

Corruption: Causative Factors and Remedies



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Abstract

Corruption in the Indian society has prevailed from time immemorial in one form or the other. The basic inception of corruption started with our opportunistic leaders who have already done greater damage to our nation. People who work on right principles are unrecognized and considered to be foolish in the modern society. Corruption in India is a result of the connection between bureaucrats, politicians and criminals. Earlier, bribes were paid for getting wrong things done, but now bribe is paid for getting right things done at right time. Further, corruption has become something respectable in India, because respectable people are involved in it. Social corruption like less weighing of products, adulteration in edible items, and bribery of various kind have incessantly prevailed in the society.

In today's scenario, if person wants a government job he has to pay lakhs of rupees the higher officials irrespective of satisfying all the eligibility criteria. In every office one has either to give money to the employee concerned or arrange for some sources to get work done. There is adulteration and duplicate weighing of products in food and civil supplies department by unscrupulous workers who cheat the consumers by playing with the health and lives of the people. In the assessment of property tax the officers charge money even if the house is built property according to the Government rules and regulations.

Political corruption is worst in India. the major cause of concern is that corruption is weakening the political body and damaging the supreme importance of the law governing the society. Nowadays politics is only for criminals are meant to be in politics. Elections in many parts of the country have become associated with a host of criminal activities. Threatening voters to vote for a particular candidate or physically prevent voters from going in to the polling booth- especially weaker sections of the society like tribals, dalit and rural woman occurs frequently in several parts of the country. Recently, the Government increased the salary of the M.P.'s from Rs. 16,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- that is 300% increase to the existing salary. But many of them are unhappy with rise and want the Government to increase the salary to a much more extent. this clearly show how the Government to increase the salary to a much more extent. This clearly shows how the politicians are inconstant thirst for monetary benefits and not caring about the welfare of the people. Tax evasion is one of the most popular forms of corruption. It is mostly practiced by Government officials and politicians who lead to the accumulation of black money which in turn spoils the moral of the people.

Keywords: Corruption, Prevailed, Inception, Bureaucrats, Adulteration, edible, bribery, irrespective, unscrupulous workers, accumulating

Introduction

Corruption in India is an issue that adversely affects the country's economy and the credibility of central, state and local government agencies. Not only has it held the economy back from reaching new heights, but rampant corruption has stunted India's development. A study conducted by Transparency International in 2005 recorded that more than 90% of Indians had at some point or other paid a bribe to get a job done in a public office. In a study conducted in 2008. Transparency International reported that about 50% of Indians has firsthand experience of paying bribes or using contacts to get services performed by public offices.

Corruption is a general concept describing any organized, interdependent system in which part of the system is either not performing duties it was originally intended to, or performing them in an improper way, to the detriment of the system's original purpose.

"Corruption is the abuse of power by a public official for private gain." Corruption, when applied to officers, trustee, etc., signifies the inducing a violation of duty by means of pecuniary consideration.

Aim of the Study

This paper mainly to discuss on causative factors and remembers of prevailing corruption in Indian Society.

Specific Types of Corruption Include

1. Political Corruption, or the dysfunction of a political system or institution in which government officials, political officials or employees seek illegitimate personal gain through actions such as bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, patronage, graft and embezzlement. Political corruption is a specific form of rent seeking (which is not to be confused with property rental).
2. Data Corruption or the change to data in storage or in transit is called data corruption.
3. Linguistic Corruption, or the change in meaning to a language or a text introduced by cumulative errors in transcription or changes in the language speakers' comprehension. A word that has adopted from another language but whose spelling has been changed through misunderstanding, transcription errors, mishearing etc.
4. Putrefaction or decomposition of recently living matter. This physical process is the primary model of the metaphorical meaning of corruption, so advanced states of corruption in, e.g. a political structure are said to result in their putrefaction.
5. The act of corrupting or of impairing integrity, virtue, or moral principal; the state of being corrupted or debased; loss of purity or integrity; depravity; wickedness; impurity; bribery.

In board terms, political corruption is when government officials use their governmental powers for illegitimate private gain. Misuse of governmental powers for illegitimate private purpose, like repression of political opponents and general police brutality, is not considered political corruption. An illegal act by private persons or corporations not directly involved with the government is not considered political corruption only if the acts are directly related to their officials duties.

All forms of government are susceptible to political corruption. Forms of corruption vary, but include bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, patronage, graft and embezzlement. While corruption may facilitate criminal enterprise such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and trafficking, it is not restricted to these organized crime activities. In some nations corruption is so common that it is expected when ordinary businesses or citizens interact with government officials. The end-point of political corruption is a kleptocracy, literally "rule by thieves". What constitutes illegal corruption differs depending on the country or jurisdiction. Certain political funding practices that are legal in one place may be illegal in another. In some countries government officials have broad or not well defined powers, and the line between what is legal and illegal can be difficult to

draw. Bribery around the world is estimated at about \$1 trillion and the burden of corruption falls disproportionately on the bottom billion people living in extreme poverty.

Various Popular Forms of Corruption

Bribery

It required two participants: one to give the bribe and one to take it. In some countries the culture of corruption extends to every aspect of public life, making it extremely difficult for individuals to stay in business without resorting to bribes. Bribes may be demanded in order for an official to do something he is already paid to do. They may also be demanded in order to bypass laws and regulations.

Graft

While bribery includes an intent to influence or be influenced by another for personal gain which is difficult to prove, graft only requires that the officials gains something to value, not part of his official pay, when doing his work. Large "gifts" qualify as graft, and most countries have laws against it. Another example of graft is a politician using his knowledge of zoning to purchase land which he knows is planned for development, before this is publicly known, and then selling it at a significant profit. This is comparable to insider trading in business.

Extortion and Robbery

While bribes may be demanded in order to do something, payment may also be demanded by corrupt officials who otherwise threaten to make illegitimate use of state force in order to inflict harm. This is similar to extortion be organized crime groups. Illegitimate armed robbery. This mostly occurs in unstable states which lack proper control of the military and the police. Less open forms of corruption are preferred in more stable states.

Government officials, especially if involved in illegal activities, are also liable to extortion, both by senior corrupt officials or other criminals. These develop over time into complicated networks of corruption, where law enforcement merely serves as a way to discredit and destroy. The anti-corruption effort is not immune to corruption either: there are examples of cases where officials of an Anti-corruption Bureau have extorted sums from corrupt officials.

Patronage

It refers to favouring supporters, for example with government employment. This may be legitimate, as when a newly elected government changes the top officials in the administration in order to effectively implement its policy. It can be seen as corruption if this means that incompetent persons, as a payment for supporting the regime, are selected before more able ones.

Kickbacks

A kickback is an official's share of misappropriated funds his or her organization to an organization involved in corrupt bidding. For example, suppose that a politician is in charge of choosing how to spend some public funds. He can give a contract to a company that isn't the best bidder, or allocate more than they deserve. In this case, the company benefits, and in exchange for betraying the public, the official receives a kickback payment, which is a portion of the

sum the company received. This sum itself may be all or a portion of the difference between the actual (inflated) payment to the company and the (lower) market price that would have been paid had the bidding been complete.

Conditions Favourable for Corruption

The following conditions are favourable for corruption:

Information Deficits

1. Lack of government transparency.
2. Lacking freedom of information legislation.
The Indian right to Information Act 2005 has "already engendered mass movements in the country that is bringing the lethargic, often corrupt bureaucracy to its knees and changing power equations completely."
3. Contempt for or negligence of exercising freedom of speech and freedom of the press.
4. Weak accounting practices, including lack of timely financial management.
5. Lack of measurement of corruption. For example, using regular surveys of households and business in order to quantify the degree of perception of corruption in different government institutions may increase awareness of and create pressure to combat it. This will also enable an evaluation of the officials who are fighting corruption and the methods used.
6. Tax havens which tax their own citizens and companies but not those from other nations and refuse to disclose information necessary for foreign taxation. This enables large scale political corruption in the foreign nations.

Lacking Control Over and Accountability of The Government

1. Democracy absent or dysfunctional. See illiberal democracy.
2. Lacking civic society and non-government organizations which monitor the government.
3. An individual voter may have a rational ignorance regarding politics, especially in nationwide elections, since each vote has little weight.
4. Weak rule of law.
5. Weak legal profession.
6. Weak judicial independence.
7. Lacking protection of whistle blowers.
8. Causative factors directly linked to the possibility of involvement in corruption

Low Salaries

Corruption is often attributed to the low salaries of civil servants. This differentiates between need driven (satisfying basic requirements for survival) corruption and comfort that salaries cannot match) corruption.

It may be true that it is more difficult to stay honest, hard-working and trustworthy on a low salary, but it is also true that most people with low salaries are still able to do so and that many corrupt officials are people in high, responsible positions, earning good salaries.

In conjunction, corrupt practices flourish in systems where employees have high job security; where the level of professionalism in the public service is low; and hence officials rather serve their

own interests than perform their duty to serve the public. However, low salaries are not a valid reason for and do not justify corruption.

Culture

A gift culture exists, particularly in Africa, in which it is tradition that a small reward is paid for services rendered. Such a gratuity or tip becomes part of the cultural environment and in certain countries the payment of such rewards is so embedded in tradition that any attempt to rein in the practice would be seen as an attack on treasured cultural values. In Africa, this was traditionally seen as awarding special honours to the Chief and, in this light, it is often regarded as acceptable and "normal" for politicians to accept such rewards. In some countries it is common practice in the commercial arena for business transactions to be accompanied by the giving of personal gifts or benefits, ranging from the Christmas bottle of Whisky to much more elaborate and extravagant items. In essence, the root of corruption is greed rather than culture, public life requires standards of its own; and those entering public office must be made aware of this from the outset.

The Absence of Rules, Regulations, Policies and Legislation

All organizations, whether public or private sector, must have rules, regulations and policies that guide management and other employees in terms of acceptable behavior and conduct within the organization. Rules, regulations and policies are instrumental in organizing people, steering them towards a common goal and ensuring that everyone is treated fairly and equally. In order to be effective, such rules and policies must be clearly communicated to all individuals in order to be understood and applied objectively. Corruption is more likely to flourish in an organization that does not have a wide range of rules, regulations or policies that guide employees in their work. Similarly, a country must have clear policies and legislation that guide the behavior of all citizens and residents within that country. However, organization and countries must strike a reasonable balance in terms of policies and legislation; whilst corruption flourishes in an environment without clear rules and regulations, similarly, corruption finds fertile ground in a country that has a numerous laws, rules and regulations that restrict business and economic activities. Such a climate creates industries' dependence on individual civil servants to engage in economic activity; thereby circumventing bureaucratic red tape through corrupt offers.

Range of Discretion

No system can exist unless one person or authority is used, to some extent, to make decisions. Such a person is said to have the power to exercise discretion – the freedom to act within certain limits. Corruption takes place in institutions where public officials:

1. have great authority;
2. can exercise discretion with respect to interpretation and application of regulation;
3. are not required to be accountable to anyone; and

4. are driven by greed

Therefore, an environment with a higher range of discretion without accountability is more conducive to corruption. In conjunction, political office is one of the primary means of gaining access to wealth in less developed countries. If corruption occurs on the top level and the political leadership of the country does not set a good example with respect to honesty, credibility, transparency, integrity and the persecution of offenders, citizens become disillusioned and offenders are not deterred from entering into corrupt practices.

An Absence of Transparency

Where there is no transparency in an organization i.e. where tasks and functions are conducted in secret and are not open to examination by other government officers or the public, the opportunity for corruption increase. Transparency is a prerequisite for democracy in which sovereignty is vested in the people and the conduct of civil servants must be open to examination. It is therefore vital that citizens in general and the media (radio, television, newspapers) in particular are guaranteed the right to freedom of speech; the media can inform citizens of any corrupt in nature and appropriate calls for action can be made. A transparent system deters corruption as the conduct of civil servants is under constant security.

The Absence of Accountability

In a democracy, public leaders and civil servants must be accountable to the people they serve. Accountability means that public leaders and officers must provide logical and acceptable explanations for their actions and decisions to the people they serve. Civil servants and officers in responsible principles of transparency and be accountable to the people they serve. However, accountability is dependent on the enforcement of rules, regulations and policies, if there is a lack of effective institutional mechanisms civil servants cannot be held accountable and corrupt practices can flourish.

The Absence of Watchdog Institution

If there are no internal or external institutions or bodies that investigate cases of corruption or that act on complaints relating to corruption, employees may take advantage of the fact that the chance of being caught doing something corrupt is remote. Even if the offender's is caught, the consequences would probably be minimal if the system has no watchdog function.

Remedies of Corruption

Corruption is a cancer, which every Indian must strive to cure. It is a silent killer and spread all the functions and processes. Many new leaders when come into power declare their determination to eradicate corruption but soon they themselves become corrupt and start amassing huge wealth.

Many people become materialistic and money oriented, there is no importance of ethics and morals in business dealings. Many people thinking that money which coming to their pocket is good, same way many thinking that money which going out

from their pocket is bad, but they don't consider the way money traveling.

This is because these kinds of people have no moral accountability to anybody; and these kinds of people have full trust on money, they strongly believing that money can hold big role in their current and future problems, they believing that money can give them life without problems. Some of the remedies are given below:

1. Developing Values & Ethics can be only possible if people can understand and start to believe the value of ethics and morality in their life. People will start to believe that their life is accountable if they really start to believe I GOD, in ones of GOD and if they really start to live life on the way which GOD has chosen for mankind. GOD has given the wisdom to each and every human being, heart of everyone telling him/her that the way he/she following to get money are good/bad. The most important thing s person should listen and follow the good part of his heart.
2. Fool Proof laws should be made so that there is no room for discretion for politicians and bureaucrats. The role of the politicians should be minimized. Application of the evolved policies should be left in the hands of independent commission or authority in each area of public interest. Decision of the commission or authority should be challengeable only in the courts.
3. Cooperation of the people has to be obtained for successful containing corruption. People should have a right to recall the elected representative if they see them becoming indifferent to the electorate.
4. Funding of elections is at the core of political corruption. Electoral reforms are crucial in this regard. Several reforms life: State funding of election expenses for candidates; strict enforcement of statutory requirements like holding in party elections, making political parties get their accounts audited regularly and filing income-tax returns; denying persons with criminal records a chance to contest elections should be brought in.
5. Responsiveness, accountability and transparency are a lust for a clean system. Bureaucracy, the backbone of good governance, should be made more citizens friendly, accountable, ethical and transparent.
6. More and more courts should be opened for speedy & inexpensive opened for speedy & inexpensive justice so that cases don't linger in courts for years and justice is delivered on time.
7. Local bodies, independent of the government, like Lokpals, Lokadalats, CVCs and Vigilance Commissions should be formed to provide speedy justice with low expenses.
8. A new fundamental right – Right to information should be introduced, which will empower the citizens to ask for the information they want. Barring some confidential information, which concerns national and international security, other information should be made available to general public as and when required. Stringent

actions against corrupt officials will certainly have a deterrent impact.

Conclusion

Corruption in India is an issue that adversely affects the country's economy and the credibility of central, state and local government agencies. Not only has it held the economy back from reaching new heights but rampant corruption has started India's development.

Corruption is an intractable problem. It is like diabetes, can only be controlled, but not totally eliminated. It may not be possible to root out corruption completely at all levels but it is possible to contain it within tolerable limits. Honest and dedicated persons in public life, control over electoral expenses could be the most important prescriptions to combat corruption. Corruption has a corrosive impact on any country's economy. It worsens image in international market and leads to loss of overseas opportunities. Corruption is a global problem that all countries of the world have to confront, solutions, however, can only be home grown. Corruption is a practice done by human being and we can effectively control it by developing values and ethics in human beings.

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