PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION POLICIES AND EFFECTS ON NIGERIAN ECONOMY

[1]Saviour Sebastian Udo, [2]Udom Sunday Daniel and [2]Clement Etti Willie

[1]Department of Economics
Akwa Ibom State College of Education,
Afaha Nsit, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
sasedo2016@mail.com

[2]Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Akwa Ibom State University, P.M.B. 1167, Uyo

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Abstract

The study appraises the effects of selected public administration policies on Nigerian economy. The study uses both descriptive and ex post facto design. The techniques adopted include the Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) test, and *Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model for the data analysis. The study uses an ex post facto research design and collected data from the World Bank Development Indicators, Central Bank of Nigeria, Transparency International and National Bureau of Statistics of various years. The study finds that selected public administration policies in this study proxied by effective governance index, corruption control index, quality budgetary and financial management index and public administration index, has not significantly impacted GDP growth rate to enhance economic growth and hence development in Nigeria. It is equally revealed in the study that some of the policies have a non-significant impact on economic growth in Nigeria. The study adopted Keynes General Equilibrium and Rent-seeking Theories as its framework. The study further reveals that corruption has significantly impeded economic growth in Nigeria though with a weak transmission effect through foreign direct investment, domestic investment, and government spending in Nigeria. Base on the above findings, the study recommends that sound micro and macroeconomic policies should be provided in Nigeria and these policies will direct both fiscal and monetary policies positively, as this is noted to have positive impact on government expenditures and hence on economic growth. This the study also recommends that government should reduce the influence of external forces in the formulation of its public policies as such external directives may not work in Nigerian environment due to the differences in Nigerian socio-cultural background. The study further recommends that for corruption to be reduced, good, discipline and moral driven leaders who are honest with integrity should be appointed or elected to hold sensitive offices. The government should encourage and upgrade the anti-corruption agencies such as the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to properly investigate corrupt practices, dispense appropriate sanctions on corrupt Nigerians, strengthen and reward institutions with good pedigree.*

Introduction

Public administration is an aspect of the generic term "administration" whose essence is a "determined action taken in pursuit of group earmarked objectives." It is concerned with co-operative human efforts geared towards pre-determined goals (Apeh, 2014). According to Anifowose and Enemuo, (1999), it refers to the mechanism and structures through which government policies are implemented. It can also be seen as the institution of public bureaucracy in a State. That is, the organizational structure which forms the basis of public decision-making and implementation. A healthy public administration leads to economic growth of a nation; an improve economic growth however is the priority of every nation. It occurs when a society becomes more productive and is able to produce more goods and services without misuse and misappropriation of resources which is the responsibility of public office holder in a growing society. The desire for Nigeria to grow for the need to the call for Nigerian independence whose trend shows that the agitation, after many years of independence, has not achieved her desire results. Democracy which according to Udoms, Atakpa & Ekanem, (2017), is the hall mark of good governance and economic had been the reverse in Nigeria. Failure to achieve these has been the reason among other things that there is a call for true Federalism where the States and local governments will have the power to stand on its own, the demand for resource control and also for restructuring of the country. Some of these agitators include: the Niger Delta militants and Boko Haram insurgents and the private individuals agitators like Namdi Kalu, Obong Victor Attah etc. The question they is how prepared is Nigerian public administration system to sustain the current efforts or make new steps in the development of the country?

It is obvious also, that Nigeria as a country has been in existence for over sixty-four years with little or no record of economic growth and this horrible drift is connected with the prevalent selected public administration policies in the Country. It can be recalled that in Nigeria, there has been various administrative reforms carried out by various past governments and even the current government to ensure sustainable good governance, the benefits realized have not appeared as expected due to poor administrative policies among other factors like corruption and budget padding (Willie, Mboho and David, 2023). Past administrations had over the years budgeted billions and now trillions of naira as annual budgets with the intention of improving the standard of living of Nigerians. For instance, Nigeria had signed a treaty to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1983 so as to close the gap of underdevelopment and with an intent to become a competitor in the global market (Odeh, 2015). However, Joining the WTO did not provide the anticipated result to the development in the country, the country decided to accept and implement the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) imposed on them by International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1986 with its policies like: - devaluation of national currency, privatization, deregulation of the economy particularly in the area of foreign exchange and interest unified rate regime, trade liberalization and commercialization, deregulation of the financial sector, adoption of a pricing policies especially for petroleum products, rationalization and privatization of public sector enterprises and abolition of commodity marketing boards (Ogundiya, 2009).

Nigeria is a signatory to many international and regional trade agreements such as International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS), and Nigeria in a quest to check corruption established Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) in 2003 and Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) inaugurated in September 2000. The questions then is in line with the above how could the Nation's state of critical infrastructure, employment opportunities, poverty reduction, debt reduction, weak economic governance, quality public administration, quality budgetary and financial management, corruption control and overall government effectiveness which could make our economy to grow be improved? It is equally seen by scholars that, after all these, only about 20% of Nigerians today live on above US$1 per day and also that the nations. The menace of corrupt practices, according to Okorie, (2012) and Effiong, (2024), had plunged the country into the comity of global financial crisis-ridden nation. Nigeria's power generation potentials, only 40% of its citizenry have access to electric power supply, which is often very epileptic. Ironically, these and other poor conditions of living prevail in Nigeria in spite of the hundreds of billions of US dollars that the country has earned in the last decades from crude oil and gas alone, (Ogujiuba and Elugiamusoe, 2014) a closer look at the above trend in Nigeria and having the world's seventh largest reserve of crude oil coupled with other resources, poverty and underdevelopment still ravaging the country with world class level of corruption, the Nigerian economy still swim in underdevelopment, (Udoh, and Madueke, 2018).

However, on the fact that Nigerians are not satisfied at the pace of economic growth, the authors therefore decides to examine the impact of selected public administration policies on economic growth in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

Keynes General Equilibrium Theory

The theory was propounded by John M. Keynes in 1936. According to the theory, national income is determined by variables like government, foreign trade, individual's income, businesses and trusts. Keynes in his theory grouped sources of income into: the household sector, business sector, government sector, and foreign sector. By this theory it means the government has vital roles to play in the growth of the economy by regulating the institutions that stimulate the economy. According to the theory, previously before the four-sector model, the two-sector model of the economy had been in existence and it involves households and businesses only, while the three-sector model involves household, businesses and the government. The vitality of the government activities called according to the theory for inclusion of the government as one of the determinants. The four-sector model includes households' expenditure, investment by businesses, spending the government agencies, and transactions from the foreign sector. The theory further opined that equilibrium in the employment level is determined by the level of aggregate of demand (AD) within the economy, given the level of aggregate of supply (AS). Aggregate of Demand is therefore related to the total expenditure flow in an economy within a given period expressed as:

$$Y= C + I + G + (X-M)$$

Where Y is national income, C is consumption demand by households, I is investment demand, G is government activities, and (X – M) is net income from abroad. This theory explains the determinants of national income or economic growth as the compositions of the above items. However, the growth of an economy is often not exogenously determined but depends on other factors from which corruption is one of them. Therefore, this study is anchored on Keynesian Equilibrium theory of economic growth.

Rent Seeking Theory

This theory opined that too much government interference in economic activities generates opportunities for rent-seeking by both private individuals and the government itself. According to the theory, unethical rent-seeking practices increase when a public office holder has monopolized production of goods and services. This, according to the theory make the office holders to decide on who gets what, when and how much the beneficiary gets from the corrupt proceeds. By this the theory therefore argues that, public officials' rent-seeking activities have harmed creative activities and this trend to reduce the growth level of a nation. The theory also put it that rent-seeking practices can much more seriously hamper growth than production. Those behind the theory, sees rent-seeking as the acquisition of control over land or other natural resources. That it is an attempt to obtain economic rent by manipulating the social or political environment in which economic activities takes place rather than creating new wealth. Rent-seeking means gaining uncompensated value without making any contribution to production from others. These situations according to the theory, hampers economic growth of any economy since the economic resources of such nations will be in few hands at the expense of others.

Literature Review

Saha and Sen (2019) in their study investigated the role of political institutions in mediating the corruption–growth relationship. They used panel data of 100 hundred countries covering 1984 to 2016 for the investigation. They adopted the two-stage least square method and dynamic panel-system-GMM in the analysis to account for ethnic tensions and lagged variables. The result of the study showed that the corruption-growth relationship differs by the type of political institution, and the growth-enhancing effect of corruption in nations practicing autocracy than those practicing democracy.

Efanga, Okon & Unyime (2023) in a study to investigate impact of economic governance on socio economic development in Nigeria between 2005 and 2019. The study adopted multiple regression method of analysis in the investigation and the Augmented Dickey Fuller Unit root test and Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model in the analysis. They generated data from the World Bank data base revealed that economic governance indices was not significantly impacting on GDP growth rate in Nigeria for the period in view. They therefore recommended that good economic governance which will translate to improved formulation and implementation of policies should be encouraged (Willie, Mboho and Daniel, 2023).

Vieira (2018) in another study investigated impact of corrupt office holders on economic growth. The study used unbalanced panel data with 2907 observations from 174 countries and 23 years between 1995 and 2017 and estimated using bootstrapping that the impact of corruption on growth rate is negative, and that the hypothesis "greasing the wheels" is not supported in the data. The study based on the findings suggested that government should put machineries in place to check corrupt officials and that defaulting officers be sanction according to the law of the land. The study further suggested that institutions and individuals without trace of corruption should be rewarded to encourage others to work well. This, according to Atairet (2020), could pave way for strong economic development of our nation.

Also, in a study by Alfadain (2019) a non-linear approach method was used to measure the impact of public administration policies on economic growth in Indonesia from 2004 to 2015. The study which used the instrumental variable two-stage least squares (2SLS) estimator revealed that provinces with corruption levels below the threshold, appears better than for provinces with corruption levels above the threshold. The study also showed that most provinces are struggling with corruption problems, even if they have succeeded in retaining their corruption levels. Furthermore, the study shows that some provinces, such as Riau and West Java, have significant corruption issues and have been in a high-corruption category, while some provinces, such as Lampung and North Sulawesi, are able to reduce their levels of corruption and switch to a low-corruption group. The study therefore recommended that every government of economies be it developed or developing showed institute agencies and instrument that will sanction public office holders and heads of institutions who are corrupt.

Methodology

Research Design

The study employs an epso facto design to investigate the impact of selected public administration policies on economic growth in Nigeria. The essence of this design (after the fact) design because the events had already taken place before the investigation is carried out. The choice of this design is made because the researcher has no control of the independent variables, and inferences about the relationship among the variables are made without the current interaction among the regress and regressors (Porter, 1990).

Data Sources

This study employed secondary data on the relevant variables. The data on economic growth (rate of change of real GDP), household consumption as a percent of GDP, foreign direct investment as a percent of GDP, domestic capital investment as a percent of GDP, government expenditure as a percent of GDP, exports of goods and services as a percent of GDP and imports of goods and services as a percent of GDP were gotten from Central Bank of Nigeria statistical bulletin and World Bank Statistics, while data on the corruption perception index were gotten from Transparency International from 1986-2022.

Model specification

This study is rooted on the Keynesian, and rent-seeking theories of public administration. From the corruption theories, corruption can impede economic growth and development of any nation. Based on the above, the study expressed the growth model as:

$$Y=f(CPI) \qquad (1)$$

Where Y is expressed as national income or economic growth. However, corruption may hurt the economy directly or affect the drivers of economic growth, as highlighted in the theories but by adopting Keynesian model the four-sector Keynesian model peroxide as economic growth can be specified thus:

$$Y=f(C,I,G,X-M) \quad (2)$$

Where Y is the national income, **C** the consumption expenditure of individual household, **I** is the Investment expenditure of the firms, **G** is the government expenditure and **X-M** is the net exports (Exports-Imports). This study adopts Y as economic growth which is defined as rate of change of RGDP, **C** household consumption, **G** government spending and **X** as good and services exported while **M** as good and services imported. To integrate selected public administration policies into the model according to Akpan Ekpo (2016), the model is expressed thus:

$$Y=f(ICC,IGE,BFI,PAI,GE) \quad (3)$$

Where Y is economic growth proxied by Gross Domestic Product, ICC is Corruption Perceptions Index, IGE is Index of government effectiveness, GE is Government expenditure, PAI is Public administration index.

Re-writing the model in econometric form, we have:

$$Y = \omega_0 + \omega_1 ICC + \omega_2 IGE + \omega_3 BFI + \omega_4 PAI + \omega_5 GE + V_t \quad (4)$$

where: ω_0 is the intercept, ω_1- ω_5 are the parameters to be estimated and V_t is the error term.

This study used ARDL models to estimate the relationship between selected public administration policies and economic growth in Nigeria. Following the theories and the empirical literature reviewed, the study therefore specifies the selected public administration equation as shown above. The equation identifies effective governance index, corruption perception index, quality of budgetary and financial management index and public administration index as variables affecting economic growth.

Method of Data Analysis

This study adopted both descriptive and econometric techniques. The techniques include the Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) test, and *Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model.*

Analyses and Discussion of Findings

Results of Unit Root Test

Testing for existence of unit roots in the variables and establish their order of integration, the Augmented Dickey-Fuller test was adopted. The results of the Augmented Dickey-Fuller test for all the time series variables used in the estimation are as presented in the Table 1.

Table 1: Result of the ADF unit root test

Variables	At level	First Differe-nce	1%Critical Level	5%Critical Level	10%Critical Level	Order of Integration
Y **Prob**	-2.099316 0.2463	-10.00043 0.0000*	-3.661661	-2.960411	-2.619160	I(1)
ICC **Prob**	-3.328171 0.5024	0.0000*	-3.661661	-2.960411	-2.619160	I(0)
IGE **Prob**	-1.631017 0.4556	-7.952016 0.0000*	-3.661661	-2.960411	-2.619160	I(1)
BFI **Prob**	-1.645216 0.4486	-6.334026 0.0000*	-3.661661	-2.960411	-2.619160	I(1)
PAI **Prob**	-3.328171 0.1435	0.0000*	-3.661661	-2.960411	-2.619160	I(0)
GE **Prob**	-1.117194 0.6967	-5.201088 0.0002*	-3.661661	-2.960411	-2.619160	I(1)

Source: Authors from E-views 10

The result of the unit root result in Table 1 shows that budgetary and financial index and corruption perception index are stationary at levels while the other variables (index of government effectiveness, public administration index and government expenditure(s) are stationary at first difference because the values of the ADF statistics at first difference are less than 0.05 critical values. This implies that although some of the variables have a unit root problem at level and some do not, it is obvious that there is no evidence of a unit root problem at first difference. By this mix integration shown by the result of the table, it made the researchers to adopt ARDL method of estimation.

The Short-Run Impact of Selected Public Administration Policies on Economic Growth

To correct or eradicate the discrepancy existing in the short run towards the long run, ARDL is used to check the long run result. This is to be certain that the long run result will not be spurious. The projected coefficient of the variable provides the proportion of the difference that can be eradicated in the subsequent period in the study. The study reveals that the estimated coefficients of the explanatory variables in the model measure the short-run relationship existing between the variables as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: The Short-Run ARDL Result on Selected Public Administration Policies on Economic Growth

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
CointEq	-0.00182	0.059459	-0.03062	0.9756
D(Y(-1))	-0.3942	0.188388	-2.09248	0.0379
D(ICC(-1))	-0.24065	0.343761	-0.70006	0.4849
D(IGE(-1))	-2.9992	3.217415	-0.93218	0.3526
D(BFI(-1))	3.10729	3.265181	0.95165	0.3426
D(PAI(-1))	0.479817	0.563557	0.851408	0.3958
D(GE(-1))	-3.0045	3.202431	-0.93819	0.3495

R^2 = 0.875321 RR^2 = 0.753316 F-statistic = 3.130851

Source: Authors using E-views 10

This study shows the result of selected public administration policies on economic growth in Table 2. The result of the study revealed that at 5% level of significance corruption perception index was not statistically impacting on economic growth of Nigeria. This means that, increases in the perceived level of corruption in Nigeria leads to a decrease in economic growth in the short run. Also, in the short run, the estimated results of the study showed that index of government effectiveness and expenditure of the government have negative but insignificant effects on economic growth in Nigeria. Hence, the implication of the trend is, that index of government effectiveness and expenditure of the government do not impacts positively on economic growth in the short run but assist as temporary withdrawers in the economy. This means, the multiplier impact of increase in index of government effectiveness and government expenditure is felt in the long run only and not in the short run as seen in the result.

The result also indicate that, index of budgetary and financial management as well as that of public administration index as seen in the model have positive but insignificant effect on economic growth at 5% level of significance in the short-run. This means increase or decrease in index of budgetary and financial management and public administration index have frail impact in explaining the increase or decrease in economic growth in the short-run. The estimated coefficient of error correction term is negative and it has a low magnitude of 0.18%. Looking at the result it shows that in the case of any deviation, the long run equilibrium is adjusted slowly where about 0.18% of the disequilibrium maybe removed yearly. From this it can concluded that the speed of adjustment that economic growth would converge towards long-run equilibrium in case of any initial disequilibrium is 0.18% as seen in the study.

Further, the result revealed that the coefficient of multiple determinations (R^2) has a good fit as the independent variables were found to jointly explain 87% of the dependent variable with the adjusted R-squared of 75%. This means, only 13% of the variables is explained outside the variables in the model. The result also showed that, the overall significance of the models is explained by the F-statistic of 3.130851 which is significant at 5% level in the study. The study therefore affirms through its results showing that, corruption has affected economic growth of Nigeria negatively.

Table 3: The Long-run ARDL Result on Selected Public Administration Policies on Economic Growth

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob
IGE	35.090018	3.808016	9.215108	0.8500
ICC	-3.070140	0.632010	4.859027	0.0077
BFI	37.680128	3.977160	9.473133	0.3908
PAI	3.571566	1.395319	2.556179	0.2491
GE	42.350219	4.366209	9.699050	0.0000

From the table 3 above, the projected coefficient for the corruption perception index shows a negative (-3.07). This is in conformation with the theoretical expectation of the negative impact of corruption on the economy. The results show that the coefficient is statistically significant at 5% level of significance. The meaning of this is that a one percentage increase in the corruption perception index will lead to a 3.07% decrease in economic growth. By this it means that, there is a strong negative stimulus of corruption on economic growth in Nigeria in the long run. The findings further show a conformation with the theory on impact of corruption on economic growth.

The estimated (35.09) coefficient of index of government expenditure (IGE) component is in agreement with the theory. The coefficient is also statistically significant at the 5% level of significance. This means that a percentage increase in index of government expenditure pointedly leads to increases in economic growth in Nigeria in the long run. The (37.68) positive coefficient of index of budgetary and financial management(BFI) also agrees with theoretical expectation and it is statistically significant at the 5% level of significance therefore that meaning one percent increase in budgetary and financial index will significantly lead to increase in economic growth. By this the study found out that, index of budgetary and financial management has a strong positive influence on economic growth in Nigeria in the long run.

The 3.571 estimated coefficient of public administration index is also statistically significant at the 5% level of significance. Thus, one percentage increase in public administration index will significantly brings about a 3.57% increase in economic growth in Nigeria in the long run. This again is in conformation with the theoretical underpinnings of the relationship between public administration index and economic growth in less developed countries. Government expenditure used as control variable in the model has a positive sign in the model and it conforms to the theoretical a priori expectation of the study. It is also statistically significant at the 5% level of significance. Considering the magnitude and sign of the results, it shows that a one percentage increase in government expenditure will lead to an approximately 42.35% increase in economic growth in Nigeria in the long run. This means changes in government expenditure will insert a strong influence on economic growth in Nigeria in the long run.

Conclusion and policy recommendations

The study concludes that selected administrative policies impedes on economic growth in Nigeria. The selected policies have direct and indirect effects on economic growth both in the short-run and long run term as well as reduce the level of economic growth in the country. The most outstanding effect of these policies is corruption and underdevelopment. According to the result of the study it shows that, this has discouraged foreign direct investment and domestic investment in the country. This study has therefore concluded that selected public administration policies have reduced the level of economic growth in Nigeria. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

i. Institutions and agencies saddled with responsibility of making public policies should be strengthened by the appointment of experienced leaders devoid of political patronage to enhance effectiveness.

ii. Anti-corruption agencies like the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) should be given free hand to operate and not be dragged into politics to work for the government in power by hunting opponent's leaders only. The agencies should properly investigate corrupt practices and appropriate sanctions on defaulters without fear or favour and not minding the political parties involve.

iii. As a follow up to the above suggestion, government at the center and units should make advance in prosecuting public office holders found guilty of corrupt practices on their table of responsibility irrespective of who is involved.

iv. Election malpractices should be discouraged with vigor to enhance election of credible leaders into public offices. This can be done by using modern transparent election facilities like the use of electronic voting system. Also, reformation of the Elections Committees that monitors campaign expenditures should not be ignored. The government should develop a strong monitoring mechanism, imposing stiffer penalties on defaulters.

v. Public office holders should be held accountable to the populace.

vi. Public policies should be formulated with clear and precise goals, to make them easy to realize their intended objectives.

vii. Government should reduce the influence of external forces in the formulation of public policies thus external directives may not work in Nigerian environment due to the differences in the nation's socio-cultural background.

viii. Laws should be enacted to discourage the culture of discontinuity of policies due to changes in government or change in the leadership of organizations and at all levels of government.

ix. The government should also endeavour to address the material poverty of Nigerians as a deliberate move to curb crimes and insecurity. This can be done by creating more productive industries in the rural areas and providing social incentives in the rural communities to decongest the urban areas where criminality is high.

x. Government should put machinery in place to enhance effective budgetary policies and sound financial management strategies. This can be done by ensuring that qualified persons are employed to work in the offices charged with the responsibility of budget and financial management. Government should further allow the financial regulatory institutions for socio economic development to work independently without political interference.

xi. The study also suggests that government should form collaborative policy and agreement with the western countries to check and return accommodated stolen funds from developing countries deposited in foreign banks. This can be done by putting established law in place to allow government through its agencies access the account of suspected corrupt Nigerians.

xii. Families, schools, religious organizations and other re-orientation agencies should ensure children and adults are educated on the danger of corruption in the growth of a nation. This would make the mindset of the citizens to be given reorientation on the need to avoid things that will hamper the growth of the nation.

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