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Corruption in India

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Abstract

Corruption is exploitation of others for the self-interest of one or more individuals which produces bad impacts on the society and hinders its progress. Its different forms are bribery, patronage, embezzlement, abuse of power, receiving or asking for money, property, services, sexual behavior etc. Corruption is not a new phenomenon of the present societies. Corruption has been present since the beginning of time, but its volume and areas are increasing rapidly now.

Corruption can be of different types:

- Large-scale: Srilankan case with huge external debt.
- Medium-scale: Indian 2G spectrum case.
- Micro-scale: Paying money to government officials or political power-holders to get

A job done. Corruption is present government departments of administration and judiciary, party-in-power, private organizations, industries and NGOs. Corruption is an easy practice by individuals to achieve their desired goals. It increases inequality in the society, hinders economic and social progress of the society and damages the reputation of a country. Rampant corruption leads to the collapse of the state. A corruption-free state reaches the peak of prosperity in all fields quickly. If we want to avoid corruption, we have to bring back social values like truthfulness, sincerity and honesty.

Keywords: Corruption, government officials, government departments of administration and judiciary, party in power, bribery, money, property, greed, jealousy, ambition, private corruption, common people, economic prosperity, social values

Introduction

Exploiting or harming others only for self-interest or self-interest of a few individuals which has an unprecedented impact on the society and hinders the progress of the society is considered as corruption. It is dishonesty or fraud conducted by those in power, typically involving bribery, financial embezzlement, abuse of administrative power, taking the rights of movable and immovable property of others etc. Corruption is not a word that has emerged up today; it has been present in human society since the beginning of time. We also find references to corruption in earlier poems and epics. From this it can be said that the origin of corruption is not the creation of the present generation, but the present generation is the carrier of which we get examples as different times and as different places. When we go out to the market, we have to face irregular vehicle fare, variation in prices of daily items and personal pricing. Therefore I am discussing the corruption at present situation in India.

Classification of Corruption

Corruption can be defined and categorized in different ways. Corruption can include bribery, lobbying, extortion, nepotism, parochialism, patronage etc. Receiving, asking for or giving any gratification to induce a person to do a favour are corrupt intent. There are many types of gratifications, including money, property, sexual favours, services, promises etc.

Man-made corruption can be of different types – namely large-scale, medium-scale and micro-scale. When the directors or group of directors of a state over-apply any philanthropic policy of the said state or change the policy for their own interests, it becomes corrupt on a large scale. The corrupt director or group of directors often takes large amounts of foreign debt to prolong their existence, and the common people of the country suffer the consequences. We can take the example of Sri-Lanka, whose current situation is well known. Sri Lanka's external debt was 64.2% of its GDP in 2021, which currently stands at 119% ^[1]. Similarly we can mention Pakistan. On 20 August 2018, Imran Khan (Imran Khan Niazi) was sworn in as the PM of Pakistan (Political Party – Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf [PTI]) and gradually fell into debt.

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As a result, the prices of daily commodities in the country increased enormously ^[2].

Medium-scale corruption means, when a high-ranking government official and political leader commits large-scale financial fraud in exchange for money or property and gives unjust favor to some. Also, when a company takes a large amount of loan from the bank but does not repay it, it is also considered as medium-scale corruption. For example –

- 1) India's 2G spectrum case. When private officials of India's United Progressive Alliance and politicians of the coalition government facilitated the sale or allocation of the 122's 2G spectrum licenses to a certain telecom company, this resulted in a loss of ₹1,760 billion (US\$25 billion) to our country (India) ^[3].
- 2) United Spirit, the owner of Kingfisher, whose chairman is Vijay Mallya, borrowed ₹9,000 crore from 17 Indian banks and left India on March 9, 2016 without repaying it ^[4].
- 3) The ₹10,000 crore of Punjab National Bank scam in which the main accused were Jeweler and Designer Nirav Modi, his uncle Mehul Choksi and other relatives and some Punjab National Bank (PNB) employees. Days before the scandal broke; Nirav Modi and his relatives fled from India in early 2018. The PNB scam has been called the biggest fraud in Indian banking history ^[5].

Currently the SSC and Primary scams are particularly notable among government jobs in West Bengal, India ^[6]; we can say the corruption is micro-scale corruption. Micro-scale corruption also includes financial transactions which are connected with providing various government or private jobs, with exchange of money or property giving contract work to a person, exporting and importing goods without paying excise duty to the government, dealing in stone & sand without the government's permission etc. are also included in Micro-scale corruption. Today, despite being educated and aware, we pay bribes to officials of various departments and political power holders in the hope of getting government jobs, thereby depriving one individual of his rightful job. Again, when a contractor starts a construction or road construction work, he has to pay money to various leaders and gangsters, as a result of which there is negligence in the completion of the said construction work. Within a short time the said work gets damaged. As a result, after some time, the government has to issue a new tender for the work. Due to these corruptions, social inequality is created in the country.

Significance

If one person is more wealthy and powerful than the other persons, then the first person starts comparing himself with the second person and then jealousy arises in the first person. As a result, the first person may expect to be more powerful and valuable than the second person. But not being able to achieve it in an easy way, the said first person may start to adopt the path of corruption. That denotes personal ambition, lust for small amount of property, lack of education, lack of responsibility towards society, lack of financial acumen etc. In a group that chooses the path of corruption. Again, the cause of unemployment among a class of people in the society can also be the main cause of corruption. Caste disparity in the workplace, level of work and disparity in pay can also lead to corruption among

working people. Sometimes the lack of proper policy against corruption in the government or administration also becomes the cause of corruption. But corruption does not only occur in the government sector, corruption also occurs in private organizations, industries and NGOs. Among various forms of corruption, the standard of judicial corruption is now widely reflected in the public arena. In any case pending in court, the party who has less power and money may feel helpless. With money i.e. bribes, all the evidences disappear, as a result of which the real culprit remains elusive. And many times the guilty person is not punished and the innocent person suffers the punishment. In the political field we see politicians misusing the power given to them by the public through extortion, bribery, cut-money etc. for personal gain. They even buy people's votes in exchange of huge amount of money to win votes. Seeded leaders or M.P.'s, MLA's, Pradhan's, lure members towards them for money and if not successful in this they intimidate and harm the common people through goons. As a result, during the voting times, not only some party people but also people at various positions involved in the work of polling disrupt the smooth conduct of the polls by intimidation. Corruption in the field of education has taken a huge form today. There is a lack of transparency in admissions to colleges and universities. There, the less qualified students get admission in the said colleges and universities leaving more qualified students behind due to their poverty and lack of money. The health sector is also not immune from corruption. Advanced medical treatment requires huge sums of money which the general public cannot afford. And where treatment is possible at a low cost there the wealthy already occupy the Bed. As a result, the poor people have to face death without treatment and due to lack of proper treatment.

Corruption has serious repercussions. If allowed to take roots in society, it can lead to a breakdown in social order and the lives of the people are affected when ordinary people are prevented from all essential services they are entitled to. Every form of corruption is bad for economic growth, social discipline and reputation of a country. Corruption has a devastating impact on the economy of any country. If the amount of corruption is very high, then the corrupt state collapses. A country's economic and social status and progress depends on its anti-corruption policy. Due to rampant corruption, proper taxes are not deposited in the exchequer and the citizens of the country continue to evade taxes. The country's financial progress depends on the collection of people's taxes and this is hampered by corruption. Any fraud in the crude oil sector, petroleum products, gas, etc. affects the country's products and production. If the price of raw-materials is high, the price of the manufactured product is also high. Again, if the imported goods are not properly evaluated and brought to the market, it reduces the quality of the product in the market. Due to these reasons people's income is reduced and hence they are unable to pay taxes. All these result in the country's GDP and have a huge impact on the budget of the country. This hinders the preparation of the country's budget. It is essential to build a corruption free society for the overall development of the country.

In recent times, if we want to avoid corruption, we have to remove ambition, greed, jealousy etc. from ourselves. Where there is a high incidence of corruption, repeated inspections by the administrative or anti-corruption bureau

should be carried out so that the effects of corruption start to decrease gradually. In cases where work is done by bribery, there should be opposition to it and no bribery should be given and resort to RTI should be taken. High ranking employees working in any government organization i.e. Land Registry Office, RTO Office, PWD Office, BLRO Office, BDO Office, Collector Office etc. should be well-behaved, so that the general public is not afraid to file their complaints. All kinds of government tenders need to be distributed properly so that financial complications do not arise. In these cases, not only government employees or officials should be active, political parties should also participate with them. Political leaders must be aware of these cases. If a political party abuses its power, it should be pointed out to the upper level of the political party.

Conclusion

Various forums should be organized where various forms of corruption can be exposed to the public through criticism and debate. News organizations should broadcast all types of corruption to the public either live or on the record. As a result, people and corrupt individuals or groups become cautious. In this way the impact of corruption in the society will begin to decrease and eventually we will become a corruption free state. A corruption free-state reaches the peak of prosperity very quickly. And in a developed country, the standards of education, science, economics, medicine, skills, employment etc. are very high which benefits the common people widely.

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