

Bureaucratic Corruption in Nigeria: A General and Sociological Insight into the Problem

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KEYWORDS Human Societies. Development. Socio-economic Politics. Ethics

ABSTRACT Corruption is incipient in all human societies and in most human activities. Besides, it has distorted and retrogressed development. The increasing wave of widespread corruption the Nigerian bureaucracies should therefore be of concern to all and sundry. This concern derives from the fact that the bureaucracies are expected to be avenues through which socio-economic policies and developmental efforts could be enhanced and sustained. The paper focused on the problem from sociological and general perspectives. The origin, causes and manifestations of bureaucratic corruption were identified and discussed. The literature revealed that the problem is largely traceable to breakdown in societal values and constraints rather than to individual dispositions. The paper therefore suggested some categorical imperatives for alleviating the problem. This includes the implementation of radical changes in the value-system, making the socio-economic conditions of the nation more favorable to the working and governing classes, erring bureaucrats should be made to face the law to serve as a deterrence to others, the establishments of an Anti-Corruption Bureau, a reduction in bureaucratic protocols and procedures, and finally the establishment of a National Ethics Commission was suggested to re-orientate the people. The paper concluded by saying that bureaucratic corruption is not desirable and as such must be dealt with squarely and head-on at all fronts. Apart from everything else, it could undermine the basis of order, progress and development in a country.