

PERCEIVED INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF CORRUPTION IN THE NIGERIA POLICE: A STUDY OF ANAMBRA STATE POLICE COMMAND

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Abstract

Historically, the police are seen as one of the most important, and protective law enforcement organizations in modern societies. However, such positive perception of the police may not necessarily be universal. Particularly, in developing countries like Nigeria which still rank very high on the global corruption index. Corruption in Nigeria is pervasive and deep rooted. More worrisome is when uniformed policemen who ordinarily represent the face of law enforcement are seen in broad day light engaging in corrupt acts. Given the magnitude of the problem, this study carried out an empirical investigation of perceived institutionalization of corruption in the Nigeria Police, from the viewpoint of police officers. To achieve this, a cross-sectional research design was adopted. Total sampling method was used to draw 241 participants. The assumptions of the routine activity theory were adopted as framework for the study. Findings show that factors influencing police corruption include poor welfare package and remuneration, poor recruitment policies, and operational facilities. Recommendations include that the Government and stakeholders should make concerted effort to address the problems which encourage police corruption.

Keywords: *Police corruption, Factors influencing police corruption, Institutionalization of police corruption, Routine activity theory*

Introduction

In the history of the world, there have been a multitude of tragedies which have emaciated conscience and truth that, should be the basics, in the co-existence of man. Despite the throng of highly mortifying evils like terrorism, sexual exploitation, violence, crime and slavery, corruption appears to be the genesis of all. Onimajesin (2007) observes that corruption is the antagonism of progress and development as it creates political insecurity, violence, and enhances the level of crime in the society. According to Vilakazi (2015:35), "corruption



describes a wide range of social conduct, which are condemned and rejected by societies all over the world as dishonest. Corruption is associated with some sentiments of rejection, rotten, contaminated, or depraved.” It therefore means that overcoming corruption is overcoming the source of all major problems in the society. Onuigbo & Eme (2015), defines corruption as unethical behaviour which deviates from the legal responsibilities of a public officer, such as fraud, bribery, and favouritism.

Overtime, several anti-corruption laws and policies have been institutionalized by governments of the world to tackle the problem of corruption in their immediate societies. These laws and policies are enforced by established law enforcement agencies like the judiciary, police, vigilante, independent anti-corruption commissions, among others. However, the police force has emerged as the most important of these law enforcement agencies. In support of this assertion, Orole, Gadar & Hunter (2014), observe that the police have been the major organization charged with the responsibility of maintenance and preservation of public peace. Onuigbo & Eme (2015) also corroborate that the police are the civil force of a national or local government, who are primarily responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the society. However, these definitions show that police work involves a variety of tasks and responsibilities. They conceptualize the police as existing to prevent crime, protect life and property, enforce laws, maintain peace and public order, and provide a wide range of security services to the populace. It is, therefore, disheartening to witness a situation where the police who are charged with the responsibility of fighting corruption among other things, are among the chief perpetrators of corruption (Egbedina, Popoola & Lawal, 2014; Nte, 2011).

In Nigeria, there are many reports and articles on the issue of police corruption, with emphasis on how it erodes public trust and devastates effective policing (Aremu, Pakes, & Johnston, 2011; Nte, 2011). Nigeria, which is the most populated black nation in Africa, has been ranked high in corruption by Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (TI CPI) (2013) and other notable organizations that report the level of corrupt practices in any country. In this light, Owen (2014) observes that corruption in the Nigerian Police is systemic and a microcosm of the wider societal problem. Adegoke (2014) observes that the Nigeria Police is not the only corrupt agency of government but rather, a manifestation of the pervasive corruption in Nigeria. Some of the reasons advanced to justify police corruption include: lack of resources, motivation, and adequate welfare. It is a fact that Nigerian police regularly collect “tips” from motorists at roadblocks and request that complainants pay money to carry out investigation (Inyang & Abraham, 2013).

In the same vein, the Human Rights Watch HRW (2010), reports that many citizens who refused to comply with bribe demanded by police officers at roadblocks and tollgates have met their untimely death in the hands of such police officers. Onwuka (2011) attempts to highlight factors influencing police corruption by noting that the monthly earnings of Nigerian police officers is still very poor, unlike their counterparts in the United States. Given this state of Nigerian police welfare, it will be deceptive to expect that the Nigerian police will not be corrupt or to assume that they will be ready to die in defense of citizens. Thus, the sham state of Nigerian Police welfare and the dehumanizing work conditions under which they operate may be partly responsible for corruption in the Nigerian Police. It is, therefore, based on these problems that this research seeks to investigate perceived institutionalization of corruption in the Nigerian Police, from the view point of police officers, using Anambra State Police command as focus.

Overview of Relevant Literature and Empirical Findings

Quite a number of important facts usually surface in any debate on factors influencing police corruption. The inherent activities of policing are enormous in such a way that it has the tendency to give room for corruption (Miller, 2016). There are also other legal and institutional factors which encourage widespread corruption in policing (Inyang & Abraham, 2013; Porter & Warrender, 2014). Miller (2016:27) further states that “police officers also face considerable temptations to avail themselves of these opportunities. They may be offered material inducements, such as the offer of money or favours in return for protection, or dropping of charges”. For instance, in South Africa, a qualitative inquiry was carried out by Vilakazi (2015) to examine the impact of police corruption on service delivery in Pretoria Central. The study also investigated factors responsible for police corruption. Unstructured in-depth interviews were held with 25 respondents drawn for the study. Findings show that greed, underpayment, lack of integrity and commitment, unscrupulous officials, and poor recruitment process emerged as part of the causal factors for corruption.

Elsewhere, in a study carried out by Nte (2011) on police corruption and the national security challenge in Rivers State Police Command, it was found that poor working conditions/poverty are aggravating factors of police corruption in Nigeria. Findings also revealed that poor recruitment policies also contribute to police corruption. Similarly, a cross-sectional survey was carried out by Inyang & Abraham (2013) to examine corruption in the police force by studying police-drivers behaviour along highways in Southern Nigeria. A sample size of 80 Nigerian police officers were drawn as respondents. Data was gathered using structured questionnaire and in-depth interviews. Findings reveal that there is



lack of operational facilities such as uniform, belt, shoes, touch-light, and fuel for the police patrol vehicles. Findings also reveal that government provision for operative vehicles and general welfare is very poor and was regarded as the major cause of police corruption.

As Osayande (2008) asserts, the low performance of the Nigerian police is caused by lack of human capital development policies and the provision of needful logistics for virtually all aspects of policing functions. The author enumerated factors that negatively affect policing functions to include inadequate; office and residential accommodation, communication facilities, arms and ammunition, investigation, as well as transportation etc. In a similar vein, Onwuka (2011) states that many Nigerian police officers work under the hot sun and other unfriendly environment, and sometimes, are responsible for funding of their patrol vehicle logistics. Another factor pointed out by Basdeo (2010:392) is that, the police have a “code of secrecy”, enshrined in their sub-culture, which on the other hand encourage members of the police force to engage in corruption.

Furthermore, Vilakazi (2015) and Aremu, Pakes & Johnson (2009) corroborate that poor hiring processes could translate to people with “cynical integrity” being recruited and this is part of the factors that further enhances the intensity of corruption in the police. It is true that some hooligans have gained entry into the Nigeria Police through bribery and high connections, having nothing to contribute to the progress of policing other than destroying it. While others believe that corruption in the police can be linked to the poor welfare condition of the Nigeria Police (Inyang & Abraham, 2013). Along this line, a qualitative review was carried out by Ahmadu (2015) which x-rays the prevalence and consequences of corruption in the Nigerian Police force using secondary data sources. Findings of the study show that the Nigeria Police has become an epitome of all multi-corrupt and fraudulent schemes which constitute a stumbling block to the effective administration of justice and efficient maintenance of law and order in Nigeria.

Researchers like Osayande (2008) and Ahmadu (2015) believe that police corruption is the aftermath of the long military rule in Nigeria. Osayande (2008), in his own view, observed that the decay in ethics and discipline of the Nigeria Police, tussle among senior police officers for promotion or posting, and ignorance of the rules and regulations of the police force, as well as her traditions and manuals are the basic causes of corruption in the police. This relates to the findings of a descriptive study by Orole, Gadar & Hunter (2014) on leadership style, policing, and perception of corruption in Alausa Police Command, Lagos

State, Nigeria. The study utilized questionnaire to collect data from a sample of 156 respondents. It was found that there is low transparency and poor ethics in the Nigeria Police. Furthermore, the study reveals that the perceived overall rate of corruption in the police force is very high.

Furthermore, Vilakazi (2015) indicates that junior-rank police officers are in a susceptible position to engage in corruption owing to insufficient wages. The need for them to supplement their earnings and make ends meet lures them into corrupt practices. Miller (2016) and Nte (2011) share similar views by stating that citizens accept a number of corrupt practices by the police. This is because the citizens themselves tend to encourage corruption by willingly offering bribe to the police or conniving with the police to bully/maltreat another citizen.

Theoretical Framework

The routine activity theory as proposed by Marcus Felson and Lawrence Cohen in 1979 is adopted as the theoretical framework for this study. Routine activity theory states that crime is relatively uninfluenced by social factors like unequal access to societal resources, unemployment, or poverty. The proponents held that the prosperity of modern-day society is the cause of crime as it offers more opportunities for crime to happen (Felson & Cohen, 1979). According to Argun & Daglar (2016), routine activity theory states that crime occurs when the following three fundamentals merge together in any given circumstance: accessible target, absence of capable guardians that should intervene, and a likely motivated offender. However, the absence of any of these three fundamentals decreases the chances for crime to occur.

The routine activity theory provides leeway to assume that the huge pool of funds appropriated for effective running of the Nigerian armed forces, and more specifically, the Nigeria Police, may have become the basis of corruption, especially for senior officers at the administrative level, who embezzle and misappropriate funds meant to enhance the effectiveness of the law enforcement agency. On the other hand, the huge Nigerian population becomes an added advantage for corrupt police officers. This is in the sense that a large population means more cases at police stations. It, therefore becomes an avenue for extortion and all forms of corruption. Today, citizens are witness to how police officers at roadblocks extort money from the huge number of motorists plying the road on a daily basis. As such, the three fundamental premises of routine activity theory provide the basis to assume that corrupt police officers are the “motivated offenders” who perceive weak or ignorant individuals as “accessible targets” and are motivated to rob these targets because there are no strong “legal and institutional frameworks” in place that can stop them.



However, in spite of the usefulness of the routine activity theory in explaining corruption issues, it has been criticized on many grounds. One criticism is based on its assumption that motivated offenders exist, while many other scholars debate how motivations differ across offenders (Argun & Daglar, 2016). Other critics argue that the theory falls short in adequately addressing the role of criminal opportunity situations, that is, the conditions in which suitable targets and motivated offenders converge in absenteeism of capable guardians (Wilcox, Land & Hunt, 2003).

Irrespective of these criticisms, the routine activity theory is sufficiently helpful in providing clarification on the actual motivational factors influencing corruption in the Nigeria Police and the society at large. This is in the sense that a police officer engages in corruption because of the available resources that comes through government funding/allocations and the constitutional powers which they use to coerce people to pay bribes and, to oppress and kill innocent citizens etc. Thus, the theory is able to aid an understanding of corruption across the hierarchies of the Nigerian Police. As Argun & Daglar (2016) note, "routine activity theory provides a simple and powerful insight into the causes of crime problems. At its heart is the idea that in the absence of effective controls, offenders will prey upon attractive targets." Furthermore, the assumptions of the theory suggest that the poor state of police welfare and remuneration, equipment/facilities and other important physical infrastructures would not have been a problem if funds allocated, are not embezzled and misappropriated by the top hierarchy of the police. More importantly, the assumption that police corruption can be prevented if there is a separation between the three elements that enables crime to occur, stands the routine activity theory out, as, explanatory model on the problem of police corruption in Nigeria.

Method

Participants for the study comprised of the entire 241 police officers in the three units selected for this study, using the total sampling technique. A questionnaire and in-depth interview guide carefully designed in line with the objective of the study were the source of primary data collection for this study. The questionnaire designed consists of structured questions which were divided into two sections in order to elicit respondents' socio-demographic data and collect data on the substantive issues i.e. factors influencing perceived institutionalization of corruption in the Nigeria Police. 237 officers were administered with questionnaires while, four others comprising of two junior (male and female) and two senior (male and female) officers were purposively drawn as respondents for the in-depth interviews.

The study area/organization comprised of the Anambra State Police Command. Cluster and simple random sampling were applied to select the State Police Command Headquarters, Abagana and B' Division from all the units that make up the Anambra State Police Command. A cross-sectional survey design was adopted for this study. Consent of each respondent was obtained before inclusion in the study, in line with social research ethics. Out of the 237 questionnaires distributed for the study, only 227 were correctly filled and returned. The data presentation was hinged upon the objective of this study and was presented using descriptive statistics such as frequency tables, charts and simple percentage analysis.

Results

The socio-demographic data of respondents is presented in table 1.

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

	<i>Variables</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Distribution of respondents by gender	Male	158	69.6
	Female	69	30.4
	Total	227	100.0
Distribution of respondents by age	25-29	28	12.3
	30-34	67	29.5
	35-39	42	18.5
	40-44	24	10.6
	45 and above	66	29.1
	Total	227	100.0
Distribution of respondents by marital status	Single	69	30.5
	Married	128	56.4
	Divorced	11	4.8
	Separated	6	2.6
	Widowed	13	5.7
	Total	227	100.0
Distribution of respondents by staff category	Senior staff	76	33.5
	Junior staff	151	66.5
	Total	227	100.0
Distribution of respondents by educational qualification	FSLC	1	.4
	SSCE	107	47.1
	NCE/OND	44	19.4
	HND/ BSc	49	21.6
	Postgraduate degree	26	11.4
	Total	227	100.0



Distribution of respondents by ethnicity	Hausa	48	21.1
	Igbo	52	22.9
	Yoruba	44	19.4
	Other	83	36.6
	Total	227	100.0

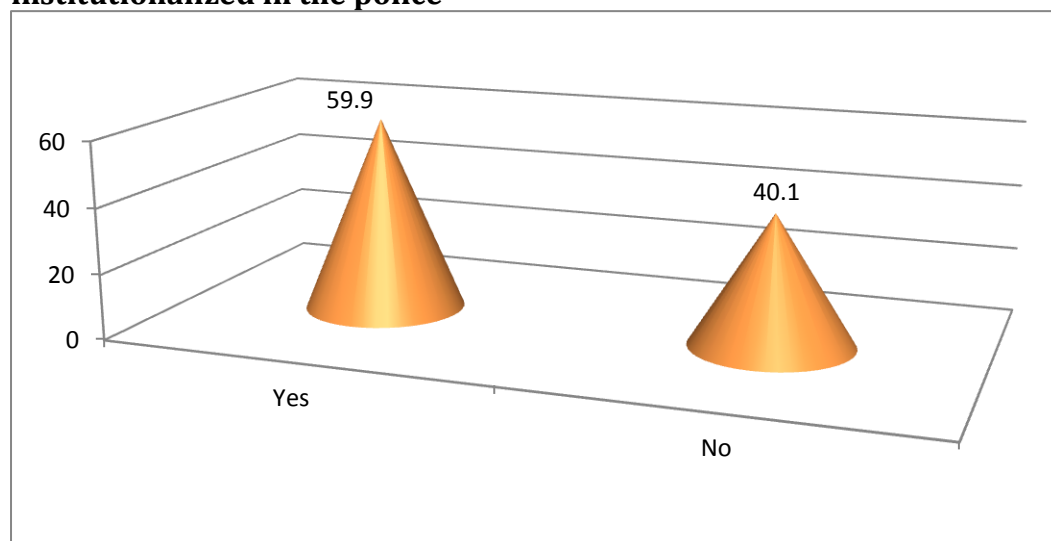
Field Survey, 2018

It could be gleaned from Table 1 that majority of the respondents 69.6% (158) are males, while 30.4% (69) of them are females. This shows that there are more males than females in the distribution. The table indicates that respondents within the age range of 30-34 years are 29.5% (67), while 29.1% (66), 18.5% (42), 12.3% (28), and 10.6% (24) are within the age brackets of 45 years and above, 35-39 years, 25-29 years, and 40-44 years respectively. Their mean age is 38.5 years, the median age is 37 years and the modal age is 32 years, with a standard deviation of 4.08. This implies that the study participants consist mainly, of police officers who are still very much, in their active years.

The distribution of respondents by marital status shows that majority of them 56.4% (128) are married, 30.5% (69) of them are single, while only 5.7% (13) of them are widowed. The table also reveals that 4.8% (11) of the respondents are divorced, while 2.6% (6) of them are separated. This implies that there are more married respondents in this study, while a significant number of them are single. The table also indicates that majority of the respondents 66.5% (151) are junior officers, while 33.55% (76) are senior officers. This gives an insight into the distribution of officers across cadre in the force, more specifically; it suggests that the force may be “bottom heavy” in terms of cadre. Furthermore, majority of the respondents 47.1% (107) have SSCE, while 19.4% (44), 21.6% (49), and 11.4% (26) have attained NCE/OND, HND/BSc. and postgraduate degrees respectively. This implies that a significant number of the respondents in this study possess high educational qualifications, which include postgraduate degree, HND/BSc, and NCE/OND.

Furthermore, respondents’ ethnicity as presented in the table reveals that majority of them 36.6% (83) are from other tribes which includes Ibibio, Tiv, Igala, Nupe, and so on, while 22.9% (52) of them are from the Igbo tribe. Also, 21.1% (42) and 19.4% (44) of the respondents are from Hausa and Yoruba tribes respectively. This mirrors the ethnic diversity of respondents drawn for the study.

Figure 1: Respondents' views on whether or not corruption has been institutionalized in the police



Field Survey, 2018

In exploring the substantive issues of this study, respondents were first asked to share their views on whether or not corruption has been institutionalized in the police. Figure 1 indicates that a majority (59.9%), of the respondents agreed that corruption has been institutionalized in the Nigerian police force, while 40.1% of them disagreed. In addition to this, one of the interviewees stated thus:

Judging by my experience as a police officer, corruption exists everywhere not just in the Nigeria Police. Few Nigerian police officers cannot do without corruption and this affects the way that they carry out their duties (Junior Female Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

One of the IDI respondents also opined thus:

Sure, corruption affects the Nigerian police the same way it can be found everywhere. It has eaten deep into the force, and the most visible ones are the corrupt activities of police officers on highways and checkpoints (Senior Male Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

Another interviewee asserts that:

There is corruption in the Nigeria Police Force. Few Nigerian police officers are deeply engaged in corrupt practices. Corruption in the police can be found in all police departments, either in operation, investigation, or administration. No matter where those few corrupt officers are posted, they will use the opportunity to make personal gains (Junior Male Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).



In addition, one of the interview respondents said that:

There is corruption in the Nigeria Police, just like any other organization. But ours is more pronounced because we are the police, we serve the public and the public know us. We are closer to citizens than any other law enforcement agency, that is why our own corrupt practices are more pronounced (Senior Female Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

Table 2: Respondents' views on major factor influencing police corruption

Variables	Frequency	Percent
The complex nature of police job	18	7.9
The quality of ethics in the Nigeria police	0	.0
The environment in which a police officer operates	10	4.4
Citizens induce police corruption	26	11.5
All	173	76.2
Total	227	100.0

Field Survey, 2018

As revealed by Table 2, 11.5% of respondents specifically perceive police corruption as a problem that is encouraged by citizens, 7.9%, think it is due to the complex nature of police job, 4.4% point to the environment in which a police officer operates, while, none of the respondents think that it is based on the quality of ethics in the Nigeria Police. However, majority of respondents (76.2%) believe that all the enumerated factors influence police corruption. In similar vein, one of the IDI respondents provides further insight as follows:

The primary cause of corruption in the police is insufficient pay. The police corruption that we are talking about is from the top to the lowest rank. For example, a special duty allowance may be approved for ten personnel at the rate of ten thousand Naira each, while the officer in-charge may only release five thousand Naira as the special duty allowance (Senior Female Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

Another respondent stated that:

During my five years of service as a police officer in the Provost office, I usually ask those police officers that were caught in corrupt practices and brought in for interrogation to give reasons for engaging in corruption? And the response would be that their salary is too small to cater for them and their families. Some of them will even tell you that they have up to two wives or about seven to eight children. You can imagine if a corporal, a sergeant, or even an inspector in the Nigeria Police Force have about seven or eight kids with a meager salary. How do

you think that such a person will cope or not to be involved in corrupt practices? (Junior Female Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

An interviewee also emphasized that:

The major cause of police corruption is greediness. It is only greediness that can make a person to engage in corruption. Anybody that is not contented or satisfied with what God has given him/her will be corrupt. While over a million citizens applied for just six thousand positions in the ongoing police recruitment, already employed officer is messing up the opportunity that God has given him/her. These applicants are not even more of SSCE holders, most of them are graduates! (Junior Male Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

In addition, one of the respondents stated thus: *“Some police officers pay bribe so that they can be posted to a place where their corrupt business will flourish better”* (Senior Male Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

Table 3: Respondents’ views on major institutional factor that causes police corruption

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Poor recruitment policies and improper screening	22	9.7
Poor welfare programme	39	17.2
Insufficient salary	43	18.9
Corrupt activities by senior police officers	21	9.3
All	102	44.9
Total	227	100.0

Field Survey, 2018

Table 3 reveals that majority of respondents (18.9%), believe that the foremost institutional factor influencing police corruption is insufficient salary, 17.2% attributed it to poor welfare programme, 9.7% feel it is as a result of poor recruitment policies and improper screening, while 9.3% attribute it to the corrupt activities of senior police officers. However, most respondents (44.9%), think the problem of police corruption can be attributed to all the issues mentioned. From the qualitative data, one IDI respondent throws more light on the problem:

How do you expect a police officer who is paid “peanuts” to cope with the current economic situation in the country? Though this should not be the reason why a police officer would engage in corruption, but those who see corruption as a way out would not have considered it if they are well paid and well taken care of (Junior Male Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).



Table 4: Respondents' views on inadequate work facility that leads to police corruption

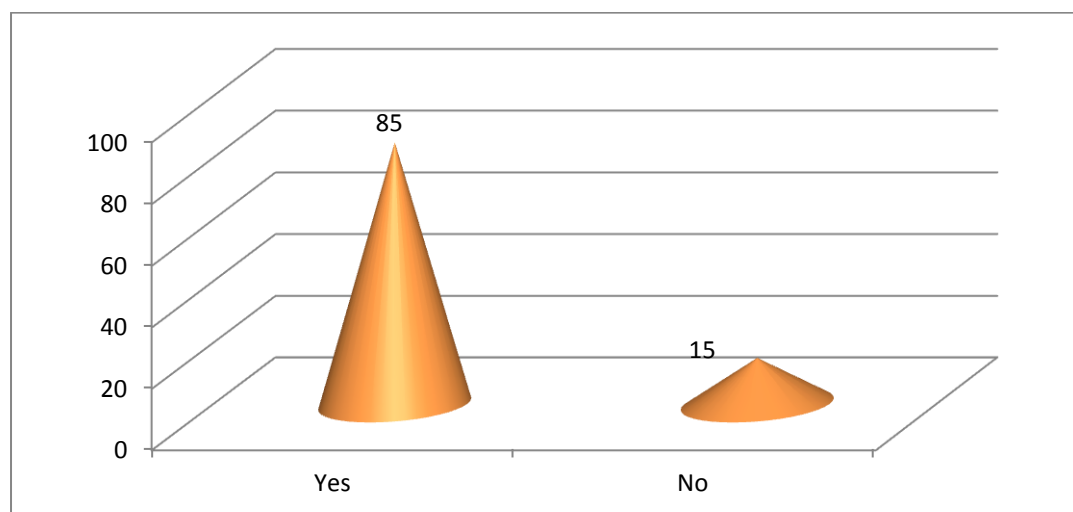
Variables	Frequency	Percent
Sophisticated equipment to fight crime	27	11.9
Workable and efficient communication network	41	18.0
Adequate mobile system of transportation	2	.9
All	148	65.9
No response	9	4.0
Total	227	100.0

Field Survey, 2018

Data presented in Table 4, shows that majority of respondents (18.0%), report that inadequacy of sophisticated equipment to fight crime, contributes the most to police corruption, 11.9% laid the blame on inadequacy of workable and efficient communication network, 0.9% complained of inadequate mobile system of transportation, while 4.0% did not respond at all. On the whole, majority of respondents (65.9%) think that problem is attributable to all the issues outlined. This shows the depth of the problem of inadequate work facility in the Nigerian police and how it contributes to police corruption. Similar to this, an IDI respondent said thus:

Underpayment and greed are the causes of corruption. The Nigeria Police are underpaid. There is no market that is specifically made for the rich or the poor; we all buy from the same market. Then, greediness is when an officer cannot manage the token that he/she has been paid and this pushes them into corrupt practices (Senior Male Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

Figure 2: Respondents' views on whether or not police corruption results in negative public perception and loss of confidence in the police force



Field Survey, 2018

Figure 2 reveals that over three quarters of respondents (85.0%) agreed that police corruption results in negative public perception and loss of confidence in the police, while only 15.0% or about one in six respondents disagreed. Along this line, one interviewee gives more insight into the problem:

Corruption in the police causes lack of confidence in the Nigeria Police and pervasion of justice. There will be lack of justice since corrupt police officer may not investigate a case except they have been bribed (Senior Male Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

Another IDI respondent said that:

Nigerian police are usually attacked when they attempt to arrest suspect in some places.. They will say police! They are all corrupt, they are all useless. This is simply because of the bad name that the Nigeria Police already have (Senior Female Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

Furthermore, one IDI respondent asserts that:

Yes, it is true! Nobody would want to rely on corrupt police officers. But people should understand that it is only few of us that are corrupt. Police are usually present in any place where there is a problem and they always do their best to handle them (Junior Male Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).



Another interviewee added that:

There is one adage that says “every day is for the thief and one day is for the owner of the house”. This means that when luck run out on a corrupt police officer, such a person will be defaulted, tried in the ordering room, and this can cost them their rank or job (Junior Female Police Officer, State Command Headquarters).

Test of Hypotheses

Two research hypotheses were formulated to interrogate variables in this study as follows:

Hypothesis One: There is a significant relationship between occupational status of police officers and perception on institutionalization of corruption in the Nigerian police.

Table 5: Relationship between occupational status of police officers and perception on institutionalization of corruption in the Nigeria Police in Anambra State Police Command

		<i>From experience, do you think corruption has been institutionalized in the Nigerian police force?</i>		<i>Total</i>
		Yes	No	
What is your occupational status?	Senior officer	22(9.7%)	54(23.8%)	76(33.5%)
	Junior Officer	114(50.2%)	37(16.3%)	151(66.5%)
	Total	136(59.9%)	91(40.1%)	227(100.0%)

$$\chi^2 = 45.60, df = 1, N = 227, p \text{ value} < 0.00$$

The χ^2 analysis in table 5 shows that calculated value of chi square is 45.60. While, the table value of chi-square at 0.05 level of significance, with a degree of freedom (df) of 1 is 3.84. This shows that the calculated value of chi square is greater than the table value; this is statistically significant. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis is accepted and the null hypothesis is rejected. It then goes that, there is a significant relationship between occupational status of police officers and perception on institutionalization of corruption in the Nigerian police or more specifically, that, most junior police officers sampled, perceive corruption to have been institutionalized in the Nigeria Police.

Hypothesis Two: There is a significant relationship between occupational status of police officers and perception of impact of police corruption on public confidence.

Table 6: Relationship between occupational status of police officers and perception of impact of police corruption on public confidence in Anambra State Police Command

		<i>Police corruption results in negative public perception and loss of confidence in the police force?</i>			<i>Total</i>
		Agree	Disagree		
What is your occupational status?	Senior officer	65(28.6%)	11(4.9%)		76(33.5%)
	Junior officer	128(56.4%)	23(10.1%)		151(66.5%)
	Total	193(85.0%)	34(15.0%)		227(100.0%)

$\chi^2 = 0.0228, df = 1, N = 227, p \text{ value is } 0.88$

The χ^2 analysis in table 6 shows that calculated value of chi square is 0.0228. While, the table value of chi-square at 0.05 level of significance, with a degree of freedom (df) of 1 is 3.84. This shows that the calculated value of chi square is less than the table value; therefore, the alternative hypothesis is rejected and the null hypothesis accepted. It then goes that, there is no significant relationship between occupational status of police officers and perception of impact of police corruption on public confidence in the Nigeria Police. This implies that both junior and senior police officers sampled, share similar views on the impact of police corruption on public confidence.

Discussion of Findings

Results of the findings show that corruption has become an inherent and everyday affair among some men and officers of the Nigeria Police. Interviewees equally subscribed to the fact that corruption exists in the Nigeria Police. Moreover, the study found a wide range of factors influencing corruption in the Nigeria Police. Majority of the respondents indicated the complex nature of the police job, the environment in which a police officer operates and the level of implementation of Nigerian Police ethics as factors. Also, a significant number of others categorically stated that citizens themselves encourage police corruption. Similar to these findings, Miller (2016) observes that organizational and societal factors can cause a police officer to be corrupt. Furthermore, an interviewee held similar views by stressing that certain environments are fertile for police



corruption; these were identified to be places with large population density, large commercial markets etc. This is in tandem with the assumptions of routine activity theory, which states that the Nigerian police engage in corruption because of the way opportunities present themselves for abuse as well as the enormous constitutional powers given to the police.

Aside this, institutional factors like poor salary structure, welfare programmes, and recruitment policies/screening were found to give way for undeserving persons to gain entry into the Nigeria Police. This corroborates the findings of Inyang & Abraham (2013) and Nte (2011) who revealed that poor working conditions/poverty are factors that aggravate police corruption in Nigeria. These authors also found that poor recruitment policies contribute to police corruption. In addition to these, corrupt activities by senior police officers, was also indicated by majority of the respondents as part of the institutional factors influencing police corruption in Nigeria.

Furthermore, lack of work facilities such as functional and efficient communication network and sophisticated equipment to fight crime were also identified as factors influencing police corruption in Nigeria. This is similar to earlier findings by Vilakazi (2015), that; operational facilities such as uniform, shoes, belt, torch-light, fuel for the vehicle are provided by police officers themselves. Most interview respondents also lamented that, police officers usually fund certain expenses such as fueling police vehicles for operation and such may compel them to engage in corruption to recover their money. In addition, most respondents believe that corruption in the police results in negative public perception and loss of confidence in the police. This agrees with earlier findings by Ahmadu (2015), that corruption in the Nigeria Police constitutes a stumbling block to effective administration of justice and maintenance of law and order.

Results from the test of hypotheses reveal firstly, that most junior police officers sampled, perceive corruption to be neck-deep in the Nigeria Police. While the second hypothesis, tested shows that, junior and senior police officers sampled, do not differ significantly by views on the impact of police corruption on public confidence.

Conclusion

To an average Nigerian, the most corrupt organization in the country today is most likely to be the Nigerian Police. Prominent factors which influence corruption in the Nigeria Police are obvious. Police officers work under inhumane and debilitating conditions and are poorly equipped. It is a common sight in police stations to see investigating officers asking complainants to buy stationeries or pay money to facilitate the arrest and processing of suspects'

prosecution. It is also a common sight to see police officers working under hot sun, looking so sick and untidy, frustrated, and unfed, because, there is no suitable or institutionalized welfare scheme in place to cater for the welfare of police officers. Therefore, to make up for these shortcomings, some police officers resort to illegal means of making money in other to make ends meet. Thus, their engagement in corruption impedes the rationale for the creation of the formal police institution as well as its vision and mission. The onus is therefore lies on the government, police service commission, concerned stakeholders as well as citizens to take proactive measures to prevent and control corruption in the Nigeria Police.

Implications/Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made;

1. The police service commission must strictly adhere to its recruitment policies to avoid bringing in “bad eggs”. All new recruits must be exhaustively evaluated and ensure that they do not have bad records before joining the Nigeria Police.
2. The government should improve the monthly earnings and the general welfare of the Nigerian police.
3. There should be adequate provision of instruments to fight crime, personnel kits, logistics, and facilities that will aid the police in carrying out their duties efficiently and effectively.
4. The existing human resource development policies in the Nigeria Police should be made effective in such a way that it would bring about full professionalism and enhance transformational leadership skills in the police force.
5. Periodic rewards and compensation packages should be institutionalized to motivate police officers to carry out their duties with diligence and honesty.
6. Since the Nigeria police force does not exist in a vacuum, it is needful for the generality of the Nigerian public to assist the police to curb corruption by refusing to offer tips and other forms of inducements, reporting erring police officers to appropriate authorities and joining hands with civil societies to provide safeguards for the populace.



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