

Corruption in Construction Projects: A Case Study of Ondo State, Nigeria

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Abstract- Corruption is a type of contemptibly or a criminal offense which is embraced by an individual or association which is endowed in a, strategic, influential place, in other to get illegal advantages or misuse power for one's very own benefits. This study assessed the corruption in construction projects. This study collected data through the use of well-structured questionnaires that were administered to registered construction professionals in Ondo State, Nigeria. The target population comprises of Quantity Surveyors, Architects, Builders, and Engineers. Sixty-one (61) questionnaires were administered; fifty (50) questionnaires were retrieved from professionals. The data retrieved were analyzed using descriptive statistic, mean score response analysis frequency and percentages. The study concluded that the four major causes of corruption in construction projects are godfathers in contract award, concealment of corrupt act, greed, issues of professionalism and best practices. Based on the study findings, it is recommended to address the prevalent causes of corruption in construction projects, including tackling godfathers in contract award, promoting transparency to prevent the concealment of corrupt acts, addressing issues of greed, and fostering professionalism and best practices.

Indexed Terms- Construction, Construction Industry, Corruption, Corruption In Construction Industry.

I. INTRODUCTION

The construction industry plays an essential role in any nation's socioeconomic development. In order to achieve the national socioeconomic development objectives of providing infrastructure, refuge, and employment, the matters to be done in the industry are extremely important. This likewise incorporates medical clinics, schools, municipalities, workplaces, houses and different structures; urban infrastructure (including sewage, drainage, and water supply); airports, ports, railways, highways; power frameworks; systems for agriculture and irrigation; telecommunications (Kasimu, Uma& Eboh, 2013) Corruption is a criminal act or form of dishonesty committed by a person or organization in a position of authority with the intention of obtaining illicit benefits or abusing power for one's own benefit. Before independence, corruption-related cases were unique to each region. (Oxford, 2023; Nwagwu, 2010).

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

- **Corruption in construction projects**
Corruption in the construction industry can occur in two main areas, according to Anigbogu and Shawarka (2011), the provision and management of venture financing and, eventually, project execution; All of this is a result of the design and planning; prequalification and offering; phases of project execution and completion. Inadequate sanctions, inadequate record documentation, insufficient transparency in the selection criteria for bidders, low professional ethical standards, a large project's

complexity, and other factors can be blamed for widespread corruption in the construction industry (Tanzi, 1998). Oyedele (2013) referred to the use of quacks and technicians instead of experts whose technical and managerial capabilities are no longer in doubt and have upheld their expert ethics so high as some of the reasons for some of the structural failures that were observed. This is even more concerning today because the industry is full of quacks, mediocre, political contractors who lacked the certification to practice as well as those who have little to no knowledge of the construction method and management. This trend is even more concerning today Godfathers is the cycle by which an individual lays out joins with a given institutional pecking order in the assumption for leaned toward treatment (Onwuzuruigbo, 2013). Insatiability is the demonstration of self-centered longing for something (Olowo, 2018). The collapse of buildings and other issues facing the industry are the result of corrupt practices among developers and some authorities that grant building approvals. Corruption erodes quality, dents economic and social development, and degenerates into a subculture of illegality that in turn breeds market inefficiency and further increases cost of goods and services, promotes unproductive investments, and leads to a decline in the quality of public and private service. In fact, the heaviest price is not in the bribes themselves but rather in the underlying economic distortions they cause (Osisioma, 2012). Concealing a corrupt act is the influence of picks and the introduction of machine inefficiencies are the two factors that have a negative impact on this misuse.

Soreide (2004), stated that public expenditures rise not as a result of adopted tendering procedures but rather as a result of inflated prices. That quality may result in the construction of a road with a lot of potholes and consultants unable to advise the contractors. Finally, it was stated that in countries with widespread corruption, rent-seeking becomes a serious problem that affects a significant portion of public life and undermines general confidence and respect for a country's formal, political, and bureaucratic laws.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, non-probability sampling techniques were used, and the data were collected through a well-structured questionnaire because they are simple to use and relatively inexpensive to analyze. Many factors influence the outcome of the data collection process, such as selecting a suitable respondent, the industry, and the description of the appropriate sampling frame. This study gathered information using organized survey that were managed to enlist experts in Ondo State. Quantity surveyors, architects, builders, and engineers working in contracting and consulting firms in Nigeria's Ondo state make up the target population. One hundred and sixty (61) questionnaires were distributed; Professionals' registers contained fifty (50) questionnaires.

A questionnaire is a research tool that consists of a list of questions and a choice of answers that are printed or typed in a specific order on a form to gather specific information from respondents, Kumar. The significance of the study's objective necessitated the addition of two sections to the questionnaire because of the significance of the purpose of this survey. Section A comprised of the foundation of the respondents and Part B zeroed in on enquires in regard of the targets utilizing for objectives. The information recovered were investigated utilizing engaging measurement, mean score and positioning, reaction examination recurrence and rates.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The first part of the analysis deals with the personal data of the respondent which was analyzed using frequency count and simple percentage method. In order to achieve the objectives of this research, 61 questionnaires were administered to construction industries within Ondo State. Sixty-one (61) questionnaires were administered and fifty (50) were properly completed and returned while eleven (11) were void, and used for the analysis. This represents rate 76.92%

Table 1: Distribution of questionnaires

Type of response	Frequency	Percentage
Number distributed	61	100
completed and returned	50	76.92
Number not returned	11	23.08

Source: Author (2023)

Table1 in respect to years of experience in the construction industry of the respondents has 1-5years of experience in the construction industry establishment,8% has a range of 6-10 years were 16% 11-15years were 52% and 20years above have 24% while above 25years of experience in the construction industry of the respondents are 25% respectively.

The academic qualification of the respondents is summarized in Figure 4.3 of which 8% are ND, 6% are HND holders. The other categories of highest academic qualification are given as follows; BSc. 20%, PGD 30%, MSc. 32% and PhD 4%. The academic qualification of the respondents is important and supports the fact that they are knowledgeable and capable of providing the much-needed professional judgment required for the credibility of the data collected for the research.

Table 2: Highest academic qualification of respondents

Education background	Frequency	Percentage
ND	4	8
HND	3	6
BSc.	10	20
PGD	15	30
MSc.	16	32
PhD	2	4
Total	50	100

Source: Author (2023)

It is indicated in table 4 that the categories of construction project stakeholders, 26% were Quantity surveyor, 38% were Engineer, 28% were Arcthiect, 8% were builder.

Table .4: Categories of construction project stakeholders

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Quantity surveyor	13	26
Engineer	19	38
Architect	14	28
Builder	4	8
Total	50	100

Source: Author (2023)

It is cleared from table 5 that building project were largest chunk of project type involved for this research accounting to about 72% of the total respondents. Civil Engineer 28%, followed by others project accounting for 31.2%. It can be deduced from the result that most of the project type in the study area were highly recognized.

Table .5: Type of project involved

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Building Project	36	72
Civil Engineering Project	14	28
Heavy Engineering Project	0	0
Total	100	100

Source: Author (2023)

It is obvious from Table 4.6 Organization of work; consulting was 72% and contracting were 28%

Table .6: Organization of work

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Consulting	36	72
Contracting	14	28
Total	50	100

Source: Author (2023)

The objective of the study on causes of corruption on construction project was placed on a Likert scale 1-5 to test respondents 'opinion on the listed variables(5-strongly agree, 4-agree, 3-neutral, 2-disagree, 1-strongly disagree.

Table7 shows that most respondents’ opinion that the public's satisfaction with the Godfathers in contract award, concealment of corrupt act, Greed, Unethical behavior of professionals, Flawed regulation system, Industry filled with quacks, Lack of rigorous supervision, Close relationship between different stakeholders, High Poverty, Mediocre, Complexity of the project, Lack of legal awareness.

Table 7 Causes of corruption on construction project

Subject	Mean	Rank
Godfathers in contract award	3.98	1 st
Concealment of corrupt act	3.96	2 nd
Greed	3.84	3 rd
Weak procurement structure	3.84	3 rd
Selfish interest of some professional to acquire wealth	3.82	5 th
Economic recession	3.78	6 th
Profit maximization by contractors	3.72	7 th
Flawed regulation system	3.72	7 th
Inadequate sanctions	3.68	9 th
Poor documentation of records	3.68	9 th
Poor professional ethical	3.68	9 th
Industry filled with quacks	3.68	9 th
Insufficient transparency in the criteria for bidders	3.64	13 th
Lack of rigorous supervision	3.64	13 th

Close relationship between different stakeholders	3.58	15 th
Procurement policies	3.56	16 th
Susceptibility	3.52	17 th
Lack of legal awareness	3.50	18 th
High Poverty	3.48	19 th
Mediocre	3.44	20 th
Transition of government	3.34	21 th
Complexity of the project	3.32	22 th

Source: Author (2023)

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the three major causes of corruption on construction project are godfathers in contract award, concealment of corrupt act, greed, while others are identified further as; Inadequate sanctions, poor documentation of records, poor professional ethical, procurement policies, industry filled with quacks, mediocre, High poverty , susceptibility, economic recession, close relationship between different stakeholders, selfish interest of some professional to acquire wealth, weak procurement structure, complexity of the project, flawed regulation system, lack of legal awareness, lack of rigorous supervision, transition of government, insufficient transparency in the criteria for bidders, profit maximization by contractor.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the study findings, it is recommended to address the prevalent causes of corruption in construction projects, including tackling godfathers in contract award, promoting transparency to prevent the concealment of corrupt acts, addressing issues of greed, and fostering professionalism and best practices.

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