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A CRITICAL STUDY ON THE CORRUPTION IN INDIA AND ITS REMEDIES

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Abstract: Corruption in India is an issue which affects the economy of central, state and local government agencies in many ways. Corruption is a great problem in India. It is not only Indian problem but also world wide problem. We have found it every countries less or more. India is largest democratic country in the world. It has long history of financial, Political, Administrative corruption. After independence, we have noticed many corruption and Financial scam which were done by political leader or Ministers, and bureaucrat in our country. It has spread top to bottom in nation. It is a great challenge to remove from our administration. People are losing their faith on administration, judiciary system, and political leaders. Social morals and values are spoiling day by day. It has so many causes as like as Political patronage, nepotism, greediness, lack of transparency, increasing of unemployment, low wage of government officials, etc. It badly affected our society. Our country has taken so many measures to prevent it but fail to cure this disease at all.

Keywords: Corruption, Political patronage, Greediness, Nepotism, Democratic.

Introduction

Corruption in public life has been a major concern in India. In 2019, India was ranked 80th of 180 countries defined as corrupt in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). India fell to 85 rank in **Corruption** Perceptions Index in 2021¹ In fact, corruption is rampant in all walks of life, be it land and property, health, education, commerce and industry, agriculture, transport, police, armed forces, even religious institutions or so-called places of spiritual pursuits. Corruption continues to exist in covert and overt ways at all three levels - political, bureaucratic and corporate sector. One can see the nexus between the politicians, the bureaucrats and the industrialists which has resulted into corruption and corrupt practices. The tentacles of corruption have affected all organs of government, including the judiciary. India is corrupted democracy; corruption is found from top to bottom. Decentralisation of power is a main feature of democracy. People of the country can involve in political bodies or institution as like panchayat and municipal institutes. We called it participatory democracy. Our country is multiparty system; people are involved with different parties for political interest. In our country, public are taken politics as weapon of power and source of income. We have seen so many corruptions in West Bengal, as like as Sarada scam, Narada scam, to take cut maney for different governmental project or programme, corruption of teacher appointment etc. Ministers, party leaders, party worker's bureaucrats are involved with corruption. In fact, corruption is a sign of political instability and institutional decay, challenging seriously the validity and propriety of governance. We as citizens should take a vow not to indulge in corrupt practices at any level and contribute in eliminating corruption from our country.

NATURE OF CORRUPTION

Under the Indian constitution, the government consists of three branches: the legislative, the executive and the judiciary with clear mandate for independent functioning of each branch. For the good governance it is compulsory that each of these units must function with integrity and efficiency. The legislators are elected representatives of the peoples and responsible for making laws. The executive branch consisting of ministers, bureaucrats and whole government machinery, which is responsible for the implementation of laws made up by legislative assemblies. The judiciary, acts as an impartial watchdog to see if the people are governed as per the law. It takes the power to frame any law, it can only interpret the laws passed by the law makers under the constitutional framework and give its verdicts. But when corruption invades, governance begins to degrade implying loss of integrity and efficiency both. Now – a – days corruption is widespread in every segment of Indian government system and politics. The behaviour of India legislators both at the union and in the state leaves a lot to be desired. Every time they act motivated by personal gain. Corruption in the assemblies as seen from this perspective implies floor crossing, cast for vote taking money or other benefits to ask questions, framing rules under the influence of big corporate houses at the cost of common people.

Criminalization of politics is yet another fact of corruption in the current parliament. These are over a quarter MPs with criminal records. Many with serious charges against them. It also highlights an area where electoral reforms are urgently needed so that criminals don't enter in the parliament or state assemblies. In the executive branch, ministers are placed at top of the hierarchy. They are responsible for the making policies for the public because the public trust on them and elected by votes to making government. In recent analysis we seen that the level of corruption in ministers is highest. 2 G spectrum scam, coal allotment scam, commonwealth games scam, fodder scam, Sarada Scam etc. are the best examples of it. In Indian parliamentary system, the responsibility of execution of the policies making by government at ground level is taking hand over to the bureaucracy. But the report card of the Indian bureaucracy is also not very



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flattering. Bureaucratic corruption in India thrives on red tape, complicated procedures and discretionary power. Governance in India is characterized by the lack of transparency in rules. Complicated procedures and a bureaucracy that enjoys broad discretionary power. India conducted by trace international was published in January 2009, 90% demand for bribe came from government officials of which over 65% for avoiding harassment, 50% bribery was for timely delivery of services to which the individuals were already entitled, about 10% were meant to provide any advantage.² Bureaucratic corruption pervades the Indian administration system with widespread practices of bribery, nepotism and misuse of official positions and resources. Independence of the judiciary is guaranteed by constitution of India. But corruption is also rampant in Indian courts. According to Transparency International, judicial corruption in India is attributable to factors such as “delays in the disposal of cases, shortage of judges, and complex procedure, all of which exacerbated by a preponderance of new laws.” Almost 3% respondents in India consider the judiciary to be corrupt.

After the independence corruption is widespread in Indian bureaucratic and political system fill lust small point to apex. The Santhanam committee (1962) examine the problem of corruption observed in 1964 that “there is widespread impression that failure of integrity is not uncommon among ministers and that some ministers, who have held office during the last sixteen years have enriched themselves illegitimately, obtained good jobs for their sons and relations through nepotism and have reaped other advantages inconsistent with any notion of purity in public life.” In later years corruption will be gradually widespread in Indian society and no effective measures have yet been installed that curb the menace. The lokpal bill could not be passed in last decades, it speaks for the utter lack of political will in the country. In recent years so many major scandals involving high level public officials have shaken the Indian public services.³

These scandals suggest corruption has become a pervasive aspect of Indian political and bureaucratic system. Some of them major scams are following –

1. Coal Allotment Scam (Cost –186000 Crores)
2. G Spectrum Scam (Cost –176000 Crores)
3. Commonwealth Games (CWG) Scam (Cost –70000 Crores)
4. Mega black money laundering Scam (Cost –70000 Crores)
5. Adarsh Housing Scam (Cost –18978 Crores)
6. Stamp Paper Scam (Cost –20000 Crores)
7. Boforce Scam (Cost –400 Million)
8. Fodder Scam (Cost –950 Crores)
9. Hawala Scam (Cost –8000 Crores)
10. Satyam Scam (Cost –14000 Crores)
11. StockMarket Scam (Cost –3500 Crores)
12. Madhu Koda Scam (Cost –4000 Crores)
13. Sarada Scam (Cost- 2500 Crores)
14. Rose valley Cheat Fund Scam.
15. Narada sting operation.
16. West Bengal teacher recruitment (SSC) scam.

Causes of Corruption in India: Corruption is a global phenomenon and it is omnipotent. It has progressively increased and is now drastic in our society. Corruption in India has wings, not wheels. As the nation grows, the corrupt also grow to invent new methods of cheating the government and public. The cause of corruption is many and complex. The following Emergence are some other causes of corruption:

1. The important causes of corruption in India are poor regulatory framework, exclusivist process of decision making aggravated by discretion and official secrecy, rigid bureaucratic structures and processes; and absence of effective internal control mechanism. Social acceptability and tolerance for corruption and absence of a formal system of inculcating the values of ethics and integrity further propagates corruption.
2. Significant levels of corruption exist in India despite the existence of a relatively strong governance structure, institutions, legal framework and policies. The anti-corruption laws and institutions coupled with a strong oversight system consisting of the CVC, CAG and the CIC have been well acknowledged. The problem lies in implementation and there is a huge gap between the policies and practice.
3. Public procurement is an activity highly prone to corruption and which has serious impact on the industry as well as the market. According to World Bank estimate, the average bribe to obtain a public contract is estimated at 15% of the contract value. The CVC therefore maintains a high focus in this area.



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4. **Low Pay scales/ Wages:** Most of the employees in the government sector are paid low wages and salaries. Hence some employees revert to corruption for more financial benefits. **low salaries of government officials compel them to resort to corruption.**
5. **Low Job opportunities.** This is another cause of corruption. Due to the lack of job opportunities, many people like to go for corruption mode to get a job offer. They will be ready to pay lump-sum amounts for the job offer to the higher officials or politicians.
6. **Lack of Strict and fast punishments:** Even if someone is found guilty or even caught red-handed by the anti-corruption officials or media, the convicts get less punishment. First, they will be suspended for a few months or weeks and then re-posted to another location with the same Job grade and pay. So this means the official who did the corrupt practice is given a free license to continue his practice.
7. If the government is so strict that any such corrupt incidents will lead to permanent removal from the job and also punishment like several years' imprisonment, then the corruption will come down to a large extent.
8. **Lack of fear of bad reputation:** If a person is corrupt or has done some unacceptable misconduct, they have to be avoided and not be respected. But currently, those with corruption and other offense-related history are given prominent positions like members of parliament or even higher posts. Instead of being disrespected, they are respected.
9. **Lack of Public Unity:** The public openly criticizes corruption, but interestingly there is no unity among the public to stop corruption. If a person wants to get his done his work, he gets it done by corruption means if possible and then later criticizes the corrupt official. If the public stands united against corruption so that no one is ready to offer bribes to get their work done, then the corrupt officials will have no other option but to work in a corruption-free manner. During the election, politicians try to lure the people by offering money and other things. If these politicians win and get power, they try to regain 10 to 100 times the amount spent in the process.⁴
10. **Lack of transparency in affairs and deals:** Many seat selection processes like in education, contracts for the job, employee income reports (wealth possession), etc., lack transparency.
11. **Lack of Independent detective agency:** Lack of an independent detective agency to investigate with full power and freedom to expose the corrupt individuals. The existing agencies are under the control of either the government or the armies and are not free to work. Hence anyone who commits offense will not be afraid of the investigation as they can escape from it by taking the help of those controlling them.
12. **Lack of state funding for elections:** State funding for polls is the best way to beat corruption. Political parties receive party donations and will not disclose them to the fullest. In doing so, they encourage corruption.
13. They collect massive amounts from industrialists with a promise to help when in power. The presence of state funding can abolish party donations and minimize corruption.
14. **The option of many political parties:** In a democracy, anyone can establish a political party. So there are chances for the corruption of many political parties in the country.
15. If a political party wins, then the party members will desire to expand the party all over the country. To do so, they need enough financial reserves. Once they come into power, they opt for corrupt means to make the wealth needed to expand the party.
16. **Lack of enough powers to the judicial system:** and other independent organizations. Like the election commission cannot ban a politician from contesting in case they make a mistake or do not comply with the rules during the poll campaign (like distributing money to people etc.). Similarly, **the judicial system has low options to punish someone who is found to be**
17. **Lack of accountability:** In government, there is a big trend in corruption. This is because of a lack of accountability. The employees in government offices do not perform to their par excellence. If they have 100 files to be cleared in a week, they may not even clear 50 of them in that week. They tend to postpone the clearance of the files. So those who are in the urgency of the clearance have to get them done by rewarding the officials involved in the clearance office. This lack of accountability in government offices is the chief cause of corruption. If there is a mandate that all the files or at least 95% of files received by government offices for clearance are cleared in the said period, then corruption can be minimized to a large extent.⁵
18. **Encouragement of unhealthy competition:** Competition in business is a good sign for the quality of service to be delivered. But in developing nations, there is an encouragement of unhealthy competition. When there is a tender, you can notice that only a few companies bid for it. This is because the companies having political relations have higher chances of winning while others do not. So, companies with no political influence will not bid for the tender in spite of being a good company. That is where the number of bidders for a tender will be low due to political interference.

Tolerance of people towards corruption is a big reason for corruption in India. Lack of effective leadership in India.



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IMPACT OF CORRUPTION

Consequences of corruption: Loss of national wealth, Hindrance and obstruction in development, Backwardness, Poverty, Authority and power in wrong hands, Brain drain, Rise in terrorism and crimes, Rise in suicide cases, psychological and social disorders⁶

Rise in suicide cases: Many sarada agents and investors suicided when Sarada scam came to publish. Some agents compel to suicide when they fail to pay the investors' proposed money and investors had suicide they lost all for cheat. Many educated youths who gave bribery for job, but when they did not get job and lost their money, they commit suicide.

Authority and power in wrong hands: We have seen major corruption are occurred in governmental appointment in India. Unfit and unqualified men are appointed in different post, they could not do well and satisfactory work. In recent, we find that, many political parties take huge money to get nomination ticket in assembly, lok Sabha, even municipal and panchayat election. Qualified and honest men unable to get chance in election and job. Now days politics is a profitable job, political workers want to elected as a representative. If one who get a chance, he will earn huge money in unfair way. Meritorious youth cannot get opportunity of job; they go to abroad for searching job. In this way we are losing human resources.

Rise in terrorism and crimes: Corruption breed corruption. Corruption spoil rule of law of a country. Corruption has been increasing terror and crimes in our society. when men do not get justice and proper treatment from the Government, then so many persons chose terror and unfair mean to fulfill their aims and desire. In this way corruption creates corruption in our society.

But black money is generated through corruption. Its black money is like oxygen for the corruption. According to an international report the much more amount of black money deposited in the foreign banks. If it money will be taken reverse in India than all the foreign debt can be removed and after the much will be keep out that about 20000/-rupees gain by every Indian or if all the black money will be taken reverse than the budget of India can be made without any tax for next 30 years. This black money is destroying our democratic system.⁷

Politically, corruption increase injustice and disregard for rule or law. Basic human right and freedom comes under threat. as key judicial decisions are based on the extent of corrupt bribes given to court officials rather than on the innocence or guilt of the parties concerned. Police investigations and arrests may be based on political victimization or personal vendettas rather than on solid legal grounds. Commenting on the socio – political consequence of corruption the supreme court of India observed that corruption in a civilized society was a disease like cancer. If not detected in time it was sure to turn the polity malignant leading to “disastrous consequences.”

Remedial Measures of Corruption: How can we cure corruption in India. We can suggest some initiative to prevent the corruption. Such as (i) Give good salary to Governmental Employees (ii) Bring transparency in Indian Economic; (iii) Try to make Indian society cashless (iv) More number of online transactions and provide bill for every transactions. (v) Bring Political parties under RTI. (vi) Set Eligibility for Indian politician (vii) Increase in Digital and E-Governance. (viii) Transparent Tax structure by clean and clean enforcement (ix) More police reforms and powerful judiciary (x) speed up the judgement and increase the courts. (xi) Bring more transparency in Govt. Job recruitment.

The Central Vigilance Commission though created in 1964, became an independent statutory body only in 2003 by an Act of parliament based on a judgement of the supreme court. Its mandate is to oversee the vigilance administration and to advice and assist the executive in matters relating to corruption. It investigates cases of corruption arising out of complaints or detection by vigilance wings in the various departments and recommends punishment wherever required. It is then for the executive to punish the individual official.

Anti-corruption efforts were so far focussed only on enforcement wherein it was assumed that strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws and punishing the corrupt public servants will have a serious deterrent effect. This approach has not been effective because of the cumbersome process involved in punishing the errant and the deterrent effect is lost due to delay and dilution of punishment. Therefore, having realised the shortcoming of an enforcement focussed strategy, the Central Vigilance Commission is now proposing to lay greater emphasis on prevention and education and generation of awareness among the people as a more effective and sustainable means of fighting corruption. We plan to develop a sound preventive vigilance framework which would enable organisations to assess the risk of corruption and take steps to correct the policies, procedures and systems and strengthen their internal controls to eliminate the scope for corruption in the first place.



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One of the preventive strategies successfully deployed by the CVC is the leveraging of technology to combat corruption, by persuading organisations to adopt IT and automate the activities and process vulnerable to corruption. The results of this exercise have been encouraging and our efforts been internationally recognised.

Conclusion

Corruption is a cancer, which every Indian must strike to cure. Many new leaders 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 dealing. This is because these kinds of people have no moral accountability to anybody or about society or nation. There are many myths about corruption which have to be exploded if we really want to combat it. Public awareness is must to combat corruption in India, for this it should be must to improve our education system because education is the best mean to understand fundamental rights and Right – Wrong conversation. Corruption can be remed if people can understand and start to believe the value of ethics and morality in their life. The role of the politician should be minimized. Application of the evolved policies should be left in the hands of an independent commission or authority in each area of public interest. The decision of the commission or authority should be challenged only in the courts. Cooperation of the people has to be obtained for successfully containing corruption. People should have a right to recall the elected representatives if they see them becoming indifferent to the electorate. Funding of elections is at the core of political corruption. Electoral reforms are crucial in this regard. Several reforms like 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. Responsiveness, accountability and transparency are a must for a clean system. Bureaucracy, the backbone of good governance, should be made more citizen-friendly, accountable, ethical and transparent. More and more courts should be opened for speedy and inexpensive justice so that cases don't linger in courts for years and justice is delivered on time. Local bodies, independent of the government, like Lok pals, Lok adalats and vigilance commissions should be formed to provide speedy justice with low expenses. The Strongest lokpal is must to remed corruption in India.

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