

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## GLOBAL CORRUPTION: AN EPIDEMIC BEYOND NATIONAL, CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, JOB, AND ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

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## ABSTRACT

The world indeed is sitting on a delicate balance arising from the emerging trends in the intricacies of corruption that has assumed a global proportion, as a direct consequence of moral, spiritual, religious, ethical bankruptcy that has dealt a great blow to mankind like a plague begging for solution. Giving the growing concerns of these attendance crises, that is direct products of these ugly but emerging trends, which portends a serious danger to mankind. It has become imperative to take a critical look at it with a view to finding a lasting solution as a way to restore the integrity of mankind and an attempt to restore the dying human values as a result of corruption. To be able to achieve this, a survey has been carried out to evaluate the immediate and remote causes of global corruption with the following questionnaire. Ten thousand opinions have been sampled with respondent cutting across gender boundaries and distributed across selected ten higher institutions in Nigeria, at the rate of one-thousand respondents per institution. The analysis of the sampled respondents which were in order of 61% (No), 72% (Yes) and 87% respectively have revealed that, global corruption is an epidemic without boundary and it's not as a result of hardship and poverty but rather as a direct consequences of greed, human selfishness as well as moral and religious bankruptcy with a provision that restoration of moral and religious values, as well as ethics are possible through heavy/capital punishment for offenders rather than corporal punishment or counselling.

## KEYWORDS

Global Corruption, Epidemic, Institution

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Global corruption has remain an epidemics ravaging the entire world community like holocaust that is capable of destroying the fabrics that hold human race together, morality and values that once held it together, with a delicate balance has been tilted towards human catastrophe while religion and philosophy stood aloof (Aledhari et al., 2020). It becomes an issue of concern, to keen observers and the researcher; that in the past, morality, human dignity, nature, human and natural values, coupled with traditional and various religious believes have revolves around ethics that have assisted in sustaining human civilizations, growth and developments in all ramifications (Bawallah et al., 2024).

However, in the recent past, mortals have been faced with the reality of the human Demon called **CORRUPTION**, placing the heaviest premium and burden of debt on humanity. This plague has brought about betrayals in many forms including; trust, oath, secrecy, allegiance, bonds, solidarity, tribal ethnicity, race (i.e. white or black) etc. have all suffered casualty in the hand of **CORRUPTION**, leading to apparent near collapse of the fragile lines of linkage between race, tribe, friendship, brotherhood, commerce, religion, political, economic and gender sensibility as a result of the consequences of betrayer of trust arising from the epidemic of corruption

that has attained global dimension. Therefore, Corruption is a ubiquitous human condition, transcending borders and infecting societies regardless of development stage (Bawallah et al., 2024).

Research reveals that developed nations historically introduced corruption to developing countries, often through exploitative colonial practices. A group researcher notes that developed nations conquered colonies with force and exploited their populations through concessions, deceitful trade, and authoritarian dominance (Budzianowski et al., 2019; Pengcheng, 2022; Rehena, 2022). Paradoxically, despite this painful legacy, developing countries have struggled to break free from corruption's grasp. Instead, elite individuals within these nations have perpetuated self-serving interests, looting resources meant for development (Shinde and Shah, 2018). Ironically, corruption now wreaks more havoc in developing nations than in their developed counterparts, hindering progress and exacerbating inequality (Barry, 2002).

Another striking disparity that exists between developed and developing nations is the utilization of technology to combat crime (Obschonka and Audretsch, 2020). In developed nations, advanced technologies effectively track culprits for prosecute so as to ensure accountability, but such technologies are largely absent in developing countries. Aside that,

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common criminals are more frequently prosecuted, while white-collar crimes, often perpetrated by the elite, go unpunished (Chen, et al., 2020). Consequently, authority stealing has gradually remained a part and parcel of developing countries, undermining trust, perpetuates inequality, and erodes the very foundations of democratic institutions and development (Du et al., 2020). From bribery and embezzlement to nepotism and cronyism, corruption's far-reaching tentacles strangle development, distort markets, and betray public trust (Du, et al., 2020).

Consciously or sub consciously, mankind morality, integrity and values have been subjected to abuse and serious strains, capable of destroying the delicate balance of the fragile lines that hold human race together (Li et al., 2020; Ghimire and Rawat, 2022). Therefore, it becomes very expedient to evaluate all these burning issues that have beclouded within the contest of the global epidemics called 'CORRUPTION' with a view to a critical analysis of the associated factors and possible solutions and ay forward for mankind in general (Kulkarni et al., 2020).

The associated factors are discussed as follows:

- **Trust Corruption**

This refers to the violation of trust placed in individuals, institutions, or systems, leading to unethical behavior abuse of power or illegal activities. These include; betrayal of confidence or confidentiality, perception, fraud or manipulation, breach of fiduciary duty etc. (by the American Bar Association).

- **Mind Corruption**

This refers to the degradation of distortion of one's thoughts, beliefs and values, often leading to immoral or unethical behavior, it can result from various influences e.g. propaganda or based information, manipulation or coercion, prejudices etc. (from the Standard Encyclopedia of Philosophy).

- **Moral Corruption**

Refers to the decay or distortion of moral values, principles and ethics, leading to unethical behavior and decision making, it can involve deception, manipulation, betrayal of trust etc. (by the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy).

- **Gender Corruption**

This refers to the exploitation of manipulation of individuals based on their gender, gender identity or sexuality, often for personal gain or power e.g. sexual harassment, assault, abuse of power, trafficking etc. (by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women).

- **Age corruption**

This refers to the exploitation or manipulation of individuals especially children, youth or vulnerable adults for personal gain or sexual purposes e.g. child abuse, human trafficking, sexual harassment etc. (by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

- **Ethnic Corruption**

This refers to the violation of moral principles and values, leading to unethical behavior and decision making. These include conflict of interest, bribery and fraud, unfair discrimination (from the institute of business ethics).

- **Tribal Corruption**

This refers to the manipulation of tribal affiliations, loyalty or identity for personal gain, political advantage or economic benefit. This can involve embarrassment of tribal funds or resources, abuse of power or authority within the tribal government etc.

- **Race Corruption**

This refers to corrupt practices or unfair manipulation in the context of competitive sports particularly horse racing or other forms of racing e.g. doping or drugging of animals to enhance performance (from racing post and from the international journal of ethics and accountability).

- **Trade Corruption**

Trade corruption refers to the unethical and illegal practices that occur in the course of international trade including bribery, fraudulent documentation, embezzlement etc. (from transparency international and the world trade organization).

- **Political Corruption**

This undermines trust on government, distort policy decisions and can

have far reaching consequences for society including inequality, injustice and economic instability. This also refers to the abuse of public office for personal gains influencing political power for financial benefit (by transparency international).

- **Economic Corruption**

This refers to the misuse of economic power and resources for personal gain, often through illegal or unethical means and can involve; embezzlement, fraud, bribery, kickback, money laundering, tax evasion, crony capitalism, insider trading (by World Bank).

- **Religion Corruption**

This refers to the exploitation or manipulation of religious authority, power or resources for personal gain, political influence or other selfish motives definition from the article religion, culture and political corruption (by Yagbayaju).

- **Cyber Crime**

Despite the global outcry against cybercrime and such related issues, mankind as continue to suffer from the increasing activities of perpetrators with increasing number of recruit and volunteers, rampaging the entire globe with reckless abandon (William, 2002). Businesses are no longer conducted on trust, a major strain to human relation and business concerned. The reasons are not far-fetched. Mankind seemed to be losing the battle helplessly to a society that is morally corrupt and religious bank crop (Witt and Young, 1997).

National orientation/cultural value: Every society involves and develops around its natural values, which over time becomes cultural values, intricately attached to historical, antecedents, experiences and developments over time, all of which are woven together to form culture and religious values on the basis of which norms are developed which invariably translates into moral, cultural and religious values which are been eroded, over time arising from corruption (Wolf et al., 2019). Clan, community or national orientations and values as the case may be, over time as a result of human development, have been corrupted from the village concept, community, nations, and the global world. Where do we go from here?

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology engaged in this study, involves data gathering, through opinion survey, analysis of respondent opinion/views; on the subject matter:

"Global corruption; an Epidemics Beyond National Boundaries, Religious, and every human endeavor is as a result of:

A. Economic hardship and poverty?

B. As a result of human selfishness and greed

C. As a result of moral and religious bankruptcy

To which respondent are to answer; YES, NO, or UNDECIDED, as reasons or otherwise for global corruption. The survey further sort for solutions for mankind while exploring the same format. In carrying out this study, Ten (10) higher institutions were randomly selected and engaged for the pilot programme; cutting across five states, comprising Ekiti, Lagos, Ondo, Osun and Ogun including Abuja, the Federal Capital of Nigeria.

It involves collection of sampled2 opinions of one (1) thousand respondents per Institution cutting across gender, making a total of ten thousand sampled opinion surveys. The analysis of the results of the sampled opinion, based on causes and solutions, were expressed as percentages, while further statistical analysis were engaged with the introduction of pie-charts and Bar charts for a better illustration of results and finding on the final analysis, findings Revealed that larger majority of respondents are of the view that capital punishment remains a viable option to end corruption. Arising from all these, a survey was conducted to determine the immediate and remote causes of global corruption and the possible way forward for mankind.

Question to be determined include; global epidemics called corruption arose as result of:

A: global economic hardship/poverty (YES/NO/UNDECIDED).

B: as a result of human selfishness and greed (YES/NO/UNDECIDED).

C: Moral/Religious bankruptcy (YES/NO/UNDECIDED).

Solutions/Way Forward from the analysis of the survey

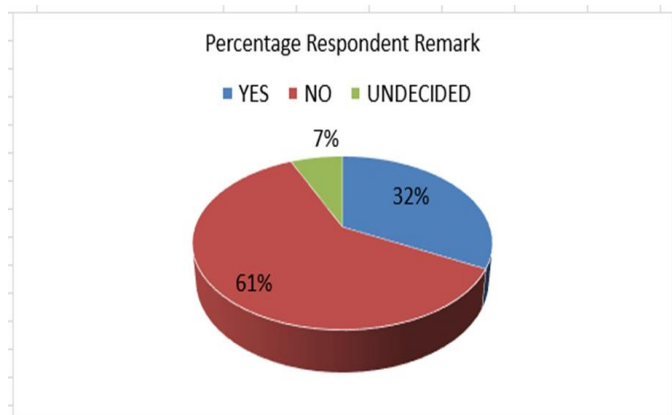
Stiff punishment – 85%

Moral Education/Counselling – 5%

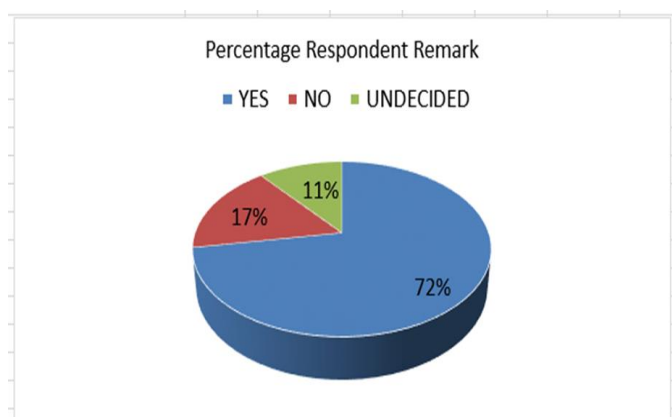
Minor Punishment – 10%

### 3. RESULTS

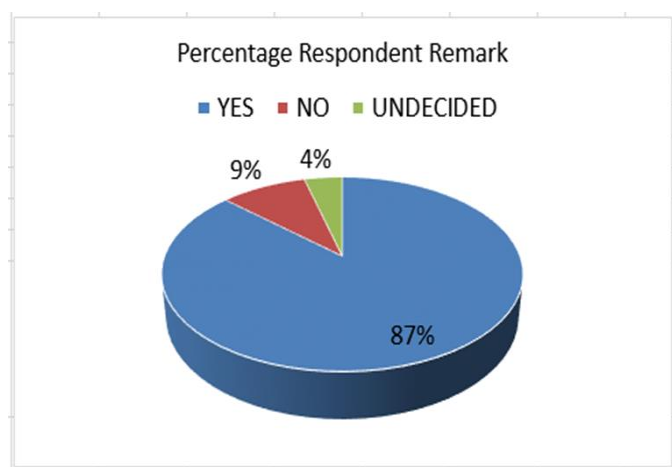
Statistical Summary of the Analysis



(a) Global epidemic called corruption is due to hardship and poverty

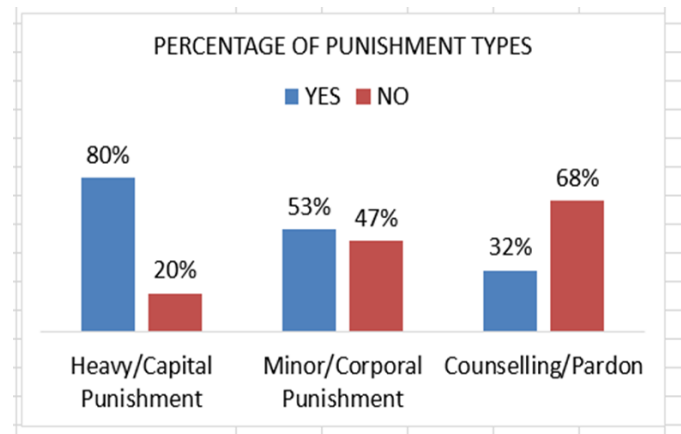


(b) Global epidemic called corruption is due to human greed and selfishness



(c) Global epidemic called corruption is as a result of moral, spiritual and religious bankruptcy

**Figure 1:** Statistical Summary of the Cause of Corruption.



**Figure 2:** Statistical Summary of the Solution.

### 4. CONCLUSION

Having gone through the process and analysis of opinions and respondent by weights, it is obvious that administration of capital punishment to offenders as a deterrent to prevent and curtail global epidemics of corruption, so that the world would be a sane place for all. Therefore, this position is highly recommended. After the sane place for all are the overriding views of the respondent. Therefore, this position is highly recommended. Analysis of the survey is attached as addendum.

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