and insecurity are consequences of Nigeria’s long years of dependence.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly Agree	45	45
Agree	26	26
Undecided	4	4
Strongly Disagree	17	17
Disagree	8	8
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 45% of respondents strongly agreed, 26% of respondents Agreed, 4% of respondents were undecided, 17% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 8% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that unemployment, Poverty and insecurity are consequences of Nigeria’s long years of dependence. As evident in the table where 45% strongly agreed while 17% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.16: Diversification from a mono economy will help to reduce dependence on foreign assistance.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	47	47
Agree	31	31
Undecided	2	2
Strongly Disagree	10	10
Disagree	10	10
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 47% of respondents strongly agreed, 31% of respondents Agreed, 2% of respondents were undecided, 10% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 10% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that diversification from a mono economy will help to reduce dependence on foreign assistance. As evident in the table where 47% strongly agreed while 10% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.17: Having an inclusive institution will engender advanced technological ability to propel even paced development.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	36	36
Agree	30	30
Undecided	6	6
Strongly Disagree	18	18
Disagree	10	10
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 36% of respondents strongly agreed, 30% of respondents Agreed, 6% of respondents were undecided, 18% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 10% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that having an inclusive institution will engender advanced technological ability to propel even paced development. As evident in the table where 36% strongly agreed while 18% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.18: Having a unity of purpose, a shared vision will help to free Nigeria from the shackles of dependency.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	46	46
Agree	14	14
Undecided	8	8
Strongly Disagree	20	20
Disagree	12	12
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 46% of respondents strongly agreed, 14% of respondents Agreed, 8% of respondents were undecided, 20% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 12% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that having a unity of purpose, a shared vision will help to free Nigeria from the shackles of dependency. As evident in the table where 46% strongly agreed while 20% strongly disagreed.

Table 4.1.19: Policies that reduce aid dependency should be implemented and proper use of public funds be guaranteed.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	51	51
Agree	22	22
Undecided	-	-
Strongly Disagree	12	12
Disagree	15	15
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 51% of respondents strongly agreed, 22% of respondents Agreed, no response was gotten for undecided, 12% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 15% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that policies that reduce aid dependency should be implemented and proper use of public funds should be guaranteed. As evident in the table where 51% strongly agreed while 12% strongly disagreed.

Table: 4.1.20: There is need for strengthening of the Nigeria’s financial institutions in order to ensure transparency, probity and accountability.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	58	58
Agree	17	17
Undecided	5	5
Strongly Disagree	11	11
Disagree	9	9
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2022

From the responses gathered from the questionnaire, 58% of respondents strongly agreed, 17% of respondents Agreed, 5% of respondents were undecided, 11% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 9% of respondents disagreed.

It can be implied from the responses gathered that there is need for strengthening of the Nigeria's financial institutions in order to ensure transparency, probity and accountability. As evident in the table where 58% strongly agreed while 11% strongly disagreed.

4.2 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Findings from the study have shown that dependence poses a challenge to the development in Nigeria in her quest to improve the quality of life of her citizens. A better quality of life generally calls for higher income but it involves much more; it encompasses, as ends in themselves, better education, higher standard of health and nutrition, less poverty, greater individual freedom and richer cultural life. From the responses gathered, development is not a phenomenon driven by chance; rather it is a process that needs sustained-conscious efforts by the leadership of a society or a country. The aforementioned statements cannot be achieved in a Nation that empowers corrupt practices and is dependent. It is sufficient, to say that there are some mechanisms that give vent to corruption to operate gallantly in Nigeria.

The characters and personal examples of the people in leadership, at a given time, was also discovered to be an influence on the nature, dimensions and spread of either vices or virtues in the society they lead. Leadership in Nigeria since independence has been largely characterized by self-centeredness and personal wealth accumulation. Corrupt leadership in a society will influence greater number of followers towards corruption and this further plunges the nation into dependency. And respondents also agreed that dependency is one of the reasons for Nigeria's increased debt burden.

Also the skewed value system and decayed institutions was adjudged to be a reason for Nigerian dependency. In many instances, the government often resorts to obtaining loans to finance recurrent capital expenditures rather than sourcing for internal ways to shore up funds and this undermines our political independence and creates weak government.

On the role of dependency, respondents believe that dependency is a form of neo-colonialism and this has further increased the widening gap in savings and investment in Nigeria. This respondents believe results in poverty, insecurity and uneven development, thus the ability to provide basic amenities is weakened; consequently, in many instances. The diversification from a mono-product economy was seen as a way out of the present dependency faced by the government as the present leadership seems to have succumbed to the whims and

caprices of the foreign powers. Respondents were also of the opinion that more needs to be done by the present administration on tackling underdevelopment through reduced dependency as most institutions and agencies saddled with providing a policy direction for the economy should do more to pull out the country from the ruins of dependency. As respondents believe that having a shared vision and a unique sense of purpose is key to improving the country's economic fortunes.

Although, dependency and underdevelopment predates the Buhari government, but he told citizens that it won't be business as usual under him. This avowal is almost becoming a sham. Under Buhari, the country has borrowed more funds and this has further plunged the nation into debt burdens thereby, depriving Nigeria huge revenues. There is thus an urgent need to strengthen Nigeria's financial policies to block loopholes than aid dependency and underdevelopment.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

It has been shown via this analysis of reliance and underdevelopment in Nigeria that the former poses a threat to genuine development because it shows itself in the operation of the crucial sector and the latter is a major contributor to Nigeria's current state of underdevelopment. But without the greatest economic strategies and specialists and without leaders willing to adhere to the ethical obligations of their leadership positions and think outside the box, Nigeria's effort to prevent corruption may remain an illusion at best.

There is no denying that dependency is a locust that has eaten away at the foundations of Nigerian society, robbing resource-rich countries like Nigeria of their wealth and leaving their citizens impoverished. A good and exemplary leadership with a strong will to fight corruption and such high level of ethical and moral standards that they can motivate and influence the citizens to voluntarily follow in the quest to ensure even development is necessary for effective policies to eliminate dependence in Nigeria. The lack of competent leadership in Nigeria is exemplified by the country's failure to reverse the growing trend of dependency. It was noted that avoiding corruption is an excellent method of reducing reliance. By doing so, it will have a more solid basis on which to guarantee excellent

developmental policies at the grass-roots level and a higher moral authority to do so.

Just as growth everywhere else calls for leaders to show that they're willing to put in the work and make the necessary sacrifices, so too does progress in Nigeria need that they set an example with their own lives. Efforts made by such leaders to promote development should go beyond the mere formulation and making of laws, regulations, or proclamations, and instead be manifested in the demonstrable living of honest and open lives by those around them.

5.2 CONCLUSION

When dependence isn't limited, progress becomes slow. Nigeria has the ability to develop a thriving economy, drastically decrease poverty, and give its people with the quality of life they deserve by investing in their health, their education, and their infrastructure. However, there is evidence to suggest that due to a high level of her mismanagement, these resources have not been utilised judiciously to meet the need of the population in terms of human capital development.

The typical Nigerian participates in bribery and nepotism because they think it will protect their own interests better than meritocracy. Still, they absolve themselves of responsibility for the country's lack of progress, insisting that the corrupt leaders are to blame. Nigerians must first recognize that no single political

elite, government institution, or president can alter the country's fortunes without the active participation of the common Nigerian. Instead of blaming Nigeria, you should place the blame on the Nigerian people themselves. This means that breaking the cycle of poverty and dependence in Nigeria requires changing the way Nigerians think, prompting them to rebel against the current quo and demand better for themselves first and then for others. Alterations to formal structures, such as laws and government agencies, will follow after the people have been affected. In order for Nigeria to progress, its citizens must stop encouraging the trepidation of their leaders.

This means that there can be no rapid economic growth if corruption, poor management, and inconsistent policy are tolerated in any way. Nigeria has a lot of natural resources, but the country's dependence on foreign aid has prevented the government from using those riches to raise everyone's standard of living, hence poverty is on the rise. There is a lack of public infrastructure, an increase in poverty despite the country's abundant resources, a lack of respect for basic human rights, and evidence that demonstrates that economic growth and development in Nigeria will be extremely difficult to maintain unless the country's reliance on foreign oil is drastically reduced. There is a direct link between reliance and economic development; if drastic action is not taken, the affected country's progress would be hampered. The effects of wasteful regimes are usually catastrophic. When a country is highly reliant on another, its rate of

progress slows. The reputation of a country suffers greatly when it is seen as dependent. In conclusion, Nigeria's economic development cannot be sustained unless our undue dependence is abolished, notwithstanding the country's abundant natural resources, substantial foreign exchange revenues, advanced technological knowledge, productive workforce, and well-developed basic infrastructure.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

In the endeavour to better the developmental fortunes of the country, every nation must set its own priorities. The people as a whole in Nigeria needs to be re-educated in a more progressive value system if the country is to stem the tide of its current underdevelopment crisis. This is due to the fact that Nigerians have historically relied on a "survival of the fittest" and "take what life throws at you" philosophy. To combat corruption in Nigeria, it may be useful to reorient the country's youth toward moral values.

Human rights and development perspectives should be incorporated into anti-corruption efforts, as should the desire to discourage excessive consumerism and the culture of "get rich quick." Nigeria needs a mechanism that will radically alter the culture and legacy of underdevelopment if it is to be effective in its fight against corruption. Only by tackling the sources of reliance and by properly

applying the legal processes presently in place will Nigeria be transformed for the better.

With the goal of bolstering public trust in government, Nigeria has instituted economic reforms such privatization, deregulation, the loosening of market barriers, and changes to the civil service. While each of these steps is crucial, having honest leaders with the political will to challenge corruption is the single most critical aspect in galvanizing and orchestrating these steps to end underdevelopment. Human rights and development perspectives should be incorporated into anti-corruption efforts, as should the desire to discourage excessive consumerism and the culture of “get rich quick.” So that poverty can be decreased and the quality of life enhanced, the government should also create equitable salaries and incentive system and improve other circumstances of work. As a result, fewer individuals will be at risk of harm or dependence on other forces.

Providing effective punishments for corruption is necessary, but not sufficient, to end poverty. Corruption is driven by more than merely the fact that corrupt actors typically escape punishment. It is advised that, in addition to other anti-corruption efforts, the leadership show a commitment to investigate and punish corrupt public servants and private citizens, and foster an economic environment that would help lift people out of poverty.

Leaders in Nigeria need to uphold high standards of honesty and decency if they want to inspire their followers to act responsibly and patriotically. Leaders in Nigeria should always act with the utmost honesty and integrity. In such a scenario, the average person is more likely to develop a sense of patriotism and, as a result, be more willing to follow the guidance of their leaders and refrain from engaging in corrupt behavior. Leaders in Nigeria should set an example with their own behavior and then back it up with a radical agenda of social and political revolution. It's challenging for wasteful leaders to implement measures that effectively eliminate dependency. Indeed, the leaders must be willing to do the right thing by following through with the proper policies if reliance is to be effectively combated.

Succeeding administrations ought to be willing to thoroughly investigate the actions of their predecessors and bring those responsible to justice if they are discovered to have engaged in corrupt practices. Prosecuting corrupt former leaders in Nigeria is a crucial first step in the country's quest to reduce dependency. This is important because public may have a hard time believing that the government's leadership attempts to combat corruption and promote development in Nigeria are genuine due to the unwillingness and incapacity of future governments to investigate the corrupt practices of their predecessors.

To combat social maladies that contribute to underdevelopment, the government should step up its efforts to reorient the society by creating high ethical standards to which everyone must conform. As a result, stricter safeguards should be implemented to lessen the likelihood of public monies being misappropriated. Transparency devices, technological know-how, and electronic strategies that can detect and prevent corruption in all areas, such as cameras in public places and electronic voting systems, can be put in place, as can the involvement of independent auditing and consulting firms to critically examine the records and projects being carried out by government officials to ascertain whether they are executed as planned.

Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the government's leadership to institutionalize and enforce the practice of checks and balances. Due to the fact that the establishment of institutional checks and balances moderates the use of power connected with leadership position, the notion of checks and balances is a corollary to the separation of powers.

Those at the helm of Nigeria's government should be compensated more generously than the average civil servant. Since there is such a large disparity in pay, regular government employees are more likely to engage in corrupt activities like bribery and kickbacks in order to "make up" the difference. The current annual salary for a national legislator in Nigeria is about N186 million. In a

country where the minimum wage was only recently increased to N30,000 per month, this sum is extremely exorbitant. In addition, the current administration must uphold the rule of law, which states that everyone, regardless of position or influence, is subject to the same laws and is entitled to no special treatment.

Finally, anti-corruption agencies need to be well funded and given a clear mandate without influence from the government. It's possible that anti-corruption efforts won't be able to overcome the opposition of corrupt elements in the country unless the government is ready to invest sufficient resources to fund and manage the agency, and make them truly autonomous. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC) are two anti-corruption authorities in Nigeria that need have their operations and initiatives bolstered.

The government should give these organizations more power and, ideally, make them immune to interference from politicians and bureaucrats so that they may do their jobs without being viewed as government witch hunts. For example, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) needs additional power, money, and authority to do its job effectively today and in the future.

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APPENDIX I
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
BENIN CITY.

QUESTIONNAIRE

I am a final year student of the above department. I am writing a research work on the topic “**Dependency and underdevelopment in Africa: The Nigerian experience**” Kindly provide relevant information that will assist me in getting the desired results. All information would be treated with utmost confidentiality and used solely for academic purpose.

Thank you.

PART A: (PERSONAL DATA)

Instruction: tick (✓) where appropriate

1. Gender: Male () Female ()
2. Age: 18 – 28 () 29 – 39 () 49 – 59 () 59 and above ()
3. Marital Status: Single () Married() Widowed () Divorced ()
4. Educational Qualification: Primary () Secondary () Tertiary ()

Instruction: For statement below, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of them by ticking the answer that is most appropriate. Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided (U), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

S/N	STATEMENTS	SA	A	U	D	SD
5	Corruption and economic mismanagement is a consequence of dependency in Nigeria.					
6	Unpredictable, inconducive, extractive political institution and unfriendly business environment is a cause of underdevelopment in Nigeria.					
7	Increased dependence on foreign assistance is a reason for increased debt burden in Nigeria.					
8	Poor leadership style and institutions is a reason for the pauperized nature of the economy.					
9	Skewed value system and decayed social structure are consequences of					

	dependence in Nigeria.					
10	Dependency undermines political independence and creates a weak government susceptible to control					
11	Dependency creates huge reliance on foreign economies both for goods and economic sustenance.					
12	Foreign dependence is a form of neo-colonial control and should be discontinued.					
13	Widening gap between savings and investment are root causes of dependency and underdevelopment.					
14	Dependency also takes the form of excessive loans/borrowings which inhibits true development.					
15	Unemployment, Poverty and insecurity are consequences of Nigeria's long years of dependence.					
16	Diversification from a mono economy					

	will help to reduce dependence on foreign assistance.					
17	Having an inclusive institution will engender advanced technological ability to propel even paced development.					
18	Having a unity of purpose, a shared vision will help to free Nigeria from the shackles of dependency.					
19	Policies that reduce aid dependency should be implemented and proper use of public funds be guaranteed.					
20	There is need for strengthening of the Nigeria's Financial institutions in order to ensure transparency, probity and accountability.					