COMPULSIVE DESIRE FOR MATERIAL WEALTH AND UNWHOLESOME ACQUISITIVE SPIRIT IN NIGERIA: IMPLICATION FOR SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT
It is natural and very normal for individual to desire material possessions but when such desires now become excessive, compulsive and inordinate, it is a serious problem to the individual and the society. Excessive desire for material wealth is absolutely the greatest social problem confronting the young and old in the society today. Young boys and girls now specialize in defrauding people through fake pretenses to accumulate wealth. This has led to falling standard of education as most college students now have lukewarm attitude to academics but the quick way to become a millionaire. This situation has brought about rise in assassination, kidnapping, and robbery amongst others. All these excessive desire for wealth as a common phenomenon nowadays is because of our society’s warped and twisted values. This paper therefore seeks to examine the prevalence of compulsive desire for wealth and unwholesome spirit of acquisition through review of relevant literatures from books, journals, articles, newspapers etc. and making relevance recommendations for social work intervention and policy development.

KEYWORDS: Material Wealth, Acquisitive Spirit, Social Work Intervention and Policy Development

INTRODUCTION
Compulsive desire for material wealth is a social sickness that has eaten deep into the fabrics of our society. An average school boy in Nigeria already desires to have personal jets, limousines, residence with internationally acclaimed architectural design amongst others. Ask him what he intends to do to justify his dreams, he has no logical answer. Inordinate craze for wealth has given Nigeria ignoble names among the comity of nations. Both civil and military leadership are corrupt. Politicians who hardly afford a private car soon boast of several private jets in less than a year in office. But they will condemn desire for material wealth in their speeches at the general public meetings. Greed is another factor that makes a person has billions of naira through fraudulent practices and has private jets, fleet of cars, numerous mansions, has all his children in the most expensive schools amongst others (Adama 2015). Furthermore, fear of the future is another factor for the excessive acquisition of wealth. In a country in which there may be no protection for the elderly, young people engaged in illegal activities for the acquisition of wealth even through dubious way. The authorities have no plans for the people, so everyone now take it upon his/herself to break and secure future. This isn’t so in advanced countries of the world wherein there are securities for all classes of citizens; young, vintage, widows, and unemployed, educated, and so on. The effects of this excessive desire
for wealth are inimical to the good of our nation. This situation has brought about rise in assassination, kidnapping, robbery amongst others, and nowadays the primary profession of the youth now is the acquisition of material wealth. Hence, many Nigerians are now drug traffickers and ‘419’, in our society. Young boys and girls now specialize in defrauding people through fake pretenses to accumulate wealth. This has led to falling standard of education as most college students now have lukewarm attitude to academics but the quick way to become a millionaire. Honesty is no longer a virtue but an act of foolishness Chuta (2004).

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION
Compulsive Desire: Compulsive desire is an obsessive need to conform, be scrupulous, etc., coupled with an inability to express positive emotions. It is a situation where someone feels compelled to do certain things. A desire is something you wish to have, regardless of your needs and wants Toates (2002). Thus, you may lack food but still desire sex. You may lack a home but still desire a luxury cruise. Desires" as the name suggests are things you wish to acquire but are not necessary for your survival such as: fleet of cars, luxurious house, private jets etc. According to Meyer in Ugiagbe (2012), people with intermittent explosive disorder experience separate and discrete episodes of loss of control over their aggressive impulses, resulting in serious assault or harm on others or the destruction of property. Kleptomania is another desire disorder which is characterized by a recurrent failure to resist impulses to steal objects no matter the value of the object(s) Sue et al (2000). According to Ugiagbe (2012), individual with kleptomania feels irresistible urges and tension before stealing or shoplifting and an intense feeling of relief or gratification after the theft or act.

LITERATURE REVIEW
Decline in Discipline and Morality
There may be no question that there is decline in morality and discipline in our society. Each day there are said instances of indiscipline and morality. In truth, it has a frighten proportion. The youths disrespect the elders, cultism and all different kinds of immoral acts are now common in our society. Policemen shamelessly collect bribe at the same time as government officials embezzle public funds. The reasons of indiscipline and immorality in our society are not a long way-fetched. The seed of indiscipline is sown domestically, whilst teenagers disrespect their parents and from there develop to disobeying constituted authorities this becomes excessive once they start to behave immorally at home and in public. In recent times, parents have no time for their children’s upbringing. Dad and mom leave the house early inside the morning and returned late at night, some of them are drunkards and quarrelsome. They show off many different terrible characters now not worthy of imitate.

In addition, societal influence is another factor causing a decline in the level of morality and discipline. The society which is immoral and which inspire indiscipline cannot produce disciplined youths. Right here in Nigeria, Nigerians acquire illegal wealth through crooked manner. Public officials more often, embezzle public funds and it is a commonplace sight to see policemen and women accumulating bribe and even our leaders give the citizens a free-present in form of bribe in other to vote for them.

Materialism and Money Attitude
Materialism can be conceptualized in diverse approaches along with devotion to material desires and needs, as an attitude centered on getting and spending, or because the attachment one has to worldly possessions (Richins and Dawson, 1992). Those excesses in a materialistic ethos place possessions and their acquisition on the center of their being and generally tend to decide their personal fulfillment and that of others by way of the material wealth collected. The relevance of materialism to advertising and marketing and purchasers has been nicely established within the literature, mainly with the widely quoted article dealing with its measurement by Belk (1985). Seeing that then, metrics to gauge one’s level of materialism had been well codified through others. Materialism has been investigated in many patron research investigations indicating its importance in information customer behavior. We posit that materialism is related to attitudes towards money given that acquisition or ownership of cash allows one to engage in materialistic interests (Richins and Dawson, 1992).
Existing research indicates that clients who are probably to apply money as a tool of power are possibly to gather material goods to illustrate their social strength (Marquand 2004). Purchasers who score excessive on the power and status measurement regarding cash view money instrumentally as a way to persuade and galvanize others and as a declaration in their fulfillment. These consumers can use cash for arrogance motives by means of showing their fulfillment via the possessions that they own such as expensive homes, cars, jewelry, and so forth. Moreover, consumers with such an orientation also can indulge their materialistic ideals because money constitutes the way to material acquisitions. Surely, the association of power and status with both conceitedness and materialism is primarily based on the psychological dispositions that foster conceitedness and materialism.

Purchasers who view cash as a supply of hysteria indulge in immoderate purchase of products to lessen their tension. Folks who are excessive in tension concerning cash view ownership of cash as having the electricity to lead them to experience relaxed or, conversely, cause them to sense insecure if they have insufficient money. The possession of cash permits one to gratify materialistic urges or impulses, ensuing in a pacified country. Individuals who are materialistic however lack enough money to indulge or satisfy their materialistic leanings may sense insufficient, ungratified, and anxious that they cannot purchase what they wish to possess. Hence, people with the way to shop for can placate their materialistic urges whilst the ones without the approach will sense insecure or unhappy that they can't act on their materialistic drive.

In contrast, purchasers who are distrustful of cash are not going to indulge in excessive purchasing. They may be additionally not going to spend an enormous element of their money on purchases. Those customers are in all likelihood to be hesitant, suspicious and dubious concerning situations involving cash and do not agree with that they've excellent judgment when they spend their cash. The reason for this final results is that individuals who are high in distrust are not possibly to view money as a device that allows them to fulfill their identities or flaunt their successes with material goods that they bought with money. Rather, those human beings see money in a negative way in that matters concerning money are unstable and probably to have terrible outcomes for them. Cash in reality may be regarded as “the root of all evils” to such humans. Consequently, their attitudes closer to cash are not associated with materialism considering that they are in all likelihood not to be materialistic people.

Desire for Material Wealth as Exploitative Character Trait

People with this trait see the society as competitive theatre, they take first rate deal of time attempting to outsmart others and driving awesome satisfaction while people lose wherein they gain and in which they get control of different humans’ life. Occasionally they are very enterprising and are sincerely bold in lifestyles due to the strong preference to dominate others (Ugiagbe 2008). This may be related to greed. Greed is the tendency to selfish yearning, grasping and hoarding. Greed is a selfish or immoderate desire for more than is needed or deserved, mainly of money, wealth, meals, or different possessions. Selfishness and excessive desire is extensively taken into consideration immoral, a violation of natural or divine law. As an instance, “avarice” is one of the seven lethal sins in Catholicism (avarice: pleasing oneself with material acquisitions and possessions as opposed to pleasing God). And in keeping with Buddhism, “craving” is an essential drawback to enlightenment (craving: compulsively searching for happiness through obtaining material things). As with the opposite leader function of self-destruction, greed stems from a fundamental fear of existence. To be exact, greed is pushed by an essential experience of deprivation, a need for something that is missing or unavailable.

Whilst this sense of lack is particularly sturdy, someone can come to be totally fixated on seeking what they “want”, always trying to get keep of the only thing in order to in the end cast off the deep-rooted feeling of not having enough. That could be money, power, sex, food, interest, knowledge etc. it could be something concrete or abstract, real or symbolic. However it is going to be something very precise on which the complete want-greed complicated turns into fixated. As soon as that takes place, life becomes a quest to gather as tons of it as viable.
DISCOURSE ON COMPULSIVE DESIRE FOR MATERIAL WEALTH AND UNWHOLESOME ACquisitive SPIRIT IN NIGERIA

Nigeria daily papers are awash with inundated stories of one form of embezzlement or the other, cases of corruption and billions of dollars being found in an individual house or offices like the N13b found in Ikoyi apartment in April 18, 2017, the 9.8 million dollars recovered from the house of ex-NNPC MD (Andrew Yakubu) on 3rd Feb. 2017 and even their children rooms in the UK and other parts of the world. The Vice President of Nigeria Yemi Osinbajo’s office recently revealed details of mind-boggling corruption during the Jonathan era and even called them a tip of the iceberg (Vanguard newspaper, May 7, 2018). This should not be a surprise to us all because we seem to have laid the national fabric deeply in it. Therefore, it is necessary to appreciate the concept of corruption and why it has become firmly rooted in our scheme of operation.

Aristotle once linked the corruption of kingship to tyranny but Earl J. Friedrich called corruption a deviant behavior associated with selfish gains at the public expense. At the same time, he further expressed the view that: “The moral depravity which power is believed to cause in men – they no longer think about the right action or conduct but only the expedient action or conduct.” Mbaku and Osden argued that “Corruption is probably the most significant constraint to both socio-political and economic developments in the African continent.” He reiterated further that corruption of different kinds existed from the time immemorial and acted as ‘Samper et unique’ (i.e., existed for long and in everywhere).

The desire to get wealthy quick is greed, insatiable love for materialism, energy tussle and social malaise which have almost caught up with every Nigerian. That is to say, the love for cash is the basis of all evils. Male and female, old and young have new size of corrupt indulgence on each day foundation. In Nigeria these days, human battle to make cash every day and in the method a number of crimes are devoted. This phenomenon has risen to an alarming share. It's miles common in recent times to peer Nigerians, especially youths, who want to have all the material comforts within the complete global without being geared up to paintings at all. Even those who have no manner of livelihood need to experience posh vehicle, stay in palatial buildings and pass approximately with the loveliest girls of their picks Adama (2015).

Excessive desire for wealth as a common phenomenon nowadays is because of our society’s warped and twisted values. The society as a whole acknowledges individuals who can reduce corners and make their wealth. Tough work, as a value isn't always cherished via Nigerians. Many Nigerians struggle every day to acquire wealth frequently with the aid of crooked way. Government officials at the helm of affairs see their position as a means and possibility to gather wealth. There have been cases of presidency officials acquiring wealth on the price of the tax payers. Authority officials, out of greed, fail to offer the necessary social services that would make Nigerians have an experience of belonging and comfort. An average Nigerians feels insecure whilst considering his future. Nigerians consider that it miles a sin to be poor in Nigeria. Consequently, they do all sort of factors to gather wealth excessively whilst they may be nonetheless younger in order that they'll not go through once they grow to be antique.

According to Oluwumi (2010), Nigerians’ excessive choice for material wealth has taken a brilliant toll on the country, specifically the country’s image. Hard work and honesty are not the high-quality regulations as they are now not acknowledge and rewarded accordingly. The psyche of each Nigerian has been twisted closer to obtaining wealth excessively. This has led many Nigerians to crime like armed robbery, hired killing, fraud, forgery, prostitution and drug trafficking. Many Nigerians have lost their lives to armed robbers and hired assassins. Many others lose their lifestyles savings to drug trafficking, armed robbery, fraudsters usually acknowledged as 419-ners and common occurrence of assassination. This has called to question the image of the country by the international community.

Implication for Social Work Intervention

Nigerians’ excessive desire for material wealth has taken a great toll on the country, especially the country’s image. There is no doubt that there is a general decline in discipline and morality in our society. In social work, intervention refers to actions taken by social workers to directly provide service or support to at-need
individuals. While removing a child from an abusive home is an example of a social work intervention, most interventions provide less dramatic means of giving support to people with health, education or financial needs. However, reported cases of indiscipline and immorality is in a frighten proportion in the Nigeria society today. It is on this backdrop therefore that social workers must intervene through sensitization on the great dangers this menace (compulsive desire for material wealth) has on the Nigeria society. Also, it is imperative on the policy makers to make feasible policies that will curtail this excessive desire for wealth in our great country (Nigeria).

RECOMMENDATIONS
However to alleviate these social ills, all hands most be on deck. There must be total over heading from those at the top. Our leaders must learn to lead by example. It is not enough for them to condemn corruption and not show good examples.

➢ The media houses and the government at various levels should embark on a house wide campaign to educate the citizens against excessive desire of materials wealth.
➢ The public officers should have exemplary and honest life. Anyone found guilty of any act of financial impropriety should be made to face the music, the EFCC must sit up against bribery and corruption at all levels of government.

CONCLUSION
Nevertheless, this ugly situation of excessive desire for material wealth and unwholesome acquisitive spirit in Nigeria can be reversed and if we most eradicate indiscipline and immorality in our society, all hands must be on deck.

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ISBN 9781859591413