

**THE IMPLICATION OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA PUBLIC SECTOR (A CASE
STUDY OF THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE)**

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Corruption has long been a critical issue in Nigeria, particularly in the public sector. Corruption become a household word in the Nigerian society. It spreads through all levels of society, from the highest levels of the political and business elites to the ordinary person in the village. There are different opinions on what constitutes corruption. According to Akindele (1995) has long been ideologically, morally, culturally, politically and intellectually elusive to the point of losing sight of its detrimental and parasitic influence on people and the society at large. Divindiciting Aluko (2002) argued that corruption includes nepotism, favouritism, bribery, graft and other unfair means adopted by government employees and the public alike to extract some socially and legally prohibited favours.

The police Authority have and will continue to be one of the prime mores of development in different parts of the world and their importance impacts on daily activities of citizens cannot be over emphasized. In Nigeria like in many other nations, the police have been the major organization charged with the responsibility of maintenance and preservation of public peace. Effective Police force is therefore necessary in every society for maintenance of peace in that society, as effective Police force will make sure that all members of the community are safeguarded in their persons and properties so that their energies are not exhausted by the business of self-protection (Ehindero, 1986).

The above implies that, maintenance of peace does not only entail the protection of life and property but also embraces the prevention and detection of crime; the apprehension of the offenders and the due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged with. The assumption here is that, effective execution of the above-mentioned functions is tied to the smooth running of daily activities in every society, be it economic, social and political. The Nigerian Police as an entity is confronted by a lot of problems which affect their efficient and effective functioning. Despite all the shortcomings, Police is often considered a necessary evil because while the police essentially for maintaining of law and order they also have the potential for abuse and mistakes. There has been widespread concern over the state of insecurity and seemingly inability of the Police to deal with the problems.

In response to this, there were several calls for reform of the Police in order to achieve the objective for its establishment. The political crises of the 1960s and 1980s in Nigeria have raised serious questions about the quality and fairness of Police performance. Other factors such as increasing crime rates, Police corruption, Police militancy/brutality and cost (both human and material) of policing the community have served to keep issues of reform alive. In virtually every parts of the country, people tend to look elsewhere for alternative sources of protection for their lives and properties. Many prefer to keep any information that is vital for crime prevention to themselves. Many have resorted to jungle justices. Based on the above the research therefore focuses on the implications of corruption in public sector emphasizing on the Nigerian Police.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Corruption remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Nigeria, undermining public trust, institutional integrity, and national development among the affected institutions is the Nigeria police force, which plays an important role in the maintenance of law and order, protecting lives and property, and enforcing rule of law. Unfortunately, the police force is frequently perceived as one of the most corrupt public institutions in the country.

Corruption has become a socio-economic malaise, which has infiltrated the whole Nigerian society and has constituted serious impediment to development. Apart from economic and material effect, corruption also has political implications and constitutes direct threat to the legitimacy of government and

leaders. Corruption gives a country bad reputation and may mar her diplomatic image and scars investors. With particular reference to the Nigerian Police Force, the public confidence and trust which was already low and has become virtually destroyed, scholars have asserted that the perceived ineffectiveness is occasioned basically by the incidence of corruption within the Police force (Soyombo, 2003). The incidence of corruption according to them has gradually infiltrated and overwhelmed the entire Police system to the extent that their constitutional right to prevent and maintain law and order has gradually become weak and their effectiveness questioned.

In view of this, what is the future of the Nigeria state if the Police are corrupt?
How can the Nigeria police be reorganized in order to be free of corruption?
How can we build the state Police that is devoid of corruption?

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- a) What is the extent of corruption within the Nigerian Police?
- b) What are the factors responsible for corrupt practices among the Nigerian Police personnel?
- c) how has corruption affected their primary duty of maintenance of law and order?
- d) What are the authentic steps to ensuring total reorganization/reorientation of the Nigeria police force?

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of this work is to understand the implications of corruption on Police's primary responsibility of maintenance of law and order.

Specific Objectives

- a) To examine the level of corruption within the Nigeria police.
- b) To assess the factor(s) that is/are responsible for the prevailing corruption within the Nigeria Police Force?
- c) To examine the impact of corrupt practices on the conduct of the Nigeria forces Police.
- d) To determine the accurate step to be taken towards the reorganization/reorientation of the Nigeria police force.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The essence of undertaking this research is to analyze the implications of corruption in Nigerian Police, this study will help policymakers, civil society organizations and the general public understand the root causes and implications of corruption in the police force. Since escalation of crime in Nigeria has been attributed to corruption-induced ineffectiveness of the Police, the fear of insecurity will create uneasiness in the country. This has economic implications on the society as it leads to low productivity on the part of the individual. The understanding of environmental factors that influence prevalence of corruption among the Police officials will enhance the governmental policies aimed at fighting corruption in Nigeria. Furthermore, it will contribute to the existing

knowledge by serving as baseline data for those who intend to make further studies on corrupt practices among the Police.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE WORK

The research work is limited to Nigeria police Edo state command. The study Focuses on examining the implications of corruption within the Nigeria police force it explores the nature, causes, manifestations, and consequences of corruption within the police system.

1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Accountability: This is a state of being responsible or answerable for one's actions, decisions, and outcomes, involving responsibility, answerability, and transparency. It means taking ownership of one's actions, providing explanations and justifications and facing consequences for outcomes. Accountability promotes trust, integrity, and good governance. This is proposals for greater police accountability.

Corruption: This is the abuse of power or authority for personal gain, often involving bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, lie other forms of dishonesty. It undermines trust, distorts markets, and can have severe social and economic consequences. it is illegal behavior especially of people in authority.

Police force: A police force is a law enforcement agency responsible for maintaining law and order, protecting citizens, and preventing crime within a

specific jurisdiction. They enforce laws, investigate crimes, and provide public safety services, working to ensure community well being and security.

Public Sector: This refers to all members of all public institutions, financed and maintained by the tax payers, and the involvements of whose members regularly authorized by the legislature acting in concert with the execution.

Public: The public refers to the general population or community, comprising individuals who are not part of a specific group or organization. It encompasses citizens, consumers, or users of services, who are often served by public institutions, governments, or private entities.

Organization: A organization is a structured group of people working together to achieve a common goals or set of goals. It can be a business, non profit, governments, agency, or community group, with defined roles, responsibilities, and processes. Organizations aim to efficiently utilize resources, manage tasks, and produce desired outcomes.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a review of existing literature related to corruption practices within the public service, with particular emphasis on the Nigeria police force. In the course of this work scholars' perspectives of the concept of corruption were considered. Others include factors influencing the prevalence of corruption in the country; corruption and abuse of discretion among the Police; Police and corruption in Nigerian situation and the effects of corruption on development.

2.2 THE CONCEPT OF CORRUPTION

Joseph Nye (1967) corruption is "behavior which deviates from the formal duties of a public role because of private-regarding (personal, close family,

private cliques) pecuniary or status gains. “Labanji (1970) conceives the phenomenon of corruption to embrace bribery-money-giving and money taking to induce the receiver to carry out an action in favour of the giver who is not in fact entitled to the benefit of the action; nepotism, cheating and deception. In the words of Herfkens (2000), corruption is difficult to pin down or define. But we all recognize it when we see it, or worse, feel its effects. Hard facts about corruption are difficult to come by. But all investigators agree that corruption causes massive economic and social dislocation. Money disappears into the wrong pockets, the credibility of the authorities is undermined, investment falls, or is misdirected, development grinds to a halt, and poorest groups end up paying the price. Gibbon and Rowat (1976:17) defined corruption exclusively from political perspectives. To these scholars, political corruption is the use of a public office in a way that forsakes the public interest, measured in terms of mass opinion, elite opinion or both, in order that some form of personal advantage may be achieved at the expense of that public interest.

Akindele (1990) revealed that Corruption in Nigeria includes ascendancy to political leadership through election rigging and genocidal political techniques. Others identified are, son of the soil philosophy; politics of expediency; doctrine of ten per-centers, political self aggrandizement; political Hitlerism as a mechanism for retention of power. Replacement of “we-feeling” by “me-feeling,” contractor controlled political machinery, uncurtailed lust for wealth, giving and receiving kickbacks for government contracts, Police

insistence on taking bribes as precondition for performing their duties. Akindele (1990) also mentioned Bureaucrats indulgence in the act of falsifying accounts, false declaration of assets, violation of oaths of office, payment of money for government jobs not done or not well executed, pen-robbery and looting of the public treasury as incidence of corruption.

Odekunle (1987) as cited by Olaopa (1998:19) sees corruption as involving asking, giving, taking gift or favour in exchange for the performance of illegitimate task; hoarding, collusive price-fixing, smuggling, transfer-pricing, inflation of prices, election rigging, illegal arrest for harassment or intimidation purposes; abuse/misuse of office, position or power, diversion of public; corporate or other person's money or property to direct or indirect personal use, etc.

Babalola (1995) argues that corruption in politics occurs at two levels. This involves various forms of corruption in politics at the lawmaking level, and at the law-implementation level. At the first level, people try to influence law-making and policy decisions while at the second level, efforts are made by people to pervert the course of justice and influence judgements. It is glaring that corruption exists in all facets of human life, be it social, economic and political. In view of the literature review in this section, it was shown that there was no clear-cut definition of the concept of 'corruption'. However, in the course of this study, the concept could be operational zed as phenomenon in which favour is given to people based on inducement or promise of inducement;

it includes such behaviour as bribery, as well as bestowal of patronage by reason of descriptive relationships rather than merit. At political level, it involves the use of public office for personal advantage rather than that of public interest.

In whatever form corruption might appear, it is antithetical to development as it causes massive social, economic and political dislocation. In most cases, the people at the lower rung of the ladder bear the brunt of the problem. From this, it can be concluded that any act that meets the above criteria could be termed as corruption. This operational definition can help in understanding any corrupt phenomenon within the formal as well as informal sector of our society.

2.3 FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THE PREVALENCE OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

The lust for wealth has been cited as major reason for the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria. In the words of Mass Mobilization for Social and Economic Recovery (MAMSER) [1988:17] the pervasiveness of corruption in all fabrics of our society is essentially a product of our highly individualized and materialistic society which emphasizes struggle by individuals to acquire as much wealth as they can without regard to how such wealth is obtained. This situation according to MAMSER has led individuals and groups of persons to pursue various illegal and anti-social means of making wealth such as those identified as not conforming to our societal values.

An effective and responsive system for receiving and acting on alleged acts of corruption is critical in the war against corruption [Nigeria Governance and

Corruption Survey Study (NGCSS, 2003). Lack of such system according to NGCSS (2003) encourages those engaging in corruption to continue and deters those who might want to seek redress. The survey asked households and public officials to assess the effectiveness of reporting his/her superior government/agent/someone who acts against the rules. The question probed at knowing the extent to which they get the correct treatment without recourse to gratification. Both households and public officials, to varying degrees, believe they can get the correct treatment without recourse to gratification when they report improper acts of a public servant to his/her superior officer. Only 20.3 percent of households and 20.9 percent of public officials indicate as much. On the negative side of the spectrum, 32.2 percent of households and 29.9 percent of public officials report they seldom/never get a satisfactory response. The main conclusion here is that reporting corruption is, for the most part, a fruitless exercise. Going further through the survey reports, household heads, public officials and enterprise managers who witnessed but did not report corrupt acts were asked to indicate the three main reasons why they did not make such a report. Considerable numbers of households (24.9 percent) and public officials (21.9 percent) said they don't know where to report such acts, enterprises appear not to have such a problem as only 4.1 percent said they don't know where to report. However, significant proportion of public officials and enterprises expressed a lack of faith in the current system, 42.2 percent of enterprises and 58.8 percent of public officials chose "investigation would not

be made” or “there would be no enforcement even if a decision was made” or “I was concerned about harassment.” Also disturbing is the fact that 18.9 percent of enterprises expressed fear of harassment and reprisal as one of their reasons for not reporting corrupt acts. On a positive note, less than 10 percent of the three survey groups selected, among their three choices, either, “Corruption is a custom” or “Bribes can be justified under the current economic situation”. This would seem to undermine these often-made arguments for explaining away the high degree of corruption in Nigeria.

2.4 CORRUPTION AND DEVELOPMENT: A GENERAL ANALYSIS

Corruption and development are inversely related. In a society where corruption thrives, sustainable development is significantly hindered. There is need to examine and understand the general effect of corruption on development. This is necessary in order to appreciate the need for a corruption-free society. A better understanding of this will equally shed light on the impending doom awaiting any society whose law enforcement agencies are corrupt.

Academic discourse and research on corruption are not new

Phenomenon; many studies have equally shown the harmful effect of corruption on development. Using the case of Bangladesh, Mauro (1996) demonstrated that corruption slows the growth rate of countries. He found that if Bangladesh reduced its level of corruption to Singapore’s, its average annual per capita GDP growth rate from 1960 – 1985 would have been 1.8 percent points higher, a potential gain of 50 percent ion per capita income by 1985 (assuming growth

of 4 percent per year). The effects of corruption reflect in virtually every aspect of the society be it political, socio-cultural, and economic. The main economic costs of corruption according to Gabriel et al (2000) include:

Misallocation of talent including under utilization of key segments of society

Less domestic and foreign investment

Distorted enterprise development and growth of the unofficial economy

Distorted public expenditures and public investments, and deteriorated physical infrastructure.

Lower public revenue and lower prevalence of the rule of law as a public good.

Overly centralized government.

As corruption cripples the development processes of the society in which it is becoming prevalence so the problem of the weak and poor becomes manifold. Where corruption prevails, the poor receive fewer social services, such as health and education. It reduces total revenues available for social spending, distorts the allocation of public expenditures, and denies the poor equal access to public goods.

Corruption as phenomenon is also reveals as impairing the means to escape poverty by undermining property rights and creating a regressive bribery tax on small entrepreneurs. It fosters corrupt regimes bias investment against projects that aid the poor. For example, they often prefer defense contract to rural health clinics and schools. Further abuse increases income in equality and poverty

through lower growth, less effective social programme targeting unequal access to education, reduced social spending, and higher investment risks for the poor. Governance affects poverty through a variety of complex mechanisms, which are still partly misunderstood Gabriel et al (2001).

2.5 ORIGIN OF THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE

The Nigerian Police Force had its origin in Lagos, the Lagos consular Guard, created In 1861, the Consul at the time complained that he had numerous duties to contend with. Among them were those of the Police thrust on him, and in June 1861, permission was sought from the British government to enlist Consular Guard of 30 men. This guard was so named because the representative of the British government was Consul John Becroft (The Nigeria Police 2005). Two years later, this small guard was renamed Hausa Police with the enlistment of some capture run away slaves at Jebba into it. Lagos Police Force came into being on 1st January 1896. Detective Department was formed in 1898. Niger Constabulary was formed in 1894. With proclamation of Southern protectorate in 1900, majority of men of the Niger Coast Constabulary joined the Southern Nigeria Regiment. The remainder of this force and the Lagos Police Force were absorbed into Southern Nigerian Police which came into being in 1906 (Basaru 1993). In the North, the Royal Niger Company's armed constabulary (which was set up in 1886) in Lokoja was disbanded in 1900 with proclamation of Northern protectorate. Some ranks joined the Northern Nigeria Regiments while others formed the Northern Nigerian Police. In April 1, 1930, Police

Headquarters was established at Lagos. In 1947, an Assistant Commissioner of Police was appointed in West, East and Northern Regions, while the Headquarters has Commissioner as the head (The Nigerian Police, 1985).

In 1952, the Police came under the command of an Inspector General assisted by a Commissioner in charge of each region and an Assistant Commissioner in the Southern Cameroon. When Southern Cameroon voted to join the Cameroon Republic in 1961, members of the forces serving there were given choice of returning to Nigeria or enlisting in the Western Cameroon Police Force (Awesu, 1995). Under the Nigerian Constitution (order-In-Council), the Force was established as a Federal Force. The constitution also set up the Police council; and the Police Service Commission which were dealing with general problems relating to the Force and with promotions and appointments in the senior ranks respectively. On October 1, 1963, Nigeria became a Republic; the force continues to be administered on a Federal basis as enacted in the Republican Constitution of that date. In 1967, Nigeria was divided into 12 states, in 1976; Nigeria was further divided into 19 states, 21 states in 1987, 30 states in 1991, and 36 states in 1996. With further creation of states in Nigeria, the Nigerian Police force had been following suit, having a State Police Command in each of the states, commanded by Commissioner of Police, and Commissioner of Police at Abuja, FCT to fight crime, and ensure the maintenance of law and order in the society.

2.6 POLICE FUNCTIONS AND POWER IN NIGERIA

The police perform two basic functions such as, law enforcement and maintenance of order. These functions, are the primary function of the Nigeria Police. To boost these functions, the police in some societies have stretched their functions to include the delivery of social services. Bowden (1978) observed that the Police are established and maintained “not only to monitor but also to discourage and destroy challenges to the existing order of things”. He argued that the primary task of the police is order enforcement. Consequently, whenever the government is facing a crisis (social disorder), the police is deployed or called upon to serve as a “buffer between elites and masses and perform the essential holding operations against the malcontents until military force could be applied in a punitive and salutary manner”. Neiderhoffer and Blumberg (1976) while reinforcing the idea of police force as a agency for the maintenance of law and order, observed that the police serve as “controlling radar to keep a society within structural confines”. To effectively perform this function the police are empowered to “exercise state power, if necessary through coercion and violence”. It has also been observed that: *Historically, the main function of the police has been to protect the property and well-being of those who benefit most from an economy based on the extraction of private profit. The police were created primarily in response to rioting and disorder directed against oppressive working and living conditions.... (Tamuno et al., 1993).*

Law enforcement involves measures taken by the police to prevent breaches of criminal law; to apprehend crime suspects, and to restrain them in custody (if need be); to bring offenders to court for trial or prosecution, and to assist the courts and prisons in executing conviction or sentencing dispositions. But order maintenance entails public order policing or the preservation of the status quo and ‘public peace’; deployment of police personnel and resources towards the suppression of opposition and threat to the government, and to the prevailing modes of political, economic and social organization (Abubakar 1992). This is so vital to the political and economic power-holders in society that the goal of order maintenance is simultaneously pursued through coercion (via police, military, prisons, tribunals, courts, etc) as well as by means of persuasion, ideology and indoctrination and socialization within the family, and other social institutions such as religious and professional bodies, social and cultural associations, mass media, educational institutions, trade unions, political parties etc (Tamuno *et al.*, 1993). Some scholars however revealed that police have three categories of functions to perform in a society. These according to Adler et al (1998) include law enforcement, order maintenance, and community service. As the most highly visible members of the criminal justice system, police play a major role in instilling a sense of security among citizens and in maintaining good relations between the police and the community.

2.7 CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF DISCRETION AMONG THE POLICE

Scholars have given considerable attention to police corruption, especially in large cities. The term corruption covers a wide range of conduct patterns. Empirical and analytical studies have provided additional classification and descriptions of police misconduct, including solicitation and acceptance of bribes, dereliction of duty, and street crime offenses such as larceny, embezzlement, and coercion. In the words of Rothlein (2000) cited in Wroblewski & Hess, 2003, examples of Police corruption vary greatly in kind and degree, but they all have key elements in common: the conduct is prohibited by law or rule. It involves misuse of position. Police corruption includes a wide variety of prohibited behaviours, either crimes or departmental; rule violations, committed under the auspices of a police officer's position. Police corruption occurs when an officer misuses authority for personal gain. It includes accepting gratification and bribes as well as committing theft or burglary. The most common and extensive type of corruption is accepting small gratification or tips (Wroblewski & Hess, 2003). In examining how police learn about ethics, Sherman (1999) states that every occupation has a learning process (usually called socialization) to which its new members are subjected. The socialization process functions to make most new members in the occupation adopt the prevailing rules, values, and attitudes of their senior colleagues in the occupation. Very often, some of the existing informal rules and attitudes are at odds with the formal rules and attitudes society as a whole expects members of the occupation to follow.

Stressing further on the issue, Sherman (1999) noted that police officers may be taught how to commit perjury in court to insure that their arrests lead to convictions, or how to lie in disciplinary investigations to protect their colleagues. They may be taught how to shake people down, or how to beat people up, or they may be fortunate enough to go to work in any agency or with a group of older officers, in which none of these violations of official rules is ever suggested to them. Other things officers may be taught according to Sherman (1999) include:

a) **Discretion A:** Decisions about whether to enforce the law, in any but the most serious cases, should be guided by both what the law says and who the suspect is.

b) **Discretion B:** Disrespect for police authority is a serious offense that should always be punished with an arrest or the use of force.

c) **Force:** Police officers should never hesitate to use physical or deadly force against people who “deserve it”, or where it can be an effective way of solving a crime.

d) **Due Process:** Due process is only a means of protecting criminals at the expense of the law abiding and should be ignored whenever it is safe to do so.

e) **Truth:** Lying and deception are an essential part of the police job, and even perjury should be used if it is necessary to protect yourself or get a conviction on a “bad guy”.

f) **Time:** You cannot go fast enough to chase a car thief or traffic violator, nor slow enough to get a “garbage call; and when there are no calls for service, your time is your own.

g) **Rewards:** Police do very dangerous work for low wages, so it is proper to take an extra rewards the public want to give them, like free meals, Christmas gifts, or even regular monthly payments (in some cities) for special treatment.

h) **loyalty:** The paramount duty is to protect your fellow officers at all costs, as they would protect you, even though you may have to risk your own career or your own life to do it.

In addition to these socialization influences, other elements act to create and perpetuate officer corruption, such as officer personality and ego. These according to Wroblewski and Hess (2003) include police union (as found in Western world), and lack of ethical guidance by police administration.

Sometimes, corruption is the result of personality. Green (2001) describes four basic types of individuals: (a) the person of good character,

(b) the person who has excellent self-control (c) the person who is uncontrolled and (d) the person who is criminal or of evil character. The fourth type of person probably would not be hired by an agency with sound selection practices. It is the third type of individual, the one lacking self-control, who is most likely to become corrupt. Police corruption may arise from officers thinking they are above the law. As Thompson (2001) notes: The American public readily understands and recognizes that the police are entitled to special privileges and

exceptions relative to obeying the laws. Police officers are allowed to exceed the speed limits and violate traffic controls in the interest of law enforcement. They are allowed to carry concealed weapons, and they often own or have access to weaponry that is prohibited or at least greatly restricted to private citizens”. The unfortunate aspect of this as noted by Thompson (2001) is that early in the indoctrination into policing, some officers receive the message that they are special and they are above the law”.

Act of Policing is as old as the universe itself, but modern police worldwide borrowed a lot from British. In view of this, one cannot but overlook the fact that most doctrines on the form the act of policing should take are foreign based. But it should be noted that these doctrines might not conform to social values of different societies since the cultural values of the society that first practiced policing differ from others in the world.

At the same time, the material condition that makes those doctrines workable as at the time they were laid down cannot be as it is now. Also the institutional structures on the ground at the time the act of policing was introduced were not there in most of the developing world. The police was established by the colonialist not in conformity with cultural realities of the colonized societies, but to serve the interest of the imperial power.

2.8 POLICE AND CORRUPTION: THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE

One of the major obligations of the State to its citizens is to ensure an orderly and secured environment within which people can pursue their daily legitimate

activities. The better environment for this is a society where rules of law reign (Ibrahim 2003). In Nigeria, various agencies like the Police, the Military and other paramilitary like Customs and Immigration are put in place by the government to combat crime so as to make the society habitable (Obasa, 2005). In spite of their existence, crime still poses a major threat to peace, security and development of Nigeria.

The Police in Nigeria is bedeviled by ineffectiveness, which comes from several constraints it faces in the course of discharging its mandates. This situation is also not helped by the rampant corruption, which many Police personnel exhibit in their daily contacts with members of the public, as attested to by frequent report of disciplinary action against corrupt Policemen. This evil (corruption) is so entrenched that it is becoming virtually part of the system. Many people who have cause to deal with the Nigerian Policemen have revealed that the force harbours some very bad characters (Pekuliameesi, 2005). The matter is becoming more alarming hence the routine misuse of firearms by the Policemen in Nigeria and their complete disdain for the people has become the norm. This has severely undermined our national, social, and economic development in Nigeria. It has put dent on the country's image at global level and earned her the label of an insecure country. Many foreign governments have routinely warned their citizens that a trip to Nigeria could well be their last, thus showing where the issue of corruption has placed the country.

Despite this, Nigerian Police is seen in some quarters as having greater potential for credible performance. It has received glowing commendation from United Nations for effective performance during peacekeeping outside the country. As a way of understanding the lapses inherent in Nigerian Police, Basaru (1993) traced this to the historical antecedent of the Nigerian Police. According to him, those that formed the nucleus of the Nigerian Police are those with questionable characters. That is, the run-away slaves, the ex-convicts, the lay-about in the society, as no successful individual can abandon what has earned him a breakthrough in life for police or whatever it might be called at inception. But most of the literatures did not point to this hence the brutality which is associated with the Police worldwide could not be fully explained. There is likelihood that the sharp practices and brutality commonly found among the Policemen were as a result of scores, which the initial recruits into the Police force wanted to settle with the society in which, they found themselves. The societal contribution towards the monsters into, which these police personnel have turned, is not well enumerated by the literature available for review here. According to Black and Reiss (1967), approximately 85 percent of Police activity is initiated by citizens. The reluctance of citizens to initiate police activity therefore not only force the police to initiate activities themselves, but also reduces the chances that the resultant activity will be citizen approved. It could be inferred that the deterioration of police/citizen relations has its origins in self-initiated police activities. Police aggression against the civil populace

could be explained within the ambit of the fact that when citizen cooperation in mobilizing activity is lacking, the police establishment traditionally resorts to aggressive self-initiated and typically non-citizen approved enforcement techniques. So there should have been more studies on Police/citizen relations, so as to foster effective relationship that will lead to effective maintenance of law and order in the society.

2.9 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

To understand the implication of corruption practices in Nigeria public service A case study of the Nigeria police, The system Theory was adopted for this study. The system Theory of corruption is rooted in the broader system theory developed by Ludwig von Bertalanffy (1968), which views society as an inter-connected set of sub systems where a disturbance in one part affects the whole. Applied to corruption, scholars argue that corruption is not simply misconduct of individuals but the production of systemic weaknesses in governance, politics, and culture (Klitgaard, 1988 Johnston, 2005). According to Heidenheimer, Johnston, and Levine (1990), corruption becomes systemic when it is no longer confined to occasional acts but becomes an acceptable norm, embedded in the operations of political and administrative institutions. Similarly, Michael Johnston (2005) stated that when corruption is entrenched in state structures, it creates what he calls “syndromes of corruption” which are difficult to dismantle because they are supposed by networks of elites, bureaucrats, and private actors.

Scott(1972) In comparative political corruption, Scott notes that corruption is developing countries is often a system-maintaining activity rather than simply an individual vice. In weak political system, corruption becomes part of the rules of the game, ensuring that people can still “get things done.” this suggests corruption is systemic and functional in poorly institutionalized environments.

Rose Ackerman (1999) Rose Ackerman, *Corruption and Government: causes, consequences, and reforms*, argues that corruption should be understood as a systemic equilibrium where incentives, rules, and networks make corruption a rational choice for many actors. In such a system, officials, citizens, and private actors all adjust their behavior to a corrupt norm, reinforcing the cycle.

Ackerman (1998) notes that corruption behaves like a systemic disease, where one corrupt act encourages another, spreading through the political and administrative system until it becomes normalized. Akindele (2005) and Ogunديya (2009) have described corruption as systemic deeply rooted in the governance structure, and perpetuated through networks and political and administrative elites.

From the system theory perspective, corruption in the public service should be understood as an outcome of broader institutional weaknesses rather than just individual failure. From this perspective, corruption should be seen as a structural and systemic issue rather than the fault of isolated individuals. Tackling corruption therefore requires system wide reforms that strengthen accountability mechanisms, reduce discretionary powers, and minimize

monopoly control. This aligns with the argument that anti- corruption strategies should not only target individuals but must also address the institutional and systemic weaknesses that foster corruption practices.

Furthermore the theory provides a framework for understanding how corruption has become entrenched in the Nigeria police force onuigbi (2015) the police operate within the border governance structure, interacting with the judiciary, political institutions, and the public. Where political leaders interfere in police operations, or where judicial officers fail to punish offenders, corruption spreads across the entire policing system. Adebayo (2013) weak feedback mechanisms in system theory, feedback help maintain equilibrium. However, in Nigeria, corrupt police officers are rarely sanctioned, which reinforces unethical behavior. The absence of effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms allows corruption to flourish unchecked.

Ogundiya (2009) inputs and outputs of the system poor welfare, low salaries, and inadequate resources represent negative inputs into the police system. These conditions push officers to seek alternative income through extortion and bribery. Consequently, the expected outputs of law enforcement-justice, security, and protection are compromised. Onuigbo (2015) cultural and institutional interactions, public attitudes that normalize bribery (“something for the boys”) sustain police corruption. Citizens often resort to paying bribes to secure faster services, which in turn perpetuates the corrupt cycle.

The system theory demonstrates that corruption in the Nigeria police force is not just the result of individual misconduct but a systemic problem reinforced by weak accountability, poor institutional design, and cultural acceptance of corruption practices. Tackling corruption therefore requires a holistic approach that addresses the entire governance system, not just the police as an isolated institution

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Research methodology refers to the various ways and means of doing something and it is emphasis or entails how the researcher will be conducted in order to generate information that will stimulate the achievement of the research objective.

Basically, the focus of this work is on the implication of corruption in Nigerian Public sector with a particular interest in Nigeria Police Edo state. Therefore, this chapter discussed the method through which study was conducted in order to enable the researcher find the expected answer stated in the statement of problems.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

According to Ezenwa (2003) “defined research design as a blue print of activities which the researcher has carry out towards successfully completing his research work”

According to Obasi (1999) “defined research design as a number of decisions, which need to be taken regarding the collection of data are collected”.

Hence, in this work, the researcher adopted survey design as its research design, which enables the researcher to have an idea of a large population at one point in time; it involves systematic collection of data from populations or samples of population through the use of people interviews of other data gathering devices. The aim of this work is not only the collection of data per-say by the discovery of meaning on the data collected so that facts and events can be interpreted, explained and understood to which was carried by Nwizu (1998).

This instrument of this research includes this simple pattern, questionnaire. The researcher distributed questionnaire to selected officers in the State Police Command Edo state.

The essence of distributing these questionnaire is for the supply the answer in the questionnaire were distributed, one hundred were collected, my experiences and personal observation will be related under discussion of data analysis.

3.3 SOURCES/ METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

According to Nwosu (1998) data can be defined as research relevant information.

According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary “defined data as facts or information especially when examined and used to find out things or to made decisions:

In this work, the researcher made use of both primary and secondary data in order to access differences in perception as regards to the role of manpower training and re-training in local government system.

PRIMARY DATA: The primary data is data or information which is collected by the researcher through the use of oral interview, observations, and questionnaires which were distributed to a sample population comprising the councilors, chairman, staff of the municipal council etc. these therefore, served as the unit of enquiry in order to enable the researcher to get background knowledge valid and reliable data, structured questionnaires were also as a method of data collection. These were distributed to the respondent mostly those that are literature to be completed.

SECONDARY DATA: The research also made use of secondary sources of information especially Edo state. Data from these sources are principally in both

published and unpublished sources. The published sources includes reports and official publications, newspapers, articles, journals and textbooks which were consulted by the researcher by visiting libraries.

Secondly, the unpublished sources which are statistical materials not always published or records maintained by various government and private offices. These secondary sources of data collection helped the researcher to approach these study objectives which cannot be achieved through interviewing or the use of questionnaire, therefore, it gives a true and authentic picture on the subject matter under study.

3.4 POPULATION AND SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size is a truly representative subset of a population particularly, it is impossible to account for subjects, events or situations because it covers a large population of which all of them cannot be studied. The total population under study is 200. The sample size has been selected with care and precision in order to represent the entire population as possible. Here, it ensure that elements are selected in such a way that the proportion of the sample elements possessing a certain characteristics in the population. This is done to ensure that the sample is representative, free from bias, reduction of cost, greater speed and accuracy of data collected from the sample studies. Against this backdrop, sixty-five (65) copies of questionnaire were printed and distributed to respondents and all were returned for the analysis. Therefore, sixty-five (65) copies collected for analysis automatically becomes the sample size of the study.

3.5 SAMPLE TECHNIQUE

The researcher has chosen the tabulation of finding sample technique is adopted, the sampling size selected according. The reason being that the information will be easily collected in this way. In order to ensure a fair representation, the respondents were selected from different departments within the command such as administration, operations, criminal investigation department (CID) and traffic section. A total of sixty five (65) officers were sampled out of the total population of two hundred(200)

Department / Section	No. of Respondents Selected	Percentage (%)
Administration	15	23.1
Operations	20	30.8
Criminal Investigation Department (CID)	18	27.7
Traffic Section	12	18.4
Total	65	100%

3.6 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF MEASURING INSTRUMENT

To ensure the validation and reliability of the questions, the researches took some vital steps in ensuring that the question and its contents are allied to the objectives.

There are some basic research instruments used in research these are as follows:

The researcher do not use questioner distribution because it is not relevant to the

nature of the topic, from periodicals, textbooks, and documents.

3.7 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

According to Nwana (1981) refers to these analyses whereby the investigator extracts from the data information that was not apparently there, before which would enable a summary description of the subject studied to be made. The statistics employed in this data analysis is descriptive. The data collected was analyzed by using descriptive method. This method used because only a portion of the entire population was calculated and influences made from them.

From the forgoing, the researcher basically used the statistical measure known as simple percentage. The choice of tabulation of data is to simply complex data and facilitates comparison.

On the other hand, percentages are also helpful in the analysis of data collected with the help of questionnaires.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the research study on the implications of corruption within the Nigerian Police Force, with a specific focus on the Edo State Command. The data analyzed in this chapter were collected through a structured questionnaire distributed to 65 respondents, as outlined in Chapter Three. The results address the research questions posed in Chapter One, which

aim to examine the extent of corruption, identify the factors contributing to corrupt practices, assess the impact of corruption on the police force's primary duties, and explore effective measures for the reorganization and reorientation of the Nigerian Police Force to curb corruption. The findings are presented in a systematic manner, using descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages, to provide a clear and comprehensive understanding of the respondents' perceptions. The results are organized according to the research questions and objectives, with tables summarizing the data to facilitate interpretation and discussion. This analysis serves as a foundation for drawing conclusions and making recommendations in the subsequent chapter.

4.2 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

The study on the implications of corruption within the Nigerian Police Force, focusing on the Edo State Command, included a survey of 65 respondents to gather insights into their socio-demographic characteristics. This section presents the findings on the respondents' age, gender, occupation, and duration of residence or work in Edo State, as summarized in Table 1A. These characteristics provide context for understanding the perspectives of the respondents and their relevance to the study's objectives.

Table 1: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

VARIABLE	FREQUENCY (n=65)	PERCENT (%)
Age (years) range:		

18-25	38	58.5
26-35	18	27.7
36-45	4	6.2
46-55	3	4.6
56 and above	2	3.1

Male	36	55.4
Female	29	44.6

Occupation

Student	33	50.8
Self-Employed	22	33.8
Police Officer	5	7.7
Civil Servant	4	6.2
Private Sector Employee	1	1.5

Years lived or worked in Edo State

1-5 years	28	43.1
Over 10 years	24	36.9
6-10 years	9	13.8
Less than 1 year	4	6.2

The age distribution of the respondents indicates a predominantly youthful

sample. The largest group, comprising 38 respondents (58.5%), falls within the 18-25 age range, followed by 18 respondents (27.7%) aged 26-35. A smaller proportion includes 4 respondents (6.2%) aged 36-45, 3 respondents (4.6%) aged 46-55, and only 2 respondents (3.1%) aged 56 and above. This youthful demographic suggests that the majority of respondents are likely to be active participants in society, potentially affected by or observant of police activities in Edo State, providing a fresh perspective on issues of corruption.

In terms of gender, the sample is relatively balanced, with 36 respondents (55.4%) identifying as male and 29 respondents (44.6%) as female. This near-equal representation ensures that the findings reflect perspectives from both genders, which is crucial given that perceptions of police corruption may vary by gender due to differing interactions with law enforcement.

The occupational profile of the respondents reveals a diverse group, with students forming the largest category at 33 respondents (50.8%). This high representation of students aligns with the youthful age distribution and suggests that the sample includes individuals who may be more aware of social issues, including corruption, due to their engagement in educational environments. Self-employed individuals make up the second-largest group, with 22 respondents (33.8%), followed by police officers (5 respondents, 7.7%), civil servants (4 respondents, 6.2%), and a single private sector employee (1.5%). The inclusion of police officers, though small in number, is significant as it provides an insider perspective on the issue of corruption within the force, while

the predominance of non-police respondents reflects broader community views. Regarding the duration of residence or work in Edo State, 28 respondents (43.1%) have lived or worked in the state for 1-5 years, and 24 respondents (36.9%) for over 10 years. Additionally, 9 respondents (13.8%) have been in Edo State for 6-10 years, and 4 respondents (6.2%) for less than 1 year. This distribution indicates that the majority of respondents have substantial experience in Edo State, with nearly 80% having resided or worked there for at least one year. This longevity enhances the reliability of their observations regarding police activities and corruption, as they are likely to have had multiple interactions with or exposure to the Nigerian Police Force in the region.

Overall, the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents reveal a young, gender-balanced sample with diverse occupational backgrounds, predominantly students and self-employed individuals, and significant ties to Edo State through their duration of residence or work. These characteristics suggest that the respondents are well-positioned to provide informed perspectives on the extent, causes, impacts, and potential solutions to corruption within the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State, as explored in the subsequent sections of this study.

4.3 Extent of Corruption within the Nigerian Police

The analysis reveals a strong consensus among respondents that corruption is a pervasive issue within the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State. For the statement "Corruption is a widespread issue among police officers in Edo State," 33.8%

(22 respondents) strongly agreed, and 52.3% (34 respondents) agreed, totaling 86.1% who affirm this view. Only 1.5% (1 respondent) disagreed, and another 1.5% (1 respondent) strongly disagreed, with 10.8% (7 respondents) remaining neutral. This high level of agreement suggests that corruption is perceived as a deeply entrenched problem within the police force, aligning with the concerns raised in the background of the study regarding the widespread nature of corruption in Nigeria's public sector.

Table 2 : Extent of Corruption within the Nigerian Police

Variable	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
Corruption is a widespread	22 (33.8)	34 (52.3)	7 (10.8)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.5)

issue among
police
officers in
Edo State.

Bribery is a
common
practice
among
police
officers in
Edo State.

23 (35.4)	33 (50.8)	5 (7.7)	3 (4.6)	1 (1.5)
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Nepotism
and
favoritism
are
prevalent in
the
operations
of the
Nigerian

24 (36.9)	33 (50.8)	5 (7.7)	2 (3.1)	1 (1.5)
-----------	-----------	---------	---------	---------

Police Force

in Edo

State.

The level of

corruption

in the

Nigerian

Police Force

20 (30.8)	34 (52.3)	8 (12.3)	2 (3.1)	1 (1.5)
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in Edo State

has

increased

over the

past five

years.

Similarly, the prevalence of bribery was strongly supported by respondents. For the statement "Bribery is a common practice among police officers in Edo State," 35.4% (23 respondents) strongly agreed, and 50.8% (33 respondents) agreed, resulting in 86.2% acknowledging bribery as a common issue. Disagreement was minimal, with 4.6% (3 respondents) disagreeing and 1.5% (1 respondent) strongly disagreeing, while 7.7% (5 respondents) were neutral. This

finding underscores bribery as a significant manifestation of corruption, corroborating scholarly assertions in the literature review that bribery is a widespread form of corrupt practice within the Nigerian Police Force.

Nepotism and favoritism were also perceived as prevalent, with 36.9% (24 respondents) strongly agreeing and 50.8% (33 respondents) agreeing to the statement "Nepotism and favoritism are prevalent in the operations of the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State," totaling 87.7%. Only 3.1% (2 respondents) disagreed, and 1.5% (1 respondent) strongly disagreed, with 7.7% (5 respondents) neutral. This high agreement rate indicates that respondents view nepotism and favoritism as systemic issues within the police force, potentially undermining fair and merit-based operations, as highlighted in the literature review's discussion of corruption's multifaceted nature.

Regarding the trend of corruption over time, 30.8% (20 respondents) strongly agreed and 52.3% (34 respondents) agreed that "The level of corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State has increased over the past five years," totaling 83.1%. Disagreement was low, with 3.1% (2 respondents) disagreeing and 1.5% (1 respondent) strongly disagreeing, while 12.3% (8 respondents) remained neutral. This suggests a widespread perception that corruption has worsened, supporting the study's background claims about the growing concern over police corruption and its impact on public trust and institutional integrity.

Overall, the findings from Table 2 indicate a strong perception among respondents that corruption, manifested through widespread issues, bribery,

nepotism, and favoritism, is deeply rooted in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State, with a notable increase over recent years. The high agreement rates (83.1% to 87.7%) across all variables, coupled with minimal disagreement (3.0% to 6.1%), highlight the severity of the issue as perceived by the respondents. These results provide a robust foundation for further analysis of the causes, impacts, and potential solutions to police corruption, as explored in subsequent sections of this study.

4.4 Factors Responsible for Corrupt Practices

This section reveals a strong consensus among respondents that low salaries and poor welfare significantly contribute to corruption. For the statement "Low salaries and poor welfare contribute significantly to corruption among police officers in Edo State," 43.1% (28 respondents) strongly agreed, and 50.8% (33 respondents) agreed, totaling 93.9%. Only 1.5% (1 respondent) disagreed, and another 1.5% (1 respondent) strongly disagreed, with 3.1% (2 respondents) remaining neutral. This overwhelming agreement underscores low salaries and poor welfare as a primary driver of corruption, aligning with the literature review's assertion that economic hardships can push public servants, including police officers, toward corrupt practices to supplement their income.

Table 3: Factors Responsible for Corrupt Practices

Variable	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
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Low	28 (43.1)	33 (50.8)	2 (3.1)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.5)
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salaries and

poor

welfare

contribute

significantly

to

corruption

among

police

officers in

Edo State.

Lack of

adequate

22 (33.8)	37 (56.9)	4 (6.2)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.5)
-----------	-----------	---------	---------	---------

training

encourages

corrupt

practices
among
police
officers in
Edo State.

Weak
accountabili
ty
mechanisms
are a major

cause of	28 (43.1)	32 (49.2)	4 (6.2)	1 (1.5)	0 (0.0)
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corruption
in the
Nigerian
Police Force
in Edo
State.

Societal pressure and expectations	23 (35.4)	32 (49.2)	7 (10.8)	2 (3.1)	1 (1.5)
--	-----------	-----------	----------	---------	---------

drive police
officers in
Edo State to
engage in
corrupt
practices.

Similarly, lack of adequate training was widely perceived as a contributing factor to corruption. For the statement "Lack of adequate training encourages corrupt practices among police officers in Edo State," 33.8% (22 respondents) strongly agreed, and 56.9% (37 respondents) agreed, resulting in 90.7% affirming this view. Disagreement was minimal, with 1.5% (1 respondent) disagreeing and 1.5% (1 respondent) strongly disagreeing, while 6.2% (4 respondents) were neutral. This high level of agreement suggests that respondents view inadequate training as a significant barrier to ethical conduct, supporting the study's background discussion on the need for professional development to enhance police performance and integrity.

Weak accountability mechanisms were also strongly endorsed as a major cause of corruption. For the statement "Weak accountability mechanisms are a major cause of corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State," 43.1% (28 respondents) strongly agreed, and 49.2% (32 respondents) agreed, totaling 92.3%. Only 1.5% (1 respondent) disagreed, with no respondents strongly

disagreeing, and 6.2% (4 respondents) neutral. This finding highlights the critical role of oversight and disciplinary measures in curbing corruption, resonating with the literature review's emphasis on accountability as essential for maintaining institutional integrity.

Societal pressure and expectations were perceived as a significant but slightly less dominant factor. For the statement "Societal pressure and expectations drive police officers in Edo State to engage in corrupt practices," 35.4% (23 respondents) strongly agreed, and 49.2% (32 respondents) agreed, totaling 84.6%. Disagreement was low, with 3.1% (2 respondents) disagreeing and 1.5% (1 respondent) strongly disagreeing, while 10.8% (7 respondents) remained neutral. This relatively higher neutral response and slightly increased disagreement compared to other factors suggest that while societal pressure is widely recognized as a driver, it is perceived as less pervasive than economic and institutional factors.

Overall, the findings from Table 3 indicate strong agreement among respondents that low salaries and poor welfare (93.9%), weak accountability mechanisms (92.3%), lack of adequate training (90.7%), and societal pressure and expectations (84.6%) are significant factors contributing to corruption within the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State. The minimal disagreement (3.0% to 4.6%) and low neutral responses (3.1% to 10.8%) across all variables demonstrate a robust consensus on these factors. Low salaries and poor welfare and weak accountability mechanisms stand out as the most strongly endorsed

drivers, highlighting the need for economic and institutional reforms to address corruption effectively. These results provide a solid foundation for discussing the causes of corruption and formulating targeted recommendations in subsequent sections of the study.

4.5 Impact of Corruption on Maintenance of Law and Order

The results, summarized using frequencies and percentages, provide insights into respondents' perceptions of how corruption affects the police force's effectiveness, public trust, crime rates, and crime prevention and detection capabilities. For the statement "Corruption significantly reduces the ability of the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State to maintain law and order," 38.5% (25 respondents) strongly agreed, and 52.3% (34 respondents) agreed, totaling 90.8%. Only 1.5% (1 respondent) disagreed, and 1.5% (1 respondent) strongly disagreed, with 6.2% (4 respondents) remaining neutral. This high level of agreement underscores the perception that corruption severely hampers the police's core function of ensuring public safety and order, aligning with the study's background discussion on the critical role of an effective police force in societal stability.

Table 4: Impact of Corruption on Maintenance of Law and Order

Variable	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
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Corruption significantly reduces the ability of the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State to maintain law and order.

25 (38.5)	34 (52.3)	4 (6.2)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.5)
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Corrupt practices by police officers in Edo State have increased public distrust in the police force.

22 (34.4)	32 (50.0)	9 (14.1)	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
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Corruption within the police force in Edo State contributes to higher crime rates.

23 (36.5)	31 (49.2)	6 (9.5)	2 (3.2)	1 (1.6)
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The effectiveness of the Nigerian Police Force in

25 (39.1)	31 (48.4)	7 (10.9)	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
-----------	-----------	----------	---------	---------

Edo State in
preventing and
detecting crime is
undermined by
corruption.

Corruption was also widely perceived to erode public trust in the police force. For the statement "Corrupt practices by police officers in Edo State have increased public distrust in the police force," 34.4% (22 respondents) strongly agreed, and 50.0% (32 respondents) agreed, totaling 84.4% based on 64 responses. Disagreement was minimal at 1.6% (1 respondent), with no respondents strongly disagreeing, while 14.1% (9 respondents) were neutral. The relatively higher neutral response suggests some variability in perceptions, but the strong agreement indicates that corrupt practices significantly damage public confidence, corroborating the literature review's emphasis on corruption's role in undermining institutional legitimacy.

Regarding the impact on crime rates, 36.5% (23 respondents) strongly agreed, and 49.2% (31 respondents) agreed to the statement "Corruption within the police force in Edo State contributes to higher crime rates," totaling 85.7% based on 63 responses. Disagreement was low, with 3.2% (2 respondents) disagreeing and 1.6% (1 respondent) strongly disagreeing, while 9.5% (6 respondents) remained neutral. This finding supports the notion that corruption within the police force exacerbates criminal activities, aligning with the study's

background assertion that ineffective policing due to corruption contributes to insecurity.

Similarly, respondents strongly agreed that corruption undermines the police's effectiveness in preventing and detecting crime. For the statement "The effectiveness of the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State in preventing and detecting crime is undermined by corruption," 39.1% (25 respondents) strongly agreed, and 48.4% (31 respondents) agreed, totaling 87.5% based on 64 responses. Only 1.6% (1 respondent) disagreed, with no strong disagreement, and 10.9% (7 respondents) were neutral. This high agreement rate highlights the perception that corruption directly impairs the police's ability to fulfill its constitutional duties of crime prevention and detection, as noted in the literature review.

Overall, the findings from Table 4 indicate a robust consensus among respondents that corruption significantly impacts the Nigerian Police Force's ability to maintain law and order in Edo State, with agreement rates ranging from 84.4% to 90.8% across the variables. The minimal disagreement (1.6% to 4.8%) and low neutral responses (6.2% to 14.1%) underscore the severity of corruption's consequences. The strongest agreement was observed for the reduction in the ability to maintain law and order (90.8%), while public distrust had the highest neutral response (14.1%), suggesting slight variations in perceptions. These results provide a critical foundation for understanding the detrimental effects of corruption on police performance and public safety,

informing the discussion on potential solutions in subsequent sections of the study.

4.6 Steps for Reorganization/Reorientation of the Nigerian Police Force

This section presents the findings on the proposed steps for the reorganization and reorientation of the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State to curb corruption, as outlined in Table 5, addressing the fourth research question: "What are the authentic steps to ensuring total reorganization/reorientation of the Nigeria Police Force?" The data were collected from 65 respondents through a structured questionnaire, as described in Chapter Three, with slight variations in response counts for some questions (64 for Questions 18 and 20). The results, summarized using frequencies and percentages, provide insights into respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of improving salaries and welfare, enhancing training and reorientation programs, strengthening accountability and disciplinary measures, and implementing technology to reduce corruption.

Table 5: Steps for Reorganization/Reorientation of the Nigerian Police Force

Variable	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
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Improving salaries and welfare packages would significantly reduce corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State.	25 (38.5)	34 (52.3)	4 (6.2)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.5)
Enhanced training and reorientation programs are essential to eliminate corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State.	26 (40.6)	34 (53.1)	3 (4.7)	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
Stronger accountability and disciplinary measures would effectively curb	29 (44.6)	33 (50.8)	1 (1.5)	2 (3.1)	0 (0.0)

corruption in the
Nigerian Police
Force in Edo
State.

Implementing
technology, such
as body cameras
and digital
reporting systems,
would help reduce

28 (43.8)	33 (51.6)	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	2 (3.1)
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corruption in the
Nigerian Police
Force in Edo
State.

The analysis reveals strong support for improving salaries and welfare packages as a measure to reduce corruption. For the statement "Improving salaries and welfare packages would significantly reduce corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State," 38.5% (25 respondents) strongly agreed, and 52.3% (34 respondents) agreed, totaling 90.8%. Only 1.5% (1 respondent) disagreed, and 1.5% (1 respondent) strongly disagreed, with 6.2% (4 respondents) remaining neutral. This high level of agreement suggests that respondents view better compensation and welfare as critical to addressing the economic incentives

driving corruption, aligning with the study's background discussion on the role of low salaries in fostering corrupt practices.

Enhanced training and reorientation programs were also widely endorsed as essential to eliminating corruption. For the statement "Enhanced training and reorientation programs are essential to eliminate corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State," 40.6% (26 respondents) strongly agreed, and 53.1% (34 respondents) agreed, totaling 93.7% based on 64 responses. Disagreement was minimal at 1.6% (1 respondent), with no strong disagreement, and 4.7% (3 respondents) neutral. This near-unanimous support highlights the perceived importance of professional development in fostering ethical conduct, corroborating the literature review's emphasis on the need for training to improve police performance and integrity.

Stronger accountability and disciplinary measures received the highest level of endorsement. For the statement "Stronger accountability and disciplinary measures would effectively curb corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State," 44.6% (29 respondents) strongly agreed, and 50.8% (33 respondents) agreed, totaling 95.4%. Only 3.1% (2 respondents) disagreed, with no strong disagreement, and a mere 1.5% (1 respondent) neutral. This exceptionally high agreement rate and the lowest neutral response indicate a strong consensus that robust oversight and disciplinary mechanisms are critical to curbing corruption, supporting the study's background assertion that weak accountability is a major driver of corrupt practices.

The implementation of technology, such as body cameras and digital reporting systems, was also strongly supported. For the statement "Implementing technology, such as body cameras and digital reporting systems, would help reduce corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State," 43.8% (28 respondents) strongly agreed, and 51.6% (33 respondents) agreed, totaling 95.4% based on 64 responses. There was no disagreement, though 3.1% (2 respondents) strongly disagreed, and 1.6% (1 respondent) remained neutral. This high agreement rate suggests that respondents view technological interventions as a promising tool for enhancing transparency and reducing corruption, aligning with modern policing reforms discussed in the literature review.

Overall, the findings from Table 5 demonstrate a robust consensus among respondents that improving salaries and welfare (90.8%), enhancing training and reorientation programs (93.7%), strengthening accountability and disciplinary measures (95.4%), and implementing technology (95.4%) are effective steps for reorganizing and reorienting the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State to curb corruption. The minimal disagreement (1.6% to 3.1%) and very low neutral responses (1.5% to 6.2%) across all variables underscore the strong support for these measures. Stronger accountability and technology implementation received the highest endorsement (both 95.4%), indicating their perceived effectiveness as priority interventions. These results provide a solid foundation for formulating targeted recommendations to address police

corruption in Edo State, as discussed in subsequent sections of the study.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings

This study investigated the implications of corruption within the Nigerian Police Force, with a specific focus on the Edo State Command, guided by four objectives: (1) to examine the level of corruption within the Nigerian Police Force; (2) to assess the factors responsible for corrupt practices; (3) to examine the impact of corrupt practices on the police's primary duty of maintaining law and order; and (4) to determine accurate steps for the reorganization and reorientation of the police force to curb corruption. The study employed a structured questionnaire administered to 65 respondents, utilizing descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) as outlined in Section 3.7. The findings are summarized below in relation to these objectives.

The socio-demographic characteristics of respondents (Table 1A) revealed a predominantly youthful sample, with 58.5% aged 18-25 and 27.7% aged 26-35, indicating a perspective rooted in active societal participation. The gender distribution was balanced (55.4% male, 44.6% female), ensuring diverse viewpoints. Occupationally, students (50.8%) and self-employed individuals (33.8%) dominated, with 7.7% police officers, providing both community and insider perspectives. Most respondents (80.0%) had lived or worked in Edo State for at least one year, enhancing the reliability of their observations (Section 4.2). The extent of corruption (Table 2) was widely acknowledged,

with 86.1% agreeing that corruption is widespread (33.8% Strongly Agree, 52.3% Agree), 86.2% affirming bribery as common (35.4% Strongly Agree, 50.8% Agree), and 87.7% recognizing nepotism and favoritism (36.9% Strongly Agree, 50.8% Agree). Additionally, 83.1% agreed that corruption has increased over the past five years (30.8% Strongly Agree, 52.3% Agree). The low disagreement rates (3.0% to 6.1%) and neutral responses (7.7% to 12.3%) indicate a strong consensus on the pervasive and growing nature of corruption, aligning with the study's background on corruption's entrenchment in the public sector (Section 4.3).

Factors contributing to corruption (Table 3) showed strong agreement on key drivers. Low salaries and poor welfare were endorsed by 93.9% (43.1% Strongly Agree, 50.8% Agree), lack of adequate training by 90.7% (33.8% Strongly Agree, 56.9% Agree), weak accountability mechanisms by 92.3% (43.1% Strongly Agree, 49.2% Agree), and societal pressure by 84.6% (35.4% Strongly Agree, 49.2% Agree). The minimal disagreement (3.0% to 4.6%) and low neutral responses (3.1% to 10.8%) highlight the perceived significance of economic, institutional, and societal factors, consistent with the literature review's emphasis on these drivers (Section 4.4).

The impact of corruption on the police's primary duties (Table 4) was significant, with 90.8% agreeing that it reduces the ability to maintain law and order (38.5% Strongly Agree, 52.3% Agree), 84.4% noting increased public distrust (34.4% Strongly Agree, 50.0% Agree), 85.7% linking corruption to

higher crime rates (36.5% Strongly Agree, 49.2% Agree), and 87.5% stating it undermines crime prevention and detection (39.1% Strongly Agree, 48.4% Agree). Low disagreement (1.6% to 4.8%) and neutral responses (6.2% to 14.1%) underscore the severe consequences of corruption, supporting the study's problem statement on its threat to public safety and trust (Section 4.5). Proposed solutions for reorganization and reorientation (Table 5) received strong support. Improving salaries and welfare was endorsed by 90.8% (38.5% Strongly Agree, 52.3% Agree), enhanced training by 93.7% (40.6% Strongly Agree, 53.1% Agree), stronger accountability measures by 95.4% (44.6% Strongly Agree, 50.8% Agree), and technology implementation by 95.4% (43.8% Strongly Agree, 51.6% Agree). The minimal disagreement (1.6% to 3.1%) and very low neutral responses (1.5% to 6.2%) indicate robust support for these measures, particularly accountability and technology, aligning with the literature review's call for systemic reforms (Section 4.6).

These findings confirm that corruption is widespread and increasing in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State, driven by economic, institutional, and societal factors, severely impacting law enforcement and public trust. The strong endorsement of proposed solutions highlights the urgency of comprehensive reforms to address these issues.

5.2 Conclusion

This study concludes that corruption within the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State is a deeply entrenched issue, with high agreement (83.1% to 87.7%) on its

prevalence, manifested through bribery, nepotism, and favoritism, and a perceived increase over time. The key drivers—low salaries and poor welfare, inadequate training, weak accountability, and societal pressures—are widely recognized (84.6% to 93.9% agreement), with low salaries and accountability issues being the most significant. Corruption severely undermines the police’s ability to maintain law and order, increases public distrust, contributes to higher crime rates, and hampers crime prevention and detection (84.4% to 90.8% agreement), posing a direct threat to public safety and institutional legitimacy. The strong support for solutions such as improving salaries, enhancing training, strengthening accountability, and implementing technology (90.8% to 95.4% agreement) underscores the need for multifaceted reforms. These findings support the research hypotheses (Section 1.3) that corruption is pervasive, driven by specific factors, detrimental to police duties, and addressable through targeted interventions. The uniform perceptions across demographic groups suggest that corruption’s impact is broadly felt, necessitating holistic strategies to restore the police force’s integrity and effectiveness in Edo State.

5.3 Recommendations

- 1. Implement Economic Reforms:** The government should prioritize increasing salaries and improving welfare packages for police officers to address economic incentives for corruption, as supported by 90.8% agreement (Table 5). This could include structured pay scales and benefits like housing and health insurance.

2. **Enhance Training Programs:** Develop comprehensive training and reorientation programs focusing on ethics, professionalism, and anti-corruption strategies, endorsed by 93.7% of respondents (Table 5), to equip officers with the skills and values needed to resist corrupt practices.
3. **Strengthen Accountability Mechanisms:** Establish robust oversight and disciplinary systems, such as independent anti-corruption units and transparent complaint mechanisms, supported by 95.4% agreement (Table 5), to ensure accountability and deter corrupt behavior.
4. **Adopt Technology-Based Solutions:** Invest in technologies like body cameras and digital reporting systems, backed by 95.4% agreement (Table 5), to enhance transparency and monitor police interactions, reducing opportunities for corruption.
5. **Conduct Community Engagement Initiatives:** Develop programs to address societal pressures and rebuild public trust, such as community policing and awareness campaigns, to align with the 84.6% agreement on societal pressures as a driver (Table 3).
6. **Expand Research Scope:** Future studies should include interviews with police officers and community members to validate questionnaire findings and explore qualitative insights, addressing potential biases in third-party perceptions.

7. **Increase Sample Diversity:** Expand the sample to include more police officers and rural residents to capture diverse perspectives, given the current sample's student-heavy composition (50.8%, Table 1A).
8. **Longitudinal Studies:** Conduct longitudinal research to track changes in corruption perceptions and the effectiveness of implemented reforms over time in Edo State.
9. **Comparative Analysis:** Compare corruption dynamics across other Nigerian states to identify regional patterns and tailor interventions, building on the current focus on Edo State.

APPENDIX
QUESTIONNAIRE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,
EDO STATE.

OCTOBER, 2025.

Dear Respondent,

REQUEST FOR THE FILLING OF QUESTIONNAIR

I am a final-year student of the above department conducting a study on the topic “Implications of Corruption in the Nigerian Police Force: A Case Study of Edo State Command” as part of the requirements for the award of a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc. Hons) degree in Public Administration. The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather relevant information on the extent, causes, impacts, and solutions to corruption within the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State. You are kindly requested to respond objectively to the questionnaire attached. All responses will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used strictly for academic purposes.

Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

Yours faithfully,

Faith Okojie

SECTION A: Demographic Information

Please tick (✓) the option that applies to you.

1. Gender:

(a) Male ☐ (b) Female ☐ (c) Prefer not to say ☐

2. Age:

(a) 18–25 ☐ (b) 26–35 ☐ (c) 36–45 ☐ (d) 46–55 ☐ (e) 56 and above ☐

3. Occupation:

(a) Police Officer ☐ (b) Civil Servant ☐ (c) Private Sector Employee ☐ (d) Self-Employed ☐ (e) Student ☐ (f) Other ☐

4. How long have you lived or worked in Edo State?

(a) Less than 1 year ☐ (b) 1–5 years ☐ (c) 6–10 years ☐ (d) Over 10 years ☐

Scale:

SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, U = Undecided, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

SECTION B: Extent of Corruption within the Nigerian Police Force

S/N	Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD
5	Corruption is a widespread issue among police officers in Edo State.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6	Bribery is a common practice among police officers in	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

S/N	Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD
	Edo State.					
7	Nepotism and favoritism are prevalent in the operations of the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	The level of corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State has increased over the past five years.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

SECTION C: Factors Responsible for Corrupt Practices

S/N	Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD
9	Low salaries and poor welfare contribute significantly to corruption among police officers in Edo State.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10	Lack of adequate training encourages corrupt practices among police officers in Edo State.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11	Weak accountability mechanisms are a major cause of corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
12	Societal pressure and expectations drive police officers in Edo State to engage in corrupt practices.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

SECTION D: Impact of Corruption on Maintenance of Law and Order

S/N	Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD
13	Corruption significantly reduces the ability of the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State to maintain law and	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

S/N	Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD
	order.					
14	Corrupt practices by police officers in Edo State have increased public distrust in the police force.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
15	Corruption within the police force in Edo State contributes to higher crime rates.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
16	The effectiveness of the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State in preventing and detecting crime is undermined by corruption.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

SECTION E: Steps for Reorganization/Reorientation of the Nigerian Police Force

S/N	Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD
17	Improving salaries and welfare packages would significantly reduce corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
18	Enhanced training and reorientation programs are essential to eliminate corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

S/N	Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD
19	Stronger accountability and disciplinary measures would effectively curb corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
20	Implementing technology, such as body cameras and digital reporting systems, would help reduce corruption in the Nigerian Police Force in Edo State.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐