

**SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION AS AN INSTRUMENT IN  
STEMMING CORRUPTION FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA.**

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**ABSTRACT**

This paper examines social studies education as an instrument in stemming corruption for national transformation and economic development in Nigeria. It views the introduction of social studies into our school curriculum as a way of helping in the production of responsible citizens. The paper sees social studies as a field of study that instills in students the knowledge, skill, attitudes and actions that are considered important in the relationship and interaction of man and those around him and the entire environment (Ogun Bameru 2006). It also examines the concept corruption, transformation causes of corruption, reasons why the fight against corruption in Nigeria is not working. The paper recommends among others, that social studies education helps in inculcating worthy attitude and habit (worthy character development) that will go a long way in eliminating corruption and institute needed changes for national transformation.

**INTRODUCTION**

Corruption is a serious cankerworm that has eaten deep into our private and national economy. The damage it has caused in our political, economics and social sphere can only be imagined than told. Social studies education as a field of study instill in students, the knowledge, skills attitudes and actions that are considered important in the relationship and interaction of man with those around him on one hand and the entire environment (Ogun Bameru 2006). Social studies was introduced into our school curriculum in order to help in the production of responsible citizen who will help to eschew some of the vices in our nation, one of which is corruption.

According to World Bank (2006) about 25% of procurement cost in Africa and other under developing countries is wasted on corruption, while the figure could be less than 10 percent in developed countries. Corruption is a house hold word dangerously

expressing itself in diverse social institution in Nigeria. Osakwe (2010) is of the view that Nigeria is a failed state, because of endemic corruption and inability to control poverty in the midst of abundant national resources. The political bureau established in 1987 attributed the failure of politics governance and nation development in Nigeria to corruption. Social studies education has a lot of contribution towards the attainment of the national objectives. It involves the adult and the young within the society to develop their competencies that will to enable them solve and manage the social-economic and physical forces arising in their midst. It is not concerned with either the study of man per. Say rather with either the study of man within the context of his environment, his social, physical, political, economic, cultural and technological environment (Ezegbe 1994).

### **Clarification of Concepts**

**Corruption:** igbovojah (1998), Adigun and Akinloye (2008) sees corruption as dishonesty or fraudulent conduct by those in power. Mezieobi (2012) sees corruption beyond this to cover others out side the government circles either in private organization or self –employed and unemployed, the receiver and givers of whatever gratification or inducements. Corruption encapsulates in addition the one being swayed from honest practices and acquiring in it; and the honest practice deflector. These imply that corruption is found in both public and private sectors.

**Transformation:** This refers to a total change in something. This national transformation can be seen in the words of Mezieobi (1994,1995 and 2010) as a systematic (complete but qualitative change or over haul), social, economic conditions of a nation, for the improved human conditions of the people.

### **Causes of Corruption**

According to Ajayi (2001), transparency international and the World Bank have proclaimed Nigeria to be the most corrupt nation in the world. Muazu (2000) said the big question to be answered is what therefore are the causes of corruption in Nigeria? The following reasons he advanced as responsible for corruption in Nigeria.

- ❖ Poor pay incentives.
- ❖ Absence of key anti-corruption tools
- ❖ Weak government institutions

- ❖ Lack of openness and transparency in public service.
- ❖ Ineffective political processes
- ❖ Resource scramble (onbemgeria.com).

### **Reasons Why the Fight Against Corruption in Nigeria is not Effective.**

Writing on "repositioning social studies education: A fight against corruption for national transformation presented at the first south-south conference of social studies and civic educators association of Nigeria (SOSCEAN). Salau (2012) quoting Oribemgeria argued that the fight against corruption is fruitless, because of the following reasons.

- Nepotism
  - Low public participation in governance.
  - insincerity of the government itself acting in concert with several of its agencies.
  - Per-bargaining and negotiation highly placed officials caught in corrupt practices are made to part with some of their looted funds and are therefore set free.
  - Weak Government institutions.
  - Corrupt electoral system.
  - System disorder
  - insecurity of informers, there is the need to enact laws to protect informers as well as reward them.
  - lack of virile political and social movements to tackle corruption. The mass of the people are yet to be members in the fight against corruption.
- Added to the above long list of reasons why the fight against corruption is an abortive attempt is the fact that in Nigeria the quality of her judiciary, law enforcement agents, the state security services and even the economic and financial crime commission (EFCC) operatives are very poor and prone to corruption.
- (Osakwe, 2011) Akanbi in Balogun (2012:30) gives a summary of why the fight against corruption in Nigeria is not working. You find people who are suppose to fight corruption wanting to intervene on behalf of culprits, trying to plead with you and giving all sort of excuses. You will be amazed at the level, even the law enforcement agents are trying to intervene on behalf of suspects. You need courage to resist them.

## **The Role of Social Studies in Stemming Corruption for National Transformation and Economic Development in Nigeria**

Social studies could be able to stem corruption for national transformation and economic development, by intensifying its national educational objectives of inculcating national consciousness and national unity, the right type of value and attitudes for the survival of the individual and the Nigeria society, for the training of the mind in the understanding of the World around and the acquisition of appropriate skills, ability and competence both mental and physical as equipment for the individual to live in and contribute to development of his society (National Policy on Education, 2010).

Social studies education have a special task to perform in transforming Nigeria into a modern state, by healing the social and political wounds of the past decades, nurturing the most recent hopes in good ethnic group relationship and nationalism, and the engendering constructive reforms to make the nation a just and progressive society. It also helps to foster the desire for self reliance and national efficiency and national pride.

Social studies as a values free and value laden subject has the capacity to build sound morals and integrity in all facets of the society, it serves as an aid to changing the values system of the people as a means of re-appraising undue obsession to materialism and primitive wealth accumulation which is the mania that is some how responsible for corrupt practices in the society, which invariably thwart national transformation.

Aside the above measures that social studies can help in putting an end to corruption in Nigeria, Mezieobi (2012) outlined the understated as ways social studies can bulldoze corruption impeding Nigeria national transformation:

1. The study of social studies will inculcate worthy attitude and habits (Worthy character development) that will go a long way in eliminating corruption and instituting needed changes for national transformation
2. The study of social studies, particularly in view of some of the new frontiers area i.e. civil education and citizenship education, will expose it beneficiaries to all socio-civic competence and effective citizenship such as inspiring feelings of

patriotism and these will make them socially distant from corruption and corrupt induced practices, temptations, incentives and circumstances.

3. Through the enter-educate instructional mode in social studies corruption inhibiting educative content can be taught in an informal entertainment looking situation through educational miming, entertainment, oriented students group, social-drama or creative, dramatic story telling, music, songs dances play list, role-playing educational stimulation recorded video films or tape as used in Venezuela and Hong Kong which can be replayed from time to time at the relaxation whims of the students. The effects of language vision oriented enter-educate instructional model in social studies delivery with regard to arousing, emotion, inner conviction, feelings and resistance against temptation to indulge in corruption and all it is synonymous with such as moral decay or depravity, organized begging chameleonic praise singing, lasciviousness and squander mania and enhancing interest and acceptance of positive change tremendously.
4. The social content area of social studies curriculum debunk social maladies such as corruption.
5. Social studies education in its integrated holistic frame, as against the other subjects in their separate fragment, is in a better position to analyze the parameters of massive corruption in Nigeria. Viewing it is an integral whole and quipping the learner with cognitive skills to proffer well thought out recommendations that will defuse corruption and place national transformation on the right pedestal.

## CONCLUSION

Social studies education by virtue of its nature and content is able to bring about the desired changes and national transformation, because it places premium on corruption prevention, avoidance resistance, non-indulgence or abhorrence via right character propelled self-discipline as against coercive discipline of the anti-corruption efforts or commissions. It also plays a very vital role in developing rational thinking ability for practical social life, promoting of political literacy and encouraging democratic values and principles for the promotion of the functional citizenship that

will contribute his best towards the welfare of the society and building up or development of Nigeria.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following are the necessary recommendations as ways social studies can stem corruption for national transformation in Nigeria:

1. Government should organize public enlightenment campaigns through national Orientation camps, seminars and workshops on the ways of promoting national development.
2. Promoting value awareness and talking dynamic problems in the society by identifying and solving social problems, using problems solving techniques. Other recommendations according to sand (2001:32) curbing corruption in Nigeria requires the following steps:
3. Develop a culture of openness, merit systems and strong leadership and political will.
4. Effort to address corruption should be holistic- embracing good governance accountability, transparency in government, ministries and parastatals and entrenchment of the rule of law is important.
5. The judiciary should stop treating charges of theft and corruption as political issues, but should adhere strictly to the provision of the constitution.
6. The problems of corruption should concern Nigerians and this should definitely agitate the minds of our anti-corruption crusaders.
7. We should all have the spirit of being nationalistic for the love of the country and shun all forms of corruption for national development.

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