

## **Chapter Two**

### **Quantitative Analysis of Governance and Development Challenges**

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#### **Introduction**

The 21st century presents multifaceted challenges in governance and development, characterized by rapid globalization, technological advancement, and shifting political dynamics (Weber, 2015). Effective governance is increasingly intertwined with sustainable development, demanding innovative approaches to address socio-economic inequalities, environmental degradation, and the complexities of the digital age. Governance is primarily focused on overseeing the management of the development process, which includes the involvement of both the public and private sectors. It covers the operations and capacity of the government, as well as the regulations and organizations that establish the structure for the operation of both public and private enterprises, including responsibility for economic and financial results, and the rules governing companies, corporations, and partnerships (Piece, 2012).

Nigeria encounters numerous substantial governance and development obstacles. A significant problem that exists is widespread corruption, which erodes public confidence in institutions and obstructs the successful execution of policies (Transparency International, 2020). Corruption has a detrimental effect on multiple sectors, including oil and gas, healthcare, and education, resulting in inefficiency and the improper allocation of resources (Afegbua & Adejuwon, 2012). Another significant obstacle is the presence of inadequate institutional frameworks. Numerous Nigerian institutions suffer from a deficiency in both capability and independence to successfully implement laws and regulations, leading to superb service provision and governance (World Bank, 2020).

This vulnerability is exacerbated by a deficiency in openness, which restricts the ability to hold individuals accountable and creates a conducive atmosphere for corruption to flourish (World Bank, 2018). Furthermore, socio-economic disparities continue to be an ongoing concern. Although Nigeria is one of the major economies in Africa, it suffers from elevated levels of poverty and unemployment, along with notable inequalities in access to education, healthcare, and other vital services (National Bureau of Statistics, 2019). The existing disparity is worsened by insufficient infrastructure, namely in the transportation, energy, and healthcare sectors, which hinders economic growth and progress (World Bank, 2018).

Nigeria's governance challenges are deeply rooted in a history of military rule, ethnic divisions, and institutional corruption. Although the country transitioned to democracy in 1999, it continues to grapple with significant governance issues that undermine its development potential. Corruption remains pervasive in public and private sectors, stifling economic growth and exacerbating inequality (Ogundiya, 2010). Additionally, the country's governance structures are often inefficient and cannot effectively deliver public services, leading to widespread discontent among the population. Compounding these issues are emerging global challenges, such as climate change and technological disruption, which add layers of complexity to Nigeria's already fragile governance framework. For instance, while digital technologies have the potential to improve governance through enhanced transparency and service delivery, they also pose risks related to cybercrime and digital exclusion (Kumar, 2022). Thus, Nigeria's governance system is struggling to adapt to both traditional and new development challenges, making it an important case study for understanding governance in the 21st century.

The objectives of the chapter are twofold. Firstly, to analyse the governance and development challenges in Nigeria, with a focus on how corruption, weak institutions, lack of transparency and accountability political instability, etc. have impeded development. Secondly, to determine what relationship exists between governance and development, particularly in the contemporary era. It is therefore hypothesized that (i) Corruption, weak institutions, lack of transparency, accountability, political instability and regional disparity have not significantly impeded governance and development in Nigeria. (ii) There is likely no significant relationship between governance and development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Conceptual Issues**

Key concepts such as governance, development, corruption, institutional weakness, lack of transparency, regional inequities, and political instability are some of the fundamental ideas explored in this chapter that are crucial to comprehending the complexity of contemporary civilisations. These related concepts influence how countries operate, affecting their capacity to develop, uphold justice, and preserve stability.

### **Governance**

To Islam (2017), “governance” means the process of how decisions are implemented or not implemented. The author maintained that governance is the exercise of political, economic, and administrative authority to manage a nation's affairs, and it is the complex mechanisms, processes, relationships, and institutions through which citizens and groups eloquent their interests, exercise their rights and obligations, and mediate their differences. According to the United Nations (2015),

governance refers to the exercise of political and administrative authority at all levels to manage a country's affairs. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions, through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. According to Bevir (2013), governance denotes all of the processes of governing, whether undertaken by a government, market or network, whether over a family, tribe, formal or informal organization or territory and whether through the laws, norms, power or language. It relates to the processes of interaction and decision-making among the actors involved in a collective problem that leads to the creation, reinforcement, or reproduction of social norms and institutions (Hufty, 2011).

### ***Development***

Development could be defined as the capacity of a state to increase its human resources to achieve higher outcomes of production for the satisfaction of the basic needs of the majority of its citizens and empower them to make demands on the government (Sapru, 2002). In the broad sense, development is a complex phenomenon comprising many dimensions such as political, economic, social, administrative, and cultural (John, 1996). Development is a process which enables human beings to realize their potential, build self-confidence, and lead lives of dignity and fulfilment. It is a process of growth, a movement essentially springing from within a society that is developing. A famous scholar named Michael Todaro defines development as a multidimensional process involving changes in structures, attitudes, and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality, and the eradication of absolute poverty. In brief, development is a process of improving the well-being of the people. It is about raising the standard of living of the people, improving their education and health, and also opening out to them new and equal opportunities for a richer and more varied life.

### ***Corruption***

Corruption is a longstanding and detrimental governance problem in Nigeria. It infiltrates several industries, encompassing government, oil and gas, healthcare, education, etc. Corruption diminishes public confidence in institutions, weakens the execution of policies, and results in the improper allocation of resources (Transparency International, 2020). The presence of prominent instances of corruption and the absence of efficient anti-corruption strategies exacerbate this issue, impeding the attainment of substantial development results in developing countries of the world, particularly in Africa. The publication "Corruption in Nigeria - Bribery: Public Experience and Response" was released in July 2017 by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in collaboration with the United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The study described in the paper, which took place in 2016, is the initial extensive household poll on corruption to be carried out in Nigeria and across Africa. It encompassed all the states within the Federal Republic of Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory (National Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

### ***Institutional weakness***

Institutional weakness signifies a state of deterioration or powerlessness of government agencies to efficiently fulfil some of the essential duties of the state, such as upholding law and order and safeguarding its territorial integrity (Usman, Romle & Bashir, 2015). Manifestations of institutional weakness include the loss of territorial control or exclusive authority to use physical force, a crisis of legitimacy leading to state dissolution, and the inability to provide essential services to residents (Policy Development Facility, 2017). The institutions in Nigeria frequently suffer from a deficiency in both capability and independence to adequately enforce laws and regulations. Government agencies often have bureaucratic inefficiencies, low budgets, and a shortage of human resources (World Bank, 2020). This vulnerability hampers their capacity to deliver crucial services, oversee activities, and uphold law and order. The judicial system encounters various obstacles, including the protraction of case resolution, instances of corruption, and a deficiency in autonomy (Human Rights Watch, 2018).

### ***Lack of transparency and accountability***

Accountability refers to the condition of being held accountable by the voting public for the decisions and actions of elected officials. Transparency refers to unrestricted access to social, economic, and political activities and decisions. Equality implies the just and fair treatment of citizens under the law, as well as a significant level of equal political participation in governance. The lack of accountability and transparency in democratic governance has created opportunities for corruption, resulting in the diversion of Nigeria's abundant natural resources and wealth by a privileged few. This has led to negative consequences and has left the nation in a state of paralysis (Kaufmann, Kraay, & Mastruzzi, 2010). The absence of transparency and accountability in government operations worsens governance difficulties in Nigeria. The lack of transparency in government activities, such as budget processes and public procurement, often hinders people's ability to hold public officials accountable (Kaufmann, Kraay, & Mastruzzi, 2010).

The lack of efficient regulatory systems and the involvement of citizens exacerbates this problem, enabling corruption and maladministration to thrive. The nation has encountered recurrent political disputes, encompassing tumultuous elections, ethnic and religious frictions, as well as uprisings such as the Boko Haram

crisis in the Northeast (International Crisis Group, 2020). These conflicts impede government processes, redirect resources away from development projects, and foster an atmosphere of insecurity that obstructs economic progress and investment.

### ***Regional disparities***

Nigeria has substantial regional variations in terms of development. The northern regions exhibit a notable disparity in economic development, education, and healthcare compared to the southern regions. The existence of these gaps can be attributed to issues such as historical neglect, insecurity, and cultural behaviours (National Bureau of Statistics, 2019). Nigeria has shown significant regional differences. The issue of regional disparities is addressed by distributing the benefits of development to underprivileged areas through government policies and programmes that promote effective development (Phillips and Douglas, 2004). Colonization is a significant factor that contributed to the emergence of regional disparities in Nigeria. This is due to the unequal distribution of infrastructure provided by the colonial powers in their commercial and administrative centres, such as Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Calabar, and Asaba. The colonial administrative centres were determined to be more developed in comparison to the non-colonial administrative districts. Similarly, the existence of state capitals has resulted in the surrounding areas receiving more projects compared to other regions. This may lead to increased polarization and the emergence of additional development, particularly in metropolitan areas (Singh, 2016).

### ***Political instability***

Political instability is a concept used to depict the uncertain public affairs of a country. It also points to the fluctuating condition of different people's powers and their exercise in a group, organization or country (Emeka-Isife, 2020). In this sense, political instability means a shaky, unsteady, tottering, wobbling and unsafe condition within the governance of a state. This further implies that political instability is a situation not held or fixed securely; a degeneration of political structure which is visible in precarious conditions and societal upheavals. Based on this, some scholars view political instability as an incidence of political upheaval or violence in society, such as demonstrations, agitations, workers' strikes, dissidence, etc (Kolstad, 2019). On the cause of political instability in Nigeria, Raji and Wahab (2016) opined that with different management from different political and cultural backgrounds, the Nigerian political system is unstable from time to time. For these, management often executes different interpretations, understandings and applications of political doctrines imbibed from diverse cultural backgrounds. In this way, these managements often create antagonistic tempos that foul political stability.

This stability is truncated further by political gestures from these individuals within the management as each tries to actualize his political and cultural demands or expectations. Besides, the Nigerian inherited colonial pattern of governance also ruptures the stability of the country (Emeka-Isife, 2020). This heritage made post-independence Nigeria a continuation of colonial governance. As such, the major change was the replacement of expatriates with indigenous politicians. These replacements were even manipulated and imposed on the people paving the way for the subsequent culture of imposing political candidates on the masses (Achebe, 2012). Based on these, post-independence Nigeria is characterized by political manipulations, manoeuvres, coercion and imposition of political candidates on the people.

### **Governance in the 21st Century**

Governance in the 21st century is shaped by a complex interplay of historical legacies, socio-political dynamics, and global trends. Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and one of its largest economies, has faced significant governance challenges since gaining independence in 1960. Despite its vast natural resources, notably oil, the country has grappled with issues of corruption, political instability, and weak institutional capacity, all of which have implications for governance in the 21st century (Elliott-Gower & Woldemariam 2018). However, a key feature of Nigeria's governance landscape in the 21st century is the ongoing struggle with corruption, which has been endemic nature in the public and private sectors. Corruption in Nigeria permeates all levels of government, leading to the misallocation of resources, underfunded public services, and stunted economic growth. Efforts have been made to combat corruption through institutions like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and various reforms aimed at improving accountability and transparency. However, the effectiveness of these efforts has been mixed, with political will and institutional independence remaining significant obstacles (Alozie, 2017).

As posited by Yagboyaju and Akinola (2019), political governance in Nigeria is also marked by the challenges of managing its ethnic and religious diversity. With over 250 ethnic groups and a nearly even split between Islam and Christianity, governance in Nigeria is often complicated by identity politics and regional tensions. These divisions have been particularly pronounced in the Niger Delta, where marginalized communities have demanded a fairer share of oil revenues, leading to conflicts and militant activity. Additionally, the ongoing insurgency by Boko Haram in the northeast and the rise of separatist movements in the southeast have further stressed governance structures, requiring the government to balance security with development. Democratic governance in Nigeria, while improving since the end of military rule in 1999, continues to face significant challenges.

Elections, although held regularly, are often marred by violence, vote-buying, and allegations of fraud.

The influence of political elites and godfathers, who wield disproportionate power in determining electoral outcomes, limits the effective functioning of democracy. Furthermore, the executive branch often dominates the political landscape, limiting the ability of other arms of government, particularly the judiciary and legislature, to provide checks and balances (Itah, 2012). In the 21st century, governance in Nigeria is also increasingly shaped by global trends such as digitalization, climate change, and globalization. The rise of digital technologies presents both opportunities and challenges for governance. On the one hand, technology can improve transparency, service delivery, and civic engagement. On the other hand, the digital divide, cyber security threats, and the use of social media to spread misinformation complicate governance. Climate change, which disproportionately affects countries in the Global South, has also become a pressing governance issue, with Nigeria facing increasing challenges related to desertification, flooding, and food insecurity (Elliott-Gower & Woldemariam, 2018).

### **Relationship between governance and development**

The relationship between governance and development is a multifaceted and complex one, deeply rooted in political, social, and economic dimensions. Kabera (2022), discloses that governance refers to the processes, institutions, and mechanisms through which a society organizes itself, makes decisions, and ensures accountability and the rule of law. Development, on the other hand, is often understood as the improvement of living conditions, economic progress, and the overall well-being of a population. According to Islam (2018), effective governance is seen as a crucial driver of sustainable development, as it creates an enabling environment for economic growth, poverty reduction, social equity, and the promotion of human rights. Good governance encompasses key principles such as transparency, accountability, participation, responsiveness, and the rule of law. These principles create a stable environment for development by fostering trust in institutions, reducing corruption, and ensuring that resources are distributed equitably. Countries with strong governance systems are generally better equipped to manage their economies, allocate resources efficiently, and implement policies that promote long-term growth.

Conversely, weak governance, characterized by corruption, inefficiency, and lack of accountability, can undermine development efforts by distorting public services, eroding public trust, and impeding private sector investment (Ramzy, El Bedawy, Anwar & Eldahan, 2019). Fosu (2018) maintained that one key aspect of governance is political stability, which is crucial for development. Political stability

provides a predictable environment for economic activities, reduces uncertainties, and attracts foreign investment, all of which contribute to economic growth. Conversely, political instability often leads to weak institutions, poor economic performance, and social unrest, which inhibit development. In fragile states, governance issues such as conflict, corruption, and institutional weakness create significant obstacles to sustainable development (Himanen, 2013). Another important dimension of governance according to Ukwandu (2019) is the ability of institutions to deliver public goods and services effectively.

Efficient governance ensures that education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social welfare systems are accessible and functional. Without these services, human capital cannot develop, and economic growth is stunted. Herrera (2016), stressed that development is not only about economic growth but also about improving the quality of life for the population. Strong governance is essential for ensuring inclusive development that benefits all sectors of society, especially the marginalized and vulnerable.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Good governance theory and modernization theory provide the anchorage for the study. Abas (2023) asserts that to achieve sustainable development, good governance theory places a strong emphasis on the following: accountability, participation, transparency, and the rule of law. According to Adejumo-Ayibiowu (2015), the theory is predicated on the idea that effective, transparent institutions are required to prevent corruption, guarantee equitable resource allocation, and promote public confidence. Although not ascribed to a single person, the idea of good governance rose to popularity in the late 20th century thanks to the efforts of international institutions like the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These organizations promoted inclusive governance procedures, effective resource management, and consensus-building to support long-term stability and social cohesion. They also connected the quality of governance to development outcomes (Ekundayo, 2017). The idea also emphasizes how important it is for all parties to participate equally in governance procedures to guarantee legitimacy and efficient policymaking.

To foster long-term stability and social cohesion, governments are supposed to develop consensus across societal sectors, manage resources effectively, and provide services fairly. Furthermore, it is believed that social justice must be maintained, equity must be promoted, and marginalized communities must profit from growth for good governance to be maintained (Lane, 2018). According to Ogundiya (2010), the Good government Theory is still very applicable to problems with development and government in the twenty-first century. Initiatives to combat corruption, institutional changes, and endeavours to enhance public service delivery

in developing nations are examples of its application. For instance, measures to improve public financial management and accountability as well as government accountability have been put into place. Furthermore, the idea is in favour of inclusive participation and democratic government, as demonstrated by the governance reforms that promote citizen participation in policymaking in Rwanda and Botswana. By fostering fair growth and tackling social and environmental issues, good governance also contributes to sustainable development goals by guaranteeing that progress is long-lasting and inclusive (International Monetary Fund, 2012).

The modernization theory by Walt W. Rostow (1960) revolves around the idea that all civilizations develop linearly, mirroring the historical paths of Western Europe and North America, from traditional, agrarian governments to modern, industrialized ones (Adah and Abasilim, 2015). According to Dickson (2022), the modernisation paradigm assumes that underdevelopment is internally generated due largely to the traditional character of African societies on the one hand and lack of self-achievement-oriented policies on the other. Similarly, Okereke and Ekpe (2002) had it that the theory assumes that development depends on economic expansion, which is fuelled by industrialization and technical innovation. According to the argument, modernization requires a transition in culture away from hierarchical and religious traditions and toward secularism, reason, and individualism and to facilitate this shift, institutions including the political, judicial, and educational systems must change. Furthermore, modernization theory presupposes that progress will speed up with assimilation into the global economy and adoption of Western methods of governance, with outside help as required (Mbah and Ojukwu, 2019).

Practically, modernization theory has been used to address issues with modern development and governance, especially in attempts to promote industrialization, economic expansion, and technical innovation in nations like China, India, and Brazil (Bhuyan, 2020). International initiatives to support democratic governance and state-building reflect the theory's emphasis on democratization and institutional development, even though its deterministic relationship between economic development and democracy is coming under more and more scrutiny. Even with the emergence of issues like the digital divide and environmental sustainability, the idea is still useful for advancing infrastructure development and technological innovation. Its presumptions about cultural change and Western domination have also come under fire since non-Western methods of governance and traditional values continue to be important factors in determining how different regions develop (Tagarirofa, 2017).

## Methods and Materials

An analytical descriptive method was applied to the data interpretation. Therefore, to gather data (information) relevant to the study's aims, the researcher employed quantitative (questionnaire) research approaches. To ensure optimal data gathering, the chosen method would be an online survey questionnaire. The purpose of employing this data collection approach is to facilitate the researcher in acquiring all the pertinent data about the objectives and research inquiries of this study. The questionnaire will be created via the Google Form platform. Additionally, the questionnaire will be disseminated digitally using popular social media platforms such as WhatsApp or Facebook, by sharing the link within the designated responders' group chat. The primary benefit of utilising this online survey questionnaire is to minimise bias in the respondents' responses. The data analysis for this study will be conducted in two distinct phases: descriptive analysis and inferential analysis. The descriptive analysis will utilise a frequency table of percentages to address the research questions. The inferential analysis will employ the Pearson Correlation to determine the relationship between governance and development.

## Data Analysis and Result

This section presents the result of the analysis of data collected from the respondents.

**Table 2.1: Gender of Respondents**

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	29	52.7
Female	26	47.3
Total	55	100.0

*Source* : Author's Compilation, 2024

The findings in Table 2.1 show that 29 representing 52.7% of respondents are males and 26 representing 47.3% of the respondents are female. This shows that both males and females are represented in this study and know the relationship between governance and development in the 21st century.

Respondents' response on how corruption, weak institutions, lack of transparency and accountability, political instability and regional disparity have impeded good governance and development in Nigeria.

**Table 2.2: Influence of corruption on Public Service delivery and allocation of resources**

	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	10	18.2
Neutral	9	16.4
Agree	36	65.5
Total	55	100.0

Source: Author's Compilation, 2024

Table 2.2 shows the influence of corruption on effective public services in Nigeria. Based on this, the respondents who disagreed were 10 representing 18.2%, the neutral were 9 representing 16.4% and the agreed were 36 representing 65.5% of the total population. This implies that the respondents agreed that in Nigeria corruption influences effective public services and allocation of resources.

**Table 2.3: Weak institutional frameworks and economic growth and social progress**

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	Disagree	9	16.4
	Neutral	12	21.8
	Agree	34	61.8
	Total	55	100.0

Source : Author's Compilation, 2024

Table 2.3 shows the respondents' viewpoint on how weak institution frameworks have hindered economic growth and social progress in the country. Based on this, the respondents who disagreed were 9 representing 16.4%, the neutral were 12 representing 21.8% and the agreed were 34 representing 61.8% of the total population. This implies that the respondents agreed that in Nigeria Weak institutional frameworks have hindered economic growth and social progress in the country.

**Table 2.4: Lack of transparency, accountability and public trust and engagement in development initiatives**

	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	8	14.5
Neutral	11	20.0
Agree	36	65.5
Total	55	100.0

Source: Author's Compilation, 2024

Table 2.4 shows the respondent's viewpoint on how the lack of transparency and accountability within government agencies has affected public trust and engagement in development initiatives in Nigeria. Based on this, the respondents who disagreed were 8 representing 14.5%, the neutral were 11 representing 20% and the agreed were 36 representing 65.5% of the total population. This shows that the respondents agreed that in Nigeria lack of transparency and accountability within government agencies has affected public trust and engagement in development initiatives.

**Table 2.5: Political instability, foreign investment and economic stability in Nigeria**

	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	6	10.9
Neutral	8	14.5
Agree	41	74.5
Total	55	100.0

Source: Author's Compilation, 2024

Table 2.5 shows the respondent's viewpoint on how political instability has brought consequences of low foreign investment, infrastructure development, and overall economic stability in Nigeria. Based on this, the respondents who disagreed were 6 representing 10.9%, the neutral were 8 representing 14.5% and the agreed were 41 representing 74.5% of the total population. This shows that the respondents agreed that in Nigeria political instability has brought consequences of low foreign investment, infrastructure development, and overall economic stability.

**Table 2.6: Regional disparities, inequality and development in Nigeria**

	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	3	5.5
Neutral	5	9.1
Agree	47	85.5
Total	55	100.0

Source: Author's Compilation, 2024.

Table 2.6 shows the respondent's viewpoint on how regional disparities have exacerbated inequality in terms of economic development, infrastructural development and access to education within the country. On this note, the respondents who disagreed were 3 representing 5.5%, the neutral was 8 representing 9.1% while the agreed were 47 representing 85.5% of the total population. This signifies that the respondents agreed that in Nigeria regional disparities have exacerbated inequality in terms of economic development, infrastructural development and access to education within the country.

### Testing of Hypotheses

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Corruption, weak institutions, lack of transparency and accountability, political instability and regional disparity have not significantly impeded governance and development in Nigeria.

**Table 2.7: Hypothesis Testing of how corruption, weak institutions, lack of transparency and accountability, political instability and regional disparity have impeded governance and development in Nigeria**

Chi-Square Tests			Asymptotic Significance (2- sided)
	Value	df	
Pearson Chi-Square	9.152 <sup>a</sup>	2	.010
Likelihood Ratio	10.124	2	.006
Linear-by-Linear Association	8.032	1	.005
N of Valid Cases	55		

a. 3 cells (50.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 4.25.

Table 2.7 is a representation of the chi-square analysis of how corruption, weak institutions, lack of transparency and accountability, political instability and regional disparity have impeded governance and development in Nigeria. From this, it could be observed that the Pearson Chi-square value of 9.152 along with the resultant probability value of 0.010 notifies of the significance of how corruption, weak institutions, lack of transparency and accountability, political instability and regional disparity have impeded governance and development in Nigeria. Accordingly, with the probability value of 0.010 which is less than the 0.05 significant benchmark, the researcher, accepts the alternative hypothesis (H1) indicating the significance of the analysis statistically. Therefore, this acceptance was- made possible as a result of the hypothesis outcome realized by the researcher.

**H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant relationship between governance and development**

**Table 2.8: Hypothesis testing of the relationship between governance and development Correlations**

		Gender of Respondents	Governance has a role to play in fostering an environment conducive to economic growth and poverty reduction in Nigeria.
Gender of Respondents	Pearson Correlation	1	-.547**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	55	55
Governance has a role to play in fostering an environment conducive to economic growth and poverty reduction in Nigeria	Pearson Correlation	-.547**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	55	55

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Furthermore, table 2.8 depicts a correlation analysis of the relationship between governance and development. From this, it could be observed that the Pearson correlation value of 0.547 with its corresponding probability value of 0.000 shows the relationship between governance and development. More so, with the probability value of 0.000 which is less than the 0.05 significant benchmark, the researcher, accepts the alternative hypothesis (H1), indicating the significance of the analysis statistically. Therefore, this acceptance was made possible because of the result of the hypothesis carried out by the researcher.

## **Discussion of Findings**

Based on the careful analysis of the hypotheses carried out by the researcher, this section therefore discusses the findings of the study. In the quest to analyze how corruption, weak institutions, lack of transparency and accountability, political instability and regional disparity have impeded governance and development in Nigeria, the researcher found out that corruption, weak institutions, lack of transparency and accountability, political instability and regional disparity have impeded governance and development in Nigeria. This researcher's findings align with the writings of Ibrahim & Ahmad (2017), who observed that corruption is a huge challenge in public administration in Nigeria. The authors went on to say that it is at the core of the crisis of governance and legitimacy, the establishment of stable democratic order, rule of law, development and the welfare of citizens of all forms of corruption, political corruption has posed a major obstacle to national progress in Nigeria. As further indicated, indeed, the current crisis of development in Nigeria can be attributed to a history of poor governance characterized by corruption, social injustice and political instability.

Also, as rightly pointed out by the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD, Ghana, 2001 cited in Ibrahim & Ahmad (2017), corruption promotes economic decay and social and political instability, perverts the ability of the state to foster the rule of law and eventually corrodes trust and undermines legitimacy. However, the major impact of corruption on national development in the Nigerian Fourth Republic were bad governance, poor service delivery, inadequate infrastructural amenities, poor management of public enterprise, brain drain of professional skills manpower, absence of rule of law and constitutionalism, moral decadence and general underdevelopment (Mikail, 2012). More so, in the case of weak institutions, the World Bank (2020), reported that the institutions in Nigeria frequently suffer from a deficiency in both capability and independence to adequately enforce laws and regulations. Government agencies often have bureaucratic inefficiencies, low budgets, and a shortage of human resources. This vulnerability hampers their capacity to deliver crucial services, oversee activities, and uphold law and order. The judicial system encounters various obstacles, including the protraction of case resolution, instances of corruption, and a deficiency in autonomy (Human Rights Watch, 2018).

Furthermore, Kaufmann, Kraay and Mastruzzi (2010), mentioned that the lack of accountability and transparency in democratic governance has created opportunities for corruption, resulting in the diversion of Nigeria's abundant natural resources and wealth by a privileged few. This has led to negative consequences and has left the nation in a state of paralysis. The absence of transparency and accountability in government operations worsens governance difficulties in

Nigeria. The lack of transparency in government activities, such as budget processes and public procurement, often hinders people's ability to hold public officials accountable. Moreover, Nigeria has substantial regional variations in terms of development. The northern regions exhibit a notable disparity in economic development, education, and healthcare compared to the southern regions. The existence of these gaps can be attributed to issues such as historical neglect, insecurity, and cultural behaviours (National Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

On the cause of political instability in Nigeria, Raji and Wahab (2016), opined that with different management from different political and cultural backgrounds, the Nigerian political system is unstable from time to time. For these management often executes different interpretations, understandings and applications of political doctrines imbibed from diverse cultural backgrounds. In this way, these managements often create antagonistic tempos that foul political stability. This stability is truncated further by political gestures from these individuals within the management as each tries to actualize his political and cultural demands or expectations. Besides, the Nigerian inherited colonial pattern of governance also ruptures the stability of the country (Emeka–Isife, 2020).

To determine the relationship between governance and development, the researcher found out that governance and development have a significant relationship. The findings are in tune with Islam (2018) who stated that effective governance is seen as a crucial driver of sustainable development, as it creates an enabling environment for economic growth, poverty reduction, social equity, and the promotion of human rights. The author further mentioned that good governance encompasses key principles such as transparency, accountability, participation, responsiveness, and the rule of law and these principles create a stable environment for development by fostering trust in institutions, reducing corruption, and ensuring that resources are distributed equitably. In addition, Fosu (2018) stressed that one key aspect of governance is political stability, which is crucial for development. The scholar went on to say that political stability provides a predictable environment for economic activities, reduces uncertainties, and attracts foreign investment, all of which contribute to economic growth.

Conversely, Himanen (2013) announced that political instability often leads to weak institutions, poor economic performance, and social unrest, which inhibit development and that in fragile states, governance issues such as conflict, corruption, and institutional weakness create significant obstacles to sustainable development. More so, Herrera (2016), highlighted that development is not only about economic growth but also about improving the quality of life for the population and that strong governance is essential for ensuring inclusive development that benefits all sectors of society, especially the marginalized and vulnerable.

## Conclusion

In the 21st century, there is a strong connection between governance and development, where the quality of governance has a crucial impact on development results. Efficient governance, marked by openness, responsibility, inclusivity, and robust institutional structures, is crucial for achieving long-lasting economic development, social fairness, and environmental preservation. In Nigeria, the progress of development is greatly hindered by governance difficulties such as corruption, weak institutions, regional disparity, political instability, etc. In contrast, nations with strong governance systems typically have superior development results, such as increased economic expansion, enhanced social indicators, and heightened ability to withstand crises. Ensuring effective governance in Nigeria is essential for attaining sustainable development. This necessitates addressing corruption and fortifying institutions, while also guaranteeing that development programs are both inclusive and equitable. The rapid progress of technology and the increasing interconnectedness of the world bring up both favourable circumstances and difficulties for governing systems, requiring inventive methods and flexible tactics.

Several proposals should be undertaken to improve Nigeria's governance frameworks and achieve sustainable development. Institutional capacity and transparency must be improved. To prevent corruption, transparent procurement processes and independent anti-corruption authorities must be allowed to be independent. Promoting e-governance tools can also improve administrative processes and increase government transparency. Government policies should encourage equitable resource allocation and social inclusion to give excluded and vulnerable populations access to opportunities and services. Utilizing technology is another suggestion. Technological infrastructure and digital literacy will boost government capability and public service delivery. Data analytics and other advanced technologies can inform policymaking and governance effectiveness. International cooperation and studying effective governance models in other nations might bring significant ideas. Participating in global and regional governance projects will improve governance and resolve transnational issues.

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