The Role of Civil Society in the Fight against Corruption in Nigeria
Abstract

Corruption in Nigeria and every part of the world is a complex and multifaceted problem that has a negative impact on economic growth and emasculate the sustainable management of natural resources. It is a social, political, and economic phenomenon that has distortive effects on the functioning of democratic institutions and undermines good governance. The effects of corruption on the Nigerian nation are far-reaching, and this menace must be combated for the attainment of good governance and sustainable development. The civil society contributes a significant role in the fight against corruption. These groups are primarily known for providing important social services, social welfare and humanitarian services, political awareness, social and economic empowerment, and human capital development. Civil society has also been crucial in promoting good governance, transparency, accountability, curbing state excesses, and enhancing public scrutiny. Despite being at the centre of all these, Nigeria's civil society is faced with many challenges, internally and externally. Suppose Nigeria is to record significant success in its fight against corruption, strengthening of democracy, and good governance. In that case, this study suggests that the civil society organizations in the country must be adequately invigorated.

Keywords: Corruption, Civil Society, Social Networks, Trust, Democracy, Anti-Corruption Campaign, Social Capital.
Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge my thesis Supervisor, Yonhyok Choe, for his constructive criticism and guidance during my thesis; without his support, this achievement would not have been possible and
to all my respondents for their participation and responses towards the successful conduct of the survey.
To my dear wife and my kids, my siblings, and my best friend Joel Ose Eromomen for their immense support
I return all glory to Almighty God for making this achievement a reality.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Introduction .................................................................................................................. 1
  1.1 Statement of Problem ................................................................................................. 3
  1.2 Relevance of Study .................................................................................................... 4
  1.3 Objectives of the Study ............................................................................................. 4
  1.4 Research Questions .................................................................................................. 4
  1.5 Coverage and Structure of the Study ......................................................................... 4

2 Literature Review ........................................................................................................... 6
  2.1 Corruption ................................................................................................................. 6
    2.1.1 Classifications of Corruption ................................................................................ 7
  2.2 Causes of Corruption ................................................................................................. 9
    2.2.1 Economic Clarification .......................................................................................... 9
    2.2.2 Political Clarifications .......................................................................................... 10
  2.3 Impacts of Corruption ............................................................................................... 10
    2.3.1 Economic Impacts ................................................................................................ 11
    2.3.2 Political Impacts .................................................................................................. 12
  2.4 The Civil Society ....................................................................................................... 12
    2.4.1 Civil Society in Nigeria (Evolution and Growth) .................................................. 13
    2.4.2 Role of Civil Society in Fighting Corruption ...................................................... 15
    2.4.3 Factors Affecting Civil Society's Effectiveness in Fighting Corruption .............. 16

3 Theoretical Framework ................................................................................................. 17
  3.1 Social Capital Theory ............................................................................................... 17
    3.1.1 Functions of Social Capital .................................................................................. 18
  3.2 Role of Social Capital in Fighting Corruption .......................................................... 19
  3.3 Dimensions of Social Capital ................................................................................... 20
    3.3.1 Social Network .................................................................................................... 20
    3.3.3 Social Engagement ............................................................................................... 23
  3.4 Hypotheses ................................................................................................................. 23

4 Case Selection .................................................................................................................. 25
  4.2 Research Methods ..................................................................................................... 26
  4.3 Research Design, Instrument for Data Collection, Sampling Techniques, and Sample Size. 26
  4.4 Ethical Consideration ................................................................................................. 28
  4.5 Method of Analysis ................................................................................................. 28
1 Introduction

Corruption is a general term that encompasses a wide range of abuse or misuse of entrusted funds and power for personal or private gains. It is seen as wrongdoing, a behavioral problem, and an ethical problem requiring personal reform. According to the most cited source in corruption discourses, Transparency International (TI) defined corruption “as the misapplication of entrusted power by political leaders or bureaucracy for personal gain or the interest of a specific group.” Corruption is deep-rooted in Nigeria, and it is seriously affecting and hindering the development of the country in all ramifications (Obasanjo, 1999, p.5). All sectors of Nigerian society are affected by the corruption menace, which damages the development of the country by undermining the faith people have in public institutions and discouraging domestic and foreign direct investments (Uzochukwu et al., 2014). The manifestation of corruption in Nigeria has taken different forms, which include – police extortion at tollgates, election irregularities, slow movement of files in offices, improper award of contracts, slow traffics on the highways, ghost workers syndrome, inflation of official contract fee, port congestion, queues at passport offices and gas stations, total embezzlement of public fund, kickbacks on public procurements, sharing out of public funds to political allies and personal friends in the name of contracts, improper issuance of license to import goods among others (Uzochukwu et al., 2014). At global scene, Nigeria is a prominent country that always appears among the world’s most corrupt nations, and it’s among the blacklisted countries known for its dearth of integrity and transparency and palm greasing when any transactions occur. Chukwuemeka et al. (2012) noted that different governments in Nigeria had made efforts to contain this monster named corruption by putting in place different anti-corruption measures. However, corruption has persisted despite these various measures.

Corruption in Nigeria has attained a maximum level and has become a crime that has made every Nigerian a victim. It has greatly affected the country’s socio-economic and political development as the menace has grown out of proportion and reached unprecedented heights in recent time. Corruption has been argued to be one of the major problems militating against the development of poor countries. In simple terms, corruption impoverishes countries. It is surely one of the biggest challenges of this era, which threatens the stability of our society and creates poverty and loss of lives (Igbugoz, 2008). Nigeria boasts of natural resources and
is one of the most resourceful citizenry in the world; despite these, the country has remained underdeveloped because its resources are often frittered away through corruption, bad leadership, and mismanagement. Diamond in Igbokwe-Ibeto and Okoye (2014) argued that despite the fact that Nigeria command and expend vast resources, the country has achieved nothing and cannot get things done, and this is because corruption has become the major means through which public officials acquire and accumulate personal wealth. The war against corruption has been embarked upon globally as different countries adopt several mechanisms to fight corruption, and it is expected that developing country like Nigeria needs to join the fight. Nigeria is an oil-producing country and a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, but corruption and other inefficiencies have prevented the country from translating the oil revenues it receives into an improved economy (Ibanga, 2005). Therefore, the ongoing global war against corruption is an idea to fight all forms of corrupt practices that have subjected countries like Nigeria to underdevelopment.

The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) was ratified in 1977 by the United States to perform two major functions, which are to criminalize bribery and to eliminate the tax deductibility of bribery (Kelly, 2003; Opara, 2007). Following this enactment, the American government started putting pressure on other countries to key into the FCPA because they felt the law would put American companies on the downside when attempting to work abroad (Kelly, 2003). As a consequence of this, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption was created in 1996, and in 1997 the Convention on War against Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Transactions (Anti-Bribery Convention) was inaugurated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which later became a universal anti-corruption initiative to fight bribery (Opara, 2007). In 2002, an informational guideline called the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (EITI) was created by the United Kingdom, which aimed at sanitizing the extractive industries by increasing the transparency of payments and revenues by companies to governments (Opara, 2007). The UK’s EITI has similar provisions to the US’s FCPA because both were seen as tough anti-bribery laws, where facilitating payments made by companies to expedite routine business needs is no longer allowed (Low, 1998). Virtually every country has adopted some form of anti-corruption law, Nigeria inclusive, but the fact that Nigeria has been consistently ranked high by Transparency International as one of the most corrupt nations on its CPI (Corruption
Perception Index) shows that stringent actions must be taken by the Nigerian government against corruption (Nichol, 2000; Oko, 2003).

1.1 Statement of Problem

The role of civil society organizations in the fight against corruption cannot be overemphasized. Globally, civil societies are non-state actors and advocates of democratic governance saddled with different responsibilities, including the provision of humanitarian services, human capital development, social welfare, political participation, economic empowerment, and involvement in other economic activities, making them a significant agent of good democratic governance agents by promoting the rule of law, answerability, protection of human rights, transparency and protection against capitalist exploitation, referred to as the third sector (Ikelegbe, 2013). Civil society organizations in Nigeria and other African countries have been attributed to recent events that characterize the recent domination of neoliberal democratic institution. Therefore, it is expected that they create an avenue through which the interests of the people are aggregated in demanding from the government the delivery of good governance, and speaking and holding government accountable for their actions, thereby serving as a watchdog against excesses of government and capitalists (Ejeh&Orokpo, 2022).

Since 1999 civil society has been at the frontline in the struggle of enthroning responsiveness and accountability in government in Nigeria, but despite this, they are faced with certain challenges and their work has not yielded the desired result. The failure of the Nigerian government to recognize civil society as a partner in the development process is one of the major challenges facing civil society, and efforts meant to fight corruption and its scourge in the country have been hindered as a result of this (Ejeh&Orokpo, 2022). Also, the persistence of Transparency International in ranking Nigeria among the bottom forty nations in its annual CPI signals the underperformance of civil society in the fight against corruption in Nigeria, and this forms the basis for this study.
1.2 Relevance of Study

Every sphere of societal development, including political, economic, and social life, has been affected significantly by the negative impact of corruption. Corruption is a global phenomenon that usually impacts countries, public institutions, the private sector, individuals, and global development, all of which make corruption a global issue (Ikelegbe, 2013). Destruction of society’s moral fabric and violating the poor and vulnerable’s social and economic rights are some of the several negative effects of corruption. Corruption also undermines the rule of law, subverts democracy, hinders societal development and denies society the benefits of open and free competition. Therefore, it is important for every society to wage war against corruption through an anti-corruption crusade, and the role of civil society in such a fight cannot be overemphasized.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The primary aim of this study is to review the role of civil society in the fight against corruption in Nigeria since the return to democratic rule in 1999 to date. Specifically, the following formed the objectives of the study.

1. To identify civil society’s roles and contributions in Nigeria’s war against corruption.
2. To explore challenges or problems militating against the performance of civil society in fighting corruption in Nigeria.

1.4 Research Questions

The below research questions will guide the conduct of this research work:

1. What are the roles and contributions of civil service in the fight against corruption in Nigeria?
2. What are the challenges or problems militating against the performance of civil society in the fight against corruption in Nigeria?

1.5 Coverage and Structure of the Study

This thesis will be structured in six chapters. The first chapter will capture the introduction and the overview of the thesis with a focus on corruption and the role of civil society in anti-
corruption campaigns in Nigeria. The literature review and conceptual analysis of both corruption and civil society, causes and impacts of corruption, the evolution, and growth of civil society in Nigeria, as well as the role of civil society in fighting corruption, will be presented in chapter two. The third chapter captures the theoretical aspect of the thesis, where relevant theories on the activities of civil society will be considered, and hypotheses will be formulated to guide the study’s conduct. The fourth chapter will contain the thesis research methodology and how it will be captured to answer the research questions. To understand the role of civil society in fighting corruption, a descriptive and quantitative method will be used, while primary data analysis will be adopted as the main research method, and this will be effectively captured in the fifth chapter of the thesis. The last chapter will contain an analysis of the main research findings. It will also present the study’s limitations and suggestions for further study.
2 Literature Review

This chapter reviews scholarly related works in corruption and civil society organizations to show my understanding of the related topic. The chapter begins with the conceptual clarification of corruption. The political and economic causes of corruption will be discussed, while the impacts of corruption on Nigerian states will also be established. This study of the thesis also talks about civil society and gives insight into the evolution and growth of civil society over the years in Nigeria. The roles of civil society in dealing with corruption were highlighted, and the challenges facing civil society to effectively fight corruption in Nigeria were also established.

2.1 Corruption

Like every concept in social science, corruption lacks a universally accepted definition. Perhaps, the simplest definition of corruption is the abuse or misuse of power for personal or private gains. It is regarded as unethical behavior exhibited by a person occupying a position of trust in order to gratify personal self (Eshimolah, 2016). Corruption has been defined as the abuse of public power by politicians elected by electorates or civil servants appointed into a particular position for personal gain (Corruptic, 2017). According to Anti-Corruption Commission (2017), corruption occurs when public power, position, or resources are misused for personal interest or gain. It involves the use of influence or authority in a dishonest way, offering bribes or taking bribes, embezzlement, theft, fraud, and inappropriate use of information meant for the government or corporate body. According to Kalu (2004), corruption is a deliberate and well-orchestrated act by a person or group of persons to appropriate the wealth belonging to another person or group of persons in an unlawful manner. It can also be regarded as a diversion of resources meant for the development or improvement of the community to private purses of individuals at the expense of the community.

Conceptualizing corruption within the Nigerian context, Odey (2002) stated that corruption is the air breathed in and out by every living person in Nigeria. He added that people make no effort to breathe in the air of corruption in the country; rather, it comes naturally. Corruption is naturalized in Nigeria to the extent that people are affected by the corruption virus without making any effort and, in most cases, without knowing (Fatilé & Okewole, 2013). Nigeria
gained independence in 1960; many years after, Nigerians still believe that anyone with access to public money should make corruption out of it and convert it into personal use because such money belongs to no one. Every sector of Nigerian society is penetrated by corruption. Polgreen (2005) rightly captured corruption in Nigeria when he argued that corruption in Nigeria span "from millions of fraudulent e-mail messages sent each year by people pretending to be Nigerian officials seeking help with transferring a huge amount of money out of the country, to the police officers who often set up obstacles, sometimes every few hundred yards, to extort bribes of 20 nairas, about 15 cents, from drivers". Also, the kleptocratic governments that have manifested in the country have produced extremely wealthy politicians and generals, which is the most disturbing and damaging form of corruption in the country. Another one is Electoral corruption which is prevalent in the country. This involves politicians using money to buy votes, promises of special favor or appointment, intimidation, coercion, interference with the election process with the aim of manipulating it, killings, maiming of people, sale of votes, manipulation of election results to favor a candidate, and votes turn up in areas where voting did not take place as widely seen in the just concluded 2023 general elections. Moreover, prebendalism (client patronage) is prevalent in Nigeria, and the effect of all this is that democratic governance is undermined in the country (Olu-Adeyemi, 2012).

2.1.1 Classifications of Corruption

Corruption has been classified into different forms, but this study will focus on political and bureaucratic corruption, private and collective corruption, and redistributive and extractive corruption.

Political Corruption (Grand) and Bureaucratic Corruption (Petty)

Political corruption has been defined in different academic works. According to Heidenheimer et al. (1993:6), political corruption is any transaction between actors in private and public sectors that involves the illegal conversion of collective goods into private-regarding payoffs. Political corruption generally involves political decision-makers (Amundsen, 1999). It occurs at the highest level of the political system and involves huge amounts of resources being siphoned out of the system, and that is why it is referred to as grand corruption. Political corruption is when the politicians and state agents saddled with the responsibility of making and enforcing laws are corrupt themselves. However, bureaucratic
or petty corruption involves corruption in the public administration, and the implementation end of politics is different from political corruption (Amundsen, 1999).

Establishing the difference between political and bureaucratic corruption is important in analytical and practical terms, even though such distinction is somewhat ambiguous because it depends on establishing the separation of politics from administration, and this in most political systems is unclear. Political corruption always has political consequences because it occurs at the top echelon of the state. Political corruption affects both allocation of resources and the decision-making process. It involves the manipulation of the political system and its institutions as well as the rules of procedure, thereby influencing the political system and government institutions, the effect of which is institutional deterioration (Amundsen, 1999). However, legislation, institutional arrangements, and auditing are usually mechanisms through which bureaucratic corruption is fought. Therefore, administrative approach alone is insufficient in curbing the degenerative effects of political corruption; radical political reforms are required (Amundsen, 1999).

Private Corruption (Individual) and Collective Corruption (Aggregated)

This study's second classification of corruption is the private and collective forms of corruption. Amundsen (1999) posited that the proceeds collected through corruption are privatized in different ways. Sometimes such proceeds may be for the benefit of an individual who extends very little or shares nothing of the benefits with others. Also, corruption may be collective, and this is because, in aggregate terms, corruption has a substantial impact and may be deliberately used to extract resources in order to benefit a larger group. According to some of the definitions of corruption, the rulers, as a group or as an institution, exercise their influence in an unjustified way to extract resources for the benefit of the group. For example, political parties, particularly the ruling parties and sometimes the opposition parties, national governments, and entire administrative bureaus, are involved in well-documented cases of grand corruption (Amundsen, 1999).

Redistributive (From Below) and Extractive Corruption (From Above)

Whenever there is a case of corruption, we need to ask ourselves in whose interest does corruption take place, and who benefits most from it? Corruption always involves the state or some state agent according to many definitions of corruption, which also maintain that
corruption is a kind of relationship between the state (the state agent) and the society (citizens, businessman, or client) that is based on mutual exchange of benefit, therefore, in such relationship immediate and private benefit will be drawn by both the state and the society. However, this relationship of mutual exchange is usually unbalanced. According to Amundsen (1999), corrupt practices usually result in a top-down or bottom-up flow of resources. It is extractive or corrupt from above when it flows from the society to the state, and it is redistributive or below when it flows from the state to the society (Amundsen, 1999).

2.2 Causes of Corruption
There have been several kinds of literature on the causes of corruption or why corruption is prevalent in our society. However, in this study, an attempt will be made to present the economic and political clarifications on the causes of corruption.

2.2.1 Economic Clarification
There is a negative variance between the level of corruption and the level of economic prosperity, according to various statistical presentations. This means that when a country becomes richer, the level of corruption diminishes. This relationship between corruption and the economy is strong and unambiguous. The World Development Report, a World Bank publication, and Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (1995) noted strong relationships between corruption and income level. Amundsen (1999) submitted that when a country's income increases, corruption levels become lower (Amundsen, 1999).

However, how each of these variables (corruption and income) influence one another remains unclear, but there is an indication of both in the literature. Due to more opportunities and temptations, an increase in income may as well lead to an increase in corruption on the one hand. In the same vein, it is believed that the corruption level will be reduced due to increased income because economic development usually accompanies political development, accountability, and democratization. However, on the other hand, the economic growth of a country is inhabited by increased levels of corruption. At the same time, the same increase in corruption level is believed to open and speed up rigid and dishonest bureaucracies and create competition and market structures for private sector actors. Therefore, it is seen as positive for economic development (Amundsen, 1999).
2.2.2 Political Clarifications

Corruption and its form vary systematically within a political setting (Amundsen, 1999). The type of regime within which corruption occurs sometimes determines corruption levels and its forms. However, it is generally believed that there is a negative relationship between corruption and democracy. This means that an increase in democracy leads to decreased corruption levels. Friedrich (1993:16) posited that there is a generally formulated assumption stating that the intensity of corruption differs inversely to the degree to which power is consensual. This means that the higher the legitimacy of power, the lower corruption becomes.

The relationship between democracy and corruption is strong, per Freedom House's Country Index on corruption and democracy. The index shows that while the corruption level is at the lowest in highly democratized countries, it is highest in the least democratic countries (Amundsen, 1999). It indicates that until one attains the most advanced democratic system, there is not much reduction in corruption levels, even with improved movement away from high levels of authoritarianism towards increased freedom. Many countries experiencing both political and economic liberalization processes have been recorded to have high levels of corruption. As such, there are elements of weak or ineffective political institutions, uncertainty, and, at the same time, increased opportunities. This implies that high levels of corruption are associated with rapid political and economic transformation, which has manifested in the countries in Latin America and the former Soviet Union that are going through them (Amundsen, 1999).

2.3 Impacts of Corruption

A lot of negativities have been brought to society through corruption; for example, corruption led to the non-observation of building codes made to secure safety in the public domain and illegal logging of tropical rainforests. It may also lead to speculative politicians, insecurity, swaying between opportunities by administrators, a lot of double pressure, and grave risks. Apart from all these, a closer look at corruption's economic and political consequences is necessary for this study.
2.3.1 Economic Impacts

Both corruption and economic development are interrelated and mutually explicatory; therefore, the relationship between the two is ambiguous (Amundsen, 1999). It has been argued by many scholars in the literature that corruption may have a positive impact because it is capable of smoothing rigid bureaucratic systems and producing the required results. This point is valid in the sense that a high rate of red tape and excessive extraction of resources can make it difficult for entrepreneurship to thrive and make businesses unprofitable. Corruption can create bottlenecks in the state bureaucracy, become softened, promote businesses unlock doors, and encourage private entrepreneurship (Amundsen, 1999).

As backed by several empirical data, there is a general assumption that corruption is inhibitive to economic development because it has a negative impact on local private investments, foreign investments and foreign aid, entrepreneurship, taxation, planning, and so on. However, the type of corruption in each country determines the economic effects of corruption in such countries. The type of corruption in a country can sometimes be organized or disorganized, centralized, coordinated and disciplined, or decentralized, disordered, or irregular. The difference in the type of corruption can generally be between controlled and uncontrolled corruption and between calculable and unforeseeable (Amundsen, 1999).

The economy and the political system are greatly affected by how resources extracted from corruption are used. Local investors, for instance, might benefit if these resources are centralized and controlled and therefore reinvested back into the local economy. For example, during the late 90s in South Korea, the president and the ruling party extracted huge amounts of money in a case involving numerous grand-scale economic transactions, yet upon the prosecution, no evidence of private use of the resources was found because all the resources had been reinvested on the South Korean stock market for the benefit of the local economy (Amundsen, 1999). In Africa, however, a different scenario played out as it is witnessed in many corrupt regimes; their rulers, rather than reinventing locally their legally and illegally acquired assets, instead export them abroad for investment in foreign economies because they have little faith in their national economies.
2.3.2 Political Impacts

Apart from the economy, countries' political system is greatly affected by corruption. However, the type of corruption in a country determines the consequences of corruption on the political system. Also, the manner in which resources extracted through corruption are used determines the political consequences of corruption in different countries. In highly corrupt countries, for instance, in Africa, there is a high rate of lack of service which result in the legitimacy of the state declining. Political legitimacy and state institutions are usually undermined by uncontrolled and unrestricted corruption. In less corrupt countries, on the other hand, there are formal and informal ways of accumulation, redistribution, and consumption of resources because there is strong and undeniable control of the economic policies. Hence, the overall control of the state apparatus as well as its operations, the authoritative allocation of resources, and extractive corruption, are all under the control of a strong leader. Different forms of corruption are under the strong control of strong leaders, who, in their wisdom, determine who benefits how much from what kind of corruption (Amundsen, 1999). Based on this, the corruption level becomes stable and predictable, becoming acceptable to businesses and the general public. State institutions in strong states will not necessarily be the culprit of corruption. This is because the perception of the population on the overall esteem of the rule system determines the legitimacy and efficiency of the state as well as the general attitude towards corruption. When the people generally perceive the political authority as benevolent, the majority of the citizens sanction and obey the political system.

2.4 The Civil Society

Civil society has been a prominent concept in social science literature for decades. Despite its prominence, White (1994), Harbeson et al. (1994), and Offerle (2003) argued that scholars have been divided in their opinions about the concept. However, in the literature on civil society in recent times, two opposing approaches have emerged (Enweremadu, 2012). The conventional approach is the first that defines civil society as formal organizations or associations that aim to promote the general interest in specific areas. Sometimes these organizations are referred to as 'civic advocacy groups' (Enweremadu, 2012, p. 140). According to Kasfir (1998), the conventional approach perceives association as
"formally organized with specific and limited purposes, interactive in internal government, and the freedom to act beyond the instant interest of their members. They must also resist the state while validating its power. That is, compel the state to reform" (Kasfir. 1998:6). (Notable scholars such as Schmitter and Diamond have defended this normative approach. They claimed that only those organizations that gather within established rules, and who respect the rule of law social and political actors, and are against the use of violence are referred to as civil society (Schmitter, 1997, p. 240; Diamond, 1994, p. 6; Diamond, 1997, p. 31).

However, can civic advocacy groups be the only valid concept for civil society, or can they be limited only to associations of general interest? Many African scholars have claimed that actors such as ethnoreligious associations are critical to civil society and that any approach that excludes such actors lacks empirical facts. They argued that any associations lacking social roots would only offer little explanation of civil society, especially in Africa (Enweremadu, 2012). This approach is defective for two reasons, according to Kasfir (1998). For him, tribal and ethnic divisions permeate modern organizations at early stages, and secondly, social and political change can be engineered by family, tribe, and clan-based associations (Kasfir, 1998, p. 185). Therefore, authors, including Kasfir, offered a more inclusive approach. Based on this, Walzer (1991) defined civil society as "the space of uncoerced human association as well as the set of relational networks that fill this space. For him, this set of relational networks is established for the sake of family, faith, interest, and ideology.

2.4.1 Civil Society in Nigeria (Evolution and Growth)

Although the origin of civil society has been well-researched in the West (Ehrenberg, 1999; Kaviraj & Khilnani, 2001), African researchers have paid little attention (Enweremadu, 2012). The origin and transformation of civil society in Africa have been attributed to the continent’s colonial and post-colonial experiences. Therefore, the colonial period, the post-colonial period, and the period during which Structural Adjustment Programmes and democratic transitions were introduced have been identified as the periods traceable to the origin of civil society in Africa (Howell & Pearce, 2001). Popular participation or civil society activism can be linked to two historical periods involving the (pre)colonial post-colonial periods (Otite & Kawonise, 1997, p.35). They claimed that these organizations could
as well be indigenous and non-indigenous as a possible fusion between the two periods. For instance, the beginning of the colonial period witnessed the formation of ethnic associations, which later developed as a reaction to colonial rule as well as tensions within or outside ethnic groups (Enweremadu, 2012).

According to Bangura (2012), these ethnic associations and other non-indigenous groups, such as student movements, labor unions, and nationalist movements, played significant roles in opposition to colonization and its eventual ending. However, after independence and towards the 1980s, successive authoritarian regimes in Africa monopolized the political arena, causing civil society in the continent to suffer a decline. Only the independent press did not experience a decline due to the monopolization because of their unrelenting quest to hold politicians accountable. The 1980s also witnessed increased militarization of many African societies, leading to the economic crisis, coupled with the adoption of SAP (structural adjustment program) by African regimes as directed by the World Bank and the IMF, which facilitated the return of civil society or ‘organized labor’ which protested against the impoverishment of the people as a result of effects of SAP and military misrule (Oyayek, 2002, p.194; Bangura, 2012).

In Nigeria, associations such as the Civil Liberty Organisation (CLO), the Niger Delta Human and Environmental Rights Organisation, the Cmte for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR), and the Campaign for Democratic (CD) were established (Pérouse de Montclos 2005:194). The major interests of these associations were the recovery of democracy and respect for human rights. However, they went beyond the struggle to restore democracy as their influence was felt elsewhere (Enweremadu, 2012).

However, the civil society in the country became more radical, and the emergence of larger new civil society organizations, including new independent media houses, following the collapse of the Structural Adjustment Programme and the transition of the country to democratic rule following the annulment of the June 12, 1993, presidential elections and the political crisis thereafter. Of course, all these happened when the international community was experiencing profound policy changes, favoring democratization in developing countries making civil society essential (Biekart, 1999; Amuwo, 2001). According to Aiyede (2003:9), civil society organizations in Nigeria benefited greatly from the international community’s financial and political support during this period, which enabled them to mobilize for democratic reforms, leading to the end of military rule in Nigeria with a transition to
democratic rule on May 29, 1999. Following this, there has been the creation of new civil society associations and non-governmental organizations in Nigeria that have their focus on fighting corruption and fostering democratic governance in the country.

2.4.2 Role of Civil Society in Fighting Corruption

The part taken on by civil society in the fight against corruption cannot be overemphasized. This is attributed to their roles of raising awareness of all economic and political actors and monitoring public services, which make them essential elements in the war against corruption. However, a review of empirical studies of anti-corruption activities exhibited that the role of civil society organizations in fighting corruption falls under six (6) categories: monitoring and reporting, awareness raising, advocacy, direct action, capacity-building, and co-governance (Carr&Outhwaite, 2011; Johnsønet al., 2012; Bader et al., 2019). These are explained below.

Monitoring and reporting is an important aspect of civil society. Civil society organizations check and monitor the activities and operations of individuals or institutions popular for corruption cases or that are liable to be corrupted (Bukenya et al., 2002; Reinikka & Svensson, 2005; Olken, 2007). Areas commonly monitored by civil society are a declaration of assets by public officials and politicians, where discrepancies between assets declared and actual assets can be identified; public procurement, irregularities between the prices of procurement purchases and markets prices can be detected; and public expenditure, where leakage of public funds to private pockets can be discovered.

Civil society organizations also engage in awareness raising to alert the general public and increase their knowledge about corruption. Civil society may rely on existing reports or carry out their investigations, after which they will report their findings either through their official social media handles or through friendly media outlets, in their effects for awareness-raising efforts. Smulowitz and Perozotti (2000) noted that awareness-raising could be about shielding light on a particular case of abuse; it could come from concerted campaign groups.

Another important role of civil society organizations is their engagement in effecting legislative changes and public sector reforms through advocacy. Civil society achieves this through lobbying efforts, and it is always in the form of campaigns carried out by a coalition of organizations with similar objectives. The help of other actors, such as the local media or
the assistance of international partners, may be required by civil society organizations (Ukase & Audu, 2015).

Direct action is another role played by civil society organizations, and this role is played in several ways. Direct action can be in the form of filing lawsuits against corrupt actors. Financially buoyant organizations can do this when they have some level of trust in the legal system's independence (Davidson, 2007).

Rather than going confrontational against corrupt elements, civil society also engages in capacity building, which makes them become effective at fighting corruption by strengthening their capacity and that of others by educating and training their members and the general public. Through training, monitoring skills are inculcated into members, and integrity norms are passed to officials while increased knowledge about corruption is transferred to the general public (Vukovic, 2014, p.14).

Finally, civil society can become active in public governance alongside state authorities through co-governance and contribute efficiently to the anti-corruption campaign. Participatory budgeting, which allows the allocation of public funds to be determined by ordinary people at the state level, is the most popularly known form of co-governance (Abers, 1998; Wampler, 2008).

2.4.3 Factors Affecting Civil Society's Effectiveness in Fighting Corruption

Despite the important roles civil society plays in the fight against corruption, its positive image has been challenged on several fronts (Bader et al., 2019). These authors claimed that democratic principles make the power of civil society organizations holding government accountable a subject of doubt. The public does not elect members of civil society organizations. Therefore, they do not represent a defined constituency. In addition, citizens may have dwindling interest in the regular democratic process of defending their rights if civil society organizations record huge success in their fight against corruption (Brett, 2003; Hickey & Mohan, 2008).

Another potential challenge for civil society organizations in the anti-corruption fight has been identified by Edwards and Hulme (1996) and Kaldor (2003). According to them, civil society organizations fall short in terms of moral accountability (accountability towards those who benefit from the fight against corruption) when enforcing accountability from state
authorities. They also fall short in terms of internal management practices and their role in handling resources.

Also, civil society organizations may not be so effective in fighting corruption (Bader et al., 2019). This is because anti-corruption fights in some countries are championed by long-standing community-based organizations that rely majorly on the general public's support. Civil society organizations also lack coercive and sanctioning power, and this is a major constraint to their effectiveness in the fight against corruption (Mainwaring, 2003, p.7).

3 Theoretical Framework

This section presents a theoretical framework for the role of civil society in withstanding corruption in Nigeria. The chapter presents the Social Capital Theory to provide a strong framework for the analysis of the role of civil society in the anti-corruption campaign. This theory is credible and suitable as it provides a better understanding of the activities of civil society organizations in our societies and offers explanations of their roles in curbing corruption in Nigeria and other African countries.

3.1 Social Capital Theory

One of the most prominent concepts we have nowadays in social science is the concept of social capital, and despite its prominence, the concept eludes a precise definition. Its genesis has been traced to the work of Bourdieu, Coleman, Fukuyama, and Putman (Arku et al. in Tripp et al., 2009:213). However, it has been established in the literature that the term “social capital” was introduced in 1916 by L. J. Hanifan, who had a special focus on the role of fellowship, goodwill, and sympathy in rural communities (Hanifan, 1916, quoted from Conrad, 2007). The first approach to understanding the concept is attributed to the work of P. Bourdieu. For him, social capital is “the amount of resources, either actual or virtual, accumulated by an individual or a group as a result of belonging to a durable network that is nearly almost an institutionalized relationship of mutual acquaintance and recognition” (Bourdieu, 1992, p.65). Therefore, rather than a public good, Bourdieu sees social capital as a private good (1986, 1993). Emphasis on social capital, according to Bourdieu, is on conflicts and the power function that is, social relations, which give individuals more opportunities to further their interests. From the Bourdieuan perspective, social capital is a resource used in
different social arenas or fields to advance social struggles (Szkudlarek & Biglieri, 2016). Going by this perspective, trust, for instance, can now be regarded and considered a part of a symbolic struggle in society. Names such as Robert Putnam, F. Fukuyama, and J. Coleman are associated with the second approach to the concept of society. According to Robert Putnam, social capital is “moral obligations and norms, social values (particularly trust) and social networks (particularly voluntary associations) through which cooperation and collective supportive relations in a society are promoted” (Putnam, 1995, p.42). People show mutual trust while cooperating, and this rises along with the benefits enjoyed in their cooperation. Putnam established the dissimilarity between bonding social capital and bridging social capital. For him, bonding social capital is formed in communities, especially within families and friends, where there is an inclusive bond between members. On the other hand, the bridging social capital is formed in groups oriented outward. Visible characteristics such as acquaintances, neighbors, and colleagues peculiar to heterogeneous groups are formed by bridging social capital. The community needs these characteristics to make progress (Putnam, 2008).

Fukuyama defined social capital as “the presence of a certain set of non-formal values or norms shared amidst members of a group that permits cooperation among them” (Fukuyama, 1997, p.21). According to him, the establishment of new human relationships, as well as the formation of associations, groups, and institutions of the civil society operating in the space between families and the state, are allowed by social capital (Fukuyama, 1997, 2003, quoted from Szkudlarek and Biglieri, 2016). Another aspect of social capital focused upon by Fukuyama was trust. For him, the socio-economic development of the country and its ability to compete with other countries is determined by the level of trust among its citizens.

Coleman’s concept of social capital is a little bit different. For him, social capital is a result of different individual actions. These are events that happen unplanned, the functions and effects of which can manifest in the lives of the people (Trutkowski, Mandes, 2005). Coleman also emphasized more on trust in creating social capital. Human actions and communities are improved by trust (Coleman, 1990).

### 3.1.1 Functions of Social Capital

Social capital has important and essential functions, making it an important community aspect. These functions include economic performance, social functioning, cultural function,
and political functions. From an economic perspective, it is considered one of the capitals of governments, organizations, or communities. Human capital, which was based on knowledge, skills, expertise, and workforce at different employee and manager levels, has been raised in previous models.

Social capital is an instrument through which economic and cultural resources can be accessed through social interactions (Tripp et al., 2009). Social capital promotes trust in the community; hence, the higher the level of trust and the sense of being valued in the community, the higher the dynamism of the community and the higher the level of social engagement. Also, as social capital increases, the community becomes safer and cleaner because the people have become critical of crime and will run away from criminal activities. On the other hand, social capital helps facilitate an increase in reliability in various parts of the community; therefore, it is regarded as the infrastructure and cultural development of the society. Without many implications, social and cultural relations are usually smooth, even, and unproblematic. It is also important to note that social capitals in the cultural sector are a product of the actions of the youths. Young people contribute to the social, economic, and political development of a culture-dominated society with the formation of their personalities.

According to Rush (2010), community development and an increase in social capital are made possible by the actions of the people involved in the participation in community matters; hence political development becomes a gradual process.

3.2 Role of Social Capital in Fighting Corruption

The effects of social trust on economic performance are mostly experienced at both the microeconomic and macro-political levels (Knack, 2000). According to him, at a microeconomic level, transaction costs can be reduced by social trust, and it can also enforce contracts. The costs of doing business are significantly reduced by sufficient social capital, which, by promoting coordination, trust, and cooperation at various levels, also increases productivity (Knack, 2000, p. 1). At the macro-political level, democratic governance, efficiency, honesty of public administration, quality economic policies, and economic development can all be effectively supported and enhanced by social trust (Knack, 2000, p. 1).
The question now is, are nations with high trust levels less corrupt or vice-versa? Social capital is measured using trust level; therefore, can corruption be reduced by social capital? Based on trust level, social capital can effectively fight corruption, as research from different scholars noted. Knack (2000), for instance, argued that compared to lower-trust nations, citizens spend less to protect themselves from being exploited in economic transactions in higher-trust nations. For him, there is the likelihood of fewer resources being diverted (by way of bribes, tax payments, or private security services) by individuals in high-trust societies in order to protect themselves from illegal violations of their property rights (Knack, 2000, p. 2). Other scholars such as Knack and Keefer (1997) and La Porta et al. (1997) also find that a higher trust level encourages good government performance. Knack (2002:3) added that societies with higher levels of trust would perform better in encouraging a high level of honesty from their government.

3.3 Dimensions of Social Capital

According to Antonacci et al. (2023), while some scholars have attempted to measure social capital using one or more dimensions, others have combined different dimensions to form one index to measure the whole concept of social capital. In this study, each of these dimensions will be considered as how they are related to the subject of this study.

3.3.1 Social Network

The degree of people’s engagement in social activities in a community is crucial for the development of both individuals and the larger collective (Putnam, 1993). A social network involves a social structure made of nodes containing individuals or organizations. The ties between the nodes depict the relationships between the actors in the network. Vonneilich (2022) argued that, sociologically, the central theme of network analysis is not based on explaining the characteristics of individuals; rather, it is focused on explaining the relationships between individuals as well as the characteristics of these relationships. This is because, as Burt (1982) claimed, individual actions lie through a network of interpersonal relationships. However, individual characteristics are not the only factor used in explaining social interaction and social processes; the integration of individuals into a social environment is also crucial (Light & Moody, 2020). In order to describe these social relationships, the graphical network models have been developed, and from a network
research viewpoint, the micro-perspective of an individual has been abandoned; instead, the level that describes the interdependencies of individuals and groups has been favored. Apart from the fact that the position of an individual within a social network can be identified, there is also the tendency for analysis of contact, influence, and control within the network, and this is an important aspect of network research. Using different network theoretical concepts like density, nodes, position, and centrality, Holzer (2009) claimed that these structures can be adapted to describe social phenomena. In addition, social networks can be distinguished based on the networks’ intensity, frequency, size, and reach (Vonneilich, 2022). These quantitative aspects of social relationships dominated early works on network research, where there was an interaction between the concept of social networks and social integration. As noted by Laireiter (1993), social integration is described as the integration of people into associations, social groups, or voluntary organizations like civil society organizations; the number of social contacts one has with family, friends, and relatives; and the availability of interpersonal resources as well as access to it (Laireiter, 1993). Based on this definition, the social contract made with family, relatives, and friends as indicators for integrating into social network work is discussed below.

_Family_ is the primary social organization. It is a foundational concept where standards of personal conduct not enforced by law but are essential qualities for democratic civil society are taught (Fineman, 2000). It is the foundation of the social organization; hence, moral traits of democracy are instilled in the people through the family, which the people later transfer by voluntarily joining civil societies where those moral traits are used to attain the objectives of the organization, such as fighting corruption.

_Friendship_ entails close relationships and sharing of life between two people. Just like networks, friendships are an important element of the social fabric. They are essential components to the establishment of large networks of social relationships. Friendship is an informal social connection that is important in connecting people into much larger social networks (Putnam, 2000). With this, people are united into bigger networks, molding the bricks of society through these patterns of friendships (Vela-McConnell, 2017).

_Relatives_ comprise husband, wife, mother, father, daughter, son, brother, sister, great-grandparent, grandparent, great-grandchild, grandchild, spouse, and or members of the same household. In society, relatives are seen as the most significant primary group, an important component of civil society formation, because positive and negative values are first
socialized in the family (Ahmadi, 2009; Salamor, 2010). Each member of a relative has a mutual influence on the other because they are interconnected, and these influences are sometimes transferred by relatives into civil society, where these moral values influence other members of the group.

3.3.2 Social Trust

Another important dimension of social capital is social trust. In social capital discourse, trust plays a crucial but variable role (Tonkiss, 2004). The definition of trust offered by both Fukuyama (1995) and Putnam (1993) are essential to this study. For Fukuyama, social networks, collective values, and cultural mores are forms of social capital that shape economic growth and support social cohesion, and trust is both the condition for and the effect of these forms of social capital. Trust is the expectation that spring up within a community where commonly shared norm result in methodical, honest, and cooperative behavior (Fukuyama, 1995, p.26). When there is a high level of trust in a society or a certain part of it, the expected result is the presence of social capital (Fukuyama, 1995). On the other hand, Putnam had a different opinion and looked at trust in less general terms. For him, like norms and networks, trust is another feature of social organization that improves society’s efficiency through coordinated actions (Putnam, 1993). Trust answers how people achieve a common goal or at least mutual ends by pooling together their collective acts for a specific purpose. It is an important condition for democratic stability, social integration, and economic efficiency, all of which can be achieved through trust. Therefore, the key component of social capital, perhaps, is trust (Putnam, 2000; Fukuyama, 1995).

Three (3) indicators are crucial to achieving social trust within voluntary associations like civil society organizations. These are believing in someone, respect, and altruism. Believing in someone depicts having faith or confidence in a person’s or group’s ability. Believing in someone is the fruit of trust. But believing is not limited to trusting individuals alone; it also extends to voluntary associations like civil society, that is, the ability of an organization to achieve the required social capital in the community is voted on with confidence from the citizens.
Respect entails showing deep signs of admiration as a result of trust. An individual or a group will earn your respect only if you have trust in them. Also, civil society displays high trust in their activities to earn people’s respect in creating social capital.

Altruism refers to the behavior that benefits others at the expense of the individual involved. Altruism is an essential trait of civil society because most of these civil groups are non-governmental and non-profit organizations that have their activities majorly directed toward achieving social capital within the society.

### 3.3.3 Social Engagement

According to Putnam (2000), individual engagement in social activities, such as voting, reading the newspaper, and belonging to voluntary groups, are another means of measuring social capital in communities. For him, there is a close association between civic virtue and social capital, and the relationship between these two is most powerful when transferred into a dense network of reciprocal social relations. He added that no matter the level of virtuous values in a society, it is not necessarily rich in social capital if there is no reciprocity among its citizens. Therefore, Putnam’s approach justifies the argument that individual-level engagement in civic behaviors realizes costs and benefits at the societal level (Dodd et al., 2015). Civic engagement can be individuals’ independent and autonomous behaviors. It can simply mean external activity that makes people get out of the house and participate in civic activities.

As Dodd et al. (2015) noted, voting and reading the paper did not suggest that social capital has been created. Hyman (2002) claimed that Putnam showed that social capital is a result of civic engagement; that is, civic engagement leads to social capital. It can, however, be agreed that social capital has been created when certain catalytic issues or even explore civic engagement in achieving a particular end or purpose (Hyman, 2002).

### 3.4 Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are worked out to guide the conduct of the study.

**H1:** The higher the level of social network within society the higher, the higher level of social capital
H2: An increase in the level of trust within society will have a significant effect on the level of social capital
H3: A higher level of social engagement will significantly impact social capital.
Methodology

This chapter gives details on the methodologies adopted to achieve the purpose of this study. The chapter also provides details on the methods and approaches used for this study. Also, in an attempt to provide readers with a thorough understanding of the research, this chapter gives information on the research design, the sample design, the sample size, the mode of data collection, and the method of data analysis. Finally, ethical issues were not taken for granted and were duly considered based on mutual respect, fairness, and moral value between respondents and myself.

4.1 Case Selection

There is a general perception and belief that corruption is difficult to tackle worldwide, especially in fragile, post-war, and multi-ethnic states. The impacts of corruption in most post-war and developing countries in Africa, including Nigeria, are usually seen in the bad state of socio-economic development, political instability, and anomaly. Corruption is a big challenge to good governance in Africa. Therefore it needs to be fought through a sustained anti-corruption crusade. In this regard civil society certainly has a key role to play. Civil society is pivotal in the fight against corruption because they engage in monitoring public services, raising awareness of the activities of political and economic actors, thereby condemning bribery, exposing corruption cases, and putting the necessary pressure on the government for reform.

Nigeria has been chosen as a case study in this study. Nigeria was chosen because of the high level of corruption in the country. Virtually all levels of government and every sector in Nigeria are corrupt despite different anti-corruption campaigns by successive governments. Since the embrace of democratic rule in 1999, different governments have come up with different strategies to fight corruption. Chiefly among is (EFCC) Economic and Financial Crime Comm’n & Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) by former president OlusegunObasanjo to fight corruption in Nigeria. However, these two agencies have recorded very little success because they are not independent in their activities, and they have turned out to be tools in the hands of politicians to fight opposition. Notable also in the fight against corruption in Nigeria is the activities of civil society organizations. There has been a proliferation of civil society organizations in Nigeria after the
transition to civil rule in 1999, and they are playing a key role in the development and governance processes of the country. Civil society can express its members’ interests and regulate and constrain state power. They make demands from the government which form inputs for the democratic process. Civil society influences government decisions and is capable of promoting accountability through their approval or disapproval of government decisions. Civil society, in most cases, combines necessary expertise and networks to address common issues, hence they are crucial in fighting corruption. They also educate their members and the general public on the demand for good governance, good and quality service delivery, transparency, and accountability, and it is believed that, on average, civil society provides more quality education to its members than the national average, and this places them in a better position to champion anti-corruption campaign (Akinyemi, 2016). Finally, compatibility exists between an intra-case comparison and a case study, and in this study, the adoption of intra-case comparison will assist in examining extensively the role of civil society in fighting malfeasance in Nigeria over time while keeping key features constant.

4.2 Research Methods

This study made use of a quantitative methodological approach to investigate the role of civil society in the fight against corruption in Nigeria through the use of statistical software called SPSS (statistical package for social science). This approach provides a detailed interpretation of the socio-political event in Nigeria rather than describing it, and it is objective in its interpretation. Also, quantifying recent political events in the country and basing the research on number and statistics helps to describe the subject matter with some level of precision and also help predict how it will be fought or eradicated.

4.3 Research Design, Instrument for Data Collection, Sampling Techniques, and Sample Size

According to Orodho (2003), research design is the scheme, outline or plan used to answer research problems. According to Grey (2014), research design contains the procedure for required data, data collection, and analysis methods, and how this procedure will help answer
the research question. There are three guise of research design – descriptive, exploratory, and explanatory. For this study, a descriptive research design will be used. Descriptive research presents a picture of an event, situation, or person or shows the relationship between events and how things naturally occur. Descriptive research is more suitable for a research area that is relatively new and does not explain why a phenomenon has occurred. The study make use of descriptive research design and primary data collection will be done through surveys. The instrument for data collection for this study will be structured questionnaires. The structured questionnaire will be administered to residents of Nigeria through the Internet, using a non-probability method otherwise called convenient sampling. A total of one hundred and fifty questionnaires (150) containing a minimum of 26 questions will be sent out to respondents who will be asked closed-ended questions in the survey on the role of civil society to counter corruption in Nigeria, using questionnaires to take the population’s sample to make statistical inferences. Voluntary Nigerians who are government workers and members of civil society organizations are respondents to this study. Seven categories of the Likert scale contain a broad range of responses that allow clear expression of feelings about a phenomenon by respondents, which will be used in the questionnaire. According to Kabir (2016), a sample is defined “as part of the population through which the features, traits, and characteristics of the whole population are represented.” It is a subset or portion of a selected population to be observed or measured with the aim of providing statistical data about the population. Sampling, on the other hand, involves examining a part of a population to obtain information about the entire population (Kabir, 2016). This study is a quantitative research work, and sampling technique forms an important part of quantitative research; therefore, this study will make use of a convenient sampling method. This type of non-probability sampling technique is used to collect data from readily available members of the population for the study. The convenient sampling approach was used because of the limited time to conduct the research and the distance between the researcher and the core population. Therefore, the researcher would use social media to collect responses for the questionnaires from voluntary Nigerians willing to participate in the study. This will be done through an online survey site called SurveyMonkey which allows researchers to create a survey via the Internet by creating a web link for the survey. This type of survey is mostly used by researchers whose respondents are far away from them.
4.4 Ethical Consideration

The issue of ethical consideration is an important part of research work which every researcher must ensure they comply with in the course of their study. Ethical consideration involves the aptness in the actions of the researcher during the research in relation to the rights of those directly or indirectly affected by those actions. This study will identify possible threats to the personal safety of participants and take preventive measures against them. The personal privacy of participants will be respected while, at the same time, their sensitive information protected. Every information disclosed by the participants will not be divulged to other parties and will be treated with utmost level of privacy, while anonymity of respondents will be maintained.

Those who will participate in this study will do so voluntarily without being compelled, forced, or coerced, and this will be well specified in the first section of the questionnaire. Equality will be maintained among respondents during the process of data collection. Also, participants will be informed about the research’s purpose, and their commitment level will be communicated. Finally, in the conduct of the research, there will be the maintenance of a high degree of fairness and integrity. This will be done by ensuring that deception and misrepresentation of participants’ opinions are avoided, and fairness and objectivity will be maintained in the presentation and analysis of the finding of this study.

4.5 Method of Analysis

Data collection for this study will be done through the use of structured questionnaires, and these data will be examined for an analytical framework through the use of SPSS. The study will make use of descriptive frequencies through graphs and tables to reduce the large volume of data into a smaller and simpler form to aid readers’ understanding. Also, the study will use correlation analysis to put in place the relationship between dependent and independent variables and to test the postulated hypotheses, a bivariate and multivariate regression analysis will be used.
4.6 Operationalization and Measurement of Variables

4.6.1 Dependent variables

The study is based on the role of civil society organizations in curbing corruption in Nigeria; therefore, the dependent variable, in this case, is said to be corruption. In Nigeria, the rate of corruption is alarming, and every aspect of the country is affected, and as a result, a questionnaire was created to seek the opinion of the public on how civil society has contributed to the anti-corruption campaign. The questions are as follows:

**Question 15:** Do civil society organizations play a significant role in fighting corruption in Nigeria?

A close-ended linear set of questions involving five (5) Likert scales will be used to collect data for this question from responses that decrease in ferocity to responses that increase in ferocity, while the neutral response was placed in the middle. Thereafter, these variables will be recorded into three responses for forthright interpretation, but the neutral response will still be placed in the middle.

**Question 25:** How successful are the CSOs in anti-corruption campaigns in Nigeria?

A five-Likert close-ended linear set of questions will also be used to gather data for this question. The question contained responses that decreased in ferocity to that which increased in ferocity, and of course, the neutral response was placed in the middle. Thereafter, the dataset will be recorded into three responses for interpretation, while the neutral responses will maintain the middle position. However, these two dependent variable datasets will be combined through the use of SPSS to form another variable that will be used for regression analysis.

4.6.2 Independent variable

The study focuses on the interaction of impacts of civil society organizations in addressing corruption in Nigeria. It is not only based on the role of civil society in the country alone but measures the CSOs have employed towards eliminating corruption in the country. The principal independent variable is as follows:

**Question 8:** How deep is corruption in Nigeria?

A seven-Likert scale with a close-ended linear question will be used to collect data for this particular question, and a neutral response will be placed in the middle. However, the dataset
will be recoded into three responses for straightforward interpretation, while the neutral response will still be placed in the middle.

Additionally, civil society organizations have played a significant role in tackling corruption in Nigeria; therefore, this study will introduce another independent variable in the multivariate regression analysis as follow:

*Question 25: How successful are the CSOs in anti-corruption campaigns in Nigeria?*

A seven-Likert scale with a close-ended linear set of questions will be used to collect data for this particular question, and neutral responses will be placed in the middle. The data will be recorded later into three responses for interpretation, while the neutral response will still be placed in the middle.

### 4.6.3 Control variable

In this study, the control variables are gender and educational qualification, and they contain close-ended questions as shown below:

*Question 1: What is your gender?*

*Question 3: Is the highest level of education complete?*

The variable for gender has three scales: male, female, and others. This variable will later be put into two scales, male and female. Also, the variable for level of education has five scales: primary, secondary, technical training school, university graduate, and post-university graduate. This variable will later be streamlined into three scales to include Low-level education (primary), middle-level education (secondary and technical training school), and higher-level education (university and post-university graduate).
5 Results and Analysis

This research investigation adopted a quantitative methodological framework to explore the crucial role played by civil society in the ongoing battle against corruption within the context of Nigeria. To accomplish this objective, the study employed the SPSS statistical application, thereby enabling a robust and rigorous statistical analysis of the collected data. Within this section, we present the demographic information of the study participants, descriptive results, bivariate findings, and regression analysis, which collectively contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the research inquiry.

5.1 Demographic Information

What is your gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>47.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>52.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Primary Data

The gender distribution of the participants in this study was examined to gain insights into the composition of the sample. Out of the total sample size of 150 respondents, 47.3% (n = 71) identified as female, while 52.7% (n = 79) identified as male. These findings indicate a relatively balanced representation of gender within the sample, with a slightly higher proportion of male participants. These results contribute to the comprehensive understanding of the demographic characteristics of the study population and can inform subsequent analyses and interpretations in the context of the research inquiry.

What is your age?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below 20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>45.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Primary Data
### The Age Distribution of the Participants

The age distribution of the participants in this study was analyzed to gain insights into the age demographics of the sample. Among the total sample of 150 participants, the largest proportion (45.3%, \( n = 68 \)) fell within the age range of 31 to 40 years old. This was followed by the age range of 41 to 50 years old, which accounted for 20.7% (\( n = 31 \)) of the respondents. The age groups below 20 yrs. old, 20 to 30 yrs. old, 51 to 60 yrs. old, and above 60 years old constituted 4.7% (\( n = 7 \)), 16.7% (\( n = 25 \)), 4.7% (\( n = 7 \)), and 8.0% (\( n = 12 \)) of the sample, respectively.

The cumulative percentages demonstrate the overall distribution of the age groups within the sample. Specifically, by the end of the cumulative distribution, 92.0% of the respondents were accounted for, indicating that most participants fell within the age range of 40 years old and below.

### Highest Level of Education Completed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Training</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>49.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post University</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The educational attainment of the participants was examined to gain insights into their highest level of education completed. From the total sample size of 150 participants, the highest proportion (49.3%, \( n = 74 \)) reported being university graduates, holding a Bachelor's degree (B.Sc., BA) or Higher National Diploma (HND). Following this, 21.3% (\( n = 32 \)) of the participants reported having pursued further education beyond their undergraduate studies, holding post-graduate degrees such as Masters or Doctorate degrees. In terms of lower levels of education, 18.0% (\( n = 27 \)) of the participants reported completing education at a Technical Training School, while 7.3% (\( n = 11 \)) indicated completion of education at a
Secondary School level. The smallest proportion of respondents (4.0%, n = 6) reported having completed only Primary School education.

The cumulative percentages provide an overview of the distribution of educational levels within the sample. Notably, by the end of the cumulative distribution, 78.7% of the respondents' educational backgrounds were captured, indicating that most participants possessed at least a university degree. These findings offer valuable insights into the educational diversity and qualifications of the study participants, enabling a comprehensive understanding of their educational backgrounds in the context of the research inquiry.

**What level of government do you work in?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>41.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author's Primary Data

The level of government in which the participants work was examined to gain insights into their employment context. The results reveal a distribution of participants' across different levels of government. Out of the total sample size of 150 participants, 30.0% (n = 45) reported working at the Local Government level. A slightly higher proportion of participants, 41.3% (n = 62), indicated being employed in the State Government. The Federal Government employed 28.7% (n = 43) of the respondents.

The cumulative percentages demonstrate the overall distribution of participants across different levels of government. By the end of the cumulative distribution, 71.3% of the respondents' employment contexts were captured, indicating that most participants worked either at the State or Federal Government levels.

**Ministry or department of government you work.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aviation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and Tourism</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aviation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and Tourism</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The participants' ministries or departments of government in which they work were examined to gain insights into their specific areas of employment. The results indicate a diverse distribution of participants across various government sectors. Out of the total sample size of 150 participants, the most commonly reported ministry/department was Education, with 27.3% (n = 41) of the respondents working in this sector. This was followed by Science and Technology, which employed 14.0% (n = 21) of the participants. Other significant sectors included Agriculture (9.3%, n = 14), Labour and Productivity (9.3%, n = 14), and Sports (9.3%, n = 14).

The cumulative percentages illustrate the overall distribution of participants across different ministries or departments. By the end of the cumulative distribution, 100% of the participants' employment sectors were captured, highlighting the diverse range of government departments represented in the study. These findings provide valuable insights into the distribution of participants across specific ministries or departments of government, shedding light on the diverse areas of expertise and focus within the sample. Understanding the participants' specific work contexts is crucial for contextualizing the research findings and interpreting their implications within the specific government sectors involved.

### How long have you been working in the civil service?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid 3-7</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The duration of participants' employment in the civil service was assessed to gain insights into their tenure within the public sector. The results indicate a varied range of work experience among the respondents. Out of the total sample size of 150 participants, 10.0% (n = 15) reported having less than 3 years of experience in the civil service. The largest proportion of participants, 31.3% (n = 47), reported having worked in the civil service for a period ranging from 3 to 7 years. Additionally, 29.3% (n = 44) of participants reported a work experience of 8 to 12 years, followed by 20.7% (n = 31) with a tenure of 13 to 17 years. The smallest proportion of respondents, 8.7% (n = 13), reported having worked in the civil service for 18 to 22 years.

The cumulative percentages demonstrate the overall distribution of participants based on their years of service in the civil service. By the end of the cumulative distribution, 100% of the respondents' work experiences were captured, illustrating the diverse range of tenures within the civil service among the participants, highlighting the diverse range of government departments represented in the study.

### Level in civil service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The level of participants within the civil service was examined to gain insights into their hierarchical positions. The results reveal a distribution of participants across different levels within the civil service. Out of the total sample size of 150 participants, 24.0% (n = 36) reported holding positions at the Low Level. The Middle Level accounted for the highest proportion, with 48.0% (n = 72) of participants occupying positions at this level. Additionally, 28.0% (n = 42) of the respondents reported holding positions at the High Level.
The cumulative percentages demonstrate the overall distribution of participants across different levels within the civil service. By the end of the cumulative distribution, 100% of the respondents' hierarchical positions were captured, highlighting the varied distribution of participants across low, middle, and high-level positions within the civil service.

These findings provide valuable insights into the distribution of participants across different hierarchical levels within the civil service, allowing for a better understanding of the organizational structure and participants' positions within it. Such information is crucial for contextualizing the research findings and interpreting the implications of the study based on the participants' hierarchical positions within the civil service.
5.2 Descriptive Analysis (Distribution Analysis)

How deep is corruption in Nigeria?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely Deep</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Deep</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat not deep</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Deep</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Primary Data

The assessment of the depth of corruption in Nigeria was a key aspect of this research. The findings illustrate the perceptions of participants regarding the severity of corruption within the country. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, 47.3% (n = 71) indicated that corruption in Nigeria is perceived as "Extremely Deep." An additional 37.3% (n = 56) of participants reported that corruption is perceived as "Deep." On the other hand, a relatively smaller proportion of participants, 5.3% (n = 8), perceived corruption as "Somewhat Deep." It is worth noting that a negligible proportion of participants (0.7%, n = 1) reported a "Neutral" perception of corruption depth. Furthermore, 4.0% (n = 6) of participants perceived corruption as "Somewhat not deep," and another 5.3% (n = 8) perceived corruption as "Not Deep."

These findings put forward that a significant majority of the participants perceive corruption in Nigeria to be deeply rooted, with almost half describing it as "Extremely Deep." The implications of these perceptions are far-reaching and indicate a pressing concern regarding the extent and impact of corruption within the country. Such perceptions can contribute to a growing demand for anti-corruption measures, institutional reforms, and intensified efforts to combat corruption at various levels of society and governance.

Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gains?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

37(77)
The research investigated the beliefs and perceptions regarding the abuse of office for private gains among Nigerian politicians and public office holders. The results shed light on the prevailing perceptions among the participants. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, 50.7% (n = 76) strongly agreed with the statement that Nigerian politicians and public office holders abuse their positions for private gains. Additionally, 40.0% (n = 60) of participants agreed with this statement. Only a small proportion, 8.7% (n = 13), disagreed with the notion, and a negligible number of participants (0.7%, n = 1) strongly disagreed. These findings highlight a significant belief among the participants that politicians and public office holders in Nigeria engage in the abuse of power for personal benefits. Such perceptions have serious implications for public trust, governance, and accountability. When citizens perceive widespread abuse of office, it erodes trust in government institutions and undermines confidence in public officials. This can lead to increased cynicism, apathy, and disillusionment among the public.

What type of corrupt practice is prevalent in Nigeria?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All of the above</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bribery</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election Rigging</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embezzlement of Funds</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extortion</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favoritism</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kickbacks</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepotism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The research aimed to identify the prevalent types of corrupt practices in Nigeria as perceived by the participants. The findings shed light on the diverse range of corrupt practices prevalent within the country. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, the most identified corrupt practice was the "Embezzlement of Funds," reported by 40.7% (n = 61) of the respondents. This was followed by "Election Rigging," identified by 16.7% (n = 25) of the participants. Additionally, "Bribery" was reported as a prevalent corrupt practice by 13.3% (n = 20) of participants. Other identified corrupt practices included "Kickbacks" (7.3%, n = 11), "Favoritism" (4.0%, n = 6), "Patronage" (7.3%, n = 11), "Extortion" (6.0%, n = 9), "Nepotism" (2.0%, n = 3), and "All of the above" (2.7%, n = 4).

These findings have significant implications for anti-corruption efforts, policy formulation, and institutional reforms in Nigeria. The identification of specific corrupt practices highlights the areas that require targeted interventions and enforcement mechanisms. Efforts to combat corruption should prioritize addressing the identified prevalent practices such as embezzlement, election rigging, bribery, and kickbacks. Developing effective anti-corruption strategies, enhancing transparency, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and promoting a culture of integrity can contribute to mitigating these prevalent corrupt practices.

### What factors help in sustaining corruption in Nigeria?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - 3 above</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the above</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the above including greed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepotism and Tribalism</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak Government Institutions</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>44.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak Press</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Author’s Primary Data**
The research aimed to identify the factors that contribute to the sustainability of corruption in Nigeria, as perceived by the participants. The findings shed light on the various factors considered significant in sustaining corruption within the country. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, the most identified factor was "Weak Government Institutions," reported by 44.0% (n = 66) of the respondents. "Poverty" was also recognized as a substantial factor, identified by 25.3% (n = 38) of participants. Additionally, "Nepotism and Tribalism" were seen as contributing factors by 18.7% (n = 28) of the participants. Other factors identified included "Weak Press" (8.0%, n = 12), "All of the above" (2.7%, n = 4), "All of the above including greed" (0.7%, n = 1), and "1-3 above" (0.7%, n = 1).

These findings have significant implications for addressing corruption and implementing effective anti-corruption measures in Nigeria. Recognizing the factors that sustain corruption is crucial for developing targeted interventions and policy reforms. Strengthening government institutions, improving transparency, and promoting accountability are essential to mitigate corruption. Addressing poverty and addressing issues of nepotism and tribalism are also critical in curbing corruption.

**How is the impact of corruption on the Nigerian nation?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>81.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Author's Primary Data*

The research aimed to assess the impact of corruption on the Nigerian nation, as perceived by the participants. The findings shed light on the varying degrees of impact attributed to corruption within the country. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, the majority (81.3%, n = 122) believed that corruption has a "High" impact on the Nigerian nation. Additionally, 15.3% (n = 23) of participants perceived the impact of corruption as "Mild." Only a small proportion (3.3%, n = 5) reported a perception of "Low" impact.

These findings highlight the significant and pervasive impact of corruption on the Nigerian nation, as perceived by the participants. The implications of such a perception are far-reaching and encompass various aspects of the country's socio-political and economic landscape.
The high perception of corruption's impact suggests that it undermines the country's development, erodes public trust, and hampers socio-economic progress. The consequences of corruption can be observed in various sectors, including reduced public service delivery, weakened institutions, distorted resource allocation, hindered investment climate, and increased inequality. Moreover, corruption can exacerbate poverty, hinder social welfare programs, and impede the realization of sustainable development goals.

**The Nigerian government has done enough in fighting corruption?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>54.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>26.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Author’s Primary Data*

The research sought to explore the perception of the Nigerian government's efforts in fighting corruption as perceived by the participants. The findings reveal a diverse range of opinions regarding the government's actions. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, a substantial proportion (54.0%, n = 81) disagreed with the statement that the Nigerian government has done enough to fighting corruption. Additionally, 26.0% (n = 39) strongly disagreed with this notion. On the other hand, a smaller proportion of participants agreed with the statement. Specifically, 11.3% (n = 17) agreed that the government has done enough, while 4.7% (n = 7) strongly agreed. A small portion of participants expressed a neutral stance, with 4.0% (n = 6) neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

These findings indicate a significant level of skepticism and dissatisfaction among the participants regarding the government's efforts in combating corruption. The high proportion of participants expressing disagreement or strong disagreement with the government's anti-corruption efforts underscores the need for continued and intensified actions to address corruption in Nigeria. It highlights the importance of strengthening institutions, promoting integrity, and ensuring that anti-corruption initiatives are carried out in a transparent and accountable manner.
The government anti-corruption campaign is yielding positive result in Nigeria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valid</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>60.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Primary Data

The research aimed to assess the perception of the Nigerian government's anti-corruption campaign and its effectiveness in yielding positive results. The findings reveal diverse opinions among the participants regarding the impact of the campaign. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, the majority (60.7%, n = 91) disagreed with the statement that the government's anti-corruption campaign is yielding positive results. Additionally, 22.0% (n = 33) strongly disagreed with this notion. Conversely, a smaller proportion of participants agreed with the statement. Specifically, 12.0% (n = 18) agreed that the government's campaign is yielding positive results, while 3.3% (n = 5) strongly agreed. A small portion of participants expressed a neutral stance, with 2.0% (n = 3) neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

These findings indicate a significant level of skepticism and dissatisfaction among the participants regarding the effectiveness of the government's anti-corruption campaign. The implications of such perceptions suggest the need for a reassessment of strategies, increased transparency, and enhanced accountability in the anti-corruption efforts.

Civil society organizations playsignificant role in fighting corruption in Nigeria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valid</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The research examined the perception of the role played by civil society organizations in fighting corruption in Nigeria. The findings reveal varied opinions among the participants regarding the significance of civil society organizations in combating corruption. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, a substantial proportion (48.0%, n = 72) strongly agreed that civil society organizations play a meaningful role in fighting corruption. Additionally, 40.0% (n = 60) agreed with this notion. Conversely, a smaller proportion of participants expressed disagreement. Specifically, 6.0% (n = 9) disagreed, and 3.3% (n = 5) strongly disagreed with the statement that civil society organizations play a significant role in fighting corruption. A small portion of participants (2.7%, n = 4) expressed a neutral stance. These findings highlight the recognition among participants of the important role civil society organizations play in the fight against corruption.

Nigeria has active civil society organizations capable of fighting corruption.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valid</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>49.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author's Primary Data

The research aimed to assess the perception of the existence and effectiveness of active civil society organizations capable of fighting corruption in Nigeria. The findings reveal diverse opinions among the participants regarding the capabilities of civil society organizations in combating corruption. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, a considerable
proportion (49.3%, n = 74) agreed that Nigeria has active civil society organizations capable of fighting corruption. Additionally, 34.7% (n = 52) strongly agreed with this notion. Conversely, a smaller proportion of participants expressed disagreement. Specifically, 10.7% (n = 16) disagreed, and 3.3% (n = 5) strongly disagreed with the statement that Nigeria has active civil society organizations capable of fighting corruption. A small portion of participants (2.0%, n = 3) expressed a neutral stance.

These findings highlight the recognition among participants of the existence and potential effectiveness of civil society organizations in fighting corruption in Nigeria. The perception of active civil society organizations capable of combating corruption emphasizes their role as key actors in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance.

**Through their activities, civil society organizations in Nigeria have increased citizen awareness of their civic rights.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valid</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>46.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Author’s Primary Data**

The research aimed to assess the impact of civil society organizations' activities in Nigeria on increasing citizens' awareness of their civic rights. The findings reveal diverse opinions among the participants regarding the effectiveness of civil society organizations in raising awareness of civic rights. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, a significant proportion (46.7%, n = 70) agreed that civil society organizations in Nigeria have increased citizens' awareness of their civic rights. Additionally, 5.3% (n = 8) strongly agreed with this notion. Conversely, a considerable proportion of participants expressed disagreement. Specifically, 32.7% (n = 49) disagreed, and 8.0% (n = 12) strongly disagreed with the statement that civil society organizations have increased citizens' awareness of their civic rights. A smaller portion of participants (7.3%, n = 11) expressed a neutral stance.
These findings indicate a mixed perception regarding the impact of civil society organizations' activities on citizens' awareness of their civic rights in Nigeria. While a significant number of participants recognize the positive role of civil society organizations in raising awareness, a notable proportion holds reservations or disagrees with their effectiveness in this regard. The agreement and strong agreement responses reflect the impact of civil society organizations in educating and empowering citizens about their civic rights, which is crucial for democratic participation, social justice, and holding government accountable.

**Being a member of a social network such as civil society is one of the best ways to create social capital in the society**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>60.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Author's Primary Data**

The research aimed to assess the perception regarding the role of social networks, such as civil society, in creating social capital within society. The findings reveal a strong consensus among the participants regarding the significance of being a member of a social network for creating social capital. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, a substantial majority (60.7%, n = 91) strongly agreed that being a member of a social network, such as civil society, is one of the best ways to create social capital. Additionally, 30.0% (n = 45) agreed with this notion. A smaller proportion of participants expressed disagreement, with 4.7% (n = 7) disagreeing and 2.0% (n = 3) strongly disagreeing. A small portion of participants (2.7%, n = 4) expressed a neutral stance.

These findings highlight the recognition among participants of the value of social networks, particularly civil society, in fostering social capital. Social capital refers to the networks, alliances, and norms within a society that enable cooperation, trust, and collective action. The strong agreement and agreement responses indicate the perception that being a member of a
social network, such as civil society, can contribute significantly to the creation of social capital.

**Are you a member of any civil society organization in Nigeria?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Prefer Not To Say</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>62.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Author's Primary Data*

The research aimed to inquire whether the participants were members of any civil society organization in Nigeria. The findings reveal the distribution of responses regarding membership in civil society organizations. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, 31.3% (n = 47) reported being members of a civil society organization. Additionally, 6.7% (n = 10) preferred not to disclose their membership status, and most participants, 62.0% (n = 93), indicated that they were not members of any civil society organization.

These findings highlight the diversity of engagement with civil society organizations among the participants. The proportion of participants who reported being members indicates a level of active involvement and commitment to civil society activities.

**If yes, is your organization involved in fighting corruption in the country?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>30.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Prefer Not To Say</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>61.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Author’s Primary Data*

The research aimed to investigate the involvement of civil society organizations in fighting corruption in Nigeria among those who reported being members of such organizations. The findings reveal the distribution of responses regarding the engagement of their organizations in anti-corruption efforts. Among the participants who reported being members of civil
society organizations \((n = 47)\), 30.7\% \((n = 46)\) indicated that their organization is involved in fighting corruption. Additionally, 8.0\% \((n = 12)\) preferred not to disclose their organization's involvement, and most participants, 61.3\% \((n = 92)\), stated that their organization is not involved in fighting corruption.

These findings suggest that while a significant proportion of civil society organizations reported involvement in fighting corruption, a considerable number of organizations have not yet actively engaged in such efforts. It highlights the importance of further encouraging and supporting civil society organizations to play a more prominent role in anti-corruption initiatives.

**How often do you meet?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every week</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every month</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times a year</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Seldom</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>48.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Author’s Primary Data**

The research aimed to determine the frequency of meetings among civil society organizations in Nigeria. The findings reveal the distribution of responses regarding the frequency of meetings. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, a small proportion reported meeting on a regular basis. Specifically, 6.0\% \((n = 9)\) indicated meeting every week, while 15.3\% \((n = 23)\) reported meeting every month. Additionally, 4.7\% \((n = 7)\) stated meeting several times a year. However, a significant portion of participants indicated infrequent or no meetings. 25.3\% \((n = 38)\) reported meeting very seldom, and the majority of participants, 48.7\% \((n = 73)\), stated that they never met.

These findings suggest a range of meeting frequencies among civil society organizations in Nigeria. While some organizations meet regularly on a weekly or monthly basis, a considerable number meet infrequently or not at all. The lack of regular meetings may pose challenges in terms of communication, coordination, and collective action within these organizations, and this could impact negatively their effectiveness in fighting corruption.
Voluntary associations such as civil society are agents of social trust in society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>55.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Primary Data

The research aimed to explore the perception regarding the role of voluntary associations, such as civil society, as agents of social trust in society. The findings reveal the distribution of responses regarding agreement or disagreement with this notion. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, a significant majority (55.3%, n = 83) strongly agreed that voluntary associations, including civil society, serve as agents of social trust in society. Additionally, 38.7% (n = 58) agreed with this statement. A small proportion of participants (2.7%, n = 4) expressed a neutral stance, neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the notion. Furthermore, a minority of participants (3.3%, n = 5) disagreed with the statement.

These findings highlight the widespread recognition among participants of the positive role played by voluntary associations, including civil society, in fostering social trust within society. Voluntary associations often provide platforms for collective action, collaboration, and community engagement.

What is the level of trust among members of your organization?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>41.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Primary Data

The research aimed to assess the level of trust among members of civil society organizations in Nigeria. The findings reveal the distribution of responses regarding the perceived level of
trust within these organizations. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, 38.7% (n = 58) reported a high level of trust among members within their organization. Additionally, 41.3% (n = 62) perceived the level of trust to be at a medium level. On the other hand, a smaller proportion of participants (20.0%, n = 30) indicated a low level of trust among members within their organization. These findings provide insights into the dynamics of trust within civil society organizations. The presence of a high or medium level of trust indicates positive relationships, open communication, and a sense of shared purpose among members. This level of trust can foster collaboration, effective teamwork, and collective action toward common goals.

**Increased citizen engagement in civil society organizations' activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>46.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>46.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Author’s Primary Data**

The research aimed to explore the perception regarding the relationship between citizens’ engagement in civil society organization activities and their involvement in corrupt practices. The findings reveal the distribution of responses regarding agreement or disagreement with this notion. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, a significant majority (46.7%, n = 70) strongly agreed that increased citizens' engagement in civil society organization activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices. Additionally, 46.0% (n = 69) agreed with this statement. A small portion of participants (1.3%, n = 2) expressed a neutral stance, neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the notion. Furthermore, a minority of participants (5.3%, n = 8) disagreed with the statement, and a negligible proportion (0.7%, n = 1) strongly disagreed.

These findings highlight the widespread recognition among participants of the potential of citizens' engagement in civil society organization activities to combat and mitigate corrupt
practices. Increased engagement in such activities can foster a sense of accountability, promote transparency, and encourage ethical behavior among citizens.

**How successful are the CSOs in anti-corruption campaigns in Nigeria?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highly Successful</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Successful</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>47.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly Not Successful</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Author’s Primary Data*

The research aimed to assess the perceived level of success of civil society organizations (CSOs) in their anti-corruption campaign in Nigeria. The findings reveal the distribution of responses regarding the perceived success of CSOs in combating corruption. Among the total sample size of 150 participants, a small proportion (3.3%, n = 5) considered CSOs to be highly successful in their anti-corruption campaign. Additionally, 19.3% (n = 29) believed CSOs to be successful to some extent. However, a significant portion of participants (47.4%, n = 71) perceived CSOs' efforts as not successful in combating corruption. Furthermore, 30.0% (n = 45) considered CSOs to be highly not successful in their anti-corruption campaign.

These findings indicate mixed perceptions regarding the success of CSOs in their anti-corruption initiatives. While some participants acknowledge their achievements and view them as successful or highly successful, a substantial number of participants perceive CSOs' efforts as falling short of expectations. The perception of CSOs' success in the anti-corruption campaign is a complex matter influenced by various factors, including the context, resources, collaboration, and the visibility of outcomes.

**5.3 Testing of Hypotheses**

In this section, the postulated research hypotheses were tested to determine the level of association between the dependent and independent variables.
5.3.1 Hypothesis 1

H1: The higher the level of social network within society the higher, the higher level of social capital.

The question used as the explanatory and response variable is derived from the question asked in the questionnaire.

“Being a member of a social network such as the civil society is one of the best ways to create social capital in society “is the explanatory variable in this analysis, while “Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gain?” is the dependent variable in this analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Being a member of a social network such as civil society is one of the best ways to create social capital</th>
<th>Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gain?</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Being a member of a social network such as civil society is one of the best ways to create social capital.</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Being a</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
member of a social network such as civil society is one of the best ways to create social capital.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Being a member of a social network such as civil society is one of the best ways to create social capital.</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>35</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>91</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Being a member of a social network such as civil society is</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Being a member of a social network such as civil society is one of the best ways to create social capital.</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Being a member of a social network such as civil society is one of the best ways to create social capital.</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author's Primary Data
The cross-tabulation table examines the relationship between the belief that being a member of a social network, such as civil society, is one of the best ways to create social capital in society and the belief that Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gains. The majority of respondents who agree that social networks contribute to social capital also believe that politicians abuse their office for private gains. Among those who agree, a significant portion strongly agrees (51.1%) or agrees (8.9%) with this belief. On the other hand, among those who disagree that social networks create social capital, some still hold the belief that politicians abuse their office (14.3% strongly agree, 57.1% agree).

It is noteworthy that there were no respondents who strongly disagreed with the effectiveness of social networks or strongly disagreed with the belief in politicians' abuse of office.

**Chi-Square Tests**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Chi-Square</td>
<td>29.242</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likelihood Ratio</td>
<td>21.002</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>.050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N of Valid Cases</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. 15 cells (75.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is .02.

**Source: Author’s Primary Data**

The Chi-square table above tests the Significance of **Hypothesis 1**, The higher the level of a social network within society, the higher the higher level of social capital.

The Chi-square value is 29.242, with a significant value of (0.005). P valu of 0.05(5%) is used in the study. The Significance (0.004) is less than the P valu (0.05), so the null hypothesis is rejected. The chi-square test confirms a significant relationship between “Being a member of a social network such as the civil society is one of the best ways to create social capital in the society and “Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public office holders abuse their office for private gains?”. 

54(77)
The table provides the coefficients of a regression model examining the relationship between the belief in politicians' abuse of office for private gains and the belief that being a member of a social network is one of the best ways to create social capital in society. The constant term in the model is estimated to be 1.364 with a standard error of 0.190. This constant represents the expected value of the dependent variable (belief in social networks creating social capital) when the independent variable (belief in politicians' abuse of office) is zero. The coefficient for the belief in politicians' abuse of office variable is 0.132, with a standard error of 0.110. This coefficient measures the change in the belief that social networks create social capital for a one-unit increase in the belief in politicians' abuse of office. However, the coefficient is not statistically significant at the conventional significance level of 0.05, as indicated by the t-value of 1.199 (p = 0.232). Hence, we do not have sufficient evidence to establish a significant relationship between the belief in politicians' abuse of office and the belief in...
social networks as a means to create social capital. Based on the regression analysis, there is no statistically significant relationship observed between the belief in politicians' abuse of office for private gains and the belief that being a member of a social network is an effective approach to generating social capital in society.
The ANOVA analysis was done to inquire into the relationship between the belief in politicians' abuse of office for private gains and the belief that being a member of a social network creates social capital. The F-value in the ANOVA table is 0.232, indicating the ratio of the mean squares between the regression model and the residuals. The associated p-value is 0.732, which suggests that the regression model is not statistically significant. The results specify that the regression model was not statistically significant, suggesting that the belief in politicians' abuse of office does not have a significant impact on the belief in social networks as a means of generating social capital.

5.3.2 Hypothesis 2

H2: An increase in the level of trust within society will have a significant effect on the level of social capital.

The question used as the explanatory and response variable is derived from the question asked in the questionnaire.

“Voluntary associations such as civil society are agents of social trust in the society strongly agree” is the explanatory variable in this analysis, while “Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public office holders abuse their office for private gains?” is the dependent variable in this analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source: Author’s Primary Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Voluntary associations such as civil society are agents of social trust in the society * Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public office holders abuse their office for private gains? Cross tabulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public office holders abuse their office for private gains?</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

57(77)
| Count | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |  
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2     | 28 | 3 | 27 | 0 | 58 | 48.3% | 5.2% | 46.6% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| 3     | 1  | 0 | 3  | 0 | 4  | 25.0% | 0.0% | 75.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| 1     | 30 | 7 | 45 | 1 | 83 | 36.1% | 8.4% | 54.2% | 1.2% | 100.0% |
Voluntary associations such as civil society are agents of social trust in the society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>76</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>150</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% within Voluntary associations such as civil society are agents of social trust in the society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Primary Data

The cross-tabulation analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between voluntary associations as agents of social trust in society and the belief in politicians and public office holders abusing their office for private gains. The results reveal that there is a variation in beliefs across the different categories.

Among those who view voluntary associations as agents of social trust in society, 48.3% strongly believe in politicians' abuse of office, 5.2% somewhat believe, and 46.6% do not believe in such abuse. On the other hand, those who do not view voluntary associations as agents of social trust show different patterns, with 20.0% strongly believing, 60.0% somewhat believing, and 20.0% not believing in politicians' abuse of office.

These findings suggest that there is some association between beliefs about voluntary associations and beliefs about politicians' abuse of office. However, further statistical analysis, such as chi-square tests, is necessary to determine the significance of this association and explore any potential implications.

Chi-Square Tests
The Chi-square table above tests the significance of the **Hypothesis 2**, The higher the level of social network within society the higher, the higher level of social capital.

The Chi-square value is 21.001 with a significant value of (0.005). **p value of 0.05(5%)** is used in the study. The Significance (0.013) is less than the **P value** (0.05), the null hypothesis is rejected. The chi-square test confirms a significant relationship between “Voluntary associations such as civil society are agents of social trust in the society Strongly agree” and “Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public office holders abuse their office for private gains?”.

### Source: Author’s Primary Data

The minimum expected count is .03.
The table provides the coefficients of a regression model examining the relationship between the belief in Nigerian politicians and public office holders abusing their office for private gains and the perception of voluntary associations as agents of social trust in society. The constant term in the model is estimated to be 1.331 with a standard error of 0.148. This constant represents the expected value of the dependent variable (voluntary associations as agents of social trust in society) when the independent variable (belief in politicians' abuse of office) is zero. Regarding the independent variable, "Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public office holders abuse their office for private gains?" the coefficient (B) was 0.131, with a standard error of 0.086 (t = 1.530, p = 0.128). However, the coefficient was not statistically significant at the conventional significance level of 0.05. This indicates that there is insufficient evidence to suggest a significant relationship between individuals' beliefs in political corruption and their perception of voluntary associations as agents of social trust.

Taking into account the outcome of this analysis, it can be inferred that beliefs in political corruption do not significantly influence individuals' perception of voluntary associations as agents of social trust. Other factors not considered in this study may have a more substantial impact on shaping these perceptions.
ANOVA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Sum of Squares</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>1.172</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.172</td>
<td>2.341</td>
<td>.128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residual</td>
<td>74.088</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>.501</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>75.260</td>
<td>149</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Dependent Variable: Voluntary associations such as civil society are agents of social trust in the society

Source: Author’s Primary Data

The ANOVA results desire that the regression model, which includes beliefs in political corruption as a predictor, does not statistically affect individuals' perception of voluntary associations as agents of social trust.

5.3.3 Hypothesis 3

H3 Higher level of social engagement will significantly affect social capital.

The question used as the explanatory and response variable is derived from the question asked in the questionnaire.

“Increased citizens’ engagement in civil society organization’s activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices. “is the explanatory variable in this analysis, while “Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public office holders abuse their office for private gains?” is the dependent variable in this analysis.

<p>| Increased citizen’s engagement in civil society organizational activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices. * Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gain? Cross tabulation |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gain? | Total |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Increased citizens  | 2 | Count | 33 | 3 | 33 | 0 | 69 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>% within Increased citizens’ engagement in civil society organizational activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices.</th>
<th>47.8%</th>
<th>4.3%</th>
<th>47.8%</th>
<th>0.0%</th>
<th>100.0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Increased citizens ‘engagement in civil society organizational activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices.</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Increased citizens ‘engagement in civil society organizational activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices.</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Increased citizens’</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
engagement in civil society organizational activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% within Increased citizen’s engagement in civil society organizational activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices.</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>76</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>150</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% within Increased citizens ‘engagement in civil society organizational activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices.</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Author’s Primary Data**

The cross-tabulation table examines the relationship between individuals' beliefs about increased engagement in civil society organization activities helping to lower their involvement in corrupt practices, and their beliefs about Nigerian politicians and public office holders abusing their office for private gains.
Among those who believe that increased engagement helps lower involvement in corrupt practices, the majority (47.8%) believe that politicians abuse their office. Furthermore, 35.7% of them have a positive belief about engagement. Of those who do not believe in the positive impact of engagement, 37.5% believe in the abuse of office, and 25% hold other beliefs. It is worth noting that there is only one response in the category where increased engagement has no effect.

### Chi-Square Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Chi-Square</td>
<td>15.624</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>.209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likelihood Ratio</td>
<td>14.023</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>.299</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N of Valid Cases 150

a. 14 cells (70.0%) have an awaited count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is .01.

**Source: Author’s Primary Data**

The Chi-square table above tests the significance of **Hypothesis 3**, Higher level of social engagement will have a significant effect on social capital.

The Chi-square value is 15.624 with a significant value of (0.005). p value of 0.05(5%) is used in the study. The Significance (0.209) is greater than the P value (0.05), and the null hypothesis is not rejected. The chi-square test confirms that there is no significant relationship between “Increased citizens’ engagement in civil society organization’s activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices” and “Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public office holders abuse their office for private gains?”. 
The table presents the coefficients of a regression model examining the relationship between the belief in Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gains and the dependent variable, "Increased citizens' engagement in civil society organization's activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices." The constant term in the model is estimated to be 1.602 with a standard error of 0.169. This constant represents the expected value of the dependent variable when the independent variable, "Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gains?" is zero. The coefficient for the independent variable is 0.045, with a standard error of 0.098. The beta coefficient, which represents the standardized effect of the independent variable, is 0.038. The t-value for this coefficient is 0.460, and the associated p-value is 0.646.

The coefficient for the self sufficient variable was not statistically notable at the conventional significance level of 0.05, indicating that there is insufficient evidence to suggest a significant relationship between individuals' belief in political corruption and their engagement in civil society organizations' activities to reduce involvement in corrupt practices. By the findings, the belief in political corruption does not significantly affect the level of engagement in civil society organizations' activities to lower involvement in corrupt practices. Other factors not considered in this analysis may substantially influence individuals' engagement in such activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficients</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficients</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Std. Error</td>
<td>Beta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td>1.602</td>
<td>.169</td>
<td>9.449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public office holders abuse their office for private gains?</td>
<td>.045</td>
<td>.098</td>
<td>.038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Dependent Variable: Increased citizens’ engagement in civil society organizational activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices.

**Source: Author's Primary Data**

The table presents the coefficients of a regression model examining the relationship between the belief in Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gains and the dependent variable, "Increased citizens' engagement in civil society organization's activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices." The constant term in the model is estimated to be 1.602 with a standard error of 0.169. This constant represents the expected value of the dependent variable when the independent variable, "Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gains?" is zero. The coefficient for the independent variable is 0.045, with a standard error of 0.098. The beta coefficient, which represents the standardized effect of the independent variable, is 0.038. The t-value for this coefficient is 0.460, and the associated p-value is 0.646.

The coefficient for the self sufficient variable was not statistically notable at the conventional significance level of 0.05, indicating that there is insufficient evidence to suggest a significant relationship between individuals' belief in political corruption and their engagement in civil society organizations' activities to reduce involvement in corrupt practices. By the findings, the belief in political corruption does not significantly affect the level of engagement in civil society organizations' activities to lower involvement in corrupt practices. Other factors not considered in this analysis may substantially influence individuals' engagement in such activities.
The ANOVA table testifies that the regression model examining the relationship between the belief in Nigerian politicians abusing their office for private gains and increased engagement in civil society organizations' activities to combat corruption is not statistically significant (F = 0.212, p = 0.646). This suggests that the belief in political corruption has little impact on individuals' involvement in civil society efforts to combat corruption. Further research is needed to explore other factors influencing individuals' engagement in addressing corruption within civil society organizations.

### 5.4 Empirical Analysis

The aim of the study was to investigate the function of civil society in the fight against corruption in Nigeria. Based on this, the social capital theory has been used to explain civil society organizations’ nature, activities, and roles in fighting corruption. Also, the political and economic classifications of corruption as well as their impacts, have been established in the study. Different roles of civil society and factors affecting them in fighting corruption have also been highlighted. The study used a case study to analyze the functions of civil society organizations to understand Nigerians’ perceptions of their role in anti-corruption campaigns in the Nigerian state. Findings from the study, however, revealed that civil society organizations have been pivotal in achieving a corruption-free society in most countries of the world. It also finds that corruption is a menace that has negative effects on virtually every
sector of the Nigerian sector, and that corruption is more prevalent in most developing countries, particularly in Africa and some Asian countries. On how deep corruption is in Nigeria, the study shows that corruption is deep-rooted in Nigeria. Virtually all levels of government and sectors are corrupt as there are serious cases of abuse of office by public office holders for personal gains, and this generates a lot of concern about the extent and impact of corruption on Nigeria, therefore the need for anti-corruption measures to combat the menace which requires comprehensive strategies from all stakeholders including the civil society organizations. The study revealed that embezzlement of funds, bribery, and election rigging are major forms of corruption in Nigeria. At the same time, kickbacks, patronage, extortion, favoritism, and nepotism are also common in the most populous black nation. That weak government institution is the major factor that helps sustain corruption in Nigeria. The impact of corruption is devastating on the Nigerian state as it slows down the economic growth and development of the country while its political institutions continue to wane, thereby preventing good governance. The study shows that the Nigerian government has not done enough in combating corruption and that the anti-corruption campaign of successive governments in Nigeria has not produced the needed results because, despite the activities of different anti-graft agencies such as the EFCC and ICPC, corruption persists, especially among public officials.

It has been acknowledged that civil society organizations are key players in the anti-corruption crusade. This is because civil society organizations have been known to champion several campaigns against corruption in Nigeria by challenging governments and their institutions and advocating for good governance. Therefore, the study revealed that Nigeria has a civil society organization capable of fighting corruption and effecting a change in the country and that civil society, through their civic educative initiatives, has successfully created a high level of awareness socially, politically, and morally on Nigerian citizens. The study also found a strong positive correlation between being a member of social networks and creating social capital in society, meaning that joining networks such as civil society is an opportunity to create social good in society because involvement will enable individuals to build social connections, trust, and promote social cohesion. Trust is an essential attribute of social networks. Voluntary associations such as civil society create platforms for collective action, collaboration, and community engagement and build trust through the promotion of shared values, accountability, and social inclusiveness. However, despite the important role
of civil society in the fight against corruption, the study revealed that civil society in Nigeria is not successful in the fight against corruption. This can be attributed to the level of silence of civil society organizations in the country in recent years as they shy away from their corruption-fighting role. This does not mean that civil society organizations are not active in the country, but they have lost their voice in recent times and failed to put the government and their institutions on their toes and in promoting accountability and transparency in governance as a result of certain factors inhibiting their watchdog power. The study revealed lack of coordination is the major factor militating against the success of civil organizations. Other factors, such as lack of coordination, in-house corruption, and access to necessary information, have also been highlighted.
Conclusion and Final Discussion

6.1 Conclusion

The study aimed at examining the responsibility of civil society in dealing with corruption in Nigeria; hence, the study bid to answer the following research questions – What are the roles and contributions of civil service in the fight against corruption in Nigeria? What are the challenges or problems militating against the performance of civil society in the fight against corruption in Nigeria? The study finds that corruption is deeply rooted in Nigeria as corruption is found in virtually every aspect of the country, including the private sector, and all stakeholders must come together to devise strategies to kick out corruption in our society by waging war against corruption.

Although civil society in Nigeria and other parts of Africa are infants and have been involved in the most difficult fight against corruption because they are faced with several problems, the important role of civil society in getting in grips with the menace of corruption efficiently has been highlighted by anti-corruption instruments of the United Nations and African Union. However, Nigerian civil society cannot proactively participate in the anti-corruption crusade because they lack the capacity and an enabling environment compared to their counterparts in developed countries. As noted by the African Union Convention, civil society’s role is not limited to the traditional role of advocating; it is also their role to monitor government activities and perform a consultation role. Therefore, the Nigerian government needs to re-examine the enabling environment containing frameworks (legislative, regulatory, and administrative) through which civil society activities are governed (Gebeyehu, 2011). Also, the charity, they say, begins at home. It is expected for civil society organizations in Nigeria to initiate the anti-corruption crusade at their doorsteps. They will garner and attract support from all sides, and their activities will not be easily ignored by the government only if they are seen as clean. Civil society is seen as a force representing the victims of corruption. Therefore, they need to strengthen their legitimacy and constituency within society so as to live up to the expectations required of them.
6.2 Final Discussion

According to the findings and conclusion of the study, the following recommendations become imperative for this study to make:

- The Nigerian government should take the bold step and allow an enabling environment for civil society organizations to thrive and successfully deliver their obligation to the people. To achieve this, the legislative arm of government will play a key role by making laws that compel the government to domesticate all already signed but yet-to-be-domesticated international treaties and conventions signed many years ago.

- In order to enable them to better serve their communities, civil society organizations need to focus on capacity building, information, and technical assistance.

- Civil society organizations are also expected to imbibe the attributes of transparency, honesty, and accountability. Only these values will accord them the moral right to wage war against corruption and effectively fight it.

- Civil society must establish a linkage between the fight against corruption and the struggle for human rights, the rule of law, and the consolidation of democracy. They should also try hard to define networks among certain issues and themes so as to be more visible and effective in their intercessions.

- Civil society organizations fighting against corruption in Nigeria and Africa are faced with multi-faceted challenges. Therefore solutions to these challenges should come from different directions starting from civil society groups to the state and international community.


Corruptic(2017).”What is Corruption in www.corruptie.org


Hello everyone; my name is Benedict. I am a Master’s student of International Affairs in the Department of Political Science at Linnaeus University, Sweden. I am writing a Master's Thesis that concerns the appearance of civil society in the fight against corruption in Nigeria. This survey is aimed at assessing Nigerian's perception of how effective civil society organizations are in the fight against corruption.

Research Ethics is put into consideration. This survey is anonymous and confidential. Participation in this survey is voluntary, and I do not request any personal information.

I would appreciate it if you could lend me 2-4 minutes to answer these questions. Kindly disregard this survey if you are not residing in Nigeria.

Thank you.

Section B
Demographic Information of Respondents

What is your gender *

Male
Female
Other:

What is your age?

Below 20 years old
20 - 30 years old
31 - 40 years old
41 - 50 years old
51 - 60 years old
Above 60 years old

Highest level of education completed

Primary School
Secondary School
Technical Training School
University graduate (B.Sc., BA, HND)
Post University Graduate (Masters, Doctorate degree)
What level of government do you work in?
Local Government
State Government
Federal Government

What ministry or department of government do you work in?
Health
Aviation
Finance
Education
Labour and Productivity
Agriculture
Science and Technology
Sports
Culture and Tourism
Other: [ ]

How long have you been working in the civil service?
Less than 3 years
3 to 7 years
8 to 12 years
13 to 17 years
18 to 22 years

What level are you in the civil service?
Low Level
Middle Level
High Level

How deep is corruption in Nigeria?
Extremely Deep
Deep
Somewhat Deep
Neutral
Somewhat Not Deep
Not Deep
Extremely Not Deep

Do you believe that Nigerian politicians and public officeholders abuse their office for private gains?
Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree Nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

What type of corrupt practice prevalent in Nigeria?
Extortion
Bribery
Election Rigging
Kickbacks
Embezzlement of Funds
Nepotism
Patronage
Other:

What factors help in sustaining corruption in Nigeria?
Poverty
Weak Government Institutions
Nepotism and Tribalism
Weak Press
Other:

How is impact of corruption on Nigerian nation?
Low
Mild
High

The Nigerian government has done enough in fighting corruption?*
Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

The government’s anti-corruption campaigns is yielding positive result in Nigeria.*
Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Civil society organizations play significant role in fighting corruption *
Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Nigeria has active civil society organizations capable of fighting corruption*
Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree nor Disagree
Disagree
Through their activities, civil society organizations in Nigeria have increased citizens’ awareness of their civic rights*

Being a member of a social network such as the civil society is one of the best ways to create social capital in the society*

Are you a member of any civil society organization in Nigeria?*

If yes, is your organization involved in fight corruption in the country? *

How often do you meet?

Voluntary associations such as civil society are agents of social trust in the society*

What is the level of trust among members of your organization*
Increased citizens’ engagement in civil society organization’s activities helps lower their involvement in corrupt practices.*

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree Nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

How successful are CSOs in anti-corruption campaign in Nigeria?*

Highly Successful
Successful
Not Successful
Highly Not Successful

Which of these affect CSOs effectiveness in their fight against corruption?*

Lack of Funds
Lack of access to adequate information
In-House Corruption
Lack of Coordination