

THE DANGEROUS OUTBREAK OF CORRUPTION: EXPOSING A PERSISTENT SOCIETAL ISSUE

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Abstract: Corruption, which is an all-pervasive societal issue, is the major cause that weakens governance and breaks the public trust which finally obstructs economic development. The article is aimed at studying the corruption disease from its dimensions, moreover, it will also reveal the destructive effects that it may have on the society and the ways through which it extends. It points out the moral, economic, and social dimensions of the issue of corruption around the world, specifically in the context of international and local challenges like COVID-19. Furthermore, it is argued in the article that there is a need of engaging non-governmental organizations (NGOs), nations, communities, and various anti-corruption activists to devise concrete and viable anti-corruption goals and put ideas on credit that the entire world-the grey part of the world in this case will take an anticorruption game to a higher level would be included.

Key words: corruption, governance, public trust, economic development, accountability, civic engagement, transparency, anti-corruption strategies

Аннотация: Коррупция, которая является всепроникающей проблемой общества, является основной причиной, ослабляющей управление и разрушающей доверие общества, что в конечном итоге препятствует экономическому развитию. Целью статьи является изучение коррупционной болезни с точки зрения ее аспектов, а также выявление разрушительных последствий, которые она может иметь для общества, и путей, по которым она распространяется. В ней указываются моральные, экономические и социальные аспекты проблемы коррупции во всем мире, особенно в контексте международных и локальных вызовов, таких как COVID-19. Кроме того, в статье утверждается, что необходимо привлечь неправительственные организации (НПО), страны, сообщества и различных активистов борьбы с коррупцией к разработке конкретных и жизнеспособных антикоррупционных целей и выдвижению идей, которые позволят всему миру - в данном случае серой части мира - выйти на более высокий уровень антикоррупционной игры.

Ключевые слова: коррупция, управление, общественное доверие, экономическое развитие, подотчетность, гражданская активность, прозрачность, антикоррупционные стратегии

Annotatsiya: Jamiyatda keng tarqalgan muammo bo'lgan korrupsiya davlat boshqaruvini zaiflashtiradigan va aholi ishonchini yo'qotadigan, pirovardida iqtisodiy taraqqiyotga to'sqinlik qiluvchi asosiy sababdir. Maqolaning maqsadi korrupsiya kasalligini uning jihatlari nuqtai nazaridan o'rganish, shuningdek, uning jamiyatga olib kelishi mumkin bo'lgan halokatli oqibatlar va tarqalish yo'llarini aniqlashdan iborat. U butun dunyo bo'ylab korrupsiya muammosining ma'naviy, iqtisodiy va ijtimoiy jihatlari, ayniqsa, COVID-19 kabi xalqaro va mahalliy muammolar kontekstida ko'rsatadi. Bundan tashqari, maqolada nodavlat notijorat tashkilotlari (NNTlar), mamlakatlar, jamiyatlar va korrupsiyaga qarshi kurash bo'yicha turli faollarni butun dunyoga imkon beradigan aniq va hayotiy korrupsiyaga qarshi

maqsadlar va g'oyalarni ishlab chiqish uchun jalb qilish zarurligi ta'kidlanadi. dunyoning kulrang qismi - korrupsiyaga qarshi o'yinning yuqori darajasiga erishish.

Kalit so'zlar: korrupsiya, boshqaruv, jamoatchilik ishonchi, iqtisodiy rivojlanish, hisobdorlik, fuqarolik ishtiroki, shaffoflik, korrupsiyaga qarshi strategiyalar.

Corruption, which is the act of using power that is given to a person not for private reason but for general production, inclusion, is an evil that has very much settled down and one which is not bound by geographical or cultural differences. It is not just breaking the law but it is a sickness of the society on a deeper level, which encourages inequality, destroys institutions, and slows down economic growth. The world that has been struggling with major problems, the range of them is between social unrest and environmental crises, therefore the corruption impact is felt more negatively than ever before. It undermines the rule of law, hampers economic growth, distorts public resources allocation, and erodes trust in government institutions. There is no universally accepted definition of corruption, but it is often defined in terms of individual actions that "abuse entrusted power for private gain." Other ways of defining corruption reflect broader issues like who exercises power over natural resources, who is excluded, and how informal powers compete and interact with formal institutions[1].Corruption can take numerous forms, each posing unique challenges to societal integrity and function.

Investopedia defines it as "dishonest behavior by those in positions of power, such as managers or government officials. Corruption can include giving or accepting bribes or inappropriate gifts, double-dealing, under-the-table transactions, manipulating elections, diverting funds, laundering money and defrauding investors." [2]

Transparency International, which works to expose corruption among governments, companies and wealthy or powerful people, defines corruption as "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain"[3]. This can involve cronyism, where someone's friends are given valuable contracts outside the normal market tendering process, and nepotism, where a relative is appointed to a position of power even though they are unqualified or unsuitable for the role.

According to U. Myint, corruption is defined as the use of public office for private gain, or in other words, use of official position, rank or status by an office bearer for his own personal benefit. Following from this definition, examples of corrupt behaviour would include: (a) bribery, (b) extortion, (c) fraud, (d) embezzlement, (e) nepotism, (f) cronyism, (g) appropriation of public assets and property for private use, and (h) influence peddling.[4]

The legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes that corruption is illegal use by a person of official or duty position with the aim of obtaining tangible or intangible benefits in personal interests or in the interests of other persons, and an unlawful provision of such benefit[5].The 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) shows that corruption is thriving across the world. The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories around the globe by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, scoring on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). Over two-thirds of countries score below 50 out of 100, which strongly indicates that they have serious corruption problems. The global average is stuck at only 43, while the vast majority of countries have made no progress or declined in the last decade. What is more, 23 countries fell to their lowest scores to date this year[6]. The systemic nature of corruption

poses significant challenges to the stability and progress of any nation. At its core, corruption involves the misuse or abuse of entrusted power for personal gain. This can take various forms such as bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, or favoritism. The consequences are far-reaching: it stifles competition by creating an uneven playing field for businesses; it discourages foreign investment due to concerns about unfair practices; and it impedes social development by diverting funds intended for public services like education and healthcare[7]. The influence of corruption extends beyond political boundaries into every aspect of society. In terms of governance structures affected by corrupt practices within political systems worldwide—ranging from bribery during elections to favoritism within policy-making—we witness a significant erosion of democratic values leading to weakened institutions incapable of delivering public goods effectively.

Corruption, a persistent and deeply ingrained issue plaguing societies across the globe, has following multifaceted problems and its detrimental impacts on various aspects of society.

1. Undermining Economic Growth: Corruption poses a significant barrier to economic development by distorting market mechanisms and deterring investment. Funds earmarked for public projects often end up in the hands of corrupt individuals instead of being utilized for their intended purposes. This misallocation of resources hampers infrastructure development, stifles innovation, discourages foreign direct investment (FDI), perpetuates income inequality, and ultimately hinders economic growth.

2. Eroding Trust in Institutions: One of the most alarming consequences of corruption is its erosion of public trust in institutions at all levels – from local governance bodies to national governments. When citizens witness bribery and embezzlement cases going unpunished or corrupt officials escaping justice due to endemic systemic flaws, their faith in democratic processes diminishes significantly. This loss erodes social cohesion; it can lead to increased political apathy as people feel powerless against a system where integrity is compromised.

3. Weakening Rule of Law: Corruption undermines the rule of law by fostering a culture where personal gain takes precedence over ethical conduct and legal enforcement mechanisms are manipulated or bypassed altogether. When influential individuals wield power through illicit means without fear of consequences, it weakens judicial systems' independence and impairs society's ability to tackle crime effectively.

4. Hindering Social Development: Corruption exacerbates social inequalities by diverting resources away from essential sectors such as education, healthcare, housing, and poverty alleviation programs – areas critical for sustainable human development. The funds siphoned off through corrupt practices deprive disadvantaged communities access to quality services while perpetuating cycles of poverty.

5. Impeding Environmental Sustainability: Environmental degradation often goes hand-in-hand with corruption as natural resources become vulnerable targets for exploitation due to weak regulatory frameworks fueled by graft opportunities. Illegal logging activities facilitated by bribery or unauthorized land acquisitions driven by corrupt practices harm ecosystems that are vital for biodiversity conservation efforts.

6. Creating National Security Risks: The prevalence of corruption poses significant threats to national security on multiple fronts. Illicit financial flows enable money laundering networks that finance organized crime syndicates or even support terrorist organizations that threaten global peace stability.

The fight against corruption requires a multifaceted approach involving governments, civil society organizations, businesses, and international cooperation[8]. Effective measures include establishing robust legal frameworks that criminalize corrupt activities; strengthening independent judicial systems capable of prosecuting offenders without fear or favor; promoting transparency through open data initiatives; fostering whistleblowing mechanisms that protect those who report wrongdoing; and investing in education campaigns aimed at raising awareness about the detrimental impact of corruption on society as a whole.[9]

As François Valérian, Chair of Transparency International, said: “Corruption will continue to thrive until justice systems can punish wrongdoing and keep governments in check. When justice is bought or politically interfered with, it is the people that suffer. Leaders should fully invest in and guarantee the independence of institutions that uphold the law and tackle corruption. It is time to end impunity for corruption.”[10]

In conclusion, the dangerous outbreak of corruption is a persistent societal issue that requires immediate and concerted efforts to address. As nations strive to overcome significant contemporary challenges, the fight against corruption must be a central tenet of governance and development. By prioritizing transparency, accountability, and civic engagement, societies can weaken the grip of corruption, paving the way for sustainable growth and social equity. The battle against corruption is not just the responsibility of governments; it is a collective duty that involves every individual, aiming to build a fairer, more just world.

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