

Research Paper



Corruption: cancer for the system

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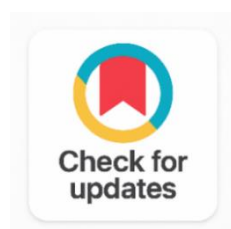
Causes

Consequences

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ABSTRACT

Background: Corruption has emerged as a major global challenge, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), where limited resources, institutional vulnerabilities, and economic dependence can intensify its effects on national development. Although corruption is not a new phenomenon, increasing incidences have raised concern because of their adverse influence on economic growth, modernization, institutional capacity, and sustainable development.

Objective: This qualitative review examines the contemporary drivers and consequences of corruption in SIDS, with particular emphasis on its relationship with national development. It focuses on underlying factors, socioeconomic and institutional impacts, and potential strategies for addressing corruption.

Methods: A conceptual qualitative review approach was adopted. Existing scholarly literature and policy discussions were examined to identify major drivers of corruption, assess its implications for socioeconomic and institutional development, and explore appropriate anti-corruption measures.

Results: The review indicates that corruption negatively affects socioeconomic development by weakening institutions, reducing administrative efficiency, diverting public resources, and undermining public trust. In SIDS, these challenges may be particularly significant because of constrained institutional capacity and limited governance resources. Persistent corruption is associated with inadequate public awareness, weak accountability, ineffective enforcement, and inconsistent governmental commitment to anti-corruption initiatives.

Conclusion: Addressing corruption in SIDS requires sustained public awareness, robust legal frameworks, accountable institutions, transparency, and effective enforcement of anti-corruption measures. Strengthening governance and institutional integrity should remain central to national development policies to reduce corruption's adverse effects on economic performance, social progress, and sustainable development.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The commonly accepted meaning of corruption is that it is the misuse of public power for personal gain. However it does not mean that private workers do not commit the corruption. Bribe and gift are different. A bribe involves compulsory reciprocity but in gift there is no compulsion that receiver should give something in return. Corruption always not involved bribes for personal benefits. It could be for the benefits of family, relatives, friends or favorite political parties. Cases of corruption have been reported in each and every area and era of government. Corruption is a very complex phenomenon and there are various motives behind corruption. The purpose of this paper is to understand the cause of corruption, to examine the effects of corruption on our society and to present possible cure for this disease.

Now a days corruption is become international problem that affects various societies in deep and different ways. It has become an obstacle to the development of countries in social political economic and environmental fields. It can be in any form like bribery, extortion, fraud, embezzlement, money laundering, nepotism, cronyism, appropriation of public assets and property for private use, and influence peddling. Large amount of scholarly research on this topic of corruption is already done but we are trying to present our own view in a prescriptive manner.

The purpose of writing on "corruption" is to make people aware about how some enjoying to pay bribe, some regretting to their birth due to corruption. The only who suffers is poor. If poors were not being in our country then now the corruption is not an issue probably. Because, the richer wants his/her work done, no matter how much to pay, the thing only, they want work to be done. This is the reason why, rich get richer and poor get poorer. We are going to know how, what, why the corruption impact on social life of people and in mostly research they are just to improve the economy and the system, they don't talk about to first improve the existing scenario.

The purpose of current governments is welfare of people and maintain law and order but due corruption all the prime aims of all government and private institutions are failed very badly. Benefits are enjoyed by only few persons in corrupt environment. When the authorities only just trying to focus on wealth and economy not on its citizens then definitely health of the country is in danger. Damage to wealth of a country can be easily recover but if health of the country is not good then it is a very dangerous. Therefore, it is said that if wealth is lost nothing is lost but if health is lost everything is lost.

There are various forms of corruption when it is performed by high level government officials and leaders then it is known as grand corruption. When low and mid-level public officials misuse their power for their personal gain then it is known as petty corruption. Lastly and most importantly when political decision makers, who abuse their position to sustain their power, status and wealth at that time it is called political corruption [1].

1.1 Causes

Greed is one of the most powerful motivating factors for corruption. An officer commits corruption because she/he has power. It is rightly said that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Sometimes it is not power but it is the character of the individual person because of which corruption is committed. Generally, bribes paid to government officials whose salary may be very low. Some people join government sector just because it gives chances to make extra money apart from the main salary which an official is receiving from the government. Sometimes various types of corruption are done for generating funds for political parties for electoral campaigns. We cannot ignore the issue of corruption. Lack of transparency, accountability and consistency, as well as institutional weaknesses provide fertile ground for

the growth of corruption. This work also presents some thoughts on how to address the corruption issue and to try and bring it under control. The existence of regulations or rules and authorizations in specially developing countries gives a kind of monopoly power to the officials who must authorize or inspect the activities. These government officials use their public power to extract bribes from those who need the authorizations or permits. If they needy person refuses to give bribe then that government official either refuse to give authorization or simply remain idle for very long-time holding decision. When the top political leaders do not set right example of ideal role model then it can not be expected that officials in the public administration will behave decently. Similarly, the government institutions can never become corruption free unless and until their heads do not set the best examples of hardwork and honesty. The condition of African countries, Asian countries and Latin American countries are worse. Some government officials are approached by bribes and asked to bend rules or even to break laws to obtain a government benefit or to avoid a government-imposed cost. If the most deserving persons do not get what they actually deserve there are high possibility that they might later on become corrupted. Higher levels of inefficiency in government automatically increases the corruption levels. It is not the case that people in undeveloped countries are more corruptible but because conditions in backward countries are more suitable for the growth of corruption. When the amount of bribe is huge, chances of getting caught is low and punishment for corruption is mild then there are high chances that people are going to corrupted. Attitude and awareness of citizens towards corruption are also one of the main reason behind corruption. Some people say that corruption is not a big issue and it is now a normal practice in everywhere therefore we should not be so much worried about it why bother changing something that can't be changed? Why bang your head against a wall? Why entertain a buffalo with harp music? Nothing lasts forever anyway, and so on, are the type of attitudes that prevail in almost every society From the above discussion we can say that following are the prime causes of corruption includes lack of transparency and accountability in the political and economic system, lack of honesty in officials in the Government, acceptance of bribe as a way of life, character crisis of people in general and character crisis of leaders in particular, ineffective anti-corruption institutions, including police and judiciary [2].

1.2 Consequences

Corruption exists in all countries, both developed and developing, in the public and private sectors, as well as in non-profit and charitable organizations. Corruption is also now a days are using as a tool for defaming opponents. Because of corruption governments of some states have fallen, career of some public figures ended, image of some organizations has destroyed. Corruption can have a serious adverse impact on development specially upon developing countries. Corruption is a major constraint for countries of Asian and African region because it is hindering their economic, political and social development, and hence view it as a problem requiring urgent attention at the highest level. Some individuals have become enormously rich because of these bribes. [3] This, in turn, has made many citizens suspicious or skeptical about basic virtues like honesty and hard working. Some economists have argued that corruption can be beneficial to the functioning of economy but for some it has negative impact on growth. Corruption is likely to increase income inequality because it allows well positioned individuals to take advantage of government activities at the cost of the rest of the population. Rich people become richer their work is done either by giving/paying or by powers but what about the poors? If they are asked to pay and do something by giving bribe, what and how they will manage to get their work done from officials? That's why poor people become more poorer because the little money they saved are demanded in a form of bribe for their work. It might be possible that the victim of corruption tries to file a complaint against corrupt officials but police authority refuses to file a complaint or they simply demand money for file a complaint. It's not just a hypothetical situation it is common now a days. Why it is so that when we talk about corruption an image of a police officer directly comes in our mind?

1.3 Cures

For fighting against this giant monster of corruption individual persons need help from the state. It can be ended and reduced to very low level only when our honest leaders start fighting against this

disease seriously. Existing policies should be changed. Power should be centralized as much as possible. We can increase the salary of workers so that they do not involve in corruption. We can provide rewards to the honest behavior of officials. Authorities should keep strict watch on funding of political parties. We must increase the severity of punishment in cases of corruption. Absence of politically motivated hiring, patronage, and nepotism and clear rules on hiring of bureaucrats are very essential if we want to increase the quality of bureaucracy and lower the rate of corruption because if the recruitment and promotion based on merit are low then corruption will be definitely high. Some people might suggest that government should reduce the wages of officials because they are getting extra money through corruption. It has been observed that wages paid to civil servants are important in determining the level of corruption. If the wages are high then there are high chance that corruption will be low. We cannot rule out the fact that there may be corruption due to greed and need. Therefore, it might be possible that number of corrupt acts is reduced, the total amount of corruption money paid may not necessarily fall. There are chances that high wages may reduce the number of corrupt acts, but it may lead to demands for higher bribes on the part of those who continue to be corrupt. For some if we abolish government system corruption will automatically cease to exist but the problem is for the proper functioning of a state, government is necessary evil. Some of the least corrupted states in the world have some of the largest public sectors. Any form of government is better than no government at all which is known as anarchism. Penalty and punishment play important role in determining the occurrence of that kind of criminal or illegal act of corruption in future. Corruption therefore can be reduced by increasing the severity of punishment for those who get caught. Immediate actions should be taken against the corrupt officials. Conviction rate in cases of corruption should be high. But very few people are punished on the charges on corruption and sometimes judgments come after decades. Fear of punishment might lower the rate of bribes but it might also increase the amount of money because more risk is involved in corruption therefore huge amount of money for high risk. It is also possible that lawyers and judges are also corrupted or may have political bias which put obstacles in the proceeding. Fear of punishment also work as a deterrent for preventing crimes related to corruption. One suggestion towards this end is to “fry some big fish”, that is to publicly try and punish some well-known corrupt people in the country. Honest and effective supervisors, good auditing offices, and clear rules on ethical behavior should be able to discourage or discover corrupt activities. Establishment of anti-corruption commission which should be independent. Accountability and control, codes of ethics, awareness campaigns etc. are few powerful techniques for fighting against corruption. A publicity campaign to create greater awareness on the adverse effects of corruption and a clear and unequivocal official pronouncement on the desirability to bring it under control would be helpful. We cannot neglect the importance of free press in fighting against corruption [4].

2. CONCLUSION

The objective of the present paper is to create awareness among the public about the corruption-its causes, effects and remedies. Now corruption is become a normal activity because after so many decades it has become part of the system. There is no doubt that we know much more about corruption than we did 30 years ago, yet, this issue remains unsolved now. We have to accept that we are failed very badly in preventing corruption. Fighting against corruption must be country's development agenda for the coming years. This fact cannot be neglected that we the people responsible for this contagious disease of corruption. Corruption is now become part of the system and it is damaging and killing the system internally slowly day by day like slow poison. Greedy and selfish nature of human being is one of the principal factors for corruption so if we want to cure the disease of corruption from the system them people first reform themselves into a contended and altruistic person. To stop corruption upto its minimum, the government must take strict actions against this issue and people should also raise their voices regarding this issue time to time. It's very difficult to understand the multifaceted nature of corruption. More research on this topic can help to mitigate the dissemination of corruption. In this article I have explained how corruption is damaging the economy and democracy. To conclude I would say corruption is a sign of economic, political, institutional weakness and failure of a country. We cannot deny the fact that corruption

is not going to disappear in future like dinosaurs but we can through our efforts first control and then minimize it and prevents its adverse consequences on our country as well as world so that the common goal of welfare of masses can be achieved [5].

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Author Contributions Statement

Name of Author	C	M	So	Va	Fo	I	R	D	O	E	Vi	Su	P	Fu
Shaikh Zeeshan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Ansari Shahib Imtiyaz		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

C : Conceptualization

M : Methodology

So : Software

Va : Validation

Fo : Formal analysis

I : Investigation

R : Resources

D : Data Curation

O : Writing - Original Draft

E : Writing - Review & Editing

Vi : Visualization

Su : Supervision

P : Project administration

Fu : Funding acquisition

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

Informed Consent

All participants were informed about the purpose of the study, and their voluntary consent was obtained prior to data collection.

Ethical Approval

Not Applicable.

Data Availability

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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