



Volume: 2, Issue: 8, 640-645  
Aug 2015  
www.allsubjectjournal.com  
e-ISSN: 2349-4182  
p-ISSN: 2349-5979  
Impact Factor: 3.762

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## E-Governance and Corruption in Nigeria

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study is to appraise E-Governance and corruption in Nigeria. The study is necessitated by the fact that corruption is rising by the day and modalities put in place to curb the menace have not produced much result. However, this study intends to ascertain whether the menace of corruption can be reduced with the use of E-governance.

Primary source of data was appropriately used. 240 questionnaires were administered on selected respondents, out of which 220 were filled and returned. Tables and simple percentages were used to analyze the data. The statistical tool used to test hypotheses was Analysis Of Variance (ANOVA).

The findings reveals that Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) have significant effect in reducing the incidence of ghost workers in the public sector and E-payment have significant effect in scaling down the level of corrupt practices in the public sector. The study recommended that E-Governance measures should be strengthened in the public sector so that corruption can be reduced as much as possible.

**Keywords:** E-Governance, Corruption and IPPIS.

### Introduction

Corruption has been cited as one of the most prevalent and persistent challenges in enhancing economic growth and improving the quality of life of citizens across the globe (Mistry & Jalal, 2012). The World Bank's 2011 guide identifies corruption as "one of the single greatest obstacles to economic and social development". It goes on to state that "through bribery, fraud and the misappropriation of economic privileges, corruption diverts resources away from those who need them most". Corruption not only distorts competition but it hinders economic growth and endangers the stability of democratic institutions (This Day Newspaper, 2007).

Politicians and other public office holders at all tiers of government have transformed treasury looting into serious business. They simply divert statutory allocations meant for development projects into money laundering and currency trafficking and brazenly place public funds in their private bank accounts; acquiring choice properties and investments at home and abroad. Hence, corruption is a major issue in Nigeria because these practices have greatly affected the people negatively (Emechele, 2009) <sup>[3]</sup>.

Nigeria's inability to consolidate her democracy is blamed largely on the high level of corruption in the country. Corruption generally, has eaten so deep into Nigeria that its practice is seen more like a societal norm than an exception. People have imbibed the belief that hard work, honesty and integrity are not worthy principles since one can do very little to get or earn so much. Thus, corruption pervades all aspects of human life, beginning from the home to both public and private institutions (Inokoba & ibegu, 2011) <sup>[5]</sup>. Ayoola (2013) <sup>[1]</sup> opines that, there has been a growing global movement to fight corruption. In addition, many governments have devoted substantial resources and energy to fighting corruption. In Nigeria, efforts have also been made by the government to combat corruption, among which are the establishment of two anti-corruption agencies which are the Independent Corrupt Practices and related offences Commission (ICPC), and the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and lately the introduction of a cashless system of payment. Many developing countries are now realizing the need for e-governance in order to provide customer-focused, cost effective, and easy to use services for citizens and businesses and to improve the internal workings of government (Pathak, 2008) <sup>[9]</sup>. In Nigeria, if corruption can be greatly reduced, then almost all of its problems would be solved. It is the major hindrance to the country's progress and development. Initiative to combat corruption led to the emergence of e-governance. Generally, employment of Internet minimizes the opportunities for public officials to monopolize access to relevant information and to extract bribes from their clients.

### Statement of problem

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with an estimated population of 178.5 million in 2014 (World population review, 2014). The economy is heavily dependent on petroleum, which sustains corruption activities (US Senate Kerry Report, 1993) <sup>[12]</sup>. It has been acknowledged in many quarters that corruption is Nigeria's worst problem, which is responsible for its woes, such as the instability in the Niger Delta, the debt overhang, barrier to democratic elections, and impediment to flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) (Ribadu, 2007) <sup>[11]</sup>.

Corruption was partly responsible for the collapse of the first and second republics. Over the years various administrations in Nigeria have articulated policies and measures designed to combat corruption. Examples include General Murtala Muhammed's crusade of confiscation of assets illegally acquired by Nigerians in 1975. Gen. Murtala's regime set up an investigative panel which indicted all the twelve military governors that served under Gen. Yakubu Gowon (Akinola, 2002). Gen. Muhammadu Buhari toppled the regime of Alh. Shehu Shagari and set up special tribunals that investigated political office holders in the Second Republic.; Shehu Shagari's ethical revolution to combat corruption through the introduction of code of conduct for public servants (Obuah, 2010).

Danfulani (2013) <sup>[2]</sup> opined that the kleptocratic regime of Gen. Sani Abacha that was viewed as one of the most corrupt in the history of the nation was not left out in attempts to cleansing the system of corruption by establishing the Failed Banks Tribunal that investigated unethical practices in the country's banking sector. General Ibrahim Babaginda's ethical and social mobilization crusade, etc. These efforts have been largely cosmetic attempts to address a systemic problem that is deep-rooted in the fabric of the country. The administration of Chief Obasanjo stretched the war on corruption farther than his predecessors. He established two bodies, the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to purge the system of corruption.

These bodies were given broad powers to arrest and prosecute suspects and partner with foreign bodies in hunting down trans-national fraudsters. These bodies were showered with local and international supports bordering financial assistance, training of personnel in modern crime detection and fighting, prosecution knowhow etc. Despite great expectations the virus of corruption keeps spreading like bush fire (Danfulani, 2013) <sup>[2]</sup>. EFCC has been involved in the investigation, prevention and prosecution of offenders who engage in high corruption cases without much success (Nwali, 2010) <sup>[7]</sup>.

To curb the incidence of corruption in the public sector, the government of Nigeria introduced E-Governance measures like Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) and E-payment. Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) is an E-Governance measure put in place by government to help checkmate the high incidence of ghost workers thus helping government to ascertain its real workforce. E-payment on the other hand, has drastically reduced avenues for corruption to thrive in the public sector since it tends to eliminate physical contact by citizens and public officials. Consequently this study aims at ascertaining whether E-Governance measures have actually been effective in reducing the corruption menace in Nigeria.

### Research Questions

The research questions of this study are:

1. How effective is the use of Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) in reducing the incidence of ghost workers?
2. How effective is the use of E-payment in scaling down the level of corrupt practices in the public sector?

### Research Hypotheses

The research hypotheses of the study are:

Ho1: Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) does not have significant effect in reducing the incidence of ghost workers in the public sector.

Ho2: E-payment does not have significant effect in scaling down the level of corrupt practices in the public sector.

### Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to appraise E-Governance and corruption in Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Ascertain whether Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) is effective in reducing the incidence of ghost workers in the public sector.
2. Ascertain whether E-payment is effective in scaling down the level of corrupt practices in the public sector.

### Literature Review

The World Bank (1997) <sup>[19]</sup> defined corruption as "the abuse of public office for private gains". This includes, when public officials accept, solicit or extort bribes; and the private actors offer bribes to subvert or circumvent public policies for competitive advantage and profit". Similarly, the UNDP (2004) defined corruption as the "misuse of public power, office or authority for private benefit – through bribery, extortion, influence peddling, nepotism, fraud, speed money or embezzlement"

E-government is believed to reduce corruption by prompting good governance and strengthening reform oriented actors. Specifically, e-government can reduce corruption behaviors by externally enhancing relationships with citizens internally by effectively controlling and monitoring employee's behaviors (Ndou, 2004; Dong & Tae, 2007). Nigeria is a major producer of crude oil in the world. Indeed, it is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest producer of crude oil in the whole world. During the oil boom era of 1970s, Nigeria had the 33<sup>rd</sup> highest per capita income in the world. It became the 19<sup>th</sup> poorest nation in 1989 and by 1997 it had moved to be the 13<sup>th</sup> poorest nation in the world. Nigeria's poverty is both avoidable and unfortunate, caused not by the poor but created and sustained by the system. It is policy failure that degrades the people-those who suffer it and those who tolerate it (UNDP, 2003). Nigeria has since been earning huge amounts of foreign exchange from oil but the average citizen has little or nothing to show for the nation's oil wealth. So while the country may be said to be rich, her people are poor. The result of all these is that most Nigerians live a life of poverty and misery and Nigeria ranks very low in all human development indices used to access oil producing nations.

The former governor of Lagos state, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola, said that the introduction of e-governance in the state has reduced the incidences of corruption, nepotism and favoritism in Lagos. He went further to say that for people to reap the benefits of e-governance, apart from the provision of basic infrastructure, there is a need for adequate public enlightenment campaign and that governance is about the people. He said also that the adoption of e-governance will promote the best form of participatory democracy as it allows the constituencies direct participation in government activities

without being physically present, re-engineers a new sense of citizenship as the people redefines their needs, welfare and responsibilities as well as enable the governed to communicate with their government, participate in government’s policy making and decisions. With the adoption of e-governance, government agencies are constantly put under the searchlight of the citizens, which ensures probity, responsibility and stewardship. Governance is promoted and the citizens become the ultimate beneficiaries (Okwueze, n.d). Before the advent of e-governance in Nigeria, understanding the real workforce in the three tiers of authorities (Federal, State, and Local Governments) was a mystery and hard like rocket science. Successive governments battled with this menace through setting up special staff audit committees and what they called table payment and physical appearance of staff without getting to the root of the matter. This challenge lingered until the introduction of Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIIS) by the three tiers of governments across the nation. The introduction of Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System have helped to checkmate the activities of ghost workers in Nigeria therefore saving billions of Nigerians for the government (Danfulani, 2013) [2].

Hopper, Tsamenyi and Wickkamasinghe (2009) [4] suggest that electronic delivery of services (e.g., submitting internet applications and tax returns for computer processing) can reduce corruption by reducing interactions with officials, speeding up decisions, and reducing human errors. Similarly, in reviewing the literature to identify the potential role of e-government in reducing corruption. Singh, Pathak, Naz and Belwal (2010) [15] emphasize that e-government eliminates discretion from the equation by removing intermediary services and allowing citizens to conduct transactions themselves. Andersen and Rand (2006) also study the relation between corruption and e-government and examine a cross-section of countries from the 1997 to 2002 period. They conclude that well-designed ICT policies are likely to be effective in the fight against corruption.

Shin and Eom (2008) [13] focus on the impacts of bureaucratic professionalism, bureaucratic quality and law enforcement through the use of national level data and find that both e-government and traditional anti-corruption factors have a positive impact on reducing corruption. In a follow up article, Shim and Eom (2009) [14] examine the impact of ICT and social capital on corruption and argue that ICT has the potential to reduce unnecessary human intervention in government work processes, which reduces the need to monitor corrupt behavior. They used panels of datasets from various sources and concluded that ICT is an effective tool for reducing corruption and social capital also has positive effects on reducing corruption, although the relationship between social capital and ICT is inconclusive. Introduction of e-governance and transaction in financial transactions like e-mail, e-verification of payment, e-transfers etc eliminated corrupt practices bordering following of files and cheques from one desk to the other and from one accounting officer to another. It has been established that the unfortunate culture of physical following of files and other contract papers breeds unholy cum corrupt practices between the contractors, internal monitors, and the banks. E-measures ended some of those practices and cleansed the system to some level of decency (Danfulani, 2013) [2]. ICTs can be of help in minimising the opportunities for malfeasance through simplification of procedures and regulations and limit the discretion in decision making processes (Ayoola, 2013) [1].

**Methodology**

This study evaluated E-governance and corruption in Nigeria. In the course of this study, the researchers in an attempt to gather useful and reliable information utilized the primary source of Data collection. Questionnaire is the instrument that was employed to collect the data which was designed in four response options of likert-scale (i.e. strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree).

The population of the study comprised of stakeholders in the public sector which includes: Contractors, bankers, academics and civil servants. The researchers used random sampling on the population of the stakeholders. Consequently 60 respondents were selected from the 4 stakeholders thus making a total of 240 as the sample size.

Tables and percentage were used in the analysis of the data collected from the respondents. The statistical tool used for testing the hypotheses was the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA).

The formula is as follows:

**ANOVA Table**

Source	SS	DF	MS	F- Ratio	Remark
Between	SS <sub>B</sub>	T – 1	SS <sub>B</sub> /df <sub>B</sub>	MS <sub>B</sub> /MS <sub>w</sub>	Accept Or Reject
Within	SS <sub>w</sub>	N – t	SS <sub>w</sub> /df <sub>w</sub>		
Total	SS <sub>T</sub>	N – 1			

Source: Adefila (2008).

**Decision Rule**

The null hypothesis shall be rejected if the calculated value of F-ratio i.e. (MS<sub>B</sub>/MS<sub>w</sub>) is greater than the critical value of F. i.e. (F<sub>t – 1, N – t</sub>) as given in the F distribution table at a level of significance of 5% otherwise, it stands accepted.

If MS<sub>B</sub>/MS<sub>w</sub> > F<sub>t – 1, N – t</sub>, then, reject the Null hypothesis  
 If MS<sub>B</sub>/MS<sub>w</sub> < F<sub>t – 1, N – t</sub> then, reject the ultimate hypothesis

The choice of ANOVA for this research is based on the fact that it determines the extent of variance in dependent variables that are caused by independent variables, also used in comparing the variation in more than two independent samples that are drawn just once from population with the same variance. More so, ANOVA reduces the type 1 error rate (rejecting null hypothesis instead of accepting) thus, the equality of several means can be tested in a single classification, where the relationship between one independent and one dependent variable is examined.

**Data Presentation and Analysis**

This section represents the data collected in response to 240 questionnaires distributed to respondents about E-Governance and corruption in the public sector. Out of the 240 questionnaires distributed 220 were filled and returned.

**Question One:** Are you aware of E-Governance in Nigeria?

**Table 4.1**

Responses	Number Of Responses	Percentage (%)
Yes	190	86
No	30	14
Total	220	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

**Table 4.1** shows that 86% of the total respondents understand the concept of E-Governance while 14% of the respondents are not aware of it.

**Question Two:** Is there corruption in Nigeria?

**Table 4.2**

Responses	Number Of Responses	Percentage (%)
Yes	218	99
No	2	1
Total	220	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

**Table 4.2** shows that 99% of the total respondents attest to the fact that there is corruption in Nigeria while 1% of the respondents disagreed.

**Question Three:** Do you understand the concept of E-Governance?

**Table 4.3**

Responses	Number Of Responses	Percentage (%)
Yes	192	87
No	28	13
Total	220	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

**Table 4.3** shows that 87% of the total respondents understand the concept of E-Governance while 13% of the respondents do not understand.

**Question Four:** Do you believe that E-Governance can be used to reduce corruption?

**Table 4.4**

Responses	Number Of Responses	Percentage (%)
Yes	162	74
No	58	26
Total	220	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

**Table 4.4** shows that 74% of the total respondents believe that E-Governance can be used to reduce corruption while 26% of the respondents do not believe.

**Question Five:** Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) has aid government in identifying its exact workforce thus eliminating ghost workers

**Table 4.5**

Responses	Number Of Responses	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	74	34
Agree	66	30
Strongly Disagree	46	21
Disagree	34	15
Total	220	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

**Table 4.5** reveals that 34% of the respondents strongly agree, 30% of the respondents agree, 21% of the respondents strongly disagree while 15% of the respondents disagree. This implies that, the total respondents of 64% do agree that Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) has aid government in identifying its exact workforce thus eliminating ghost workers.

**Question Six:** Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) has helped government to save huge amount of money paid as salaries to ghost workers.

**Table 4.6**

Responses	Number Of Responses	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	83	38
Agree	47	21
Strongly Disagree	54	25
Disagree	36	16
Total	220	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

**Table 4.6** reveals that 38% of the respondents strongly agree, 21% of the respondents agree, 25% of the respondents strongly disagree while 16% of the respondents disagree. This implies that 59% of the total respondents attest to the fact that Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) has helped government to save huge amount of money paid as salaries to ghost workers

**Question Seven:** E-measure like electronic means of making payments in the public sector helps to reduce corrupt practices.

**Table 4.7**

Responses	Number Of Responses	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	78	35
Agree	94	43
Strongly Disagree	16	7
Disagree	32	15
Total	220	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

**Table 4.7** reveals that 35% of the respondents strongly agree, 43% of the respondents agree, 07% of the respondents strongly disagree while 15% of the respondents disagree. This implies that 78% of the total respondents attest to the fact that E-measure like electronic means of making payments in the public sector helps to reduce corrupt practices.

**Question Eight:** E-payment eliminates physical contact between citizens and public officials which helps to reduce avenue for corruption.

**Table 4.8**

Responses	Number Of Responses	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	69	31
Agree	87	40
Strongly Disagree	26	12
Disagree	38	17
Total	220	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

**Table 4.8** reveals that 31% of the respondents strongly agree, 40% of the respondents agree, 12% of the respondents strongly disagree while 17% of the respondents disagree. This implies that 71% of the total respondents attest to the fact that E-payment eliminates physical contact between citizens and public officials which helps to reduce avenue for corruption.

**Test of Hypotheses**

The researchers used questions 5 and 6 to test hypothesis one while questions 7 and 8 were used to test hypothesis two.

**Test of Hypothesis One**

**Ho1:** Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) does not have significant effect in reducing the incidence of ghost workers in the public sector

Variables	Question 5	Question 6	Total
Strongly Agree	74	83	157
Agree	66	47	113
Strongly Disagree	46	54	100
Disagree	34	36	70

Source: Field survey 2015

Anova						
Source Of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	8066.667	2	4033.333	5.919765	0.022861	4.256495
Within Groups	6132	9	681.3333			
Total	14198.67	11				

Critical value at 5% level of significance with degree of freedom 2 to 9 is 4.26

**Decision Rule**

Since the calculated value of 5.92 is greater than the critical value of 4.26, the alternate hypothesis (Ha) is accepted and the Null hypothesis (Ho) is rejected. Therefore we can conclude that Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) have significant effect in reducing the incidence of ghost workers in the public sector.

**Test of Hypothesis Two**

**Ho2:** E-payment does not have significant effect in scaling down the level of corrupt practices in the public sector

Variables	Question 7	Question 8	Total
Strongly Agree	63	71	134
Agree	58	52	110
Strongly Disagree	42	64	106
Disagree	57	33	90

Source: Field Survey 2015

Anova						
Source Of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	8066.667	2	4033.333	17.55319	0.000783	4.256495
Within Groups	2068	9	229.7778			
Total	10134.67	11				

Critical value at 5% level of significance with degree of freedom 2 to 9 is 4.26

**Decision Rule**

Since the calculated value of 17.55 is greater than the critical value of 4.26, the alternate hypothesis (Ha) is accepted and the Null hypothesis (Ho) is rejected. Therefore we can conclude that E-payment does have significant effect in scaling down the level of corrupt practices in the public sector.

**Discussion of Findings**

The finding of the first hypothesis reveals that Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) have significant effect in reducing the incidence of ghost workers in the public sector. This finding is in tandem with the studies of Danfulani (2013) [2] and Okweze (n.d) which revealed that the introduction of Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) have helped to checkmate the activities of ghost workers in Nigeria therefore saving billions of Nigerians for the government and it has made the government to ascertain the real work force in the various tiers of government which was not the case prior to the introduction of IPPIS and that the adoption of e-governance enhances probity, responsibility and stewardship.

The second hypothesis equally reveals that E-payment does have significant effect in scaling down the level of corrupt practices in the public sector. This finding is in line with the studies of Hopper *et al.* (2009) [4], Shim and Eom (2009) [14]; Shingh *et al.* (2010) and Ayoola (2013) [1] which recorded that electronic delivery of services enhances E-payment which in the long run reduces corruption by reducing interactions with officials, speeding up decision and reducing human errors. Their studies also revealed that E-payment as a measure of E-governance, have the tendency of eliminating discretion in making payments, minimizing opportunities for malfeasance and removing intermediation in the conduct of government transactions.

**Summary of Findings**

Summary of findings for this research work is based on the analysis of data collected through questionnaires and test of hypotheses. They are itemized as follows:

- i. That prior to the introduction of E-Governance, corruption was prevalent in the public sector as it relates to the workforce in the public sector.
- ii. That before E-payment measures was introduced, physical contact between citizens and public officials were the order of the day and this tends to breed corrupt practices.
- iii. That Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) have significant effect in reducing the incidence of ghost workers in the public sector.
- iv. That E-payment does have significant effect in scaling down the level of corrupt practices in the public sector.

**Conclusions and Recommendations**

In conclusion, this study has analyzed why emphasis has to be placed on E-Governance in reducing corruption in the public sector with the aid of Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) and E-payment measures.

The study found out that though corruption cannot be totally eliminated with the use of E-Governance, it can be used to reduce or scale down the level of corruption to a significant level in the public sector and consequently government should adopt measures towards promoting the activities of E-Government in the public sector as this will go a long way in increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of governance in the sector.

This study has shown that the role of E-Governance as a tool for reducing corruption cannot be underestimated. Consequent upon several revelation from the research conducted, there is need to make some recommendations, which are stated below;

That though E-Governance have been found effective in reducing corruption, it should however not be used in isolation. It should still be used in conjunction with other measures that are geared towards reducing corruption. This other measures includes upholding ethical codes of conducts, sanctioning anyone that have been found involved in corrupt practices and carrying out reforms in the civil service that aim at increasing remuneration of employees.

That E-Governance cannot be very effective if Internet Service Providers (ISPs), do not provide effective and efficient internet services. To this end government should liaise with service providers so that internet services can be readily, efficiently and effectively provided.

That Government should strive to ensure that access to its portal should be highly protected via the use of passwords and other ICT measures to checkmate the activities of hackers who are bent on hacking the system to commit nefarious activities.

That Government should enlighten citizens and its workforce on the need to embrace E-Governance because the phobia as to the use of E-Governance is still visible among the populace and workforce.

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