

## **ROLE OF VALUE CLARIFICATION IN MITIGATING CORRUPTION TENDENCIES AMONG NIGERIAN YOUTHS**

**By**

**T.A Adebawale, Ph. D**

**Department of Social Work, Faculty of Education**

**University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Nigeria.**

**E-mail: titade07@yahoo.com**

### **Abstract**

Corruption is seen as a plague affecting every institution in the society. It is a global phenomenon that is very worrisome, but very pronounced in the third world like Nigeria. It is a major contributing factor to underdevelopment of the third world. Due to the danger corruption is imposing on people's credibility, it is found necessary to explore available measures to counter it in Nigeria. One of such measures is value clarification. This paper tries to look into: corruption as a concept; the features of corruption; corruption in different institutions; trends and causes of corrupt practices globally; its classifications and consequences; way forward through value clarification; implications for social workers, counselling psychologists, and teachers; conclusion.

### **Introduction**

#### **Corruption as a concept**

Defining corruption seems to be a bit difficult because there is no universally accepted one for the term corruption. Nwangwu (2011) observes that it is a strong cancer that has unpleasantly eaten Nigeria to a state of apathy. Corruption is the use of state or private power and influence in an illegal, illicit, unlawful and unauthorized way to ultimately gain special benefits in the form of scheme or exploiting of public funds. Corruption could manifest in form of inducement, comparative tendency, and embezzlement of public fund and diversion of public

property for personal use. Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for personal or private gains. The term is commonly applied to self-benefitting conduct by public officials and others dedicated to public service. It is the misuse of public or entrusted power (by the elected politician or civil service employees) for private gain (Li, Wu, Hu, 2011). Dishonest activities commonly engaged in include bribery, pilfering, and the hiring or advancement of certain people for private or political gain. It can also be described as inducement to wrong by improper or unlawful means (such as bribery). It is also seen as a departure from the original or from what is pure or correct (Bussell, 2015).

Corruption has become so widespread that it is affecting every sphere of life. Mauro (2002) points out the difficulties of fighting corruption, asserting that when one agent does something profitable, it calls for the other agent to do the same, corruption is seen as a profitable venture. It transfers wealth from the powerless to the powerful people. A corrupted group of people cannot trust their own society. It features in all aspects of life which makes it broken down into several categories, based on the sector in which it occurs, and the amounts of money lost, or other damages it causes. Corruption has many effects on humanity, costing people the supposed benefits, their liberty, their wellbeing, and sometimes even their lives (Otusanya, 2011). The harshness of corruption is often depicted by the widespread of its effects, hence it is higher in some places than others.

Due to the widespread of corruption, many people even confuse other issues with the concept of corruption; hence it is necessary to know the nature and characteristics of corruption to reduce its effect on the society.

#### **The features of corruption:**

Recipients and Payers – For corrupt practice to take place it will involve at least two people, the giver and the

receiver. The initiator could either be the receiver or the giver. Whoever initiated it must have done so for selfish interest; it could be initiated by both, depending on who will benefit from the contract. Whatsoever transpires between the giver and the receiver is never their entitlement, but dubiously possessing it.

**Extortion** - Corruption involves pressure or force. The one that initiates it will have to mount pressure on the giver or the receiver on the person(s) who will benefit from the deal. Extortion is any form of taking or obtaining property from another person by means of illegal compulsion or oppressive exaction. In common law it is defined as a crime committed by an officer of the law, who, under cover of office, unlawfully takes any money or other valuable. It is not only people who ask for it that are liable also people who encourage it by not punishing the act.

**Ethical Problem** – Corruption takes the form of an ethical problem because it is an economic phenomenon with an ethical aura. Corruption is degrading more than superstition. It is the blind instrument of destruction. It is a form of confusing license with liberty, treason with patriotism and vengeance with justice. Corrupt people cannot be persuaded that happiness consists in virtue that is socially accepted. The payer and the recipient of

bribes would always want to keep their act secret, which indicates it is an improper behaviour.

**Culture** – Corruption that is recognized must have become part of the belief system of that sector. Giving of gifts has virtually become global culture especially African countries. Hence, it has become a culture to give and take, so it is difficult to distinguish between genuine giving and taking because it has no label. Many years ago corrupt practices such as bribery were done secretly, but today it is done in the open, yet the people involved in it will still claim it is a genuine gift.

**Favour among Friends** – It is also perceived as being nice to one another, while the undertone means to also remember the giver when the opportunity arises. It is discovered that such kindness is illegally gotten, so it is free to be used indiscriminately without anybody kicking against it. Both the giver and the receiver understand the intention of such kind gesture.

**Poverty tinted** – Corruption also has poverty picture. Poor people are found to be more corrupt than the rich (Gupta, Davoodi, Alonso-Terme, 2002). This is the reason why many African nations are being plagued with corruption. Majority of their citizens are living in abject poverty,

so if they are given little illegal money to shut their mouth up they seem contented. Many times the people in authority illegally force money out of the less privileged, to procure government papers or render service to them (without receipt issued) at exorbitant and inflated amount which they cannot afford. The generality of the poor also believe they can make quick money out of corrupt practices.

### **Trends of Corruption**

Corrupt practices can be very difficult to manage in Nigeria because it is seen as an unending national stigma that is seen, heard and read about in the newspaper every day. The position that corruption is a culture in Nigeria is realistically highlighted by Ajie and Wokekoro (2012) when they described corruption as a practice and a tradition, children are born into it, fed with it, grew with it, socialize with it and possibly die in it. It has been in existence for a long time. It is firmly rooted in all schemes of operations in Nigeria as a country. It is a foundational problem. Corruption is being viewed as an economical hindrance but it is more than imagined. Mbaku and Oslen (2010) perceived corruption as the most significant constraint to both socio-political and economic developments in the African continent. It has been discovered that corruption has spread its

tentacles all over the world. Nations that were well respected in the past for not indulging in corrupt practices are now found to be guilty of this same crime. Otto Perez Molina, the former President of Guatemala was forced out of office because of a corruption scandal in 2015. Zina el-Abidine Ben Ah of Tunisia was found guilty of embezzling about \$2.6 billion from the state coffers before he was ejected. The family of Jiabao, the former Premier of China was found guilty of \$2.7 billion in assets during his tenure. Ehud Olmert, the former Prime Minister of Israel was sentenced for corruption. A senator in the U.S.A. Robert Menadix was charged for using his office for touting. Italy, Korea, Indonesia, Japan and Russia have been rocked with corruption scandals. All these show that corruption is a global problem increasing on daily basis though it has affected economic growth of many nations but particularly, the developing countries, including Nigeria.

Due to legal reforms, there is evidence that there have been improvements in reduction of corruption in many countries since 1989-1991. However developed countries have been able to put check on corruption since September 11, 2001 episode, when terrorists were able to bribe public official for money laundering in the U.S. This occurrence led to great mobilization

against corruption by the World Bank and Agency for International Development (USAID).

In order to reduce the level of corruption, drastic measures have been taken by different governments to curb this societal menace. In Nigeria, Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), and Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) were bodies established in Nigeria to prosecute offenders. But these institutions in charge have not done enough to reduce the rate of corruption in Nigeria, it is rather getting worse. Ogundiya (2009) stated that since the return to civilian system of government, Corruption has been an impediment to Nigeria's development. When the masses see those involved have escaped the supposed penalty, they tend to commit the same corrupt offence (Kayode, Adagba & Anyio, 2013). A good example of this is the petroleum subsidy episode involving a former member of the upper chamber, Senator Farouk Lawan and the CEO of Capital Oil, Femi Otedola. Another corrupt case under that regime was the one involving the former Speaker of the House of Representative, Oladimeji Bankole. All these issues made corruption deeply rooted and uncontrollable in Nigeria society.

In Nigeria, the embattled former civil servant, Abdulrasheed Maina, who was highly recommended to head a team tasked with cleaning up a pension mess at the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation, when he was appointed in 2010, happened to fall a victim of this menace. Mr. Maina, who for three years headed what was variously called Pension Reform Task Team, PRTT or Presidential Task Force on Pension Reform, PTFPR, is a subject of recent controversy on corruption. In 2015, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, pressed charges of corruption to the tune of N2 billion on Mr. Maina and his accomplices. Mr. Maina, however, fled before the trial prompting the issuance of an arrest warrant against him, and his listing on INTERPOL's Red Notice. To the shock of Nigerians, however, Mr. Maina secretly resurfaced in 2017 and was by late September issued a letter recalling him to the civil service and posted as acting director of Human Resources at the Ministry of Interior.

### **Causes of Corrupt Practices**

The causes of corruption revolve round some background issues which emerge as unpleasant events, such root causes which are not easily noticed are poverty, greed, opportunity, unemployment, low wages,

citizens' perception of corruption and the leaders' body language about corruption, right from federal to the local government (Treisman, 2000). Some of these critical unpleasant causes are:

- **Bad governance or leadership** – A leader at any level of governance should be well disciplined to be able to govern effectively. The leader should frown against anything unethical that could affect his leadership. For example, heavy government intervention through excessive and complex regulations coupled with a high tax/tariff rates may be too hard for people to comply with. Unfortunately, many leaders do not have the charisma to rule well because they are corrupt or being controlled by some entities who are very corrupt so they will find it difficult to deal with such practice, hence the best such leader will do is to indirectly legalise corruption.
- **Previous corrupt leadership and Lack of political will** – When the former leadership is faulty, engrossed in corruption, it will take serious effort for the incoming leader to change such an attitude the criminal attitude would have become part of their system. For instance, out of the fifty-eight years of post-independence, the military ruled for thirty-five years, under which they

bye-passed due process just because of the forceful nature of their administration. This surely paved way for corrupt practices in Nigeria.

- **Lack of strong legal context and upright judicial system** – The legal and judiciary systems that should enforce equity in their judgment to eradicate corrupt practice are also culprits. They are in the system so they take bribe to pervert justice. They tactfully tell and teach their clients to engage in lies in order to evade being prosecuted for the punishable offence. Law and principles of ethics are poorly executed. The legislative and judicial systems are too weak compared to what should operate in a stable and developed country.
- **Inequality in the society** – The gap between the rich and the poor is too wide. The middle class group is non-existent again unlike before. The rich are getting richer with no assistance to the poor. The poor also needs to live by all means while there is no means of livelihood, some look for employment that is not visible, as a result delve into different kinds of corrupt practices to make it. Whenever the rich get into trouble waters and the money is not flowing as expected, he is afraid of falling into the category of the

poor because there is no middle class again. In order to remove shame, he also takes refuge in corrupt activities.

- **Jumbo pay for the Politicians** – The money being paid to the politicians in terms of salary, allowances and other incentives are too heavy compared to others in public service and even those that are more qualified than them in the same profession. The latter groups begin to cut corners to make it as the politicians in the government. The politician friend can even be of help to him to engage in corrupt practices because they see it as taking a bite out of the national cake, in as much as the society does not see it as an offence or crime.
- **Granting of immunity** - When the president, governors and other public office holders in the country are being stylishly exempted from the rule of law, they are encouraged to steal from the treasury. They are placed above the law, nobody can sanction them. As a result of this, many of their relations who indulge in corrupt activities hide under the afore-mentioned officers. It can be right to say that the people in power aid corruption to flourish in Nigeria.
- **Exultation of Materialism** – Extreme and excessive love for worldly

materials is a big problem in Nigeria leading to corruption. Many people want to gather the wealth their next three generations cannot exhaust, hence they can never be satisfied, and they engage in unnecessary competition, therefore, they look for various unhealthy ways to get wealth. Some are led into it because family and friends expect too much from him/her and he wants to compulsorily satisfy them so as to be eulogized. Placing materialism in high esteem has led to the weak ethical environment, erosion of moral values and lust for power, which are some of the factors that encourage corruption.

### **Classification of Corruption**

Corruption can be divided into different categories no matter how grievous or simple it may be, it is still socially unacceptable.

- **Petty Corruption** – This manifests on a small scale. It occurs at the intersection between public officials (those who are to see to the welfare of the public) and the public. It comes in form of gifts being extorted from the giver. This type of gift does not go well with the giver but because of the consequence on the giver, if the gift is not given at that time, has propelled him to give the gift out of compulsion.

It can also occur through the use of personal connections to influence or handle government actions, when it is actually against normal protocol.

- **Grand (Government) Corruption** – This is abuse of high level power that benefits the few at the expenses of many and causes serious and widespread harm to individuals and society. It takes place at the highest levels of the institution, because it is responsible for significant diversion or control over political, economic and legal systems. It is very rampant in nations governed by authoritarian or dictatorial rule. It often goes unpunished. Domestic authorities are often unable or unwilling to bring the grand corrupt to justice. In these cases, the international community has an obligation to act collectively and through action by individual states. Grand corruption is a crime that violates human rights and deserves judgment and punishment accordingly. This ranges from stealing from public budget used to build hospitals and schools to constructing dangerous facilities as a result of underfunding caused by corrupt actors. It is a major obstacle to achievement of sustainable development. Grand corruption undermines and distorts sound financial practice and clean business,



both domestically and internationally. It can deepen poverty, inequality and increase exclusion. It also results in violations of human rights, a treaty recognized by the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights. When Grand corruption is being treated as an international crime then Transparency International body intervenes to enhance accountability of high level public officials and others whose corruption harms their citizens.

- **Systematic Corruption** – Also known as “endemic corruption”. It is a rampant form of corruption. It occurs due to the weakness in the organization’s structure or in its events, performance or approaches. Unlike the petty and grand corruption, it is usually due to issues like low pay in high pressure jobs, lack of transparency, flexibility or exploitative authority with inconsistent incentives. This is vivid in the government of the day. It makes corruption to be perceived as a rule, acts of bribery, embezzlement and extortion as being normal.

### **Corruption in Different Institutions**

The mode of corrupt practices differ from one sector to the other, it follows the pattern in which the officers carry out their normal duty. Institutional

failure is a manifestation of corruption in Nigeria. All the institutions of government- the executive, legislature and the judiciary are corrupt (Ubi, Effiom, & Mba ,2011). Here are corrupt practices in different institutions in Nigeria:

- **Governmental/Public Sector Corruption** – Theft by public officials is probably the most egregious typical instance of government corruption. The extent of corruption within a government depends on the number of public officials, agencies, citizens and the amount of money involved. Government corruption is common among nations that practice mostly military and democratic system of government. Dictatorship or authoritarian type of leadership is not left out of the game. A good example is General Sanni Abacha who ruled Nigeria between 1993-1998 and embezzled US \$3-4 billion. Different systems of government have operated between 1960 and 1999 under different leaders and they have stolen more than \$400 billion (Enweremadu, 2012)
- **Political Corruption:** This is the use of power by government officials for illegitimate private gain. It is a corruption in which the political decision-makers are involved. Political



corruption is of varied forms corruption which includes nepotism, extortion, bribery, graft, patronage, embezzlement, favouratism, logrolling, vote-buying, lobbying, lying, excess commitments, overload-information, secrecy, impenetrability and preferential treatment. These forms of corruption may facilitate criminal enterprise such as drug-trafficking, money-laundering, human trafficking and many other unscrupulous activities. Some political funding practices are legal in one place and may not in another environment. When they are not legal, it becomes corruption. Any official that uses power of an elected political office for personal agenda is abusing the trust of that office. Political corruption is generally confidential, it shows characteristics that extends to all parts of the society. With the presence of political corruption, democratic institutions lose their functionality within time.

- **Police Corruption** – This type of corruption is a form of police misconduct in which law enforcement officers end up breaking their rules engagement and abuse their power for personal gain. Police type of corruption may involve one or a group of officers. The corruption in Nigeria

police is worrisome. Protection and security of properties and lives of the citizen majorly lies in the hands of the police, this is the reason why they call them friends of the citizens. Unfortunately it is tagged as the most corrupt public institution alongside with the judiciary (Punch, Sept, 2017). Their duty has been commercialized. Police corruption case is so evident in Nigeria roads where road blocks are mounted for extortion, motorists hotly chased and fired at which sometimes lead to stray bullets killing innocent citizens all in the name of extortion. In order to escape trial they cleverly tag their misconduct “accidental discharge” even after killing their victim.

- **Corruption in the Educational System** – Corruption is prevalent in all sectors including educational institution. Education is expected to free people from the bondage of ignorance and make them productive and be relevant in the society. But it is becoming dumping ground where students are unmindful why they are in school. However, teachers are contributing to the menace through their selfish interest when they force students to buy their books or hand-outs and pass those who buy it without knowing the content (Hallack

&Poisson, 2002). The public servants in the educational system have brought woes to the system through corruption by diverting the money meant for structures, materials, and tools necessary for learning to their selfish end.

- **Corruption within Labour Union –**

Trade union leaders believe that any employer who resists their demands is an enemy of labour movement. If the resistance persists, he can be exterminated. And any worker who continues to work when the union is on strike will be tagged a traitor, who will equally be dealt with. Unfortunately, the same union leaders use the union money to settle whoever wants to stand in their way of progress during the strike. They make use of coercion to extort and shake down what need be, to get what they want.

- **Corruption in Religious institution -**

is set of beliefs and practices that tells us how people worship to have relationship with God. Religion is to be kept pure which should have nothing to do with corruption. Unfortunately, in religious circle, corruption is being aided and abated. Some people bring questionable money to the church and they receive accolade from the pastor, who is less

concerned about the source of the money.

### **Consequences of Corruption**

The aftermath of corruption is also universal except there could be variations in the level of country and state responses. Here are excerpts from Oladele (2013)

- **Corruption promotes poverty –** Due to corrupt practices, masses are being impoverished every day. The public funds meant for every citizen has been diverted into the hands of very few people for their personal gain. A good example of this is the pension fund meant for the senior citizens which is being embezzled by an individual, therefore making the retirees to suffer because they could not collect their money as at when due. Some of these pensioners die because of the hardship they are being subjected to every time without paying their entitlement. Poverty rate is on the increase because of unemployment. The fund which should have been used to create employment, establish industries, develop manpower in terms of training and re-training has been diverted to take care of their selfish interest.
- **Corruption creates condition for political instability –** Most politicians struggle to compulsorily get to power because of their selfish interest. They

make election do or die affair, they violently compete with one another. In most African countries, the rate of public fund mismanagement makes the military take over power because the political state actors have looted the treasury. Moving from one system of government to another will always lead to instability of the nation.

- **Corruption turns youths into criminals** – Corruption has paved the way for many of future leaders to engage in crimes and violence. Due to poverty and unemployment caused by the corrupt practices of the selfish politicians, many youths have taken to crime because they need to survive on their own. When they have no job and hungry, they turn to unpalatable and ridiculous option available to them in their immediate environment. Unknown to the innocent youths, the money meant to empower the same youth is what they use to engage them in crime. Many of them who could have contributed legally to the economy of the country through diligence have been plunged into various criminal jobs that have sent them to jail or sentence them to death.
- **Corruption promotes underground illegal economy** - Furthermore, many people now turn to illegal trade

because they could not possess legal job to make money, since the money and jobs meant for masses have been stolen by a group of people who are above the law. Many people then look for dangerous alternatives to get money, such as making adulterated and fake drugs, making themselves quack doctors and lawyers, oil-bunkers, money-making rituals and so on. All these will not allow a nation to develop in every sector.

- **Corruption leads to other social vices apart from poverty** – There are laws and regulations to protect public interest and serve social objectives such as building codes, environmental controls, traffic law and prudential banking regulations. Corruption has prevented the effectiveness of these laws in Nigeria because people will always buy their way and as a result some innocent ones pay dearly for it with their lives.
- **Corruption is antidevelopment** – The money meant for the development of the society and better the lives of the citizenry, have been carted away by few greedy individuals leaving the entire nation in a deplorable condition. The infrastructures and services that should have made a nation to develop could not take place. Health and

educational systems have been jeopardized. This is one of the problems of many African countries being tagged underdeveloped. Just because a few have wasted the money meant for their country's development on selfish interest.

However, the consequences are detrimental to national development so it has to be fought against vigorously in Nigeria. The government has tried to control this problem through two distinct anticorruption agencies: Economic Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (IDPC). Despite their efforts, the result is little because corruption has spread its tentacles beyond imagination; it has become a value which needs to be devalued. Hence, other areas of bringing sanity to the system have to be explored.

### **Way forward to Phase out Corruption**

The menace called corruption must be kicked out of Nigeria system just like some nations did it successfully. Corruption has become a global problem but some countries are overcoming it, while many are still struggling with the monster. Holland has been able to have corruption free society

through cultivating character of values to transform their nation. Many countries including Nigeria have tried all possible means to curb corruption, but to no avail. However it can be drastically reduced if handled on ethical and moral point of view. Some forty to fifty years ago before the monster was imported into Nigeria, people cherished cultural and social values, which seriously guided them into good behaviour. Corruption need to be looked into critically as the consequence of the cultural and weak social values of the society. Value clarification can help shape the character of a country's citizens if well managed. It is favourably destroying the roots of corruption in Holland, it can equally work in Nigeria if considered and well implemented.

Values clarification as positive tool to eradicate corruption is better introduced among the youths because they are vibrant and about going into the adults' world, they have the ability to understand the concept, what it will cost them to engage in it and the good consequences attached to it. Many of them have travelled far and wide and can appreciate corrupt free society, so it will be easy for them to imbibe. Also, it will be appropriate for the youth because they are the leaders of tomorrow and are hopeful to be successful in what have seen that failed in this

generation, they are vibrant and can still accommodate change unlike the adults who find change difficult and un-necessary phenomenon. According to JOIC, IYCW (2016), the youths has what it takes to change the whole world to pleasant posture and noticeable realities if they decide passionately to do so.

### **Concept of Values Clarification**

Values clarification is a new concept and a teaching method in psychology. It is a psychotherapy technique that can often help an individual increase awareness of any values that may have a bearing on lifestyle decisions and actions. This technique can provide an opportunity for a person to reflect on personal moral problems and allow values to be analysed and clarified to effect changes in the individual. Values clarification can be defined as a dynamic process in which people come to understand what they view as important in their lives by placing a name or label to that particular thing (Ethics Resource Centre, 2009). Values are fundamental attitudes guiding our mental processes and behaviour that produce the belief that life is meaningful. It serves as a measure of how meaningful one's actions are, that is consistent with that person's value system (Vyskocilova, Prasko, Ociskova, Sedlackova,

Marackova, Holubova, Hruby, Slepecky, 2016).

Values clarification is an aspect of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) that involves identification of a patient's personal value system and creating a hierarchy of values that are important to that patient. This value system can be used to set treatment goals for the patient to exit their luxury zone in order to improve their quality of life. Values can also be described as behavioural standards and needs that worth to support a person's purpose and vision. Values are often a guide in decision making (Fritze & Guthrie, 2017). Each person has core values that contribute to that person's system of beliefs, ideas and attitudes. Values often affect how a person operates or responds in a certain situation. An individual's value can be defined as what that person hold to be right or good. Since ethical decisions are based on value orientation, then individual's value orientation cannot be separated from those whom he works with, his family, society and community. Values can be influenced by the following entities despite the choice of value imbibed: (Vyskocilova, at al. 2016).

- **Family** – In childhood, most people develop an internal reference for what is good or bad, important, or needed

and useful. This reference is often based on what parents or members of the family value. Family is the first contact of the child, whatever they approve of becomes the child value and he sticks to it, as something to be cherished.

- **Individual experiences** – Values are often transformed or adjusted depending on life experiences, education, personal changes and successes. This type of value can bend the family value, especially when the child is no longer in deep touch with the family.
- **Religion and Culture** – These values tend to reflect a person's sense of right and wrong. Religion and culture moderate one's sense of judgment towards its content. It pilots and guides one's decision.
- **Community** - In as much as one cannot live in isolation, there would be certain things the people in the neighbourhood hold in high esteem that the individual who wants to have sense of belonging must adhere to, this is referred to as values.
- **Political Leaders** – Regardless of the above mentioned values, all-embracing political values may have an influence on people at a certain point in time. The political leader at a point in time

sets goals which are precious to him, that also be accepted as values.

From the above, it shows that the abolition of corrupt practices could start from the home. Each family should then be ready to inculcate and internalize morals in the children and youths. For instance, a boy should be monitored by the parents so as not to lose those values. By the time he becomes a youth he will not compromise what he treasures even in the midst of hardship, he turns out to be self-disciplined. Having many of such youth in the environment or in the corridor of power, the whole country can be sanitized. Coupled with the type of vibrant youth in the society today, the country can be turned around being free from corruption. Fortunately, some youths have travelled far and wide for studies through exchange programmes, government scholarships and self-sponsorship. Seeing what operates in other developed countries and having made up their minds to stand for the best, they can campaign against corruption. They can always write and publish articles that would curb every act of corruption, never to mind who is affected.

Secondly, they can use their individual experience received from different life situations. These are youths who have travelled wide, reading so wide on the internet, having ideas of such countries

that have fought the battle and conquered corruption, they will be able to mobilize themselves to do the needful. They would set goals and strategies in carrying out their mission. They can make use of groups of people like teachers, counsellors, and social workers that will orientate citizens with new values system right from the cradle. It could be designed and inculcated in the school curriculum to be part of subjects like social studies and civics. This is a longitudinal process that will disabuse people's mind against the corrupt practices that used to be in vogue.

Despite various nefarious activities, Nigeria is still regarded as a religious country that still holds God in high esteem. It can be a bit easy to appeal to their conscience to denounce every trace and form of corruption in totality. These can be done through all the religious leaders who are youths in different religious bodies, in all the three major (Islam, Christianity, Traditional) religions in the land. Say no to corruption and its vices should be taught in all these religious centres right from infancy. There should be bill boards and fliers for expression coupled with other means of communication to enable the illiterates know about the new thing in their environment.

Every community should be made to understand anti-corruption as a value to be

embraced by the populace. There should be stringent rules and regulations that would guide people to keep them in check and nobody must be above the law. People should be encouraged to guide and check himself and his neighbour making sure the value is held up highly. The community is a good avenue to start the operation being the grass-root. People should be educated on the nitty-gritty of respecting the value and also the positive consequences of keeping to the value, not only them but their future generation yet unborn.

Political leaders should understand the importance of the office they are holding and how delicate it is. They are to give account of everything under their jurisdiction at the end of their tenure. They have to lead by example because the people that are being governed are watching them. The citizenry should be sampled to rate the performance of the leaders at different levels of government, during and after their tenure as regards the tenet of keeping to anticorruption values. They can be sanctioned if they are guilty of corrupt acts. Nobody is above the law. The issue of God-fatherism should be abolished. The political fathers usually aid and abet, and that is one of the roots of corruption. The law should catch up with them if found liable.



### **Implications for Social Workers, Counselling psychologists and Teachers**

Social workers need to take this seriously and see it as a social problem which is their major concern as professionals. It affects not only individuals but the society at large. The need to join hands with the youths to reduce and terminate this menace in Nigeria has to be highly considered. Hence school social work should be embraced where every child is regarded important and be worked upon to see anticorruption as a value that should be internalized. This goal can be achieved through qualified and disciplined social workers and those in training who can join hands with the youths to fight this monster. Social workers should be involved because they go beyond the school environment to join hands with parents to help students out of their problems. This will help to check both the students and parents' involvement in corrupt practices and help inculcate in them anticorruption as values. This close monitoring of the pupils and the students will help to nurture them to adults with integrity and aversion for corrupt tendencies.

Counselling psychologists are well needed to inculcate the right values into students and pupils. Counselling as a profession is already well established and accepted in

the schools. They can always have individual counselling as well as group counselling. They can collaborate with the social workers to have group counselling as a programme, in which they can invite professionals from different specializations, who will speak from different angles on anticorruption. The counsellors can always refer the student whose problem is beyond the school environment to the school social worker because home visitation is part of social work practice. Both counsellors and social workers can always have a big drama group that can always act out anticorruption values to sanitize the people. Both can also have art and painting group that will express anticorruption values in strategic places. Both should be warm so that the students can see them as parents and even beyond that they can always confide in, so as to encourage free discussion and room to share their experience. They may need help to get out of some corrupt practices.

Teachers are not left out of the race; they should be involved in making sure that the goals set by the youths are realized. The teachers do have day-to-day contact with the students so they can always identify those that have traces of corrupt living and make adequate referral to counsellors and social workers. Teachers can always make

references to anticorruption values in their teaching when necessary and discourage corrupt practices. Students should be allowed to express themselves without prejudice so as to know their real person and help them out of their corrupt practices. Parents and Teachers Forum should always emphasize the importance of anticorruption values in our system and the reasons why they need to train their children with this values at home.

Family is the nucleus and the unit of the society, so it must be guided jealously. Guidance counsellor and social worker should endeavour to create awareness through every possible means of communication about family importance. Parents should be encouraged to be source of good modelling to the youth so as to inculcate good values into them (youth) which will in turn sanitize the society against corruption. Youths should not be spoon fed, they should be allowed to learn through their personal experience. They should be encouraged to learn through challenges of life with confidence so that they can weather the storm of life, which includes the ability to say no to corruption in any form, without derailing. Morals with adequate values from every religious faith or belief should be upheld. Culture that is rich in values that can step down corruption should be preserved even in the

face of modernization. Every community member should be a watch dog. Any abnormal behaviour of the youth should be frowned against regardless of the family affluence. The youths can be given responsible roles to play, which will counter corruption in the real sense of it. This could in form of role playing and debating on corruption in their wildest imagination.

Conclusively, even though the youths are relevant on this assignment, everyone is expected to support this programme in order to have a big success. Government, parents, workers, students, community should have one voice to kick corruption from the system. This may not be achieved within a short period because it did not start in a twinkling of an eye. It can take time but possible through gradual process. There will be hurdles along the line, the youths and everyone needs to be encouraged that it is achievable.

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