CORRUPTION AND ITS IMPACT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
Corruption in Nigeria is a severe hindrance to the country's long-term prosperity. This study examines the many impacts of corruption on Nigeria's sustainable development trajectory. It is based on a comprehensive examination of existing literature, including insights from many scholarly sources. The study begins by defining corruption and sustainable development in Nigeria, delving into their historical contexts and philosophical frameworks. It investigates corruption's evolution and its complex relationships with political, economic, and social factors. Various forms of corruption are investigated in the political, corporate, judicial, and law enforcement sectors, with institutional inadequacies, rent-seeking behaviour, and cultural issues identified as major drivers. Furthermore, the analysis examines the impact of corruption on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on economic consequences such as misappropriation of public funds and decreased foreign investment, as well as social and political consequences such as eroded trust in governmental institutions and societal unrest. The study also assesses existing anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria using case studies and empirical facts, building on lessons from similar situations. Finally, it identifies research gaps, examines future directions, and makes policy recommendations for combating corruption and promoting sustainable development in Nigeria.

Introduction

Nnoli's (1980) ground-breaking work, "Corruption and Political Culture in Nigeria," delves exhaustively into the historical and cultural underpinnings of corruption, which is profoundly established in Nigerian politics. This investigation into the origins of corruption establishes a solid basis, shedding light on its pervasive existence in Nigeria. Building on this foundation, new empirical studies such as Olawale and Garuba's (2015) paper "Corruption and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Mapping the Path Forward" provide essential insights into the complex effects of corruption on sustainable development efforts.

Also, policy-oriented papers such as the World Bank's assessment of "Corruption in Nigeria: Analysis of Bribery and Public Trust" carefully examine the complicated policy consequences of corruption on efforts towards

sustainable development. These assessments are supplemented by case studies, such as Adeleke and Olatunji's (2019) study on "Corruption and Environmental Sustainability: Examining Oil Pollution in the Niger Delta Region," which provide concrete examples of how corruption stifles sustainable development efforts.

Despite these scholarly efforts, Ibrahim and Mohammed's (2022) paper "Corruption and Economic Development in Nigeria: An Analysis Using Panel Data" identifies a major vacuum in the literature. Specifically, there is a lack of awareness about how corruption connects with critical areas such as healthcare and education, limiting progress towards sustainable development goals. Recognising this vacuum, future study must focus on unravelling the intricate dynamics of corruption in healthcare and education, as well as its negative impact on Nigeria's long-term growth. This is especially important considering corruption's standing as a significant impediment to reaching global development goals, such as the World Bank's 2030 target of reducing extreme poverty and creating shared prosperity among the world's poorest 40%.

Corruption's negative impact extends beyond the economic sphere, eroding public trust, damaging social contracts, and deepening inequities. Furthermore, in vulnerable situations, corruption fuels instability and terrorism, creating cycles of antagonism and disenfranchisement. Combating corruption is not just a moral duty, but also a practical requirement for promoting equitable growth and protecting democratic institutions. Nations may limit the negative impacts of corruption and set the path for long-term growth by improving openness, accountability, and the rule of law.Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and a major oil producer, is at a critical point in its growth. Despite its abundant natural resources, pervasive corruption stifles growth, sustaining underdevelopment and wealth disparity.

The importance of eliminating corruption cannot be emphasised, as it undermines governance systems and erodes public trust. Without coordinated measures to combat corruption, sustainable development would remain elusive, with disastrous effects for both the economy and the population.

In conclusion, while various studies have shed light on the origins and consequences of corruption in Nigeria, there is still a pressing need for comprehensive evaluations of its impact on long-term development outcomes. By using rigorous methodology, researchers may contribute to a better understanding of corruption's systemic effects and inspire evidence-based policy initiatives aimed at promoting a fairer and prosperous future for Nigeria and beyond, highlighting the importance of this work.

Conceptual analysis of the term Corruption and Sustainable Development

Corruption and sustainable growth are two distinct notions with quite different consequences. The claim that bribery has a significant impact on sustainable development highlights this divide. Numerous studies have found that the influence of corruption on a nation's long-term growth differs depending on the effectiveness of its institutions.

a. Corruption

Corruption is a complex phenomenon that defies clear definition due to its multifarious nature, which involves the abuse of entrusted power for personal benefit at the expense of the common good. Scholars and professionals from several fields have investigated its various appearances, causes, and consequences. Rose-Ackerman (1999) defines corruption as "misuse of public power for private benefit," which includes bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism (World Bank, 1997). Economic views, such as Tullock's (1967), emphasise incentives and possibilities for corruption, whereas institutional viewpoints focus on legal frameworks and cultural norms. According to Bandura (1990), situational variables and moral disengagement mechanisms have a role in maintaining corruption.

Corruption stifles economic progress by distorting markets, discouraging investment, and undermining public trust (Mauro, 1995). It exacerbates social inequities by diverting resources away from critical services (Kaufmann et al., 2000) and erodes democratic government by weakening the rule of law. Corruption prevention efforts include legal, institutional, and cultural actions aiming at increasing accountability (Rose-Ackerman, 2001). Transparency systems and whistleblower

protections discourage corrupt behaviour (Sung, 2004), but international collaboration, aided by organisations such as Transparency International, promotes anti-corruption principles (Doig and Theobald, 2000).

Khan (1996) defines corruption as activities that deviate from established norms for personal gain, but Black and Garner (2000) highlight the abuse of public positions. Toyo (2006) links corruption to societal decline, particularly in Nigeria. Corruption, derived from "Corruptus," denotes ethical degeneration (ADB, 2003), undermines democratic institutions (Johnston, 2000), and stifles economic growth (Gupta et al., 1998). Adverse effects include lower birth rates and literacy (Gupta et al., 1998), as well as increased wealth disparity (Ahlin and Bose, 2007; Foellmi and Oechslin, 2007; Kulshreshtha, 2007). To summarise, corruption is a persistent issue with ramifications for governance, economic prosperity, and social justice. Addressing it involves an awareness of its causes and consequences, as well as attempts to increase transparency and accountability.

b. Sustainable Development

Since its inception, the notion of sustainable development has evolved through numerous stages, gaining substantial attention from businesses and organisations interested in its historical evolution (Tomislav, 2018). It has gained widespread acceptance across disciplines, emerging as one of the most commonly referenced principles of sustainable development (Tomislav, 2018).

The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) defines sustainable development as development that fulfils current demands while preserving future generations' ability to meet their own (WCED, 1987). This definition emphasises two crucial concepts: prioritising the world's poor's basic needs and acknowledging present and potential constraints (Daniela & Rupert, 2006).

According to Seer (1977), sustainable development includes more than just capital accumulation and economic progress, emphasising the significance of correcting disparities in food, employment, and income. To ensure long-term development, a theoretical socioeconomic framework is required to achieve aims such as increasing real income, improved educational outcomes, healthcare, and general quality of life (Pearce, 1989). Harwood (1990) defines sustainable development as an approach that prioritises increasing human benefits while conserving environmental resources. Lele (1991) defines sustainable development as a structural era of change that can continue indefinitely. Duran et al. (2015) suggest that sustainable development encourages environmentally friendly development by allowing for the sustainable use of resources.

The Brundtland Report, published in 1987, popularised the notion by defining sustainable development as development that fulfils current needs without jeopardising future generations' ability to satisfy their own needs. Since then, sustainable development has been widely explored and argued, with numerous scholars expressing their perspectives (UN, 2015). Scholars such as Daly (1996) and Costanza et al. (1997) emphasise the significance of understanding ecological boundaries and incorporating ecological principles into economic decision-making.

Furthermore, the social dimension of sustainable development has received attention, with authors such as Sen (1999) emphasising the necessity of increasing individuals' skills and freedoms. Furthermore, the notion has evolved to include broader problems like as governance, equity, and cultural diversity, as evidenced by the concept of sustainability transitions (Grin et al., 2010). To summarise, sustainable development is a diverse and dynamic notion that evolves in response to shifting societal requirements, environmental concerns, and economic realities.

Historical Roots of Nigerian Corruption

Corruption in Nigeria is a complicated issue that has persisted throughout its history, from colonial times to current governance structures. The colonial heritage has left an indelible mark on Nigerian society, including exploitative economic practices, resource extraction, and hierarchical administrative systems that create a culture of patronage and bribery (Falola & Matthew, 2008). British rule also sowed seeds of discord with its "divide and rule" policy, aggravating ethnic and regional conflicts that continue to feed corruption.Nigeria's significant oil reserves, discovered in the 1950s, created a contradictory cycle of opulence and corruption.

While oil funds flooded the country, they were also used by political elites to accumulate personal fortune, resulting in rampant corruption and mismanagement in the oil sector (Ross, 1999). The lack of openness aggravated the problem, continuing the cycle of corruption.

Nigeria's weak institutions have allowed corruption to grow with impunity. The legal system is inefficient, anti-corruption institutions are frequently ineffectual, and accountability measures are severely weak. As a result, corrupt people typically avoid prosecution, weakening efforts to eliminate corruption (Transparency International, 2021). Ethnic politics exacerbates the problem, with politicians using ethnic allegiance to concentrate power and resources for their own groups, frequently at the expense of others (Diamond & Leonardo, 2005). This winner-take-all mindset encourages corruption and nepotism, continuing a cycle of inequality and injustice.

Military dictatorship in Nigeria fostered corruption, as dictators utilised their positions to enrich themselves while suppressing dissent (Ihonvbere& John, 2001). The lack of democratic accountability throughout these administrations allowed corruption to grow unabated, leaving an indelible mark on Nigeria's government landscape. Clientelism and patronage networks are prevalent in Nigerian politics, with politicians rewarding loyal followers with favours and resources in exchange for political devotion (Bayart, Stephen, &Béatrice, 1999). This system values personal ties over merit, promoting corruption and dependency in the political system.

In the final analysis, corruption in Nigeria is firmly ingrained in its historical, political, and socioeconomic processes. Addressing this chronic issue requires comprehensive reforms that target institutional weaknesses, promote transparency, and build an accountability culture at all levels of government.

Magnitude and Types of Corruption in Nigeria

Corruption in Nigeria remains a stubborn and ubiquitous problem, permeating all aspects of society and inhibiting progress. Bribery is a common activity, with both governmental officials and private persons involved in criminal transactions. Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) shows Nigeria's sad reality, with a score of 25 out of 100 and a rating of 149th out of 180 evaluated nations, indicating rampant corruption. Embezzlement and misappropriation of funds increase Nigeria's corruption problems, particularly among public officials tasked with managing resources for development projects and critical services. The Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) has released a damning report exposing enormous losses of over $42 billion due to crude oil theft and pipeline vandalism between 2009 and 2018 (NEITI, 2019).

Nepotism and cronyism foster a culture of favouritism and unearned privilege by allowing individuals to gain positions of power through personal relationships. This technique, as extensively documented by Olaniyan and Olowu (2004), frequently results in inept persons having crucial responsibilities, increasing inefficiency and corruption within organisations. Electoral fraud tarnishes the democratic process and calls into question the legitimacy of Nigeria's elections. Eunomia's 2021 investigation found that voter intimidation, ballot stuffing, and result manipulation impair the integrity of electoral outcomes. Corporate corruption exacerbates Nigeria's problems, as corporations use bribery, fraud, and tax evasion to obtain an unfair advantage in the marketplace. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) believes that business wrongdoing causes enormous losses of around $6 billion every year.

Judicial corruption undermines public trust in the judicial system, with reports of judges seeking payments to influence court decisions. Human Rights Watch (2020) emphasises the absence of judicial independence and accountability, which exacerbates the systemic problem. Police corruption undermines trust in public institutions, with widespread allegations of extortion and complicity with criminals. A survey conducted by the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) echoes public perception, with 94% of Nigerians believing in police corruption. Addressing corruption necessitates collaborative effort from governments, civil society organisations, and the global community. Measures such as increasing openness, strengthening anti-corruption legislation, and creating accountability systems are critical to combating Nigeria's widespread corruption and paving the path for long-term development and prosperity.

The impact of corruption on sustainable development in Nigeria

Corruption casts a pervasive shadow over Nigeria's efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a variety of areas, impeding progress in poverty alleviation, healthcare, education, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, and social equity. In the field of poverty alleviation, corruption syphons off resources meant for programmes designed to help the poor, significantly undermining their effectiveness. Funds intended to help the needy are regularly misused or embezzled by corrupt authorities, aggravating the situation of the country's poorest residents (Transparency International 2019).

Corruption in the healthcare sector causes resource misallocation, resulting in dilapidated healthcare facilities and the growth of counterfeit medications. Healthcare budget theft and the frequency of bribery during procurement processes result in inadequate healthcare services, exacerbating health inequities and limiting progress towards SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) (UNDP Nigeria, 2018). Corruption hampers efforts to improve educational performance by allowing examination misconduct, theft of educational money, and the sale of teacher positions. Such misconduct jeopardises access to quality education, reinforcing cycles of poverty and inequality (Human Rights Watch, 2016).

Corruption's negative impact extends to infrastructure development, where it results in low quality construction, exaggerated expenses, and project delays. The diversion of funds intended for infrastructure projects limits investment in essential areas such as transportation, energy, and water supply, stifling economic growth and sustainable development (World Bank, 2019). In terms of environmental sustainability, corruption contributes to ecological deterioration by encouraging illicit logging, oil theft, and pollution, notably in the environmentally fragile Niger Delta region. Poor implementation of environmental legislation, as well as collusion between corrupt officials and extractive businesses, exacerbate ecological damage, endangering biodiversity and human health and impeding progress towards SDG 13 (Al Jazeera, 2020).

Furthermore, corruption exacerbates socioeconomic imbalances by fostering an environment of impunity in which the wealthy and well-connected benefit at the expense of the marginalised. Disparities in access to critical services like clean water, sanitation, and justice exacerbate the marginalisation of vulnerable demographics like women, children, and minority communities, impeding progress towards social fairness and inclusion (The Guardian, 2020). Finally, corruption appears as a major hindrance to Nigeria's pursuit of the SDGs, stifling efforts in poverty alleviation, healthcare, education, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, and social fairness. To nurture an environment of integrity and good governance, comprehensive changes must be implemented, including strengthening institutions, increasing transparency and accountability systems, and encouraging civic engagement.

The Economic, Social, and Political Implications of Corruption in Nigeria

Corruption weaves an insidious pattern through Nigeria's broad economic landscape, leaving a trail of economic disaster. This issue not only depletes public coffers but also undermines the potential for long-term economic progress, prolonging a cycle of poverty and inequality. According to Transparency International, Nigeria is frequently ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world, a questionable distinction that puts a long shadow over its economic prospects. One of the most visible effects of corruption is the loss of public cash. Misappropriation, embezzlement, and bribery shift resources meant for the common good into the wallets of a privileged few. The extent of this loss is enormous, with estimates indicating that billions of dollars are lost each year due to corrupt activities (Transparency International, 2023). This money, which were intended for infrastructure development, healthcare, and education, are instead syphoned away, continuing the cycle of underdevelopment and poverty.

Furthermore, corruption discourages foreign direct investment (FDI), preventing overseas enterprises from entering the Nigerian market. Investors are concerned about the widespread corruption that pervades numerous sectors, seeing it as a substantial risk to their investments (Ayadi & Amoussouga, 2020). This reluctance to spend stifles economic diversification and

innovation, limiting Nigeria's ability to compete in the global market. Another aspect of corruption's economic impact is the distorting of market mechanisms. When bribery and kickbacks drive corporate transactions, resource allocation becomes skewed, favouring those with political ties over merit or efficiency. This distortion stifles competition, discourages entrepreneurship, and undermines free-market principles (Ogbeidi, 2020).

Furthermore, corruption slows economic growth by reducing productivity and efficiency. Misallocation of resources, along with the erosion of public trust, generates an atmosphere that discourages investment and entrepreneurship. Bureaucratic red tape and rent-seeking behaviour stifle innovation and dynamism in the economy (Kubo, 2019). Perhaps most egregiously, corruption worsens income disparity, widening the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Those with authority and influence use their positions for personal benefit, exacerbating the disparity between the wealthy elite and the destitute masses (Ayadi&Amoussouga, 2020). This inequality affects social cohesiveness and perpetuates the poverty cycle by making it difficult for individuals who lack finances to access basic services and opportunities.

In conclusion, corruption has a significant impact on Nigeria's economy, draining public finances, discouraging investment, distorting market mechanisms, limiting growth, and worsening inequality. Addressing this ubiquitous issue demands broad reforms aimed at increasing openness, strengthening institutions, and developing an accountability culture. Only through concentrated anti-corruption efforts will Nigeria be able to realise its full economic potential and chart a course for long-term growth.

Corruption, in its various manifestations, such as bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism, has a significant social and political cost. Its implications are broad and diverse. First, corruption undermines trust in government institutions. When citizens view individuals in authority to be corrupt, they lose faith in these institutions' ability to serve the public's interests fairly and effectively. This erosion of confidence frequently results in lower civic engagement and compliance with laws and regulations (Rothstein, 2011).

Second, corruption promotes political instability by creating a climate of uncertainty and unpredictability. It encourages rent-seeking behaviour and the establishment of patronage networks, which can destabilise governments and spark power battles between rival factions (Khan, 2016). Furthermore, civilizations plagued by corruption frequently see increased social instability. This unhappiness originates from feelings of injustice and animosity, especially among marginalised groups that bear the brunt of corruption's consequences. People can express their dissatisfaction with corrupt elites through protests, marches, and even violent conflict (Uslaner, 2008).

Corruption can increase ethnic and religious tensions. It fosters patterns of discrimination and exclusion, making particular groups feel disproportionately victimised or denied chances as a result of corrupt behaviours. This exacerbates existing societal differences and feeds intergroup conflict (Treisman, 2015). Furthermore, corruption is a major danger to democracy and good governance. It disrupts the election process by allowing affluent individuals and special interest groups to buy influence, threatening political equality and accountability (Persson et al., 2010).

Furthermore, corruption undermines the rule of law, stifles economic development, and thwarts efforts to increase government transparency and accountability (Mauro, 1995).To summarise, corruption undermines trust in government institutions, contributes to political instability, fuels social discontent, exacerbates ethnic and religious conflicts, and poses severe challenges to democracy and governance. Its insidious effects pervade every part of society, needing coordinated measures to tackle it successfully.

Anti-Corruption Initiatives and Policy Responses in Nigeria

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has been active in investigating and prosecuting corruption, financial crimes, and money laundering cases, leading in convictions and asset recoveries (Ezra, 2020). However, its effectiveness is hampered by low resources, political influence, and insufficient cooperation with other law enforcement authorities. Similarly, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) works to

eliminate corruption in the public sector through preventive measures, enforcement actions, and public education (Babajide 2018). However, like the EFCC, the ICPC has issues such as insufficient money, political influence, and capacity constraints.

To improve the efficacy of these anti-corruption agencies, actions such as strengthening institutional independence, increasing financial allocations, and encouraging inter-agency coordination are required (Ezra, 2020; Babajide, 2018). The Nigerian government's whistleblower programme was implemented to encourage people to disclose cases of corruption (Ugwu, 2019). Despite financial incentives, whistleblowers continue to fear retaliation and a lack of proper protection. To improve the policy's effectiveness, it is critical to provide legal protections for whistleblowers, ensure timely and effective responses to disclosures, and resolve confidentiality issues (Ugwu, 2019).

Nigeria's membership in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) demonstrates its commitment to transparency, citizen engagement, and anti-corruption initiatives. Nonetheless, implementation of OGP obligations has been slow, notably in areas such as asset disclosure and beneficial ownership transparency. To increase the impact of OGP activities, implementation must be accelerated, civil society engagement encouraged, and commitments held accountable (Obi, 2019). Nigeria has legal frameworks in place to tackle corruption, including the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act and the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act (Adeyemi, 2020). However, enforcement of these rules is inconsistent, and legal loopholes impede prosecution efforts.

To solve these difficulties, it is critical to strengthen legal frameworks, close loopholes, and ensure enforcement is free of political interference (Adeyemi, 2020). To summarise, Nigeria has implemented numerous anti-corruption efforts, regulations, and institutional structures. However, its usefulness is frequently hampered by issues such as insufficient finance, political meddling, and a lack of collaboration. To support anti-corruption initiatives, it is critical to overcome these difficulties, strengthen legislative frameworks, increase institutional capacity, and promote transparency and accountability.

Case Studies and Empirical Evidence on the Impact of Corruption on Sustainable Development in Specific Sectors or Regions of Nigeria

The Nigerian oil and gas industry have long struggled with widespread corruption, as evidenced by historic examples such as the "Malabu Oil Deal," in which billions of dollars were allegedly syphoned through unethical means. This widespread corruption has hampered Nigeria's road to sustainable development, preventing much-needed investments in critical sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education (Transparency International, 2019). Similarly, corruption in the construction sector, including bribery and embezzlement, has slowed Nigeria's infrastructure development. Mismanagement of project money, notably in road construction, has resulted in inadequate infrastructure at exorbitant costs, compromising the country's long-term development goals (Akinola, 2018).

Similarly, corruption in the healthcare industry has prevented many residents from receiving high-quality care. Embezzlement of monies intended for healthcare infrastructure and drug procurement, as well as irregular payment of healthcare personnel, have all contributed to inefficiencies and lower healthcare results, increasing existing disparities (Adegoke, 2020). Corruption in the education system manifests itself in a variety of ways, including exam fraud and misappropriation of monies intended for school development. Bribery in the admissions process reduces the quality and accessibility of education in Nigeria, prolonging inequality and impeding skill development (Onyebuchi, 2019). These case studies and empirical research highlight the negative impact of corruption on Nigeria's long-term growth in a variety of sectors. Combating corruption is critical to promoting openness, accountability, and equitable development in the country.

Comparative Analysis: The Impact of Corruption on Sustainable Development in Similar Contexts

Brazil, like Nigeria, has long faced institutional corruption. Brazil has adopted an impressive approach to addressing this issue, establishing dedicated anti-corruption agencies such as the Federal Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office. These entities have played key roles in carrying

out high-profile investigations, such as "Operation Car Wash" (Operação Lava Jato), which resulted in the conviction and incarceration of numerous politicians and business people engaged in corruption scandals.

Furthermore, Brazil has introduced transparency initiatives, such as the Public Information Access Law (LAI), which empowers citizens by providing them with access to government information, thereby enhancing responsibility. Ferraz and Finan (2008) highlight the importance of decentralisation in Brazil's fight against corruption. Their research reveals that distributing government resources and decision-making processes can reduce corruption, showing that decentralisation is a potentially beneficial strategy.

South Korea, a country that has previously struggled with severe corruption, has made significant headway through a multidimensional approach that includes legal reforms, powerful enforcement measures, and shifts in public attitudes. Notably, the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) has played an important role in fighting corruption and promoting transparency as an independent oversight agency. Furthermore, South Korea has passed strict anti-corruption legislation, such as the Kim Young-ran Act, which limits the value of gifts that public officials can accept. South Korea's effectiveness in combating corruption is also due to a robust civil society and citizens' active participation in anti-corruption efforts.

By comparing these tactics to Nigeria's situation, valuable insights into successful anti-corruption measures and sustainable development initiatives emerge. Nigeria might explore strengthening its anti-corruption institutions, establishing stronger legal frameworks, increasing transparency initiatives, and cultivating a culture of accountability and civic involvement to handle its own corruption issues and pave the path for long-term prosperity.

Conclusion and Recommendation

In conclusion, it is clear that combating corruption in Nigeria is critical to promoting sustainable development. Nonetheless, there are significant gaps in the existing literature, giving potential for future research to give essential insights and tactics for eliminating corruption.

Future study recommendations include diving deeper into the core causes of corruption using interdisciplinary studies. These investigations should look into historical, cultural, economic, and political variables that contribute to corrupt behaviour. Furthermore, measuring the impact of existing anti-corruption efforts is critical for advising policymakers about more targeted approaches. Research into institutional reforms, capacity-building activities, the role of technology, social and behavioural interventions, community engagement, and cross-border collaboration is also critical.

Policy recommendations focus on legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, transparency and accountability promotion, ethical leadership development, civil society participation, and international cooperation. These policies seek to enact comprehensive anti-corruption legislation, invest in institutional capacity development, improve transparency in government operations, promote ethical leadership, foster partnerships with civil society and international organisations, and develop a long-term national strategy for combating corruption.

Nigeria can considerably combat corruption and promote sustainable development for the benefit of its citizens and future generations by resolving these gaps in the literature and implementing the recommended measures.

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