



## Effect of Bureaucratic Corruption on Edo State: a Study of Selected Ministries

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### ABSTRACT

*The study examined the effect of bureaucratic corruption using selected ministries in Edo State as a case study. Staff used in this study was randomly selected from three ministries from Edo State. The study involved three hundred members of staff of given ministries. The questionnaire on effect of bureaucratic corruption was used for data collection. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentage and chi square ( $\chi^2$ ). Findings revealed the following: for hypothesis one, there was no relationship between contemporary Edo State bureaucracy and modernization since the calculated  $\chi^2$  is less than the critical  $\chi^2$  at 2% sampling error. With respect to hypothesis two, there was no relationship between political corruption and bureaucratic corruption in Edo State bureaucracy, since calculated  $\chi^2$  is less than critical  $\chi^2$  at 1% sampling error. The third hypothesis revealed that there was no relationship between modernization and corruption in Edo State bureaucracy since calculated  $\chi^2$  is less than the critical  $\chi^2$  at 5% sampling error. On the basis of these findings, it was recommended that government should improve on policies guiding the management of bureaucratic corruption.*

### INTRODUCTION

Evidence of corruption has so far been established in both the Nigeria public bureaucracy and politics through various commissions of inquiry. These commissions have reported cases of public bureaucrats and politicians living above their earnings. For instance, the chairman of Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences (ICPC), Mr. Ekpo while speaking on NTA on the role of ICPC, in the war against corruption, pointed out that, the commission has seized about 62 houses from an employee of one of the government agencies (Daily Post 2016). Politics enjoys a symbiotic relationship with corruption, political corruption often metamorphose into bureaucratic corruption. Furthermore, political corruption in all its ramifications and manifestations sustained, maintained and nurtured by bureaucratic corruption, as it's logical extension (Agara 1995; Agara and Gambari, 1994). Simply put, corrupt politicians need the assistance of bureaucrats to succeed and also, the politicians find ready and willing students to continue nefarious acts on a new dimension. If therefore the initial stage of bureaucratic corruption is political corruption, at what stage can corruption be curbed? Is it at the leadership level or at the bureaucratic level? In an attempt to tackle the problem, Dele Olowu (1983), posits that corruption can be curbed at the leadership level. According to him, a good and strong leadership would solve the problem of corruption. This view was also shared by Hope (1985) when he asserted that, corruption can be rooted out only when the politicians choose to root it out. This argument however, seems to be a pre-requisite, not a sufficient condition for combating corruption because as Braibanti (1979) noted, there have been instances of corrupt government with a virtuous leader and with good government under un-virtuous leadership. The rather intractable trail of the elite to use political power to create an economic base to secure itself becomes inevitable. According to Ihonvbere (1989), this was why many African countries, capitalist and socialist alike, expanded the public sector,



bringing more and more areas of the economy under control of the State so as to enhance the economic control of the political class. Along with this, came the tendency to accumulate wealth through access to State power rather than through entrepreneurial activities. The effect of this is that, politics became Hobbesian: power was pursued by all means and kept by all means and the struggle for power became the overriding concern. Indeed, the emergence of the State, as the source of wealth not only stimulated corruption among leaders, but also created a vast bureaucracy that was infested by the corruption of the political class. Economic development is stunted because outside direct investment is discouraged and small businesses within the country often find it impossible to overcome the 'start up' cost required because of corruption. However, for clarity, Peters (1978), identified three approaches to the view of bureaucratic corruption. These are views based on legal criteria, public opinion, and public interest. From the legal perspective, bureaucratic corruption is connected to any behaviour that violates some formal standard or rule of behaviour set down by a political system for its public officials. For Nye (1967), bureaucratic corruption means an act that deviates from the formal duties of a public role because of private or status gains. Consequently therefore, this study investigates effect of bureaucratic corruption on Edo State using selected ministries.

## METHODOLOGY

The Hypotheses of this Study Include:

1. There is relationship between the contemporary Edo State bureaucracy and modernization.
2. There is a relationship between political corruption and bureaucratic corruption in Edo State bureaucracy.
3. There is a relationship between modernization and corruption.

### Sources of Data/Study Population/Sampling

The main source of data for this study was the primary data which was sourced from questionnaire. The population for this study consisted of all staff of Edo State public bureaucracy. Since it could not be possible to study the entire population needed for the study, simple random sampling technique was used to select ministries and staff in public bureaucracy in Edo State. Three ministries and 300 staff were selected from 310 staff for the study. On return rate, 300 questionnaires were completed and returned. This indicated that the rate of response was about 96.8% the total questionnaire administered. This is very high to make inference as well as generalization of the entire population.

**Table 1: Data on Distributed Questionnaire**

S/N	Name of Ministry Sampled	Questionnaire Distributed	Questionnaire Returned	Percentage of Questionnaire Returned
1	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources	104	100	33.33
2	Ministry of Education	103	100	33.33
3	Ministry of Health	103	100	33.33
	Total	310	300	100

Source: Compiled by the Researcher



### Instrument

The major instrument for the study was the questionnaire. The questionnaire was used because it helps to provide quick data for studies which depend largely on opinions and perception of the respondents. The questionnaire items were formulated after exhaustive review of the relevant literature. The questionnaire was designed to elicit information on bureaucratic corruption in Edo State was divided into two parts. Section A contained questions which seek information on demographic data of the respondents while section B consisted of relevant information on some causes of bureaucratic corruption and its effect on Edo State. Simple percentage was used to analyze data collected. The data presented were analyzed to test the hypotheses postulated.

### Validity of Instrument

The instrument (questionnaire) was duly validated and administered in the three ministries sampled.

### Test of Hypotheses

The formula for chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) data analysis method is shown below:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

Where  $f_o$  = observed frequency

$f_e$  = expected frequency

### Hypothesis I

$H^1_R$ : There is a relationship between the contemporary Edo State bureaucracy and modernization.

**Table 2: Contemporary Edo State Bureaucracy and Modernization**

S/N	Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agree	285	95
2	Disagree	11	3.7
3	Undecided	4	1.3
	Total	300	100

Source: Compiled by the Researcher

Computing data into a table yielded table 2 below

**Table 2.1: Contemporary Edo State Bureaucracy and Modernization**

Responses	Upper Class	Lower Class	Middle Class	Total
Agree	55 <sup>a</sup>	147 <sup>b</sup>	83 <sup>c</sup>	285
Disagree	1 <sup>d</sup>	7 <sup>e</sup>	3 <sup>f</sup>	11
Undecided	1 <sup>g</sup>	1 <sup>h</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	4
Total	57	155	88	300

Source: Compiled by the Researcher



Computation of  $\chi^2$

Cell	$F_o$	$F_e$	$F_o - F_e$	$(F_o - F_e)^2$	$\frac{(F_o - F_e)^2}{F_e}$
A	55	54.15	0.85	0.72	0.0133
B	147	147.25	-0.25	0.06	0.0004
C	83	83.6	-0.6	0.36	0.0043
D	1	2.09	-0.19	0.19	0.090
E	7	5.68	1.32	1.74	0.3063
F	3	3.23	0.23	0.05	0.0155
G	1	0.76	0.24	0.06	0.0789
H	1	2.07	-1.07	1.15	0.5556
I	2	1.17	0.83	0.69	0.5897

$$\chi^2 = 1.6416$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Degree of Freedom (DF)} &= (r-1)(c-1) \\ &= (3-1)(3-1) \\ &= 2 \times 2 = 4 \end{aligned}$$

**RESEARCH DECISION:**

Calculated  $\chi^2 = 1.6416$

Critical  $\chi^2 = 5.99$ ,  $OP = .20$

Research Result: Calculated  $\chi^2 = 1.6416$  is less than the critical  $\chi^2 = 5.99$  at 2% sampling error. There is no relationship between contemporary Edo State bureaucracy and modernization.

Hypothesis 2

$H^2_R$ : There is a relationship between political corruption and bureaucratic corruption in Edo State bureaucracy.

**Table 3: Relationship between Political Corruption and Bureaucratic Corruption**

S/N	Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agree	293	97.67
2	Disagree	4	1.33
3	Undecided	3	1
	Total	300	100

Source: Compiled by the researcher

Computing the data obtained into table 3 below

**Table 3.1: Relationship between Political Corruption and Bureaucratic Corruption**

Responses	Upper Class	Lower Class	Middle Class	Total
Agree	42 <sup>a</sup>	162 <sup>b</sup>	89 <sup>c</sup>	293
Disagree	1 <sup>d</sup>	2 <sup>e</sup>	1 <sup>f</sup>	4
Undecided	1 <sup>g</sup>	1 <sup>h</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	3



Total	44	165	91	300
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Source: Compiled by the researcher

Computation of  $\chi^2$

Cell	$F_o$	$F_e$	$F_o - F_e$	$(F_o - F_e)^2$	$\frac{(F_o - F_e)^2}{F_e}$
A	42	42.79	-0.79	0.62	0.0145
B	162	161.15	0.85	0.72	0.0045
C	89	88.85	0.12	0.01	0.0001
D	1	0.59	0.41	0.17	0.2881
E	2	2.2	-0.2	0.04	0.0182
F	1	1.21	-0.21	0.04	0.0331
G	1	0.44	0.56	0.31	0.7046
H	1	1.65	-0.65	1.42	0.2546
I	1	0.91	0.09	0.008	0.0088

Calculated  $\chi^2 = 1.3265$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Degree of Freedom (DF)} &= (r-1)(c-1) \\ &= (3-1)(3-1) \\ &= 2 \times 2 = 4 \end{aligned}$$

### RESEARCH DECISION:

Calculated  $\chi^2 = 1.3265$

Critical  $\chi^2 = 57.78$ ,  $OP = .10$

Research Result: Calculated  $\chi^2 = 1.3265$  is less than the critical  $\chi^2 = 57.78$  at 1% sampling error. There is no relationship between political corruption and bureaucratic corruption in Edo State bureaucracy.

### HYPOTHESIS 3

$H^3_R$ : There is a relationship between modernization and corruption in Edo State bureaucracy

**Table 4: Relationship between Modernization and Corruption**

S/N	Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agree	171	57
2	Disagree	126	42
3	Undecided	3	1
	Total	300	100

Source: Compiled by the researcher

Computing the data obtained above into table 4.2 below:

**Table 4.1: Correlation between Modernization and Corruption**

Responses	Upper Class	Lower Class	Middle Class	Total
Agree	24 <sup>a</sup>	113 <sup>b</sup>	34 <sup>c</sup>	171



Disagree	23 <sup>d</sup>	72 <sup>e</sup>	31 <sup>f</sup>	126
Undecided	1 <sup>g</sup>	1 <sup>h</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	3
Total	48	186	66	300

Source: Compiled by the researcher

### Computation of $\chi^2$

Cell	$F_o$	$F_e$	$F_o - F_e$	$(F_o - F_e)^2$	$\frac{(F_o - F_e)^2}{F_e}$
A	24	27.36	-3.36	11.29	0.4127
B	113	106.02	6.98	48.72	0.4595
C	34	37.62	-3.62	13.10	0.3482
D	23	20.16	2.84	8.07	0.4003
E	72	78.12	-6.12	37.45	0.4794
F	31	27.72	-3.28	10.76	0.3882
G	1	0.48	0.52	0.27	0.5625
H	1	1.86	-0.86	0.74	0.3979
I	1	0.66	0.34	0.12	0.1818

$$\text{Calculated } \chi^2 = 3.6305$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Degree of Freedom (DF)} &= (r-1)(c-1) \\ &= (3-1)(3-1) \\ &= 2 \times 2 = 4 \end{aligned}$$

### RESEARCH DECISION

$$\text{Calculated } \chi^2 = 3.6305$$

$$\text{Critical } \chi^2 = 9.49, \text{ OP} = .05$$

Research Result: Calculated  $\chi^2 = 3.6305$  is less than the critical  $\chi^2 = 9.49$  at 5% sampling error. There is no relationship between modernization and corruption in Edo State bureaucracy.

### DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The analyses of the three hypotheses revealed that the majority of the respondents agreed with the hypotheses formulated to guide the study. For hypothesis one, the calculated  $\chi^2$  is less than the critical  $\chi^2$  at 2% sampling error. The implication is that the research hypothesis was rejected. This finding is encouraging and corroborate the position of Aina (1987), Bell (1988), Olowu (1983) and Dwinvendi (1985). This result indicated that there is no relationship between the contemporary Edo State bureaucracy and modernization. On the second hypothesis, calculated  $\chi^2$  is less than critical  $\chi^2$  at 1% sampling error. The implication is that the research hypothesis was rejected. The finding is consistent with the position of Ilufoge (2009), Alli (2001), Wilkins (1970), Adebayo (1986), Hope (1985), and Simpson (1972). This result indicated that there is no relationship between political corruption and bureaucratic corruption in Edo State bureaucracy. For hypothesis three, calculated  $\chi^2$  is less than the critical  $\chi^2$  at 5% sampling error. The implication is that the research hypothesis was rejected. This finding corroborate the position that of Caidan



(1979), Olufokunbi (1982), Otite (1982) and World Bank (1997). This result indicated that there is no relationship between modernization and corruption in Edo State bureaucracy. Implications of the Study the findings of this study have far reaching implication for Edo State in particular and Nigeria in general. It is an eye opener for those in government since it will provide them with a valuable insight that the contemporary Edo State bureaucracy is not a creation of modernization and political corruption and bureaucratic corruption are carried out independently, and modernization and corruption are not related.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions emerged. The first relates to the analysis of a relationship between the contemporary Edo State bureaucracy and modernization which revealed that there is no relationship since the calculated  $\chi^2$  is less than the critical  $\chi^2$  at 2% sampling error. The second conclusion drawn from this study is that there is no relationship between political corruption and bureaucratic corruption in Edo State bureaucracy since calculated  $\chi^2$  is less than critical  $\chi^2$  at 1% sampling error. The third conclusion from this study is that, there is no relationship between modernization and corruption in Edo State bureaucracy, since calculated  $\chi^2$  is less than critical  $\chi^2$  at 5% sampling error.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The information generated would be of significant value in improving on contemporary state bureaucracy and modernization, political corruption and bureaucratic corruption in state bureaucracy, and modernization and corruption as they relate to the study of effect of bureaucratic corruption in Edo State in particular and Nigeria in general in order to change the society. Based on the findings, it is recommended that government should improve on policies guiding the management of bureaucratic corruption with regards to: the relationship between contemporary state bureaucracy and modernization, the relationship between political corruption and bureaucratic corruption, and the relationship between modernization and corruption.

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