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## Corruption and human rights violations in India: Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

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### Abstract

Corruption is commonly perceived as a social and economic issue; however, it is inextricably linked to grave violations of human rights. Given the interrelated nature of these challenges, it is imperative to analyze them in conjunction and to formulate comprehensive strategies that address their root causes in a mutually strengthening manner. This paper aims to explore the interconnection between corruption and human rights violations within the Indian context. It conceptualized the dynamics of this nexus through various theoretical frameworks, empirical data from 2016-21 and 2024, and the resulting consequences.

**Keywords:** Corruption, human rights, institutional theory, social exclusion theory, principal-agent theory, modernisation theory

### Introduction

This chapter develops a conceptual and theoretical framework to explore the mechanisms through which corruption intensifies human rights abuses. I have explored some theories of corruption and tried to explain how they directly or indirectly undermine human rights. India is committed to the principles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which are reflected in the fundamental rights enshrined in its constitution <sup>[12]</sup>. India has always supported, protected, and promoted the ideas of human rights as the biggest democracy in the world. It is also the responsibility of the world's most populous country to check its cases of human rights violations and be at the forefront of protecting them from violations. India is a respected member of the United Nations and seeks permanent membership in its Security Council to become an elite member. Cases of human rights violations in India and its rating in this matter are a matter of concern for the future of the country.

### Defining Human Rights

Human rights are the basic freedoms and conditions that everyone deserves simply because they are human, regardless of their identity. These rights are natural, inalienable, interconnected, and, in ideal circumstances, equal, though some scholars prioritize certain rights, such as the right to life, over others. For someone to fully enjoy their human rights, others in society must respect these rights, as their actions can affect how those rights are experienced. Thus, each individual's rights are equally important. Every state is expected to protect and promote these rights. Now, since the responsibility of protecting human rights has been given to the states, every state must not only protect human rights but also promote and enhance them throughout the world and ensure their protection in its constitution.

According to the International Justice Resource Centre, human rights encompass the fundamental activities, conditions, and freedoms that every person is entitled to simply because they are human, covering civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights <sup>[1]</sup>. Gewirth argues that human rights are indispensable conditions for a life with basic freedom and well-being as core components <sup>[3]</sup>. Griffin views human rights as fundamentally moral rights <sup>[2]</sup>. The 30 rights in the UDHR are organized sequentially, starting with fundamental rights, followed by civil and political rights, and concluding with economic, social, and cultural rights <sup>[12]</sup>.

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**Table 1:** All 30 articles of the universal declaration of human rights (UDHR)

<p>Article 1: All people are born free and equal.</p> <p>Article 2: Right to everyone regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, opinions, origins, wealth, or status.</p> <p>Article 3: Right to life and freedom.</p> <p>Article 4: Right against slavery.</p> <p>Article 5: Right against torture, cruel treatment.</p> <p>Article 6: Right of recognition as a person under the law.</p> <p>Article 7: Equality before the law and protection from discrimination.</p> <p>Article 8: Right to justice through courts.</p> <p>Article 9: No arrest, detention, or exile without reason.</p> <p>Article 10: Fair, public, and impartial trial by court.</p> <p>Article 11: People are innocent until proven guilty, No punishment for actions that weren't crimes when committed.</p> <p>Article 12: Legal protection of privacy.</p> <p>Article 13: Free movement within the country.</p> <p>Article 14: Seeking asylum from persecution, This doesn't apply to non-political crimes or acts against UN principles.</p> <p>Article 15: Right to a nationality, No unfair stripping of nationality.</p> <p>Article 16: Right to marry and start a family, Mutual consent in marriage and protection of families.</p> <p>Article 17: Right to property, alone or with others.</p> <p>Article 18: Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion and beliefs.</p> <p>Article 19: Right to freely hold and share opinions and ideas through any media.</p>	<p>Article 20: Right to Gather peacefully and form groups.</p> <p>Article 21: Right to participate in government, Equal access to public services and the right to vote in fair elections.</p> <p>Article 22: Right to social security. Economic, social, and cultural rights for a dignified life.</p> <p>Article 23: Right to work, choose a job, and enjoy fair conditions and equal pay, Right to join trade unions.</p> <p>Article 24: Right to rest, reasonable work hours, and paid holidays.</p> <p>Article 25: Right to a decent standard of living, including food, housing, and medical care, Right to Mothers and children for special care; all children have equal rights.</p> <p>Article 26: Right to free basic education, Promotion of human development, tolerance, and peace through education, Parents can choose their children's education.</p> <p>Article 27: Right to cultural life, arts, and scientific progress, Rights to work benefits.</p> <p>Article 28: Global system for fulfillment of rights.</p> <p>Article 29: Rights can be limited by law to respect others and maintain order. Rights must align with UN principles.</p> <p>Article 30: Nothing in this declaration allows actions that destroy these rights.</p>
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### Concerning basic human rights

In December 1966, the UN General Assembly adopted two key treaties advancing international human rights: The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), commonly known as the International Covenants. Together with the UDHR, these covenants form the International Bill of Human Rights <sup>[17]</sup>. India has signed and ratified numerous treaties stemming from the UDHR. For example, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by India on 11 Dec 1992, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ratified by India on 09 Jul 1993 <sup>[4]</sup>. India is a signatory to and has ratified both the ICESCR (ratified on 10 Apr 1979) and ICCPR (ratified on 10 Apr 1979) <sup>[4]</sup>. Some Key rights are:

#### ICCPR

- Freedom from discrimination
- Right to equality between men and women
- Right to life
- Freedom from torture
- Freedom from slavery
- Right to liberty and security of a person
- Right to be treated with humanity in detention
- Freedom of movement
- Right to a fair trial
- Freedom of religion and belief
- Freedom of expression
- Right of peaceful assembly
- Freedom of association
- Right to equality before the law
- Minority rights

#### ICESCR

- Freedom from discrimination
- Right to equality between men and women
- Right to just and favorable conditions at work

- Right to an adequate standard of living
- Right to health
- Right to education

It is the responsibility of states to respect, protect, and fulfill these rights <sup>[17]</sup>.

### The interplay of corruption and human rights violations

Corruption and human rights violation cases should be understood together and not separately. Because corruption both intensifies and reproduces patterns of human rights violations. Corruption and human rights violations operate through three primary channels: • Institutional Betrayal: The 2020 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report provides statistics on custodial deaths. Between 2000 and 2020, 1,888 custodial deaths were recorded across India. Of these, cases were filed against police in 893 instances, but only 358 officers were charge-sheeted, and just 26 were convicted. Between 2010 and 2020, 69% of deaths in police custody were related to illness (40%) or suicide (29%). In the financial year 2021-22, 2,152 individuals died in judicial custody, and 155 died in police custody <sup>[5]</sup>. These cases violate the fundamental right to life, with the state, which is supposed to protect individuals' lives, acting as perpetrators, representing institutional betrayal. The cases of custodial death in India clearly show that the state, which has been given the responsibility to protect human rights and not let them be violated, snatches away the first and most important right of the individual, which is the right to life. The state is an institution whose responsibility is to protect human rights. If any person's life is lost in any institution related to the state, then the state bears primary responsibility under constitutional and international human rights obligations.

Resource Misallocation: Resource misallocation means that the state is not able to provide help to the desired people. If the people to whom the help or resources are to be provided are unable to access the resources, then the state has failed to do its job. In such a situation, it is proven that due to corruption, the specific help is not able to reach the poor and

backward people. Due to this, their lives are put in danger where human rights are limited, and they are also put in danger. There is a huge section of poor people in India who survive only with the help of the state. If help does not reach them, they can die due to starvation and lack of resources. This is a violation of the right to life, the right to live in a clean and healthy environment, and also the right to a dignified life. Help should be provided directly to these designated people, with no role of any middleman, because this increases the possibility of corruption. Embezzlement in welfare programs, such as high levels of leakage (estimated at around 40%) in the Public Distribution System (PDS), deprives Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) of food security <sup>[6]</sup>. Evidence indicates substantial resource misallocation in India, driven by distortionary policies and structural barriers. Hsieh and Klenow (2009) found significant misallocation in India compared to the United States, estimating that aligning with US efficiency levels could boost India's manufacturing productivity by 40-60% <sup>[7]</sup>. Wei (2000) notes that research shows that higher corruption in a country leads to slower economic growth. Corruption hampers development by discouraging investment and distorting public expenditure <sup>[8]</sup>. Due to corruption, not only is the development of an individual limited, but also the development of the entire society and country is limited. This tarnishes the image of the state, and people's trust in the state begins to weaken. This weakened trust shakes the foundations of democracy.

**Judicial Corruption and Denial of Justice:** It is the duty of the judiciary to protect justice. If corruption increases in the judiciary itself, under such conditions, the delivery of impartial justice becomes structurally constrained. The foundation of any state is the trust of the people. In democratic countries, the judiciary plays a very important role. The judiciary not only protects laws but also interprets laws. Its job is to deliver justice after interpreting the law. If there is corruption in the judiciary in any country, then it is a denial of justice by the state. In a state where justice cannot be expected, that state loses its basis. A 2005 survey by Transparency International India and the Centre for Media Studies found the police, land administration, and lower judiciary to be India's most corrupt public sectors. Nationally, 47% of respondents reported bribing lower judiciary officials, and 81% perceived the lower judiciary as corrupt <sup>[9]</sup>. Bribery and nepotism exclude marginalized groups from legal recourse, with over 50 million pending court cases in 2024 exacerbating delays <sup>[10]</sup>. Adjudicatory corruption occurs when judges improperly decide cases due to bribes or political influence, such as pressure from ministers or bureaucrats through threats of transfers or smear campaigns, while administrative corruption involves organizational abuses like appointing relatives as court officials <sup>[9]</sup>. The various forms of corruption in the judiciary show that sometimes corruption may not be prominently visible, but it continues to take root secretly. It becomes even more difficult to detect such cases of corruption where it is not clearly visible. This is a violation of the right to a fair trial and a violation of the right to justice by the court.

### Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework integrates four complementary perspectives to analyze the corruption-human rights nexus, each offering unique insights into structural and social dynamics.

### Institutional Theory

As explained by Douglass North (1990), institutional theory proposes that societal outcomes are shaped by the rules, norms, and practices of institutions <sup>[11]</sup>. Institutions determine human behaviour in interaction and the way they make decisions. Various Formal and informal rules determine economic activities and also the level of corruption in a society. To understand corruption, it is necessary to understand the way institutions work because these institutions keep evolving and do not remain static. North's theory helps us to understand the cases of corruption in developing nations and their causes. Institutional environment is composed of three elements, i.e., transparency, fairness, and complexity. Transparency means transparency and openness in working, and a correct and proper understanding of the rules. Luo (2005) believes that if the rules and regulations are not clearly defined, then the officers get the freedom to manipulate them, and they take advantage of this to take care of their own interests. Such vague rules expose the weaknesses of institutions and provide opportunities to exploit them <sup>[23]</sup>. Fairness means rules that can be applied fairly and justly. These rules are clear and give satisfactory results. Complexity, on the other hand, is a system of rules and socio-cultural environments that are difficult to understand, which is why people indulge in corrupt practices. According to Tolbert and Zucker (1996), individuals accept and follow social norms unquestioningly, without any critical reflection or resistance, according to their self-interest <sup>[25]</sup>. For instance, a corrupt environment leads individuals to behave corruptly as they consider it a common behaviour or they have normalized it to an elevated level. According to Luo (2005), in the institutional model, the task environment and institutional environment will affect individuals in an organization to perform deceptive acts (unlawful behaviour). Behavioural misconduct could lead to the development of a lack of focus and undesirable outcomes. This could result in a weak organization that is unable to respond to environmental change <sup>[23]</sup>. Due to the weakness of institutions, cases of human rights violations increase, and the hope of justice diminishes. When public institutions prioritize self-preservation over accountability, they erode their normative legitimacy and undermine rights protection. Not only do the officials sitting in the institutions fall prey to corruption, but the whole structure of the institution itself becomes full of corruption and loses its real purpose. Such institutions do not give importance to human rights and do not value them properly. Corruption, alongside tendencies like laziness or seeking leisure, is viewed as part of rent-seeking behavior in public life, where individuals exploit their positions for personal gain <sup>[22]</sup>. Using a government position for personal gain is a common form of corruption. This rent-seeking behaviour reflects the weakness of institutions. By misusing the authorized position and the powers attached to it, corruption weakens the public institutions and reduces their functioning and efficiency. Institutional economics of corruption shows how bribery undermines the efficiency and fairness of public sector activities.

### Social Exclusion Theory

Social exclusion theory, developed by Amartya Sen (2000), examines how structural inequalities deny certain groups access to resources, rights, and opportunities <sup>[16]</sup>. According



to Levitas (2007), social exclusion is a complex process that denies people access to resources, rights, goods, services, and participation in society's economic, social, cultural, or political activities, reducing their quality of life and weakening society's fairness and unity <sup>[15]</sup>. Corruption drains resources from vulnerable families. Those who are unable to pay bribes are excluded from mainstream society. Poor people have no choice but to bribe officials. Fighting corruption is key to creating a fair society where everyone has equal opportunities and access to resources. Social exclusion theory highlights how people are locked out of mainstream society <sup>[16]</sup>. A person deprived of resources due to social exclusion not only gets isolated from the mainstream of society, but his prospects also diminish, and he gets trapped in the cycle of poverty forever. These people are unable to participate in social and economic activities. If the human rights of such people are violated, then there is no one to protect their interests because their value in society is almost negligible. In such a situation, it would not be wrong to say that these people not only face the worst form of corruption, but their human rights are also violated from time to time. The responsibility of protecting human rights lies with the state, but it too protects only its own interests and does not pay attention to those who have little participation in social, economic, political, and cultural life and are straying from the mainstream. Whenever the interests of the state conflict with the interests of such people, the state misuses its powers.

### Principal-Agent Theory

Agency theory, a key approach in corruption studies, focuses on the principal-agent problem, where the agent (e.g., a politician) has more information than the principal (e.g., voters). This information gap can lead to a unique trouble, where the agent acts in their interest, against the principal's wishes. Information asymmetry shifts effective power from the principal to the agent, limiting democratic oversight. The principal is unable to monitor the functioning of the agent. According to this theory, corruption arises due to the transfer of responsibility and inadequate monitoring. This generates a principal-agent relationship between the people and their representatives or between the taxpayers and the political elite. An agent responsible for certain tasks may profit from his position of power and knowledge. Thus, the agent may abuse his position for personal gain. Most commonly, agents decide to engage in corruption by comparing their expected income of being corrupt against the income of being honest <sup>[26]</sup>. In existing democratic countries where it is believed that the real power lies with the people, it is seen that people are actually unaware of what is happening in their country. Politicians take advantage of this lack of information and try to protect their interests. In reality, the power no longer remains in the hands of the people but goes into the hands of those who have been chosen to make decisions on their behalf. As Marquette and Peiffer argue in their critique of principal-agent approaches, there is a problem when the agent and principal have opposite interests or if the agent has more information than the principal <sup>[28]</sup>. It multiplies when the public is unable to monitor or hold public officials or politicians accountable. According to Klitgaard, problems arise when there are imbalances in accountability, discretion, and monopoly of services <sup>[27]</sup>. Barro (as cited in Alt & Lassen, 2003) explains that voters (principals) elect politicians (agents) to govern, but misaligned interests and

the agents' discretion make it hard for voters to control them. Corruption arises when principals struggle to monitor and regulate agents' actions, especially when agents have flexibility due to loose rules and asymmetric information <sup>[13]</sup>. For example, in India, around one-third of elected MPs in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections had criminal charges against them, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (2014). The report also notes that candidates with criminal cases were more likely to win (13%) compared to those without (5%) <sup>[14]</sup>. This reflects the helplessness of voters and their lack of control over the election system. In many cases, voters lack information, and in many cases, even when they are informed, they still lack choices. Lack of transparency in elections and governance is also a significant problem in India. Cases of human rights violations are most common in powerful and autocratic states where the general public lacks information.

### Modernization Theory

According to Samuel's theory of modernization, the process of modernization promotes corruption. Periods of rapid modernization are often associated with heightened corruption due to institutional lag and normative instability. Historically, all developed countries have gone through this process, and all developing countries are going through this process. Huntington writes: "Corruption in a modernizing society is thus in part not so much the result of the deviance of behavior from accepted norms as it is the deviance of norms from the established patterns of behavior" <sup>[19]</sup>. Due to major political upheavals and a change of power, different dimensions of corruption emerge, and their level keeps increasing. Modernization theory links corruption to underdevelopment, suggesting it stems from poorly functioning political systems that create incentives for misconduct. In underdeveloped societies with weak political institutions, corruption is often accepted as a common practice <sup>[19]</sup>. Raghuram G. Rajan, a professor of finance at the University of Chicago, states: "When the entire government structure sees that people are getting away with taking bribes and no one is getting punished, right down the line everyone starts trying to do it" <sup>[20]</sup>. In his book *Culture of Corruption in India*, Satishchander Yadav states that everyone is responsible for creating a culture of corruption because it involves two parties, i.e., a buyer and a seller. People offering bribes are a serious and consequential problem. Yadav explains that India's widespread corruption is sustained by a culture where nearly everyone participates, either by offering or accepting bribes. This culture continues because impunity allows corruption to go unchecked <sup>[29]</sup>. This normalization of corruption in India poses a serious threat to anti-corruption measures, as it does not conceive corruption as a serious problem but identifies it as a way of life. In this process of change of power and modernization, various consequences of corruption are seen. These are mostly seen in developing countries where, due to the process of development, human rights are violated and corruption increases. The price of modernization is often paid by those who are already deprived. This deprived society is the biggest victim of corruption. Due to corruption, their lives are in danger, and there is a lack of a healthy environment to live. The communities that are victims of exploitation are often unaware of the atrocities being committed against them. And this complicates the problem.

## Human Rights Issues in India

**Table 2:** Details of the last five years' perspectives on certain important parameters

S. No	Nature of Incident	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
1	Death in Police Encounter	169	155	156	112	82
2	Custodial Death (Judicial)	1,616	1,636	1,797	1,584	1,840
3	Custodial Death (Police)	145	146	136	112	100
4	Child Labour	50	46	76	66	64
5	Bonded Labour	240	210	355	404	361
6	Inaction by the State/Central Govt. Officials	13,578	9,982	10,929	8,268	3,092
7	Gang Rape	455	392	422	375	217
8	Rape	535	498	700	648	477
9	Children	1,211	906	1,340	1,019	538
10	Health	1,832	1,210	1,377	887	793
11	Jail	2,447	2,416	2,669	2,167	2,336
12	Police	27,845	26,391	27,491	16,286	13,023
13	Pollution/Ecology/Environment	446	403	471	458	358
14	Women	7,413	7,459	7,842	6,791	4,218
15	Defence Forces	72	103	98	94	65
16	Para-Military Forces	152	95	132	135	157
17	SC/ST/OBC	3,207	2,679	2,660	2,403	942
18	Manual Scavenging	14	14	17	27	22

**According to the National Human Rights Commission of India online complaint statistics, this data clearly highlights violations of several UDHR articles<sup>[18]</sup>**

- **Article 3 (Right to Life):** Custodial deaths and encounter deaths violate the right to life.
- **Article 4 (Right against Slavery):** Bonded labour breaches the ban on slavery. Bonded labour and manual scavenging persist despite legal bans, violating UDHR Article 4. Especially, manual scavenging is a violation of the right to a dignified life and an adequate standard of living
- **Article 5 (Right against Torture):** Custodial deaths often involve torture, as seen in NHRC reports of abuse in custody.
- **Article 7 (Equality Before the Law):** SC/ST/OBC cases indicate discrimination against marginalized groups.
- **Article 25 (Right to Health):** Health-related cases and pollution cases show violations of the right to a healthy standard of living.

According to NHRC, in the financial year starting April 2024, 4,829 cases have been registered; among those, 200 cases (new and old) were completed, and 12,170 cases (new and old) are still being processed<sup>[18]</sup>. The data shows the types of complaints the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India received in 2024. Out of a total of about 64,995 cases, the largest portion, 37.5% or 24,373 cases, falls under "Miscellaneous," which includes various human rights issues. The next biggest category is 19.7% (~12,804 cases), which is related to mafias and the underworld. Following that, 17% (~11,049 cases) are related to police, which may include extrajudicial harassment, custodial deaths, death in police encounters, and torture, and 10.6% (~6,889 cases) falls under the category of "other." Smaller portions include 6% (~3,900 cases) for atrocities against women. It should also be noted that women are a vulnerable group in India, and a lesser number of reported cases does not mean a lesser number of actual cases. 5.5% (~3,575 cases) are related to service matters, which include abuse of power, and 3.8% (~2,470 cases) are related to jail, which

include torture, inhumane treatment, denial of basic services, etc.<sup>[18]</sup>. According to data provided by the NHRC (National Human Rights Commission), death in judicial custody is a major human rights issue in India, which is very serious and persistent. The reasons for these deaths are often poor prison conditions, neglect, or abuse, and finally, the lack of transparency and minimal safety in prisons<sup>[18]</sup>.

### Corruption Amplifies Human Rights Violations in Four Key Ways

- **Denial of Justice:** Corrupt police and judicial systems delay or obstruct justice. Police corruption, such as demanding bribes to file FIRs or avoid torture, is a major driver of human rights violations. Systemic corruption in law enforcement, police, and prison officials often demands bribes to provide basic care or avoid torture, leading to deaths. Alleged fake encounters often involve corruption, where police stage killings to gain promotions or extort money, then bribe officials to avoid investigation. Bribes to delay or derail cases prevent victims from receiving justice<sup>[9]</sup>.
- **Health Deprivation:** Embezzlement in welfare schemes is a serious issue. Corruption diverts funds meant for public welfare, contributing to health problems and pollution hazards. Siphoning of funds may lead to health-related human rights violations involving the denial of adequate healthcare, poor living conditions, or negligence leading to health crises, often tied to UDHR Article 25 (Right to a Standard of Living Adequate for Health and Well-Being), which is often the case in jail and custodial deaths. Corruption in healthcare diverts funds meant for medical services, contributing to these violations<sup>[6]</sup>.
- **Economic Desperation:** Bonded labour and child labour violate UDHR Articles 4 and 23. These practices persist due to the economic desperation of capitalists who seek free and cheap labour. Often, these workers are trapped in debt bondage, and children are forced to work to support their families. Corrupt officials ignore these practices and also refuse to file complaints related to them. Even when the complaints are filed, the cases

are either settled due to pressure or dismissed due to lack of evidence because poor people are unable to hire a fancy team of lawyers. This perpetuates economic inequality and slavery. Environmental degradation involves violations of the right to a safe and healthy environment linked to UDHR Article 25 (Right to a Standard of Living Adequate for Health and Well-Being), as pollution and ecological degradation impact health and livelihoods. Pollution and ecological violations threaten public health on a mass level. Corruption exacerbates environmental issues by allowing industries to bypass regulations through bribes. Cases reported in NHRC arise from industrial pollution or government failure to enforce environmental laws<sup>[18]</sup>.

- **Gendered Injustice:** Corrupt law enforcement fails women, particularly from marginalized castes, in cases of sexual violence. Gender injustices impact women's health, as violence often leads to physical and mental trauma. Lack of access to medical care post-assault further complicates the problem. Women who experienced violence faced untreated health issues due to stigma and systemic neglect most of the time. Corruption exacerbates violence against women and children by allowing perpetrators to bribe officials to avoid prosecution. Women, children, and SC/ST/OBC communities face disproportionate violations due to corruption. Caste injustices limit economic opportunities, as seen in manual scavenging cases, a practice forced on Dalits due to a lack of alternatives. Marginalized caste groups are also disproportionately affected by environmental issues, such as living near polluted areas. The decline in cases may reflect underreporting, as victims often face bribe demands to file complaints<sup>[9]</sup>.
- **Inaction by state or central government officials:** State inaction motivated by corruption involves officials deliberately ignoring violations or delaying action in exchange for bribes, personal gain, or political motives, directly undermining human rights. State inaction is evident in the lack of systemic reforms, and corruption exacerbates this. Failure to act willingly or unwillingly is a matter of corrupt practice, which often leads to disastrous outcomes. Corruption contributes to the high number of "miscellaneous" human rights complaints in India. Officials often demand bribes to provide services like healthcare, welfare, or justice, leading to violations of rights<sup>[18]</sup>.

These impacts form a cycle of exclusion, further catalyzing human rights violations.

## Conclusion

When corruption is understood in relation to the problem of human rights violations, then we get to know from the data and the views and theories of different ideologues that the problem of corruption is not only a problem of human rights violations, but is also the root cause of human rights violations. Corruption increases the cases of human rights violations many times and complicates the problem. Corruption hampers the development of a person and makes them incapable of getting justice. It is important to understand the cases of human rights violations caused by corruption in a different way. If we go through the reports of

Transparency International and the reports of Human Rights Watch in India, we will see how corruption and human rights violations are interconnected. Creating a corruption-free society in existing democratic countries is very important to protect human rights. Particularly in states that constitutionally define themselves as democratic. After exploring the data, reports, and different theories and approaches of various scholars, it is evident that Human rights and corruption are closely intertwined and affect each other. Institutional Theory and Modernization Theory help in understanding corruption, especially in developing countries. Social exclusion theory reveals the unfair distribution of resources in society and how deprived communities are constantly exploited. Principal-Agent Theory helps develop the understanding of political corruption. The data obtained by NHRC clearly shows how big a problem human rights violations are in India. It is also worth noting here that not all cases of human rights violations are reported because, in many cases, the victim is not aware of their rights or the atrocities committed against them. In fact, in many cases, it has been seen that people considered corruption as an actual legal process, and they did not even know that they were involved in corruption or were providing bribes to corrupt officials. To stop the cases of corruption and human rights violations in India, strict laws and awareness in society are required.

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