

Novel Strategies for the Mitigation of Corruption in Developing Countries

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Abstract

*Corruption is a global issue with greater impacts in the developing world. It is a complex social phenomenon with multidimensional aetiogenesis and the least progress in improving living standards among the developing regions of the world. This paper reviewed the historical contexts, definitions, types, and features of corruption; its challenges, concerns, causes, and consequences, and strategies proposed for its elimination. The aim of the paper was to establish the nexus of the root causes, consequences, and novel strategies for the elimination of Corruption in developing countries, and the expectation that the discourse would contribute modestly to policy development in shaping the contexts of the understanding and deployment of strategies to mitigate corruption, insecurity, and migration in the region. The author advanced two theoretical frameworks, “**Taofeek’s triad model of the root causes of corruption**” and “**Taofeek’s interlink model of the root, stem causes and consequences of corruption**” for the discourse. The paper brought to fore, “desperation” to meet “basic needs for survival” and “greed to nurture and sustain unnecessary needs and ego” as the stem, and root factors of corruption respectively. Socio-economic protection facilities for rural dwellers, artisans, and all those at the lower level of the economy are recommended. Policy makers and managers of public resources must be actively engaged on transparency and accountability for the countries’ policies, and resources. The paper recommended the establishment of Youths’ Employment Fund (YEFund) in the template of TETFUND, to focus youths’ engagement in agriculture, rural development, sanitation, community security, and teaching.*

Keywords: *Corruption, Novel Mitigation Strategies, Developing countries.*

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to establish the nexus of the root causes, consequences, and novel strategies for the elimination of Corruption in developing countries.

There is a deep sense of expectation that, this paper would contribute modestly to policy development in shaping the contexts of the appreciation and deployment of strategies to mitigate corruption, insecurity, and migration in the African continent and the developing world.

History of Corruption

The earliest records of corruption date back to the thirteenth century BC, to the time of the Assyrian civilization, in discovered plates, written in cuneiform, archeologists were able to discern how and who accepted bribes. Also, the old Roman law, considered corruption as a criminal offense and defined it as giving, receiving, or claiming benefits to influence an official in connection with his work.¹

Definitions of Corruption

There is a consensus of position across most dictionaries on the meaning of corruption as dishonest and illegal behaviour by people in position of authority or power.²

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)³, [Transparency International](#) (TI)⁴, and the [World Bank](#) (1997)⁵, all consider corruption as "the abuse of a

¹ Štefan Šumah (February 21st 2018). Corruption, Causes and Consequences, Trade and Global Market, Vito Bobek, IntechOpen, DOI:10.5772/intechopen.72953. Available from: <https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/58969>.

² <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/corruption>; <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/corruption> accessed 29-4-21; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/corruption> accessed 29-4-21.

³ The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), <http://www.oecd.org/corruption/anti-bribery/39532693.pdf>

⁴ Transparency International. [What is corruption? - Transparency.org](https://www.transparency.org/en/what-is-corruption#define) <https://www.transparency.org/en/what-is-corruption#define>

⁵ World Bank. Huther, Jeff; Shah, Anwar. *Anti-corruption policies and programs: a framework for evaluation (English)*. Policy, Research working paper; no. WPS2501 Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/578241468767095005/Anti-corruption-policies-and-programs-a-framework-for-evaluation>

public or private office, or entrusted power for personal gain", while Rose-Ackerman (1999)⁶ and Soreide and Williams (2014)⁷ in line with the views of Werlin (1994)⁸, described corruption as the misuse of office for unofficial ends. Hope's definition (2015)⁹, of Corruption, as the behaviour of office holders or employees in the public and private sectors, to advance their private interests of any kind improperly and unlawfully and/or those contrary to the interests of the office or position they occupy or otherwise, enrich themselves and/or others, or induce others to do so, by misusing the position in which they are placed, perhaps summarises all the definitions.

Howbeit, appropriation of public assets and property for private use and influence peddling, abuse of functions, bribery in the public and private sectors, concealment and cronyism, embezzlement in the public and private sectors, extortion, favouritism, fraud, gifts and hospitality, and legislative corruption, are all known types of corruption. The UN office on drugs and crimes (UNODC) concluded that, deep down, corruption refers to the sort of decay that leads to destruction.¹⁰

⁶Rose-Ackerman, S. (1999) *Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences and Reforms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. In: Ayee, J.A. (2016). *The roots of corruption: The Ghanaian enquiry revisited*. <https://media.africaportal.org/documents/The-Roots-of-Corruption-.pdf>

⁷Soreide, T., and Williams, A. (2014) *Corruption, Grabbing and Development: Real World Challenges*. Cheltenham and Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar. In: Ayee, J.A. (2016). *The roots of corruption: The Ghanaian enquiry revisited*. <https://media.africaportal.org/documents/The-Roots-of-Corruption-.pdf>

⁸Werlin, H.H. (1994). *Revisiting Corruption: With a New Definition*, *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, Vol. 60, No. 4: 547-558. In: Ayee, J.A. (2016). *The roots of corruption: The Ghanaian enquiry revisited*. <https://media.africaportal.org/documents/The-Roots-of-Corruption-.pdf>

⁹Hope, K.R. (2015) "Contextualizing Corruption in the Health Sector in Developing Countries: Reflections on Policy to Manage the Risks", *World Medical and Health Policy*, Vol. 7, No. 4: 383-401. In: Ayee, J.A. (2016). *The roots of corruption: The Ghanaian enquiry revisited*. <https://media.africaportal.org/documents/The-Roots-of-Corruption-.pdf>

¹⁰<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/anti-corruption/module-1/key-issues/corruption---baseline-definition.html> accessed 29-4-21.

Types and features of corruption

There are several classifications and types of corruption. Corruption has been classified as Private and Collective Corruption or (“Individual” versus “Aggregated” corruption), Redistributive and Extractive corruption, High (Well organized corruption) and Low level (Chaotic) corruption, Primary and Secondary corruption, but generally and more widely, it has been classified as Political or “Grand” Corruption and Bureaucratic/Administrative or “Petty” Corruption.

Political or “Grand” Corruption (takes place at the high levels of the political system and *involve political decision-makers*) and Bureaucratic/Administrative or “Petty” corruption (at the implementation end of politics, in public administration, among permanent secretaries, director generals, directors of ministries, departments, agencies and lower levels of the public service).¹¹

Features of Political corruption

Political corruption *is the manipulation of the political institutions and the rules of procedures*, influencing the institutions of government and the political system, with the adverse sequence of frequently leading to institutional decay.¹² Laws and regulations are systematically abused by the rulers, side-stepped, ignored, or tailored to fit their interests.¹³ According to Krugger (1993), corrupt political elites take advantage of their position to make economic policies to their personal benefit.¹⁴ They change either the national policies or the implementation to serve their interests at some cost to the populace.¹⁵ The common act of presidents, ministers, members of the national assemblies, and other politicians, to allocate the country’s oil ridges, private mining of other natural resources, and the sale of huge government investments (such as countries’ electricity generating companies, e.g. ‘NEPA’, pension and health maintenance schemes, et cetera) to themselves, illustrates political corruption. The situation highlights policy makers and regulators simultaneously functioning as the operators and owners of government businesses appropriated to themselves.

¹¹ Amundsen, I. (1999). *Political corruption: An introduction to the issues*. Chr. Michelsen Institute. <https://www.cmi.no/publications/file/1040-political-coiTuption.pdf>

¹² Amundsen, I. (1999). <https://www.cmi.no/publications/file/1040-political-coiTuption.pdf>

¹³ Hope, K.R. (2015) <https://media.africaportal.org/documents/The-Roots-of-Corruption-.pdf>

¹⁴ Ibid <https://media.africaportal.org/documents/The-Roots-of-Corruption-.pdf>

¹⁵ Krueger, A.O. (1993a) *Political Economy of Policy Reform in Developing countries*, Mass: MIT Press. In: Mashal, A.M. (2011). *Corruption and resource allocation distortion for “ESCWA” countries. International Journal of economics and management sciences, 1(4), 71-83.* <https://www.hilarispublisher.com/open-access/corruption-and-resource-allocation-distortion-for-escwa-countries-2162-6359-1-033.pdf>

Unfortunately, political corruption constitutes the primary line of sight, thought, and focus of most citizens that sustain the perpetual spirit of commitment to corruption at the administrative and lower levels of governance in the public service and the entire society.¹⁶ In most systems, political and administrative corruption are intertwined as there may be no clear separation between elected politicians and bureaucratic officials.

Features of Bureaucratic corruption

Bureaucratic corruption is also known as petty corruption. It refers to the corrupt acts of appointed bureaucrats in their dealings with either their superior (the political elite) or with the public. The public may be required to bribe bureaucrats either to receive a service to which they are entitled or to speed up a bureaucratic procedure.¹⁷

The Corruption Challenge

While *Corruption is a global problem*¹⁸, the peculiarity of the challenge is that Corruption kills in the developing countries. The B20 Australian group (2014) captured it, that “If corruption were an industry, it would be the world’s third largest, worth more than \$3 trillion and 5 percent of global GDP.”¹⁹

To what extent is information available to the public in the developing world, in respect of the enormous natural resources, and on the rules and regulations guiding the business exploits and transactions on them? How many of the websites of the public institutions and ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) have appropriate and detailed information to benchmark their operations for transparency and accountability? Are there statutory regulations, or is it discretionary permits that are employed for the blasting, extraction and exploitation of rich, gravel-borne rocky-mountains that abounds and in use in road construction in developing countries?

¹⁶ Amundsen, I. (1999). <https://www.cmi.no/publications/file/1040-political-coiTuption.pdf>

¹⁷ Dimant, E., & Tosato, G. (2018). Causes and effects of corruption: what has past decade's empirical research taught us? A survey. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 32(2),335-356.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312642624_Causes_and_Effects_of_Corruption_What_has_Past_Decad_e's_Empirical_Research-Taught-us-A-Survey.

¹⁸ Amundsen, I. (1999). <https://www.cmi.no/publications/file/1040-political-corruption.pdf>

¹⁹ B20 (2014) ‘B20 Anti-Corruption Working Group. Report to the B20 Office and Taskforce Chairs, July 2014’. www.b20australia.info/Documents/B20%20Anti-Corruption%20Working%20Group%20Report.pdf In: Trillion Dollar.

Daniel Kaufmann (2005) reported the estimated global cost of bribery at between \$600 billion and \$1.7 trillion.²⁰ According to the Christian Aid (2008), developing countries lose an estimated \$100–\$160 billion in tax revenues because of trade mispricing.²¹ From 1970 to 1996, [University of Massachusetts Amherst](#) researchers estimated that [capital flight](#) from 30 [Sub-Saharan](#) countries totaled US\$187 billion, exceeding those nations' external debts.²² During the period 2002 and 2011, US\$60.8 billion moved illegally into or out of Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda from trade mis-invoicing.²³

A report of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI, 2012), the global standard for improving transparency of revenues from natural resources, identified unprecedented financial discrepancies, with over US\$800million of unresolved differences between what companies said that they paid in taxes, and royalties, against what the government said it received in Nigeria.²⁴ The sum of these missing funds was said to exceed the 2009 individual budgets for the ministries of Education, Health and Power. The largest amount owed to the government in the report was an estimated US\$4.7billion by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), for payments of domestic crude.²⁵

In the Trillion Dollar Scandal report (2014), the ONE Campaign organization (one.org/scandal) stated that the world's developing countries are deprived of at least US\$1 trillion annually by criminals and corrupt officials who exploit layers of secrecy to siphon off cash through money laundering, illegal tax evasion and embezzlement.²⁶

According to the Trillion Dollar Scandal report,²⁷ if steps were taken to end the corruption scandal, the revenues that would be freed up, if invested in health systems, could avert 3.6 million deaths per year between 2015 and 2025 in low-income countries (LICs); avert 4.3

²⁰DanielKaufmann(2005)'MythsandRealitiesofGovernanceandCorruption'.http://mpr.aub.uni-muenchen.de/8089/1/Myths_Realties_Gov_Corruption.pdf

²¹ Christian Aid (2008) 'Death and Taxes: the true toll of tax dodging'.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-08/death-and-taxes-true-toll-tax-dodging-may-2008.pdf>

²²"When the money goes west". *New Statesman*. 2005-03-14. Political

corruption.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_corruption#:~:text=Forms%20of%20corruption%20vary%2C%20but,peddling%2C%20graft%2C%20and%20embezzlement.29-4-21

²³ChristineClough,PMP,DevKar,BrianLeBlanc,RaymondBaker,JoshuaSimmons,ChristineClough,PMP,May 12,2014. <https://gfintegrity.org/report/report-trade-misinvoicing-in-ghana-kenya-mozambique-tanzania-and-uganda/>

²⁴ Nigeria,EITI,2012,https://eiti.org/files/documents/2012_case_study_-_eiti_in_nigeria.pdf

²⁵ Nigeria,EITI,2012,https://eiti.org/files/documents/2012_case_study_-_eiti_in_nigeria.pdf

²⁶Trillion_Dollar_Scandal_report_EN.pdfhttps://s3.amazonaws.com/one.org/pdfs/Trillion_Dollar_Scandal_report_EN.pdf?source=blogUS

²⁷ Ibid. https://s3.amazonaws.com/one.org/pdfs/Trillion_Dollar_Scandal_report_EN.pdf?source=blogUS

million deaths per year between 2015 and 2025 in lower-middle-income countries (LMICs), put the world on track to end preventable child deaths in these countries by 2030 and contribute over half of the G20's growth target through transparent, open data and the economic opportunities created.²⁸ In addition, in Sub-Saharan Africa alone, curbing corruption could provide the money to educate an additional 10 million children per year; and pay for an additional half-million primary school teachers – providing all out-of-school children in 16 African countries with an education.

Concerns and Consequences of Corruption

Several studies have documented the negative impact of Corruption on politics, governance, economy, administration, institutions, the environment, social system, humanitarian aid, health, education, public safety, and societal development.²⁹ Corruption undermines the rule of law, it weakens governance, leads to violations of human rights, inhibits political stability, hinders economic development, reduces social policies, diverts investments in infrastructure and public services, and erodes the quality of life. It destroys the internal democracy of political parties as “money bags” take control of the party.

Corruption breaches laws and regulations to serve social objectives and to protect the public interest, such as building codes, environmental controls, traffic laws and prudential banking regulations through corrupt means for economic gain can cause

²⁸ The impact of corruption on growth and inequality. *Transparency International*. https://www.transparency.org/files/content/corruptionqas/Impact_of_corruption_on_growth_and_in_equality_2014.pdf

²⁹ Aidt, T.S. (2003) Economic analysis of corruption: a survey*. *The Economic Journal* 113(491): F632–F652. In: Dimant, E., & Tosato, G. (2018). Causes and effects of corruption: what has past decade's empirical research taught us? A survey. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 32(2), 335–356. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312642624_Causes_and_Effects_of_Corruption_What_has_Past_Decade's_Empirical_Research-Taught;

serious social harm.^{30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39} Corruption, causes the collapse of social structures, it reduces public trust in government, increased vulnerability of the poor and the spread of hatred among society's classes due to injustice and inequality, and subsequently undermines national security.⁴⁰

The consequences of the greater affectation of the poor than the rich are no longer to be imagined, it is a reality in the face of the poor constituting the foot soldiers in the prevailing challenges of banditry, kidnapping, terrorism, secessionist agitations in Nigeria, Africa, and most of the developing countries.

³⁰ Kuwait Anti Corruption Authority. The effects of Corruption. <https://www.nazaha.gov.kw/EN/Pages/effects-of-corruption.aspx>, 29-4-21.

³¹ Lambsdorff, J. G. (2006) Causes and consequences of corruption: what do we know from a cross-section of countries. In S. Rose-Ackerman (ed), *International Handbook on the Economics of Corruption* (pp. 3–51). Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar. In: Dimant, E., & Tosato, G. (2018). Causes and effects of corruption: what has past decade's empirical research taught us? A survey. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 32(2), 335-356. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312642624_Causes_and_Effects_of_Corruption_What_has_Past_Decade's_Empirical_Research-Taught-us-A-Survey

³² Rose-Ackerman, S. (1999) <https://media.africaportal.org/documents/The-Roots-of-Corruption-.pdf>

³³ Seldadyo, H. and De Haan, J. (2006) The determinants of corruption: A literature survey and new evidence. *European public choice society conference* (pp. 20–23). Turku, Finland. In: Dimant, E., & Tosato, G. (2018). Causes and effects of corruption: what has past decade's empirical research taught us? A survey. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 32(2), 335-356.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312642624_Causes_and_Effects_of_Corruption_What_has_Past_Decade's_Empirical_Research-Taught-us-A-Survey

³⁴ Tanzi, V. (1998). Corruption around the world: Causes, consequences, scope, and cures. *Staff papers*, 45(4), 559-594. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/wp9863.pdf>

³⁵ Treisman, D. (2007) What have we learned about the causes of corruption from ten years of cross-national empirical research? *Annual Review of Political Science* 10: 211–244. In: Dimant, E., & Tosato, G. (2018). Causes and effects of corruption: what has past decade's empirical research taught us? A survey. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 32(2), 335-356.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312642624_Causes_and_Effects_of_Corruption_What_has_Past_Decade's_Empirical_Research-Taught-us-A-Survey

³⁶ Jain, A. K. (2001) Corruption: a review. *Journal of Economic Surveys* 15(1): 71–121. In: Dimant, E., & Tosato, G. (2018). Causes and effects of corruption: what has past decade's empirical research taught us? A survey. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 32(2), 335-

356. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312642624_Causes_and_Effects_of_Corruption_What_has_Past_Decade's_Empirical_Research-Taught-us-A-Survey

³⁷ Hope, K. R. (1985) "Politics, Bureaucratic Corruption, and Maladministration in the Third World." *International Review of Administrative Sciences* 51(1): 1–6.

³⁸ Hope, K. R. (1996) *Development in the Third World: From Policy Failure to Policy Reform*. Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe Publishers.

³⁹ Myint, U. (2000) Corruption: Causes, Consequences and Cures, *Asia-Pacific Development Journal*, 7(2): 33-58. <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/apdj-7-2-2-Myint.pdf>

⁴⁰ Rose-Ackerman, Susan. 2001. "Trust, Honesty and Corruption: Reflections on the State Building Process." *European Journal of Sociology* 42: 27-71. In: Chetwynd, E., Chetwynd, F., & Spector, B. (2003). Corruption and poverty: A review of recent literature. *Management Systems International*, 600, 5-16. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNACW645.pdf

Widespread corruption in government institutions and services causes disaffection and distrust of people in government.⁴¹ The people's perception that the social system (government and other institutions) is untrustworthy and inequitable affects their willingness and ability to engage in productive activities, and thereby undermines their contribution to social capital with its association with higher poverty.⁴²

Corruption impacts heavily on emigration. It evokes "*Brain Drain Response*" due to people being 'tired of the existing system, of being treated unfairly' and several unfavorable outcomes associated with it. Corruption act as push factor to potential migrants, especially with highly skilled individuals.^{43,44,45,46} The study by Merkle et al ⁴⁴ showed **strong evidence that corruption is an indirect push-factor for migration and driver of forced displacement.** Using the human security dimensions of personal, political, economic, community, environmental, food, and health security, the study affirmed the possible ways in which corruption indirectly shape migration aspirations and lead to displacement. In Mali and Ukraine, the findings suggest that the effect of corruption on lack of (good) employment opportunities and on aid resources were the most important links between corruption and the decision to migrate.

Corruption-provoked Brain-Drain emigration response results in high levels of unemployment because of the migration of highly skilled professionals and industry experts moving along

⁴¹ Ibid. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNACW645.pdf

⁴² Buscaglia, Edgardo. 1995 "Judicial Corruption in Developing Countries: Its Causes and Economic Consequences." *How over Institution, Essays in Public Policy*. In: Chetwynd, E., Chetwynd, F., & Spector, B. (2003). *Corruption and poverty: A review of recent literature. Management Systems International, 600*, 5-16. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNACW645.pdf

⁴³ Dimant, E., Krieger, T. and Meierrieks, D. (2013) The effect of corruption on migration, 1985–2000. *Applied Economics Letters* 20(13): 1270–1274. In: Dimant, E., & Tosato, G. (2018). Causes and effects of corruption: what has past decade's empirical research taught us? A survey. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 32(2), 335-356. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312642624_Causes_and_Effects_of_Corruption_What_has_Past_Decade's_Empirical_Research-Taught_us_A_Survey

⁴⁴ Merkle, O., Reinold, J., & Siegel, M. 2017. Maastricht: GIZ Anti-Corruption and Integrity Programme. The link between corruption and the causes of migration and forced displacement. <https://www.u4.no/the-link-between-corruption-and-the-causes-of-migration-and-forced-displacement29-4-21>.

⁴⁵ Cooray, A. and Schneider, F. (2014) Does corruption promote emigration? An Empirical Examination, IZA Discussion Paper Series No. 809. In: Dimant, E., & Tosato, G. (2018). Causes and effects of corruption: what has past decade's empirical research taught us? A survey. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 32(2), 335-356. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312642624_Causes_and_Effects_of_Corruption_What_has_Past_Decade's_Empirical_Research-Taught_us_A_Survey

⁴⁶ Poprawe, M. (2015) On the relationship between corruption and migration: empirical evidence from a gravity model of migration. *Public Choice* 163(3-4): 337–354. In: Dimant, E., & Tosato, G. (2018). Causes and effects of corruption: what has past decade's empirical research taught us? A survey. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 32(2), 335-356. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312642624_Causes_and_Effects_of_Corruption_What_has_Past_Decade's_Empirical_Research-Taught_us_A_Survey

with industries relocating to neighbouring countries whose economic climate is more favourable for business development. This results further in lack of social advancement, slower economic growth, and threat to the country's insecurity.

The consequences of corruption were aptly and concisely captured by the communiqué of the 2016 London anti-corruption summit, which stated that corruption is at the heart of so many of the world's problems. It further stated that corruption erodes public trust in government, undermines the rule of law, and may give rise to political and economic grievances that may, in conjunction with other factors, fuel violent extremism.⁴⁷ Perhaps, the "Corruption status" of a country is the single most important hallmark or test of its governance and development.

Causes of Corruption

I share the view of Enste (2003) and others, that it is inefficient to fight the consequences of corruption, but to take appropriate measures against its causes.⁴⁸

Mauro (1996) noted that while corruption is a global problem, it is widespread in developing countries, not because the people are different from people elsewhere but because the conditions in the developing countries are ripe for it.⁴⁹

Advocacy and emphasis on the removal of the conditions that are ripe for the thriving of corruption is the thrust and novelty of this paper. An approach to deal with cause, rather than a fight of corruption and its consequences necessitates the need for thorough investigation and identification of the various causes of corruption, particularly, the "root causes", which must be independently identified and evaluated for the determination of appropriate interventions. To get to the root of the cause of corruption, we need to ask and answer the question of, "*Why are people corrupt?*" To answer this question, I constructed two models (Figures 1 and 2) termed as "***Taofeek's triad model of the aetiology of corruption***" (adapted from the

⁴⁷ Cameron, D. 2016. In: Aye, J. A. (2016). The roots of corruption: The Ghanaian enquiry revisited. <https://media.africaportal.org/documents/The-Roots-of-Corruption-.pdf>

⁴⁸ Enste, Dominik; Heldman, Christina (2017): Causes and consequences of corruption: An overview of empirical results, IWR Report, No. 2/2017, Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft (IW), Köln <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/157204/1/IW-Report-2017-02.pdf>

⁴⁹ Mauro, P. (2002) "The Persistence of Corruption and Slow Economic Growth". International Monetary Fund Working Paper, wp/02/213. In: Mashal, A. M. (2011). Corruption and resource allocation distortion for "ESCWA" countries. *International Journal of Economics and Management Sciences*, 1(4), 71-83.

epidemiologic triangle, the traditional model for infectious disease causation) **and** “*Taofeek’s interlink model of causation and consequences of corruption*”. The narrative is that the urge and drive for corruption lies in the three components of my triad model, that is, (1) the “inherent intrapersonal root factors of need or greed in human”, propelled and predisposed by (2) the “prevailing, negative socio-economic environmental factors”, and (3) “enabling institutional factors”. These are the three components of the triad of aetiology and corruption process. The second model integrates the aetiological factors and consequential pathways of the corruption process.

The commonest push factors which might motivate citizens into desperation for survival and quest for comfort are basic needs, which includes feeding, functional housing, including electricity bills, water supply, transportation, healthcare and education. These needs do not only exert tremendous pressure on the struggles, striving and pockets of citizens, they also shape their social behaviour in the communities. The extent to which citizens can meet these needs from their gross incomes and how much savings they are able to make indicate the relative ease, difficulties, desperations, and subsequent consequences that they experience.

The pressure and the difficulties with which they meet these needs account for most of “Petty or Bureaucratic/Administrative Corruption”. Other needs that lead to desperation can be attributed to greed and classified as Grand or Political corruption.

An illustrative narration is presented here, of the motivation of citizens by corruption as an alternative to no other, to meet their basic needs due to socio-economic pressures. The average *monthly/annual cost (at an exchange rate of 415 Nigerian Naira per United States’ dollar) of the basic needs* of a family unit of six persons was compared with the average *monthly/annual income* for low- and middle-income families in 2021 (*at the same exchange rate of 415 Nigerian Naira per United States’ dollar*). How much is the *average cost of basic needs* of citizens per month (and per annum) compared with the *average monthly income*(and per annum) of majority of the population per socio-economic strata? The proportion of income of a low-income and a middle-income civil servants and heads of households that is needed to meet the expenditures on the basic needs of feeding, clothing, housing, electricity, school fees, transportation, and healthcare for a family unit of six members (father, mother and four children) were examined based on hypothesised estimates, that were quite conservatively on the lower sides of expected figures. (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Difference in monthly income and conservative cost of basic needs for a lower-class civil service worker in Nigeria, 2021.

| S/N | Economic Item | Cost per month | Cost per Annum |
|-----|---|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | House rent (for a one-bedroom apartment) @ ₦150,000 per annum | ₦12,500 | ₦150,000 |
| 2. | Feeding @ ₦100 per meal x 3 times per day x 6 persons in the family x 30 days per month | ₦54,000 | ₦648,000 |
| 3. | Clothing @ ₦6000 per person per annum x 6 persons | ₦3,000 | ₦36,000 |
| 4. | School fees (considered free by government and no cost to parents) | ₦0 | ₦0 |
| 5. | Transportation to and from work (father) @ ₦200 per day x 20 days per month | ₦4,000 | ₦48,000 |
| 6. | Transportation of children to school @ ₦100 per child per day x 4 children per day x 20 days per month x 9 months | ₦8,000 | 72,000 |
| 7. | Healthcare @ ₦3000 = per person per annum x 6 persons | ₦1,500 | ₦18,000 |
| 8. | Electricity | ₦1000 | ₦12,000 |
| | Expenditure | ₦84,000 | ₦984,000 |
| | Income | ₦30,000 | ₦360,000 |
| | Balance | (₦54,000) | (₦624,000) |
| | (Deficit) | | |

Source: M.T.O. Ibrahim, 2021.

Table 2: Difference in monthly income and conservative cost of basic needs for a middle-class civil service worker in Nigeria, 2021.

| S/N | Economic Item | Cost per month | Cost per Annum |
|-----|---|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | House rent (for a 2–3-bedroom flat) @ ₦350,000 | ₦29,167 | ₦350,000 |
| 2. | Feeding @ ₦200 per meal x 3 times per day x 6 persons per day | ₦108,000 | ₦1,296,000 |
| 3. | Clothing @ ₦20,000 per person per annum x 6 persons | ₦10,000 | ₦120,000 |
| 4. | School fees @ ₦50,000 per child per term x 3 terms per annum x 4 children | ₦75,000 | ₦600,000 |
| 5. | Transportation to and from work & other places (father only) @ ₦1000 per day x 30 days per month | ₦30,000 | ₦360,000 |
| 6. | Transportation of children to school @ ₦200 per child per day x 4 children x 20 days per month x 9 months | ₦16,000 | ₦144, 000 |
| 7. | Healthcare @ ₦5,000 = per person per annum x 6 persons | ₦30,000 | ₦360,000 |
| 8. | Electricity @ ₦5,000 per month | ₦5,000 | ₦60,000 |
| | Expenditure | ₦303,167 | ₦3,170,000 |
| | Income | ₦180,000 | ₦2,160,000 |
| | Balance (Deficit) | (₦123,167) | (₦1,010,000) |

Source: M.T.O. Ibrahim, 2021.

Income-Expenditure deficit of over Fifty thousand naira and over One hundred thousand naira were observed for both groups, respectively. The hypothesised position of this discourse is that the “*corruption pathway*” is the optional track to bridge the observed gaps.

The two scenarios of the monthly/annual income and expenditure deficit figures of the public, lower and middle social classes workers in Nigeria depicts the relative difficulty and desperation that citizens encounter in their struggle to attain a “manageable” level of living, and the consequent difficulty and desperation that may lead to corrupt behaviour. This hypothesised income-expenditure gap assessment was not inclusive of the consideration of the extremely poor and disadvantaged, and the economically unengaged rural peasants who are victims of rural poverty.

Proposals for Action

Effective strategies for the elimination of Corruption in the developing world must focus on three factors, the two identified “root problems” (difficulty in meeting basic needs and greed) and the “stem problem” (desperation) in the a etiogenesis of corruption.

The proposed solutions are based on the hypothetical premises that corruption shall be “eliminated” (not eradication) *through the establishment of appropriate economic and social protection facilities to mitigate citizens desperation to meet basic needs, and the institution of “greed control mechanisms”*.

Activities aimed at quelling citizens’ desperation to meet their basic needs addresses the prevailing, predisposing, socio-economic environmental factors, which have direct and profound motivating effect on the “inherent, intra-personal root factor (to meet basic needs) in the aetiology of corruption”.

The specific high-brow activities to control citizens’ desperation to meet their basic needs are subsequently enumerated. Foremost, is to “render out of pocket expenditures on most basic needs unnecessary”. In other words, “removing the pressure on the pocket of citizens to meet their most basic needs” is hypothesised to eliminate citizens’ desperation and disposition to corruption, and achievable as discussed below.

Establishment of “citizens’ mass social protection (housing-transportation-health, and ‘lower education’ [primary and secondary] fund”. In this approach, 20% of the country’s tax income should be dedicated to planned low-income, owner occupier housing schemes for low- and middle-income citizens both in rural and urban areas, cashless, card-based-tax payees’ intra-city bus transport system, infrastructures-equipment-personnel funding support for “lower” education [primary and secondary] and funding support for Primary Health Care. This fund should be strongly protected against embezzlement. The high probability of success of massive, affordable, low cost housing schemes for citizens in the informal sector and lower/middle cadre civil service has been time proven, most extensively, with the “*Jakande*” *low-cost housing schemes in Lagos, Nigeria*. Inclusive tax payment system should be evolved for citizens in the informal sector (commercial transportation operators, artisans, peasant farmers, and small businesses operators). Peasant farmers can be taxed in kind with a pre-specified proportion of their farm harvest. These strategies are based on the principle of weighted-income-pooled contribution, shared cost for public transportation system,

education, housing and healthcare, by all citizens, poor and rich for shared investment in the “social protection fund” for the benefit of all. *Quality* shall become feasible, even with free primary and secondary level education. The establishment and implementation of Education Loan Banks for higher education students would not only remove the pressure of the cost of higher education from the parents’ pocket, but it would also serve as sustainable strategy for quality and strikes-free higher education. The institution of transparency and accountability would play an undisputable role in the State’s governance system.

A common and unwritten excuse of most Nigerian politicians, for the high level of public corruption, is that of their caring for a very large number of unemployed youths and their parents. To mitigate this, indirectly, the establishment of massive youths’ employment programmes is a paramount imperative. Developing countries cannot continue to neglect the very large areas of opportunities and unmet needs (of massive youths’ engagement in agriculture, sanitation, security, and teaching in lower education) for youths’ employability and productivity.

Hence, the attributable fraction of corruption perpetrated by public officials in the guise of meeting the needs of unemployed youths who are dependent on the public servants for economic survival would be significantly controlled. Massive, gainful engagement of youths in Agriculture is envisaged with the provision of land for massive engagement of youths (with clear lists and not ghosts) who will be resident on the farms. The farms should be government promoted public-private massive agriculture development programmes in inter-states Youths’ Farming Villages with provisions for agricultural machineries, equipment, and farm implements, one or two-bedroom, owner-occupier housing estate apartments, schools, health centres, recreation facilities, police station, and other social facilities. A *Youths’ Employment Fund (YEFund)* in the template of TETFUND, is recommended for the funding of these projects. The proposed sources of funding for ‘*YEFund*’ should be sourced with four (4) percent from national oil and gas income, and one percent (1%) of revenue from the private sector.

Further to the enumerated strategies to ease direct socio-economic pressures on citizens’ pockets to meet their basic needs, institutions should be properly positioned and strengthened to control greed. According to Dobovšek (1995), corruption is not a weakness of people but

of the failure of institutions to obstruct the greed and temptation of individuals.⁵⁰ The implication is that corruption is a failure of governance and that the institution of good governance structures (transparency, accountability, seamless administrative procedures, processes automation, and minimization of human contact as may be applicable in administrative processes, and effective legal policies and frameworks) would effectively check greed.

Therefore, corruption should be made difficult by instituting accountability and transparency reform agenda.⁵¹ These are to hold those administering the rules responsible and accountable for their actions for proper observance of rules and regulations, and in the administration of resources. This can be achieved by standardization and institutionalization of rules, regulations, standard operating procedures (SOPs)/guidelines, and automation of processes. There should be extremely limited space for discretionary powers⁵²; planning documentation, and minutes of decisions, and audited financial account statements and management reports should be open to public inspection through the websites of institutions and MDAs; and public office holders should be open to public scrutiny and accountability through the answering of questions on their annual reports in interactive town hall meetings/conferences. Strong penalties/legal sanctions should be instituted against corruption, properties tax and properties rights. National Anti-Corruption Action Plan(NACAP) should be put in place at all levels.

The ownership, and boards of administration of allocated oilrigs, Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), pension schemes operators, electricity generation and distribution companies, aviation airlines, et cetera, should be displayed and seamlessly accessible on the website of such organizations and constantly under public scrutiny. Politicians, and policy makers with conflict of interest in such organizations, and on the boards of administration of government resources companies, and agencies should be required and enforced to declare such. This will control disastrous conflicts; keep greed, predatory and other unsavoury human instincts in check; minimize socially undesirable consequences; and generally, will ensure that players and referees abide by the accepted standards of moral conduct and good

⁵⁰ Dobovsek, B. (1995) In: Legvold, Robert (2009). "Corruption, the Criminalized State, and Post-Soviet Transitions". In Robert I. Rotberg (ed.). *Corruption, global security, and world order*. Brookings Institution. p. 197.

⁵¹ Kuwait Anti Corruption Authority. The effects of Corruption. <https://www.nazaha.gov.kw/EN/Pages/effects-of-corruption.aspx,29-4-21>.

⁵² Ibid. <https://www.nazaha.gov.kw/EN/Pages/effects-of-corruption.aspx,29-4-21>.

behaviour. Independence of the judiciary and credible whistle blower role of civil society organisations are critical to overcome the threat and obstacle of the rich and the powerful, in the opposition of reforms.⁵³ Aggressive media advocacy championed by the academia ,the media, Nigerian Bar Association, Nigerian Medical Association, Labour unions and other professional bodies is also crucial.

Conclusion

This paper reviewed the historical contexts, definitions, types, and features of corruption; its challenges, concerns, and consequences posed by the phenomenon; its causes and strategies proposed for its elimination. The paper brought to fore, “Desperation” to meet “basic needs for survival” and “greed to nurture and sustain unnecessary needs and ego ”as the Stem, and Root factors respectively. The paper also made an exposition and opened discussion and opportunities for further research on how to effect change in what we have been doing without ‘change’ and what we had not been doing that we ought to do, to eliminate Corruption in developing countries.

Socio-economic protection facilities for rural dwellers, artisans(mechanics, carpenters, bricklayers, tailors, vulcanizers) and all those at the lower level of the economy must be adequately put in place top revert the risk of their being security threat. Politicians, policy makers and managers of public resources must be constantly and constructively engaged on how things can work.

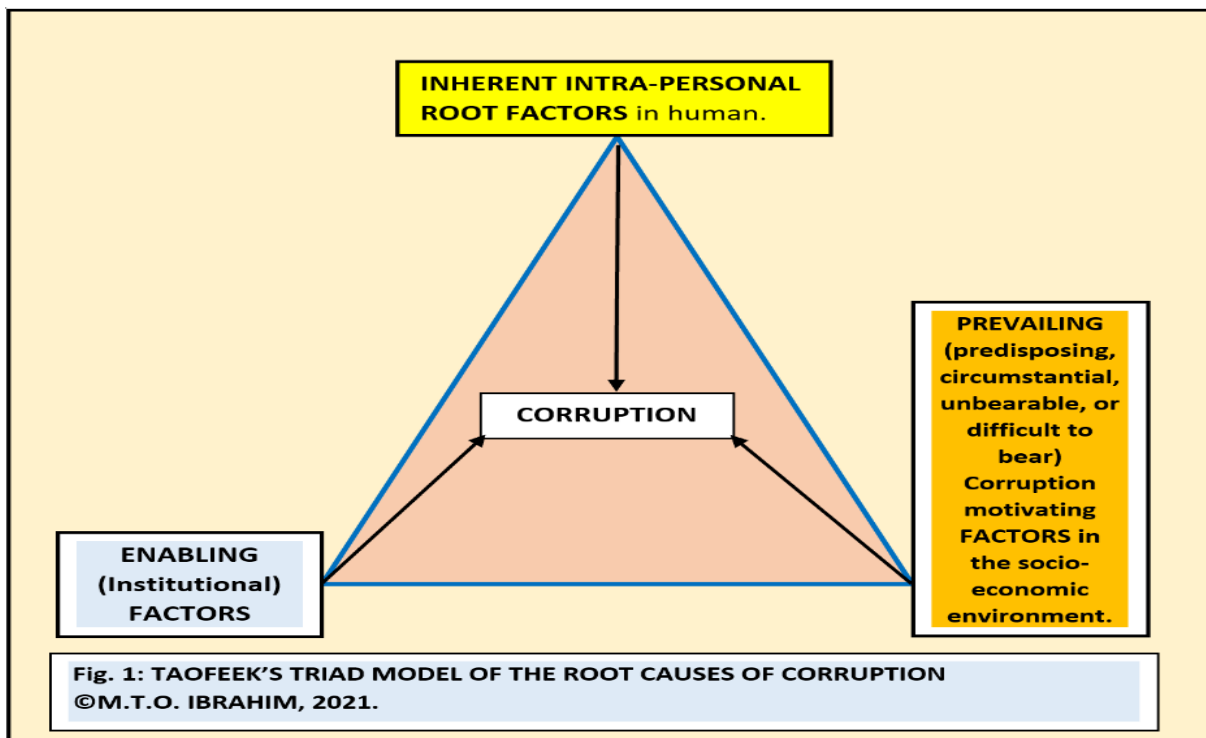
The populace needs to be critically involved through town hall meetings on the countries’ resources, policies, annual budgets, and management.

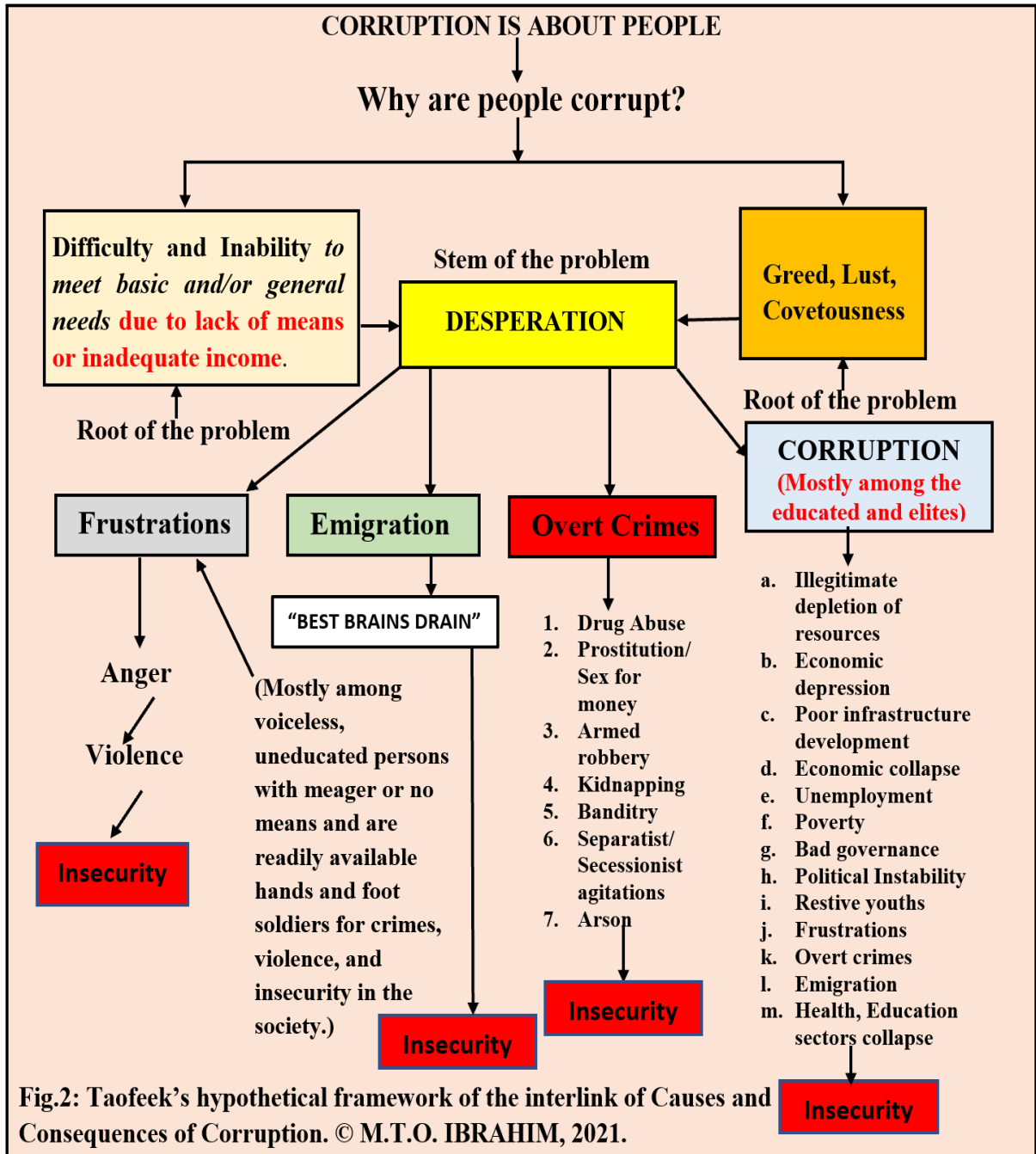
This paper recommended the emergence of Youths’ Employment Fund (YEFund) in the template of TETFUND, to focus engagement and funding of youths’ business initiatives in agriculture, rural development, sanitation, security, primary and secondary level education. The proposed sources of funding for YEFund are 4%of national oil and gas income, and 1%ofrevenuefromtheprivate sector. The details of the operational modalities of the fund to meet its objectives shall be made available to stakeholders, in view of the inadequacy of space in this medium.

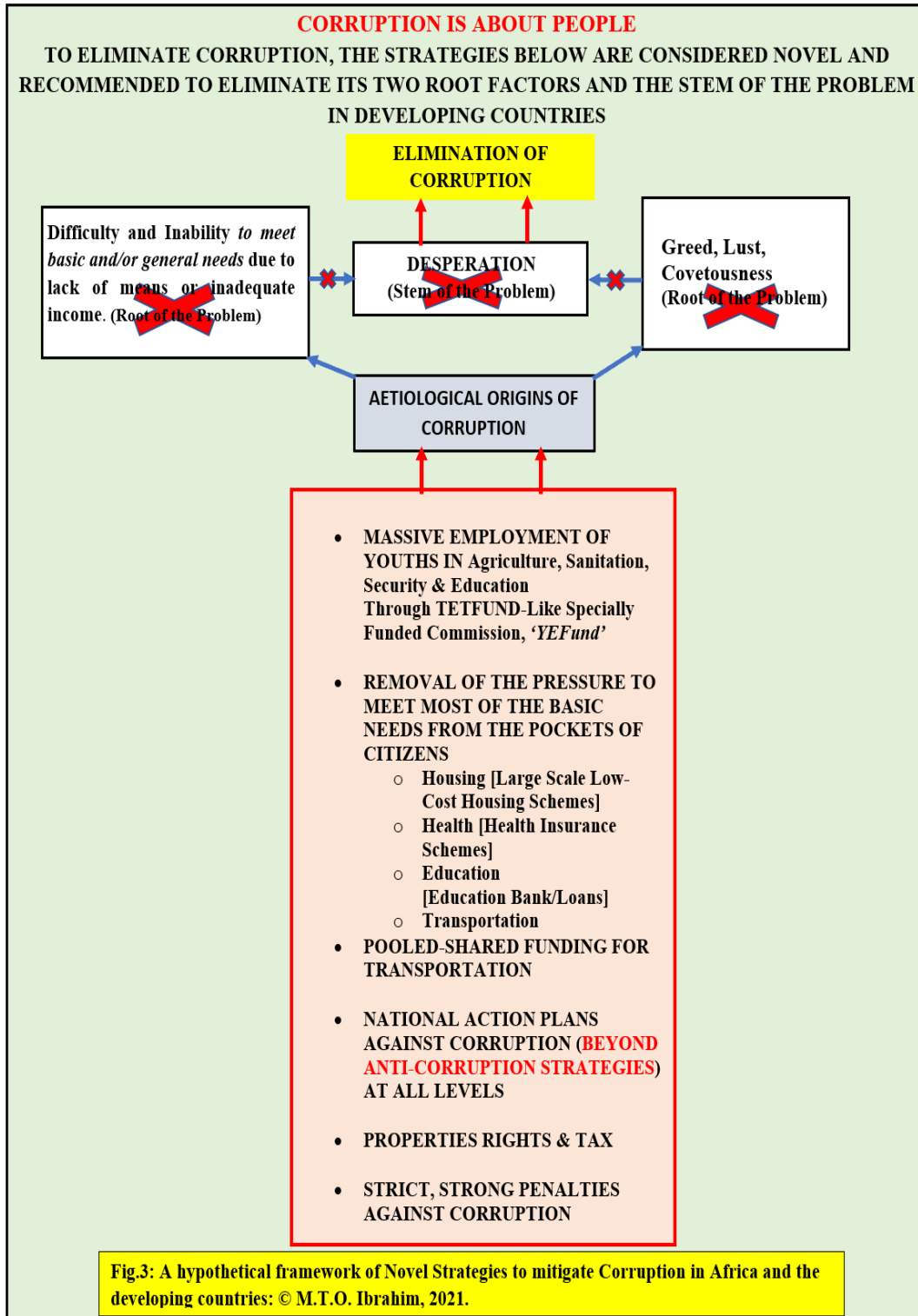
⁵³ Ibid. <https://www.nazaha.gov.kw/EN/Pages/effects-of-corruption.aspx,29-4-21>.

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