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Corruption and its prevention

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Abstract

Corruption is a word used world-wide. Corruption has been present in some form of society since time immemorial. If the recent corruption cases are seen, than it becomes clear that this had led to politicians, governments, administrators, and corporate houses as well as high military post and the media world are also around the questions. In every new disclosure of corruption, it has been pointed towards its increasingly wretched nature. Today, there is effective control over the need for corruption.

Keywords: political corruption, administrative corruption, religious corruption, lack of quality in service, lack of respect for ruler, malaises of black money, force evoking laws

Introduction

Corruption is a form of dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted with a position of authority, often to acquire personal benefit (1). Corruption may include many activities including bribery and embezzlement, though it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries (2). Government, or political, corruption occurs when an office-holder or other governmental employee acts in an official capacity for personal gain.

Various types of corruption are as follows:

1. Political Corruption

It includes kidnapping, murder, violence, injustice etc. To win in election, political leaders are using wine, women, wealth and everything among the people.

2. Administrative Corruption

It includes persons like higher authorities, officers, police officers, clerks, peons, etc.

3. Professional Corruption

It means related to. It includes duplicating medicines, duplicating import items/theft items, duplicating hygienic, mixture in eatables etc. Mixture in spices, stones in cereals, animal fats in ghee, kerosene in petrol etc. are under corruption.

4. Corruption in religion

The history of religion includes numerous examples of religious leaders calling attention to corruption in the religious practices and institutions of their time.

Causes of corruption

According to a 2017 survey study, the following factors have been attributed as causes of corruption:

- Higher levels of market and political monopolization
- Low levels of democracy, weak civil participation and low political transparency

- Higher levels of bureaucracy and inefficient administrative structures
- Low press freedom
- Low economic freedom
- Large ethnic divisions and high levels of in-group favoritism
- Gender inequality
- Low degree of integration in the world economy
- Large government size
- Low levels of government decentralization
- Former French, Portuguese, Belgian or Spanish colonies have been shown to have greater corruption than former British or Dutch colonies
- Resource wealth
- Poverty
- Political instability
- Weak property rights
- Contagion from corrupt neighboring countries
- Low levels of education
- Low internet access

Effects of corruption on people

Lack of quality in services

In a system with corruption there is no quality of service. To demand quality one might need to pay for it. This is seen in many areas like municipality, electricity, distribution of relief funds etc. If a person has to purchase a like medicine, due to corruption in education then the candidate after completion of his course will not like to provide quality health service if there is not enough remuneration for his service. Further candidates who do not have the ability can also get into the same seat by purchasing it. So though he becomes a medical practitioner, he may not be competent enough.

Lack of proper justice

Corruption in judiciary system, leads to improper justice. And the victims of offense might suffer. A crime may be proved as

benefit of doubt due to lack of evidence or even the evidence erased. Due to corruption in the police system, the investigation process goes on for decades. This lets the culprits roam free and even perform more crimes. There are even chances that criminals due to old age due to delayed investigation. So it lead to "justice delayed is justice denied."

Chances of Unemployment

This we can see with an example. The private education and training institutes are given permits to start providing education. This permit is given based on the infrastructure and sufficient recruitment of eligible staff. Here there are good chances of corruption. The institute or college managements try to bribe the quality inspectors so as to get permits. Though there are no sufficient eligible staff these institutes get permission by the inspectors leading to unemployment. Instead of 10 faculty a college is run by 5. So, even if well qualified persons wish to get job there, they will not be offered. If there was no corruption by inspectors, then there would be chance for more employment.

Poor Health and hygiene

In countries with more corruption one can notice more health problems among people. There will be no fresh drinking water, proper roads, quality food grains supply, milk adulteration, etc.

These low quality services are all done to save money by the contractors and the officials who are involved. Even the medicine provided in hospitals for the hospitals are of sub-standard quality. So all these can contribute to ill health of common man.

Pollution

Pollution is mostly emitted in the form of water pollution, air pollution and land pollution. This pollution is from vehicles and factories. The governments have a monitor on this pollution by regular check of vehicle emissions and also industrial exhausts.

Corruption in the government department lets the industry people opt to release of untreated and harmful waste into rivers and air. If there is no corruption, there can be fair probes. Then the industry personnel will treat the waste such that it is less toxic and harmless to environment and people in it. So we can mean that corruption is also the main cause of pollution.

Accidents

Sanction of driving license without proper check of driving skills in the driver leads to accidents and death. Due to corruption, there are countries where one can driving license without any tests.

Failure of genuine research

Research by individuals needs government funding. Some of the funding agencies have corrupt officers. These people sanction the funds for research to those investigators who are ready to bribe them. In doing so, they do not sanction the funds to genuine and hardworking investigators. Thus the research and development will be lagging. This seems to be

not a problem to the common public. But if we notice the resistance of microbes to drugs, we can know that there were no new compounds discovered in the past few decades for efficient treatment of resistant microbes.

Effects of corruption on Society

Disregard for officials

People start disregarding the official involved in corruption by talking negatively about him. But when they have work with him or her, they again approach them by a thought that the work is done if some monetary benefits are provided. Disregard towards officials will also build distrust. Even lower grade officer will be disrespectful to higher grade officer. So even he may not obey his orders. There were even incidents where a lower grade police officer kidnapped higher grade officer for not offering him leave when asked.

Lack of respect for rulers

Rulers of the nation like president or prime ministers lose respect among the public. Respect is main criteria in social life. People go for voting during election not only with the desire to improve their living standards by the election winner but also with respect for the leader. If the politicians involve in corruption, people knowing this will lose respect for them and will not like to cast their vote for such politicians.

Lack of faith and trust on the governments

People vote to a ruler based on their faith in him/ her. But if found to be involved in corruption people lose faith in them and may not vote next time.

Also read: How to stop corruption

Aversion for joining the posts linked to corruption

Sincere, honest and hardworking people develop aversion to apply for the post though they like to as they believe that they also need to be involved in corruption if they get into post.

Effects of corruption on Economy

Decrease in foreign investment

There are many incident where in foreign investments which were willing to come to India have gone back owing to heavy corruption in the government bodies.

Delay in growth

Due to desire to mint money and other unlawful benefits, the official who need to pass the clearances for projects or industries delay the process. A work which can be done in few day may be done in months' time. This leads to delay in investments, starting of industries and also growth. Even if started, company growth hinders as every work linked to officials get delayed due to need to provide bribes or other benefits

Lack of development

Many new industries willing to get started in particular region change their plans if the region is unsuitable. If there are no proper roads, water and electricity, the companies do not wish to start up there. This hinders the economic progress of that region.

Differences in trade ratio's

Some countries have inefficient standard control institutes. Or in other word these standard control institutes are corrupt that they can approve low quality products for sale in their country. Hence you can see countries manufacturing cheap products dump them in big markets. These countries can manufacture cheap quality products but cannot dump in countries with strict standard control institutes. They can do so only in countries with chances of corrupt officials in standard control. **One best example is China products which can't be** just dumped into Europe and US markets. But can be done in Indian and African markets. So there arises trade deficit that these countries cannot manufacture their own products at cheaper price than those exporting to them. So if corruption is minimized than these countries will have less trade deficits in terms of exports and imports with other countries and their economies can prosper.

Ways of Tackling Corruption in India

To tame the tidal waves of corruption, sweeping the entire gamut of the country, an integrated approach is required to be undertaken. An independent investigating agency totally free from interference of any sort should be formed, the provisions of which should envisage bringing about all the investigating agencies of the land such as the CVC, the Lok Pal, the CBI, the ED etc under the control of its umbrella

Malaises of black money

Generally speaking, we treat in separate compartments the malaises of black money, smuggling, and terrorism which in reality are intertwined with each other as links of a same chain. The root of all these intertwined links are deeply embedded in corruption. If corruption is rooted out, others will automatically vanish from the scenario. It is therefore essential in order to eradicate the evils of corruption in India to introduce a foolproof unified law encompassing in its purview all the investigating agencies under it which always tend to be working at cross purposes without any semblance of coordination in between them.

Fear evoking laws

In its very first phase of framing the intended law to fight corruption, it is essential to formulate such provisions in the law that could evoke fear among the corrupt elements forcing him to give it a second thought before committing such heinous acts. The corrupt should be well aware before indulging in acts of omission and commissions that it would not be possible for them to keep their wrong doings under wraps for long.

Investigating agencies must be free from controls

Apart from this, it is most essential to ensure that the government agencies, especially the investigating agencies do their job independently and impartially and there be not even a bit of political interference into the running of their affairs. To accomplish this difficult purpose, there would be the need of a firm and honest political will power. Because, nothing would be possible to achieve merely by passing out laws after laws as long as the existing implementing machineries are left as rusty and as creaky as it is at the moment. A thorough overhaul of the machineries is inevitable. Continuous efforts and great public awareness would be required to achieve this goal for which helps from various pressure groups, different organizations, Medias and citizens will have be enlisted.

Working on the formulae as suggested below may yield instant results.

1. Making tax evasion a cognizable offence

First of all, the cases of Income Tax evasion should be made a cognizable offence. Stealing of tax is a heinous crime and needs to be treated as such. There should be clear cut provisions of sending to jails those who steal taxes or do not pay taxes at all because such acts are a great fraud being played upon the nation's masses who honestly pay taxes up to the single accounted paise through their bleeding noses. We often come to know of the incidences through the TV news and the print medias wherein the IT people raid the bedrooms of superstars but nothing further is heard after that about what were the finds about or whether stars got any punishment or not. Only the knowledge of the possibilities of serving a harsh jail terms can deter such stealing stars and other habitual offenders from stealing taxes. So far as the question of the serving period in the jail for such crimes committed is concerned, this should be linked with the amount of the taxes evaded or to the amount not at all paid. For example, there should be the provisioning for a serving period of seven years for the tax evaded amounting to one lacks of rupees. In addition to this, monetary penalty should also be levied proportionately. Similarly, whosever, no matter how high and mighty he may be is caught with undeclared properties, provisioning must be made for sending them to jails for a period of one year at least for each undeclared assets amounting to rupees 50 lacks. There must not be a cap over the upper limit of serving jail term. This could well stretch to 100 years as well. This will deter people from even not to dream of stealing taxes, what to speak of thinking of evading it.

2. Phasing out high denomination currencies

Secondly, in our economy, the ratio of money supply is far more voluminous compared to what the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) is. While its ratio in other countries ranges between 2 to 5 %, here in India, it is between 14 to 16 %. In our economy too, this ratio should be within 2 to 3 %. Accordingly, instead of the current infusion of currency supply amounting to a whopping sum of 9 lacks to 10 lacks crores in the Indian economy; hardly 2 to 2.50 lacks would be needed to be in circulation. The remaining sum of about over 8 lacks of crores is being used either as black money or for black and Benami transactions. No surprise that the demand for 500 and 1000 rupee denominations are increasing day by day, as is evident from the raids conducted by the investigating agencies yielding notes of these two particular denominations in black money. There is the need to call back higher denomination notes in a planned and phased manner.

3. Property transfer laws are the weakest

Third step would be the formulation of clear cut laws against the Benami property transactions. Property transfer laws should be made stringent. A separate central department of national property records may be opened whose duty it would be to maintain records of all the property transfer cases in respect of each of the citizens of India which should include the details of their Bank

accounts also. This will enable authorities to ferret out all details of information from a single central agency. This will be a fully computerized department which will store the relevant data with the finger prints of all the people doing property transactions. This computer could open only on the basis of UID based finger prints. In this way, all the detailed information pertaining to the sale and purchase of the property transactions and Bank accounts will be directly kept stored in the department for ready reckoning and ready references. This measure will bring about great transparency into the wide fields of corruption.

4. The anti-corruption laws should be laced with more teeth. The fourth solution to rid of corruption is to introduce reforms in the, Anti corruption act of 1988 by giving it more teeth to bite. It needs its penal provisions making more stringent. The present provisions provide for a jail term of seven years only even in cases of corruptions repeatedly committed by an individual no matter whether he has acquired undeclared properties amounting to thousands of crores and bungled with public money amounting to lacks of crores. The clause in it of seeking prior permission from the concerned authority before initiating any action for the prosecution of the thief caught with all strong evidences should be removed for good. How ridiculous does it look that the investigating agencies has to go begging for permission informing authorities that the thief has been caught committing theft and whether the prosecution against him could be initiated or not?

The clause 19 should be abolished in to had this absurd clause of 19 been not included there under the provisions of Anti-Corruption Act of 1988, the scenario of the corruption in India would have been quite different today. Accused like Thomas would not have been acting as the CVC of the country. Case against him was moving with the snail's speed for several years pending decision with the Government for reasons well known to the masses. More amusing is the circumstances under which the three member committee consisting of the prime minister of the country as the chairman, with two other members on it namely P. Chidambaram the self-righteous looking face and Sushama Swaraj, the lesser of opposition, did okay the appointment of Thomas as the CVC. In any real democratic republican country, rule of law is supreme applying equally to all. This clause 19 of the Anti-Corruption Act is a slur on our democratic functioning.

5. Seeking prior sanction is a blot on democratic fabrics. The fifth panacea for fighting out corruption is the removal of the clause 26 of the CVC Act which seeks for prior sanctions to register cases of prosecution. This goes against the spirit of judgments of the Supreme Court also, delivered by it on several earlier occasions.

6. Amending people's representation Act. Sixthly, there should be the inclusion of the provisions into the People's representation Act that any criminal against whom charges have already been framed would be debarred from entering into the electoral fray and cannot hold any government position in any capacity. These self seeking criminals remain glued to power advancing the shameful plea in their defense that a person is innocent till proved guilty by the rule of law of the land no matter how

serious the charges against him are as also that the law will take its own course knowing fully well how long the course of law is going to take.

7. A fully autonomous body with powerful teeth to bite. In this series, the last and the important point is that a fully autonomous body in the country needs to be formed to fight corruption — an institution fully independent from the Government's interference of the day. It should be made extra strong, excessively powerful, with sharp edged teeth to bite effectively. All the investigating agencies such as the Lokpal, CVC, CBI, ED etc should be brought under the purview of this powerful autonomous body. This fact could also be understood by any one that no one can investigate himself against crimes committed by him and no one should do so also.

8. Reforming the reformers. Corruption is such a crime which is committed by the people sitting in government offices. It is therefore fully justified to think that being under the control of the government; any investigating agency cannot be impartial and independent in investigating the crimes committed by the bureaucrats or the politicians. These institutions have been created with the sole intent of duping the public while looting the public money. Dubious loose ends have been deliberately inserted into the clauses of such rules with the sole intent of dodging punishment after getting caught red-handed. All such agencies have been made with lawful laws with all possible slippages, glitches and leakages for the high and mighty to escape out when caught stealing. This is the chief reason why any investigation against any scam of gigantic magnitude could not have reached the logical ending, while the figure of Godzila sized scams has already crossed the 200 mark since 1948 when the nation was declared independent by the British who had left the Indian shores only after making the country poorer to the hilt.

Now is the turn of our own people after the turn of the Britishers to ravish the scarce resources of mother India while 80 % of the India's population goes to bed with hungry stomachs and are famished.

How might we explain the widespread appeal of discourses on corruption? The truth likely remains somewhere deep within the individual and collective dynamics by which people attempt to come to grips with change in their lives, and to construct a meaningful narrative connection between past, present, and future. The power of corruption rhetoric seems to lie in its recognition of the inherent fragility of all human endeavor—indeed, of human bodies. Talking in terms of corruption, for civic republicans, often makes sense of a host of social changes by placing them into a coherent, purposive, and meaningful frame of reference, highlighting past glories, and spurring audiences on to greater things in the future. Corruption accounts, like all political speech, are inherently partial and moralistic, but they are also extremely effective in pointing to the price paid for progress, be it technological, political, or economic. When Adam Smith (1723–1790) boasted, in his *Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776) that the poorest English laborer lives in material comfort undreamed of by an African king, Rousseau was there to ask about the price paid for this

economic "progress," using the language of corruption to frame and reinforce his critique.

But is corruption, however variously defined, always to be lamented? A few scholars have ventured the hypothesis that corruption is necessary, though indeed not sufficient, for such tasks as the smooth operation of an economy. Business practices routinely denounced as "corrupt" may serve a variety of extremely important social and economic functions. Such a view, overtly or not, harkens back to Bernard Mandeville's (1670-1733) famous dictum that private vices yield public benefits.

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