

Good governance and socio-economic development of Enugu state, Nigeria (2011-2022)

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ABSTRACT

The study is focused on good governance and socio economic development of Enugu State. The specific objectives of the study were to: determine the effect of good governance on poverty reduction in Enugu State, examine the effect of good governance on human capital development in Enugu State, establish the effect of good governance on employment generation in Enugu State. A descriptive survey method was used for this study. The population of the study is 968,300. A sample size 369 was obtained through the use of Freud and Williams's formula. The method of data collection was both primary and secondary. The data generated for the study was analysed through the use of mean score while Z-score was employed to test the hypotheses. The findings showed that Good governance did significantly affect the poverty reduction in Enugu State. This implies that Good governance helps to ensure that entities act in the public interest towards poverty reduction among others. The study concluded that good governance holds the key to poverty reduction, human capital development as well as employment generation in Enugu State. The study recommended that the people of Enugu State require a social safety net to care for the needy and vulnerable members of society, such as the elderly, the disabled, and jobless. These actions taken collectively will enable these Nigerians to live with some dignity.

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1. INTRODUCTION

One of the foundations for a nation's social and economic progress is good governance. In areas like capital market regulation, macroeconomic stability, safety net provision, the legal system, and the creation of a positive business environment all of which are prerequisites and fundamental characteristics of the developed economy, governance typically plays a significant role (Kabera, 2022), (Brautigam, 2015). This is owing to the fact that having a decent and quality life is what all people ultimately aim for and desire, regardless of where they are in the world, especially in their own country. Since quick economic transformation and sustainable growth would guarantee that their population experience, better living conditions in their varied localities, all nations seek to achieve or attain these goals. The interaction between the state, other social institutions, and the citizenry is what constitutes "good governance" (Daly, 2016). In other terms, it is a framework or structure within which the government and other players function. The main tenets of effective governance include its ability to offer the benefits of democracy, including the right to a quality education, access to portable drinking water, employment opportunities, protection of fundamental human rights, cultural enrichment, and political and social freedoms. Every country's enhanced governance is largely responsible for improved performance of governmental institutions. It promotes socioeconomic development and an increase in people's living standards (Musbahu, 2021). Development projects and programs are carried out in any country through good governance. Since accountability of governmental institutions and progress of such states are likely to be unrealistic in states where good governance is neglected, Nigeria's developmental challenges are directly related to the nature of leadership and governance, a style characterized by inequality, social deprivation, and political unrest. For the nation to be successful in its pursuit of development, these vices must be tackled (Emara & Chiu, 2016). The improvement of a citizen's well-being is dependent on good government. There is widespread agreement in Africa that improving its socioeconomic potential requires competent governance (Adegboyega & Arikewuyo, 2020). Nigeria has had democratic and authoritarian regimes during the previous 50 years. The Nigerian military's entry into politics in the nation was justified by the inability of earlier

democratic administrations to launch, support, and maintain development initiatives that may have sparked social and economic progress. However, the majority of the 54 years that the Nigerian state has been an independent nation-state have seen military administrations in power fail to build the much-anticipated social and economic growth (Afolabi, 2019).

Indeed, the ability to establish and maintain good governance expressed in a dedicated, patriotic, and disciplined leadership with a vision to advance in the pursuit of national development is crucial to the socioeconomic and political growth of Enugu State in particular and Nigeria in general. Unfortunately, despite being in existence for more than fifty years, Nigeria has little to no history of such socio-economic and political advancement. This ugly trend is connected with the pervasive corruption noted in the country (Chimezie, 2016). The basic expectation and incentive for the citizens in the social contract agreement between the governors and the governed is probably socio-economic development, namely an improvement in the living conditions of Enugu State. Real understanding of the gap between the enormous amount of national resources at hand and the drive for growth in Enugu State, Nigeria, would come from understanding the impact of governance on the economy. It is based on these facts that the study examined the effect of good governance on socio-economic development of Enugu State.

1.1 Statement of the problem

For the implementation of development policies and the accountability of governmental agencies in any country, good governance is a crucial tool. Citizens who experience good governance are happier because they are aware that their taxes are being managed effectively. As a result of avoiding the idea of a superman or a man above the law, this makes them happy, placates the public, and satisfies all citizens. The biggest threat to peace is injustice, as it will encourage feelings of peace if people are aware that they are all treated equally by the law. Nigeria has been independent for a long time, yet good governance remains a challenge. The leadership in the country has been characterised by lack of vision, political bickering and above all, the leaders have been enmeshed in gross corruption, which has become a great threat to the nation's survival. Due to Enugu State's current incapacity to provide the necessary institutional framework to promote effective governance, any failure to increase state capacity will only make the state worse off. Consequently, the state's governmental institutions became weak. It is possible to argue that the State's inability to address much of its growth and development backwardness is due to the failure of its institutions and governance structure. Consequently, became severely characterized by bad policy decisions, including a limited and dysfunctional capacity for state building. Hence explaining the dire and nasty situation in the area. The effects of Enugu State's bad attitude toward governance are pretty well documented. In addition to social unrest and conflict, it also includes widespread poverty, economic stagnation, political unpredictability, corruption, unemployment, insurgency and terrorism, and the abuse of authority and the rule of law. All of these factors reinforce one another. However, the pervasive issue of endemic corruption is the most harmful and detrimental difficulty that has hampered governance in Nigeria. The socioeconomic, political, and contagious scourge of corruption is suffocating the state's hopes for progress. It has become institutionalized, permeating every social stratum, and weakens the system of values.

1.2 Objectives of the study

The broad objective of the study was to examine the effect of good governance on the socio-economic development of Enugu State. The specific objectives of the study were to:

- Determine the effect of good governance on poverty reduction in Enugu State.
- Examine the effect of good governance on human capital development in Enugu State.
- Establish the effect of good governance on employment generation in Enugu State.

1.3 Research questions

The following research questions guided the study.

- What is the effect of good governance on poverty reduction in Enugu State?
- How does good governance affect human capital development in Enugu State?
- What effect does good governance have on employment generation in Enugu State?

1.4 Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated for the study:

- Good governance does not significantly affect the poverty reduction in Enugu State.
- Good governance has no significant effect on human capital development in Enugu State.
- Good governance does not significantly affect employment generation in Enugu State.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Good Governance

In order to protect accountability, transparency, responsiveness, the rule of law, stability, equity and inclusivity, broad-based engagement of all stakeholders, including the community at large, a variety of structures and processes are used in governance. The adoption of excellent governance practices is essential for the success of development programs in Nigeria (Musbahu, 2021). Alaaraj (2015) sees the use of power through political and institutional systems that are open, accountable, and promote public engagement is what is meant by "good governance." explains in more detail how democratic institutions generate opportunities for public participation in decision-making through official or informal meetings. Additionally, it creates procedures for the participation of various social groups in decision-making, particularly at the local level. (OECD, 2013) defines good governance as consisting of involvement, accountability and openness, effectiveness, and a legal system that supports equity. This suggested study adopted the UN's concept of good governance from 2007. Regarding good governance, the World Bank (2003) emphasized that it should be started and implemented inside institutions in order to improve performance because it is the key to successful and satisfied efficiency. By using its force to advance lofty ideals like power eradication, environmental conservation, and gender equity, the concept of good governance within the bounds of democracy pursues the frontier of progress and growth (Ohiomu & Dibia) (2017). Additionally, it guarantees that the media and the ethical sector of civil society anchor these agendas while guaranteeing that the needs and aspirations of the most vulnerable members of society are placed in proper context. It is difficult to overstate the importance of good governance as a pillar of democracy and a catalyst for growth. As a result, it encompasses all aspects of responsibility, openness, respect for the law, equity, inclusivity, and dedication to the needs of the populace (Habyarimana and Dushimayezu, 2018). These elements of good governance are related to the tremendous task of socio-economic development, structural change and political reform at a country level.

2.2 Socio-Economic Development:

This is a byproduct of the full spectrum of a certain form of growth, from those in subpar physical condition to those who are content in both their material and social circumstances. Socioeconomic development, according to Ewetan and Urhie (2014), is the process of social and economic change within a society as measured by indicators such as growth rate, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy, and unemployment rates, while also taking into account changes in less obvious elements like individual dignity, freedom, and safety from physical harm as well as freedom of association. Chonjnichi (2010), argued that, it accepts societal transformation that is primarily of an economic nature. Fritz provides a more practical definition of socioeconomic development as "progress in terms of economic and social aspects within a geographical unit, a process of enhancing the level of prosperity through greater production, distribution, and consumption (Fritz, 2010). Simply put, socioeconomic development is an increase in the standard of living or a rise in the well-being of both the social and material spheres.

2.3 Poverty Reduction

More than a shortage of money and useful resources are required to ensure sustainable lives (The United Nations, 2017). It shows up as starvation and malnutrition, restricted access to healthcare and other necessities, social isolation and prejudice, and a lack of involvement in decision-making. The cost of poverty is disproportionately felt by different social groups. The World Social Summit declared the elimination of poverty to be an ethical, social, political, and economic imperative of humanity and urged governments to address the underlying causes of poverty, meet everyone's basic needs, and make sure the poor have access to resources that can be used to their advantage, such as credit, education, and training. Poverty reduction, poverty relief, or poverty alleviation is a set of measures, both economic and humanitarian, that are intended to permanently lift people out of poverty. Good governance guarantees poverty reduction more especially in Enugu State.

2.4 Human Capital Development

The collection of abilities, know-how, and capacities that enable work and generate economic value is known as human capital (Mubarik et al., 2018). The value that may be recognized at the individual, collective, or national and organizational levels derives from the accumulation of human capital. As a result, adjustments to human capital can be performed at either the individual or the collective levels. Individual human capital focuses on measuring career achievement, including compensation and promotions (Hayek 2016). Based on the distinctive knowledge, skills, and capacities of every employee in an organization, aggregate human capital is the value that might possibly give a sustainable competitive advantage through productivity and profitability (Nyberg & Wright, 2015). The presence of good governance in a particular society helps to promote quality human capital.

2.5 Employment Generation

In Nigeria, one of the most significant social and economic challenges is employment. It is viewed as a partnership between two persons, typically established through an employment contract. In other terms, employment is defined as the total population of workers in a community, state, or nation. Employment, according to Kareem (2015), is the number of

persons who either work for the government, parastatals, or the private sector. It could also refer to those who work for their families unpaid or as independent contractors. The creation of jobs is a natural part of social progress. The variety of wants that humans bring into the world create job opportunities for others to fill those needs. Employment generation is a function of good governance most importantly in Enugu State.

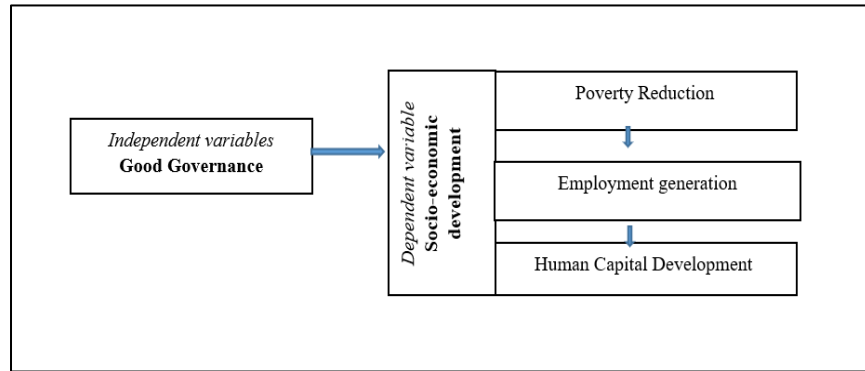


Fig 1. Conceptual Framework
 Source: Author's compilation 2023.

2.6 Theoretical Consideration

The author of the political leadership theory was (Mintzberg, 1983,1985). In a word that is capable of capturing institutions as political regions, he sees a political approach to institutions and their leadership. One of the earliest and most active fields of research in the behavior sciences is the study of leadership. We must define leadership and organizational politics in order to construct a model of political theory of leadership. First, we used the concept of general leadership offered by House (1995.413), which states that "leadership is behavior that offers collector purpose, meaning, and guidance by articulating the common vision that appeals to ideological values, matured, and self-perceptions of followers. House adds that the results of such behavior include increased awareness of company ideals and an unusual amount of effort that leaders may employ for their own gain. The purpose of this academic discussions and the application of leadership theory to good governance and development is to highlight the value of a behavioral approach to the study of politics and the functioning of the political system. A state's national objectives can be determined and realized in large part by the general conduct of political players in the examination of public policies as well as by their values and missions in the political sphere on a national and international level. The institution of government is a means of formulating, expressing, and enforcing the will of the state. For the sake of society and in accordance with the social contract idea, the political will to authoritatively distribute the common values through the inputs and outputs mechanism process cannot be compromised The provision of good governance that will lead to a sustainable socio-economic and political development and a high standard of living for the populace is the responsibility and liability of the president, who serves as the arrowhead of government in coordination with the legislative and judicial branches. Therefore, the success or failure of the state is greatly influenced by the actions and inactions, choices, and policies of individuals who hold political power in the many institutions.

3. METHODOLOGY

A descriptive survey method was employed. To interpret the data, a descriptive analytical method was adopted. In order to gather data (information) relevant to the study's objectives, the researcher employed both quantitative (questionnaire) and qualitative (interview) research approaches. The population of the study includes all the residents of Enugu Metropolis. The population of the state according to National Population Commission project for 2016 was 968,300. The table 1.below shows the population distribution for the study.

Table 1. Population Distribution Table

Enugu Metropolis	Population	Percentage
Enugu East	374,100	39
Enugu North	326,900	34
Enugu South	267,300	27
Total	968,300	100

Source: National Population Commission project for 2016

3.1 Determination of the Sample Size

Freund and Williams (1986) statistical sampling formula was used to obtain a sample size from a finite population of employees and management. The formula was given thus:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 Npq}{Ne^2 + Z^2 pq} \quad 1$$

Where;

n = Sample size, N = Population of the study, P = Probability of Success /Proportion, q = Probability of Failure /Proportion, Z = Standard error of the mean given under 95% reliability, e = Limit of tolerable sampling error

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{(1.96)^2 (968,300) (0.6)(0.4)}{968,300 (0.05)^2 + (1.96)^2 (0.6) (0.4)} \\ n &= \frac{3.8416 (968,300) (0.24)}{968,300 (0.0025) + (3.8416) (0.24)} \\ &= \frac{892757.1072}{2420.75+0.921984} \\ &= \frac{892757.1072}{2421.671984} \\ &= 368.77909 \\ &\cong 369 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the sample size for the study is **369**

4. DATA ANALYSIS

The collected data was analysed through the use of Mean score while Z-score was used to test the hypotheses.

Decision Rule for Z-test: If the calculated Z-value is greater than the critical Z-value (i.e $Z_{cal} > Z_{critical}$), reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis accordingly. The data gathered from the field were presented under this section. Mean score were employed in presenting and analyzing the data and Z-score was used to test the hypotheses.

Research Question 1: What is the effect of good governance on poverty reduction in Enugu State?

Table 2. Effect of good governance on poverty reduction in Enugu State

s/n	Response	SA	A	U	D	SD	Total	Mean	Decision
1	Effective governance will engender massive poverty reduction	100	100	20	100	40	360	3.3	Accepted
2	Good governance helps to ensure that entities act in the public interest towards poverty reduction	120	120	10	70	40	360	3.6	Accepted
3	Good governance brings strong commitment to poverty reduction	100	110	10	90	50	360	3.3	Accepted
4	Good governance brings openness and comprehensive to poverty reduction	130	130	10	60	30	360	3.8	Accepted
5	Good governance enables government to create the enabling environment for the citizens to free themselves from poverty	140	90	20	70	40	360	3.8	Accepted
Grand Mean								3.56	

Source: Field Survey 2023.

Table 2 above shows the mean distribution of opinions of the respondents on the effect of good governance on poverty reduction in Enugu State (based on tabulated acceptance mean rating of 3.0). With regards to items (1,2,3,4,5), the mean score of 3.3, 3.6, 3.3, 3.8 & 3.8 respectively and Grand Means of 3.56 showed that the respondents agreed that with proper good government in place in Enugu State, poverty reduction is guaranteed.

Research Question 2: How does good governance effect on human capital development in Enugu State?

Table 3. How good governance effect on human capital development in Enugu State

s/n		SA	A	U	D	SD	Total	Mean	Decision
1	Good governance helps institutions to produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of human resources at their disposal	110	120	10	60	60	360	3.4	Accepted
2	It provides transparency in assignment of authority and responsibility to the citizens	120	90	10	100	40	360	3.4	Accepted
3	It leads to the enforcement of Accountability and decision making for the purpose of developing the manpower	100	130	15	65	70	360	3.5	Accepted
4	It leads to attracting, developing, and retaining competent individuals within institution.	90	100	10	100	60	360	3.1	Accepted
5	Good governance helps to stabilize the human resource need of the state	100	110	10	70	70	360	3.2	Accepted
	Grand Mean							3.32	

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Table 3 indicates the mean distribution of opinions of the respondents on how good governance effect on human capital development in Enugu State. The grand mean of 3.32, means that respondents are agreed that good governance holds the key to sustainable human capital development in Enugu State.

Research Question Three: What effect does good governance have on employment generation in Enugu State?

Table 4. Effect of good governance have on employment generation in Enugu State

s/n	Response	SA	A	D	DA	SD	FREQ	Mean	Decision
1	Good governance is the foundational element for articulating employment generation policies	120	140	20	50	30	360	3.8	Accepted
2	It helps to create the basic extra- economic conditions essential for job creation	140	130	20	60	20	360	3.9	Accepted
3	A good governance of a nation results in a gainful employment of the citizens	130	140	10	50	30	360	3.7	Accepted
4	Good governance means strong government capacity, such as, local government that has enough resources provide employment	120	120	10	65	25	360	3.5	Accepted
5	It helps government to be proactive in creating employment opportunities	120	140	20	50	30	360	3.8	Accepted
	Grand Mean							3.75	

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Table 4 above shows the mean distribution of opinions of the respondents on Effect of good governance have on employment generation in Enugu State. Their mean responses were positive. The grand mean of 3.75 revealed that the respondents strongly agreed that good governance offers the windows of opportunity for employment.

4.1 Test of Hypotheses

Z test was adopted for the study. Software Package for Social Science (SPSS Version 23.0 for Student Version) was used to test the hypotheses.

Test of Hypothesis One

Ho: Good governance does not significantly affect the poverty reduction in Enugu State.

Table 5. Z-test on Good governance and the poverty reduction in Enugu State.

Good governance does not significantly affect the poverty reduction in Enugu State.		
N		360
Normal Parameters	Mean	4.096
	Standard Deviation	1.137
Most Extreme	Absolute	.271
Most Extreme	Positive	.215
Difference	Negative	-.271
Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z		5.049
Asymp. Sig.(2-tailed)		.000

Source: Authors compilation SPSS Output

a. Test distribution is Normal

b. Calculated from data

Decision Rule: If the calculated Z-value is greater than the critical Z-value (i.e $Z_{cal} > Z_{critical}$), reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis accordingly.

Result: With Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z – value of 4.096 and on Asymp. Significance of 0.000, the responses from the respondents as display in the table is normally distributed. The statistical significance indicates that Good governance does not significantly affect the poverty reduction in Enugu State.

Decision: Furthermore, comparing the calculated Z- value of 4.096 against the critical Z- value of 1.96 (2-tailed test at 95% level of confidence) the null hypothesis was rejected. Thus, the alternate hypothesis was accepted which states that Good governance does significantly affect the poverty reduction in Enugu State.

Test of Hypothesis Two

Ho: Good governance has no significant effect on human capital development in Enugu State.

Table 6. Z-test on Good governance and human capital development in Enugu State.

Good governance has no significant effect on human capital development in Enugu State.		
N		360
Normal Parameters	Mean	3.672
	Standard Deviation	1.217
Most Extreme	Absolute	.280
Most Extreme	Positive	.180
Difference	Negative	-.280
Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z		5.215
Asymp. Sig.(2-tailed)		.000

Source: Authors compilation SPSS Output

a. Test distribution is Normal

b. Calculated from data

Result: With Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z – value of 5.215 and on Asymp. Significance of 0.000, the responses from the respondents as display in the table is normally distributed. This affirms the assertion of the most of the respondents that Good governance has a significant effect on human capital development in Enugu State.

Decision: Furthermore, comparing the calculated Z- value of 5.215 against the critical Z- value of 1.96 (2-tailed test at 95% level of confidence) the null hypothesis was rejected. Thus, the statistical significance indicates that Good governance has a significant effect on human capital development in Enugu State

Test of Hypothesis Three

Ho: Good governance does not significantly affect employment generation in Enugu State.

Table 7: Z-test on Good governance and employment generation in Enugu State.

Good governance does not significantly affect employment generation in Enugu State.		
N		360
Normal Parameters	Mean	4.000
	Standard Deviation	1.078
Most Extreme	Absolute	.309
Most Extreme	Positive	.219
Difference	Negative	-.321
Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z		5.983
Asymp. Sig.(2-tailed)		.000

Source: Authors compilation SPSS Output

a. Test distribution is Normal

b. Calculated from data

Result: With Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z – value of 5.983 and on Asymp. Significance of 0.000, the responses from the respondents as display in the table is normally distributed. This affirms the assertion of the most of the respondents that Good governance does not significantly affect employment generation in Enugu State.

Decision: Furthermore, comparing the calculated Z- value of 5.983 against the critical Z- value of 1.96 (2-tailed test at 95% level of confidence) the null hypothesis was rejected. Thus, the statistical significance indicates that Good governance does significantly affect employment generation in Enugu State.

5. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

According to the results of the test for hypothesis 1, the calculated Z-value of 5.215 was higher than the crucial Z-value of 1.96 (2-tailed test at 95% level of confidence). The results showed that good governance does have a major impact on the decrease of poverty in Enugu State. Table 3.1, where the majority of respondents agree, makes this more clear. The Grand Mean of 3.56 revealed that the majority of respondents agreed that Enugu State's poverty reduction is guaranteed

with competent good governance in place. This was in line with the findings of Emara and Chiu's (2016) study, which showed that if composite government indicator increased by one unit, constant per capita income would grow by around 2%. According to the results of the test for hypothesis 2, the calculated Z-value of 4.096 was higher than the critical Z-value of 1.96 (2-tailed test at 95% level of confidence). The results showed that Enugu State's growth of its human capital is significantly impacted by good governance. According to the information in table 3.2, the respondents think that Enugu State can achieve human capital development if there is good governance in place. The overall mean of 3.32 indicates that respondents are adamant that Enugu State's sustainable human capital development depends on competent governance. The findings were at odds with those of Mughal (2015), who highlighted the existence of subpar governance practices in public organizations that have a negative impact on the development of human capital. The results of the third hypothesis' test showed that the computed Z-value, which was 5.983, was higher than the crucial Z-value, which was 1.96 (two-tailed test with a 95% degree of confidence). The results indicated that the creation of jobs in Enugu State is greatly impacted by good governance. The mean replies of the respondents were positive, according to the data in table 3.3. The grand mean of 3.75 showed that the respondents firmly believed that excellent governance provides employment windows. These results are consistent with those of Habyarimana and Dushimayezu (2018), who discovered a pro-cyclical link between governance and economic growth. The study did stress that the level of economic development and growth depends on more than just labor force and fixed capital formation. The paper did emphasize that the level of economic growth and development not only depend on fixed capital formation and labour force, but also on good governance. The article did stress that effective governance is just as important to economic growth and development as fixed capital formation and labor force.

5.1 Summary of Findings

The following were findings from the study:

- Good governance did significantly affect the poverty reduction in Enugu State. This implies that Good governance helps to ensure that entities act in the public interest towards poverty reduction
- Good governance had a significant effect on human capital development in Enugu State. This suggests that Good governance helps to stabilize the human resource need of the state
- Good governance did significantly affect employment generation in Enugu State. This goes to show that Good governance is the foundational element for articulating employment generation policies

5.2 Conclusion

The study concluded that good governance holds the key to poverty reduction, human capital development as well as employment generation in Enugu State. Sustainable development, quick economic change, and excellent governance are all related. Rapid economic revolution is achievable only because of effective governance. The enormous job of socioeconomic development, structural change, and political reform at the national level is tied to these components of effective governance.

5.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for the study:

- The people of Enugu State require a social safety net to care for the needy and vulnerable members of society, such as the elderly, the disabled, and jobless. These actions taken collectively will enable these Nigerians to live with some dignity.
- The goal of education in Enugu State should be to prepare students for the workforce through vocational training that will help them acquire the skills they need to live happy, fulfilling lives.
- To assure a highly motivated workforce that is effective in handling corruption cases, law enforcement organizations need to undergo change. The police force should only hire young guys with college degrees. To fill this vacancy, Nigeria has a large pool of unemployed graduates.

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