

Lagos Journal of Contemporary Studies in Education
ISSN: 3043-9075 E-ISSN: 3043-6834
Volume 2, Issue 3, August 2024,45-54
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36349/lajocse.2024.v02i03.004>
Copyright © LAJOCSE 2024

**POLICE CORRUPTION AND COST OF GOODS AND TRANSPORTATION IN
DEKINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KOGI STATE**

Soluade, Zabur Olayiwola
Tai Solarin University of Education,
College of Social and Management Sciences
Department of Sociological Studies
Ijagun, Ogun State, Nigeria.
Soluadeola@gmail.com
Soluadezo@tasued.edu.ng
+2348035754275

Ibrahim, Mohammed Nasiru
Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Political Science
nasiruomoejuku@yahoo.com/08038591770

Balogun Olukunle Olagunju
Tai Solarin University of Education,
College of Specialized and Professional Education
Department of Adult and Development Education
Ijagun, Ogun State, Nigeria.
balogunoo@tasued.edu.ng
Kunlegunju1961@gmail.com
08033550362/08051712904

Adebajo, Yesiru Adebola
Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba
Faculty of Education
Department of Social Science Education
adebajoadebola@gmail.com

&

Moliki Ahmed Olawale
Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ogun State, Nigeria.
College of Social and Management Sciences
Department of Political Science
molikiao@tasued.edu.ng
07064693597

Abstract

The study examined the influence of police corruption on the cost of goods and transportation in Nigeria, using Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State as a case study. The study set out to examine the factors that are responsible for police corruption; investigate the implications of police corruption on the cost of transportation and goods and suggest ways of curbing police corruption in Kogi State. The study employed descriptive research design. The population for the study comprises all the 351,700 resident of Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State, North central Nigeria. Two hundred and fifty-three (253) respondents were selected for the study using the convenience sampling technique. A questionnaire tagged: “Police Corruption and Cost of Goods and Transportation Questionnaire (PCCGTQ)($r= 88$) was the main instrument used for the study. Data was analysed using descriptive analysis. The findings show that factors such as greediness on the part of the police force, and the Nigerian government’s failure to fight corruption using modern technology are one of the major causes of police corruption in Kogi State; Police corruption has effects on the price of goods and the cost of transportation and corruption can be reduced by using technological devices such as drones and satellites to monitor police activities on our roads and to discipline corrupt police officers in the presence of their family. Based on the findings, it was recommended that the government encourage the police force by making the condition of service attractive and the police authority should discipline officers that are involved in corruption in the presence of their families, as well as prosecute any citizen who offers a bribe to the police.

Key Words: *Corruption, Cost of goods, Transportation ,Police, Police Corruption.*

Introduction

The first Nigerian police force was established in 1930, headed by an inspector general saddled with the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and orders, the protection of life and property, and the enforcement of all laws and regulations in Nigeria (Aina, 2014). Nigerian security agencies are saddled with the responsibilities of ensuring the preservation of law and order in the country, prior detection of crime before it happen within Nigeria and maintenance of internal security (Aduba, 2012). The police in Nigeria have statutory power to arrest suspects, investigate them and prosecute them from the lower courts up to the Supreme Court (Umar, 2016). Police hold a significant responsibility for functioning law and order (Singh, 2022).

Corruption is a universal problem found in different degrees in, in fact, all parts of the world. Corruption slows down the development of any country and undermines the efforts of leaders to provide good governance for the citizenry. It impairs the quality of life in most of the developing nations of the world and it constitutes a global challenge for sustainable development (Okeke, et al., 2023; Zang et al., 2023). Corruption in Nigeria has become an epidemic that has affected all

Nigerian strata of life. Factually, no sector of Nigerian society is free from the menace of corruption, whether formal or informal sector (Oladipupo, 2016). The major challenge about corruption-related issues in Nigeria is that corruption is communally tolerable in Nigeria (Okeke, et al., 2023). This is why citizens do feel ashamed to be involved in corruption since, to some extent, it has been a norm tactically approved of by society. Nigeria scored 24 out of 100 in Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index and ranked 150 out of 180 countries on the index (Transparency International, 2022). In Nigeria, corruption occurs across politics and public life, involving both the formal and informal sectors. Nigeria scored 24 out of 100 in Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index and ranked 150 out of 180 countries on the index (Jackson, 2023; Transparency International, 2022).

Police in Nigeria are arguably one of the most corrupt government agencies in Nigeria (Oladipupo, 2016, Edeh, 2017). Police corruption is exhibited in the form of misuse of position. Police round up citizens in public places and frame them up for offences they knew nothing about; those that can pay bribes are left off the hook, while those that are unable to meet the demands are prosecuted; killing for failing to pay bribes. Police in Nigeria are notorious for turning cases against complainants where the accused have compromised them with bribes. The Nigerian police have a long history of engaging in corruption and criminal activities. A former inspector general of police, Tafa Balogun, was tried and jailed for corruption during the regime of former President Olusegun Obasanjo (The Nation, 2013, The Cable, 2019). Corruption among police personnel is a major problem confronting Nigeria's police force. Most Nigerians see the police as corrupt, and untrustworthy. Police stop drivers without good reason and force the drivers to give them bribes to avoid being delayed.

However, in most cases, police exploit the statutory powers to exploit the citizens and abuse their rights at will. Police activities undermine the rule of law in the country. Other ways that police abuse citizens' rights include arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention, threats, and extrajudicial killings (e.g the six Apo Abuja traders that were summarily executed because the police found a large sum of money with them and they were later framed up as armed robbers by the men of police on duty) (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2017). Roadblocks are put in place to combat crime and reduce the level of insecurity in the country. However, a practical experience going through Nigerian roads showed that the police have turned the roadblocks into toll gates where they openly demand bribes from both public and private drivers. Armed policemen along the roads demand bribes and commit human rights abuse through extortion, arrest and torturing of citizens along the roads daily. For example, from Ibilo to Okenne to Anyigba in Kogi State, there are about 25 police roads block in which drivers are expected to pay #50 to #200 per trip. And drivers who refuse to pay will be delayed, which is unnecessary.

Nigerians have perceived police officers as weak and only interested in their personal gain through extortion, which has caused them to fail to fulfill their mandate of providing effective and functional public security. Police personnel are involved in different forms of corruption to supplement their pay by extorting money from members of the public at roadblocks and on public highways, unjustified detention, the infliction of torture and extrajudicial killings (Network Police Reform, 2016). The recent mass youth protest tagged #EndSARS# in the country has its roots in police arbitrary implementation of the self-made law of extorting the youths, checking phones and laptops, and collecting money from the youth under the disguise that they are involved in cybercrime. The Nigerian populace has experienced police brutality, the use of unwarranted force,

torture, extrajudicial killings, acts of violence (physical and sexual torture), and general abuse of human rights (Akinlabi, 2020).

Despite the security challenges facing the country in terms of kidnapping, banditry, herdsmen activities and so on, which required the Nigerian police to suppress criminal activities through surveillance and the use of advanced intelligent gathering techniques, the police use this excuse of combating crime to mount road blocks to extort and arrest innocent citizens, most of whom were free after paying bribes or tagged criminals if they were unable to meet up with the amount charged by the police. To reduce the rate of corruption in the country, The Nigerian government set up several bodies to try offenders for corruption. Agencies such as the War Against Indiscipline and Corruption (WAI-C), Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) were established for the purpose of tackling corruption and improving best practices in our private and public lives. However, despite government efforts, corruption continues unabated within all sectors of the country (Nnabuko, 2012).

Corruption affects nearly every Nigerian, though it has large impacts on the poor masses of the country. Public transport drivers and traders in daily contact with the police at checkpoints and the police, under the pretense of checking vehicle papers, charges public transporters fees that must be paid to avoid delay. On a normal day, a transporter carrying goods and commuters might pass through five to six checkpoints before getting to their destinations, and at all these checkpoints, a certain amount of money must be paid to all the security agencies on the road. Transporters that carry goods, most especially within rural areas, are charged higher fees for carrying the goods to urban areas. Police activities in terms of the collection of tolls seem to have implications for the fees charged by the public transport drivers on commuters and the carriage of goods within the country. It's against this background that this study assessed the implications of police corruption on the price of goods and transportation within Kogi East senatorial districts of Kogi State.

The theory that provides background to this study is the rotten apple theory. Rotten apple theory is an individualistic perspective on police corruption that views police deviance as the work of isolated individuals (rotten apples) who evade detection during the screening and selection process. Makar et al., (2023) examine the impact of corruption on economic growth in Nigeria from 1986 to 2019. This revealed an increase in the level of corrupt practices that inhibit economic growth in Nigeria. It also shows a weak transmission effect of corruption on economic growth in Nigeria through household consumption, foreign direct investment, domestic investment, government spending and the export and import of goods and services in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Police illegal activities have been a subject of debate in Nigeria. The Police have come to be recognized as one of the most corrupt public institutions in the country. Efforts have been made to put on record police corruption generally in the country and police human rights violations within urban areas. Despite the stringent measures taken by the police force to curb police misconduct, issues of corruption among police personnel are still growing at an alarming rate and public

perception of the police force is still negative (Adejoro, 2023). Issues bordering on police corruption and police brutality have been widely discussed by researchers in Nigeria, however, the current rise in the price of food and transportation in the country necessitated the needs to find the connection between police corruption and the prices of goods and transportation in Nigeria and the implications of police activities on the roads in-terms of collections of bribes from the drivers on the price of transportation and goods within some areas in Kogi State, north central Nigeria. This study therefore assessed the implication of police corruption on the price of transportation and goods within Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State. districts.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to:

1. Examine the factors that are responsible for police corruption in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State
2. Investigate the implications of police corruption on the cost of transportation and goods in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State.
3. Suggest ways of curbing police corruption in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State.

Research Questions

1. What are the factors responsible for incessant police corruption in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State?
2. Does police corruption affect the price of transportation and goods in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State?
3. How can police corruption be reduced in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State?

Methodology

Study Design

The study employed a descriptive research design to gather information on police corruption and cost of goods and transportation. The population for the study comprises all the three hundred and fifty-one thousand seven hundred (351,700) residents of Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi East senatorial districts, Kogi State, North central Nigeria. Two hundred and fifty-three (253) residents were selected for the study using convenience sampling techniques for the selection of the participants in the study. The sample were drawn from the commuters and traders that are traveling from Anyigba motor park in Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State. The instrument used for this study was a questionnaire tagged “Police Corruption and Cost of Goods and Transportation Questionnaire (PCCGTQ). The content and face validity of the questionnaire was established by presenting a copy of the draft questionnaire to two experts in the field of test and measurement for further scrutiny and modification. This was to ascertain the suitability of the instrument in terms of language, presentation, clarity and applicability. Based on their comments,

necessary modifications were made. Also, a field trial of the instruments was carried out on randomly selected students living in non-residential tertiary institutions in another institution outside the study area. Split half was used to determine the reliability coefficient of the instrument which was found to be 0.88. Data Collected were coded and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Research Question 1: What are the factors responsible for incessant police corruption in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State?

Table 1: Distribution of the factors responsible for police corruption in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State.

S/N	Items	N	Means	SD
1.	Government neglect of the police welfare	253	3.60	1.395
2.	Greediness on the part of police officers	252	3.98**	1.170
3.	Nigerian willingness to conform with the Illegal police activities	253	3.23	1.461
4.	Tactical approval of corruption by the police higher authority	253	3.65	1.377
5.	Government unwillingness to fight corruption	253	4.14**	1.093
6.	Most public transporter don't have necessary vehicle papers	253	3.68	1.323
	Mean Average		3.71	

Table one above shows the respondents' opinion on the causes of police corruption on Nigeria roads with a focus on Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State, Nigeria. Item 5 which states that the government's unwillingness to fight corruption has the highest mean score of 4.14 (SD =1.093), this is followed by item 2 which states that greediness on the part of the polices as one of the major causes of police corruption on Nigeria road and item 6 which states that most public transporter do not have necessary vehicle papers with means score of 3.68 (SD = 1.323). The average mean score of 3.71. This shows that various factors– identified on the table contributed to the causes of police corruption on Nigerian roads. The standard deviation also shows closeness to the mean.

Research Question 2: Does police corruption affect the price of transportation and goods in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State?

Table 2: Distribution of implications of police corruption on the price of transportation and goods in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State.

S/N	Items	N	Means	SD
-----	-------	---	-------	----

1. Cost of settling police is added to cost of goods	253	3.51	1.302
2. It leads to constant increase of transportation fee	253	3.69	1.148
3. Scarcity of commodities due to fear of police harassment	253	3.21	1.253
4. Crises and instability where the police activities leads to injury as a result of his refusal to give bribe.	252	4.19**	.949
5. Avoidable accident	253	3.62	1.168
6. Overloading to have extra money to bribe the police.	253	3.73**	1.228
7. Encourages deviance of law	253	3.71	1.095
Mean Average		3.66	

Table 2 above shows the distributions of implications of police corruption on the price of transportation and goods in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State. Item 4 states that police activities might lead to crises and instability when it leads to injury or death of any driver because of his refusal to offer bribe with a mean score of 4.19 (SD = .949). This is followed by item 6 which states that police activities result to overloading to have extra money to bribe the police. In addition, item 2 states that police activities on the road lead to constant increase in transportation fees recorded a mean score of 3.69 (SD=1.148), followed by item 5 which states that police corrupt activities might lead to avoidable accidents recorded mean score of 3.62 (SD=1.168). The average mean of 3.66 score shows that the effects of police corruption can also lead to crises and instability, overloading, avoidable accidents, increase in price of goods and high transportation fees as well as scarcity of commodities. The standard deviation shows a high level of dispersion and closeness to the mean.

Research Question 3: How can police corruption be reduced in Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State?

Table 1: Distribution of how police corruption can be reduced.

S/N	Items	N	Means	SD
1.	Adoption of technology devices to monitor police activities on the road.	251	4.13	1.145
2.	Adoption of whistle-blower policy to report police that demand for bribe	251	4.04	1.063
3.	Making the condition of service of the police attractive	251	3.97	1.136
4.	Establishment of anti-corruption monitoring	251	4.24*	1.041

to arrest deviant police officers			
5. Public orientation of drivers on documentation and legal police activities.	251	4.06	1.101
6. Public disgrace and dismissal of the police officer in the presence of his family.	251	4.19*	1.052
7. Prosecution of the drivers that offers police bribe on the road	251	4.18*	1.033
Mean Average		4.085	

Table 3 above shows the distributions of how police corruption can be reduced. Item 4 states that the establishment of anti-corruption measures to arrest deviant police officers recorded the highest mean score of 4.24 (SD =1.041). This is followed by item 6 which supported the idea that public disgrace and dismissal of the police officer in the presence of family members should be applied to officers that engages in corruption with a mean score of 4.19 (SD=1.052). Also, item 7 of the distributions states that there should be prosecution of drivers that offer police bribes on the road recorded a mean score of 4.18 (SD =1.033). The average mean score of 4.08 shows that to reduce police corruption there must be the establishment of anti-corruption monitoring team to arrest deviant officers; policeman who engages in corruption should be made to face the wrath of the law; drivers that offer bribes and did not report should be prosecuted. Adoption of whistle-blowers should be made a policy and the government should improve the police condition of service

Discussion

The results of research question one on the causes of police corruption on Nigeria road show that factors such as government unwillingness to fight corruption; greediness on the part of the police officers; tactical approval of corruption by the police high ranking officers, Nigerians willingness to accept police illegal activities and refusal of most of the public transporter to obtain necessarily vehicle papers are the major causes of police corruption on Nigeria roads. This is supported by Hubert (2002); Ibrahim (2015) and Singh (2022) who found that low salary of the police and status issues and deficiency in recruitment, training and promotion and greediness are among other factors that cause corruption in the police force. This finding might be due to citizens' experience on the road where police officers engaged in the collection of bribes with impunity. The result of research question two shows the effects of police corruption on the road in terms of drivers adding the cost of “settling” police to the cost and transportation and goods; scarcity of commodities, crises, and instability, overloading, avoidable accidents and encouraging deviance of law. This is supported by the findings of Eke (2018); Waseem (2022) and Singh (2022) who found that police corruption always has consequences on the smooth running of society. This finding can therefore be attributed to the fact that police activities have, over time, added to the cost of transporting goods on Nigerian roads. The result of research question three shows the solutions to reduce the issues of police corruption on Nigeria roads as well as reduce the cost of goods and transportation as well. The findings show-that to reduce police corruption there must be the establishment of anti-

corruption monitoring team to arrest deviant officers; police that engage in corruption should be disgraced before family members; drivers that offer bribes and do not report should be prosecuted; adoption of whistleblower policy and making police condition service attractive. This finding is supported by the findings of Makar et al., (2023) and Adejoro (2023) who also suggested that the government should strengthen the anti-corruption campaign among the citizens to reduce issues of giving and taking of bribes. This finding might be because despite various measures used by the police authority to reduce corruption among the police which are perpetrated mostly on the road, the issue of corruption among the police officers continues unabated. There is therefore the need to adopt another measure to reduce police corrupt activities on the Nigerian road.

Conclusion

The study assessed the implications of police corruption on the cost of goods and transportation in Kogi West Senatorial districts in Kogi State, Nigeria. The finding showed that issues of police corruption on Nigeria roads are mostly caused by the Nigerian government's failure to fight corruption using modern approaches. This study suggested that if the government has sincere intentions to fight corruption, modern gadgets should be installed to take records of what is happening on the road in the country. In addition, the finding also showed that police corruption has effects on the price of goods and cost of transportation. This suggested that beyond other areas that the government is looking at as the major causes of high costs of goods and services, the government should also focus on police activities on the road in terms of bribes taking as it affects the cost of goods and services in the country. The findings also show that corruption can be reduced by using technological devices such as drones and satellites to monitor police activities on our roads and as well as disgracing corrupt police officers in the presence of their family.

Recommendation

1. Adoption of technology to monitor police activities on the road. This should be done by the Police Commission in conjunction with the National Commission to monitor Nigeria roads.
2. Nigerians should be more encouraged using toll free lines to expose the police officers that are acting against his or her legal duty on Nigerian road.
3. Government should encourage the police officers by making the condition of service attractive
4. The police authority should dismiss and disgrace officers that are involved in corruption in the presence of his family and as well prosecute any citizen that offer bribe to the police

References

- Adejoro, L. (2023, April 22). Police dismiss 18 officers in three months. Punch.
- Aduba, J.N. (2012). Inquiries on human rights practice in Nigeria past, present and future. An inaugural lecture delivered at the University of Jos inaugural lecture series 54. 29th June, 2020.
- Akinlabi, O.(2020). Citizen accounts of police use of force and its implication for trust in the police. *Journal of Crime Justice*, 43(2), 145-160.
- British Broadcasting Corporation(2017). Apo six murders: Nigeria sentences two policemen to death. March 9th, 2017.
- Edoh, J.N. (2017). Corruption in the local government system: The way forward. *Journal of Politics and Administration Studies*, 10(1),99-114.
- Eke, A (2018). *Kleptocracy: African style*. Pittsburgu. Dorrance Publishing Co.
- Hubert, W. (2002). Core factors of police corruption across the world. *Forum on Crime and Society*, 2(1), 85-99.
- Ibrahim, A (2015). Police corruption and the state: Prevalence and consequences . *Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 3(3), 19-29.
- Jackson, O. (2023). Nigeria: Corruption and anti-corruption In A, Inge, M, Caitin, B. Jamie and A. Samuel, U4 Anti-Corruption Helpdesk. Transparency International.
- Makar, T.A., Ngutsav, A., Ijirshar, V.U., & Ayaga, J.M. (2023). Impact of corruption on economic growth: An empirical evidence from NIGERIA. *Journal of Public Administration, Finance and Law*,27, 254-276.
- Okeke, R. O., Muoneke, C.V., & Odigbo, J. (2023). Political corruption and ‘one chance’ democracy in Nigeria. *Social Sciences and Education Research Review*,10,(1), 27-34.
- Oladipupo, I. (2016). *Qualitative study on patterns, experience and manifestation of corruption in Nigeria*. European Union
- Singh, D.(2022). The cause of police corruption and working towards prevention in conflict stricken state. *Laws*, 11(5), 69 -77.
- The Cable (2019). SERAP Survey: Police most corrupt institution in Nigeria. March 26th 2019.
- The Nation (2013). #5.7bn fraud: Why ex IGP Tafa Balogun was arrested and jailed. September 14th, 2013.
- Transparency International. 2022. ‘2022 Corruption Perceptions Index’.
- Waseem, Z.(2022). Pakistan: New government must tackle police corruption and Killings. The Conversation. April 28
- Zang, L., Zhang, B., & Xiong, F. (2023). Multimodal assessment of political corruption worsening national poverty: Evidence of mediating and moderating effects from global panel data. *Chinese Public Administration Review*, 15396754221146073.