



Corruption: Causes and its impact on society

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Abstract

Corruption is a disease, a cancer that eats into the cultural, political and economic fabric of society, and destroys the functioning of vital organs. Corruption is found almost everywhere, but it is stubbornly entrenched in the poor countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, it is widespread in Latin America, it is deep rooted in many of the newly industrialised countries, and it is reaching alarming proportions in several of the post-communist countries.

Corruption in India has become deep-rooted and is galloping unchecked and unhindered. Very often, we hear the top politicians at the centre and in the states talking of 'waging war against corruption', 'fighting the evil of corruption', 'no compromise on corruption', 'not to spare any corrupt person, howsoever high', yet it is well known how our country appears to be sinking deeper and deeper in corruption. There is little doubt that corruption in present-day India pervades all levels and all services, not even sparing the Indian Administrative Service and Judicial Service. The bureaucracy of the British India was considered to be largely untainted with corruption.

India's experience with corruption has shown that laws, rules, regulations, procedures and methods of transaction of government business, however sound and excellent cannot by themselves ensure effective and transparent administration if the political and administrative leadership entrusted with their enforcement fails to do so and abuses its powers for personal gain.

Keywords: Corruption, black money, scam, hawala, brain drain, accountability

Introduction

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The origin of word 'corruption' comes from the Latin terms *corruptus*, or *corrupter* which mean spoiled or break into pieces, accordingly. Corruption occurs at all levels of society and at all forms – public, private, locally, nationally and internationally. In an age of globalization, transactions often transcend national boundaries, which increase the opportunities for corruption. Nonetheless, an international definition of 'corruption' does not exist, as this would raise legal and political complications. Consequently, different interpretations of 'corruption' are given by multiple jurisdictions according to their own cultural conceptions.

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Definitions

According to Oxford Dictionary "perversion of destruction of integrity in discharge of public duties by bribery or favour is called corruption."

Encyclopedia Britannica says a corrupt practice "includes bribery; but has reference to the electoral systems".

The U. N. Convention against Corruption (General Assembly Resolution 58/4) defines "Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish".

The most popular and simplest definition of corruption is given by the World Bank. According to this definition corruption is the "abuse of public power for private benefit". From this definition it should not be concluded that corruption cannot exist within private sector activities.

Corruption in India

Acceptance of gifts and rewards for work done in an official capacity, or obtaining objects or advantages, illegally or fraudulent use of public property, acquiring financial resources more than one's income, abuse of public office, avoiding one's duty or avoiding payment of taxes are a few kinds of corruption prevalent in our society. Corruption is also at a high rate in departments like Defense, Communication, Public Works, Police, Excise and Revenue. Corruption in these departments is rampant at all levels from the highest to the lowest. The registered number of cases of corruption in India under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 varied from 300 to 500 between 1981 and 1987 but after the enforcement of 1988 Act, the number now varies between 1800 to 2000 annually.

In 2011 India was ranked 95th out of 178 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index vii, India is amongst the most corrupt countries of the world. India is worse than many countries in Asia and Africa such as Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Taiwan, Korea, Bhutan, and

China. In the world competitiveness scoreboard, which is the assessment of several factors, e.g. Government system, business efficiency, infrastructure, etc., it is dragging. On March 31, 2010 the Comptroller and Auditor general of India said that unutilized committed external assistance was of the order of Rs.1,05,339 crore.

Corruption is always contextual and rooted in a country 's policies, bureaucratic traditions, political development, and its social and cultural history. Still, corruption tends to flourish when policies are complicated, their implementation is weak, and the general public has no redressal mechanism. Almost all major scams of last six decades are a direct result of deficit in Governance by our corrupt Politicians and Bureaucrats. Following is a partial list of financial scandals since the economic liberalization of 1991-92. The total monetary worth of the Scam committed since 1992 in India is worth more than around Rs 1,00,00,000 crores (One Crore Crores). Needless to say, a lot of other scandals of probably smaller magnitude must have also taken place, but have gone unnoticed or unreported.

1. **Mega Black Money Laundering Scam Cost: Rs. 70,000 Crores Face of the Scam:** This scam of ultra-high magnitude came into lime light when Indian businessman was arrested on money laundering charges which was to the tune of Rs. 39,120 crores. The revelation about the huge sums of money being stashed away in Swiss banks underscored and exposed the problem that has been the focus of Baba Ramdev 's activities in recent years. The government is only now appearing to acknowledge that money laundering is a real problem.
2. **CWG Scam Cost: Rs. 70,000 crores Face of the Scam: Suresh Kalmadi:** Allegations of corruption over the 2010 Commonwealth games in Delhi are being investigated by several bodies including the CBI and a special committee set up by the Prime Minister. Allegations of corruption spanned a broad-spectrum including issuing of contracts and purchase of equipment – from treadmills to toilet rolls. The preparation for the sporting extravaganza consumed a huge sum of about Rs 70,000 crore. It was always in lime light for various allegations such as child labour, nepotism and favouritism, payment to non-existent parties, willful delays in execution of contracts, besides the highly inflated financial costs. Just imagine - liquid soap dispensers were rented for Rs 9,379 a piece, operating expenses escalated from Rs 399 crores in December 2002 to Rs 1,628 crores; finally, medical equipment including tread mills were brought or rented at way past the asking rate. Like any other scams in the past, the games scam involved a large network of politicians, bureaucrats and corporate acting in collusion. The chairman of the organizing committee, Suresh Kalmadi, and his aides are in jail and the investigation is going on. Delhi CM is also facing heat of adverse remarks in Shunglu committee 's report.
3. **2G Spectrum Scam Cost: Rs 176,000 crores Face of the Scam:** A. Raja & M. K. Kanimozhi Telecoms Minister Andimuthu Raja was sacked after a report by India's state auditor said his ministry sold licenses and spectrum below market prices, depriving the government of up to USD 39 billion in revenues. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) said rules were flouted in spectrum allocation in order to give benefits to several ineligible in 2007- 08. The heat of the investigation reached even the PMO which had to explain to the Supreme Court why PM sat on a request for permission to charge Raja with corruption. The CBI launched an investigation into alleged corruption at the ministry and arrested A Raja. The investigation is being carried out under direct supervision of the Supreme Court. Several telecom companies are also under CBI 's scanner. DMK MP Kanimozhi is also in Tihar jail and another DMK minister Dayanidhi Maran had to resign recently. Maran was under pressure to quit after CBI accused him of forcing the promoter of Chennai-based telecom company Aircel to sell his firm to a Malaysian company in 2006, when he was Telecom minister. The scam became bigger with new revelations of the involvement of politicians, bureaucrats, corporate personalities, media persons and lobbyists.
4. **Adarsh Housing Scam Cost: Rs 18,978 crores Face of the Scam:** Ashok Chavan and Politicians: -Adarsh Housing society scam is a typical example of nexus among politicians and bureaucrats, this time for land grab. Congress party politicians, bureaucrats and military officials have been accused of taking over land meant for building apartments for war widows. The CBI began investigating the case when pressure was mounted by opposition parties in Parliament. Local media say apartments with a value of USD 1.8 million were sold for as little as USD 130,000 each in the apartment block, which faces the Arabian Sea in one of the world's most expensive stretches of real estate in Mumbai so far only Maharashtra CM, Ashok Chavan, has been sacked and the CBI is probing for several violations of norms, including environmental laws and land-use rules. Some vital files related to the case have gone missing – typical of cases involving ruling politicians.
5. **Scorpene Submarine Scam Cost: Rs 18,978 crores Face of the Scam:** Ravi Shankaran Exposed in 2005, the Scorpene deal scam has gone down in history as one of India's largest bribery corruption scandals, in which Rs 500 crore is alleged to have been paid to government decision makers by Thales, the makers of the Scorpene submarine. The amount was channeled via middlemen such as Abhishek Verma. In the scandal, the prime accused, Ravi Shankaran was selling secret Navy documents to Thales. In 2005, the Indian government had approved the 19,000-crore submarine deal with the French company. The purchase of six Scorpion submarines cost the Indian government a lot more than its actual price. Scorpion submarines are now being built in India under a technology transfer agreement that was part of that contract.
6. **Stamp Paper Scam Cost: Rs 20,000 crores Face of the Scam:** Abdul Karim Telgi. The Stamp Paper scam was perhaps the most unusual scam in modern India. Abdul Karim Telgi, a former fruits and vegetables

- seller, duped the nation of crores of rupees by printing fake stamp papers. His counterfeiting career began with fabrication of fake passports after which he ventured into selling fake stamp papers to banks, insurance companies, foreign investors, share broking firms and bulk purchasers. His accomplices included police officers, government employees, and politicians. The swindle exceeded Rs 20,000 crore and covered 12 states. The Telgi scandal had political implications; a narco test allegedly revealed the involvement of Maharashtra's political heavy weights like Shard Pawar and Chhagan Bhujbal. Telgi was convicted in 2007 and sentenced to 13 years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 202 crores. Forty-two of his accomplices were also sentenced to six years rigorous imprisonment.
7. **Bofors Scam Cost: Rs. 400 million Face of the Scam:** Ottavio Quattrocchi. The Bofors case has been one of the highest-profile and longest-running criminal investigation in India. In the 1980's, the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and several other officials were accused of receiving kickbacks from Swedish arms manufacturer AB Bofors for winning a bid to supply India with 400 howitzers. The scale of the corruption was far worse than any that India had seen before, and directly led to the defeat of Gandhi's ruling Congress party in the November 1989 general elections. Top politicians like Rajiv Gandhi and S.K. Bhatnagar and high-profile names like Win Chadha and the Hinduja family were accused of "receiving kickbacks. Italian businessman Ottavio Quattro chi, was the prime accused in the scandal and was chased by the CBI for years. Its fallout stymied India's defence expansion for years, with officials unwilling to take decisions on purchases for fear of later being probed for corruption.
 8. **Fodder Scam Cost: Rs. 950 crores Face of the Scam:** Lalu Prasad Yadav Popularly known as —Chara Ghotlala, this is Bihar's most famous scam in recent years. For over two decades, the officials and politicians of the state colluded to embezzle funds worth Rs. 950 crores by fabricating vast herds of fictitious livestock for which fodder, medicines and animal husbandry equipment were acquired. The swindle allegedly involved chief ministers Jagannath Mishra and Lalu Prasad Yadav; the later also spent some time in jail. The case is still going on.
 9. **Hawala Scam Cost: Rs. 80 crores Face of the Scam:** L K Advani / P V Narsimha Rao The Hawala scam was a \$18 million bribery scandal and came in the open in 1996. It involved payments allegedly received by country 's leading politicians through hawala brokers. It was probably the first scam that gave the public an idea of the loot of national treasure at the hands of the top politicians. The scam revolved around the payment's politicians received from hawala brokers, who fund drugs and terrorism around the globe. Many prominent politicians like LK Advani, Arjun Singh, Yashwant Sinha, Kalanithi Roy, VC Shukla, Madhavrao Scindia, Sharad Yadav, Buta Singh, Natwar Singh and Madan Lal Khurana were indicted in this case, but no action was taken against them due to lack of hard evidence.
 - List of the accused included Lal Krishna Advani who was then the Leader of Opposition.
 10. **Satyam Scam Cost: Rs. 14,000 crores Face of the Scam:** B. Ramalinga Raju Exposure of the biggest corporate scam (at about USD 1 billion) led the founder Chairman of Satyam Computers, Ramalinga Raju to resign in Jan 2009 after admitting profits were falsely inflated for years. Raju admitted about \$1 billion, or 94 percent of the cash on the company's books was fictitious. "What started as a marginal gap between actual operating profits and the cash on the company's books was fictitious." What started as a marginal gap between actual operating profits and the one reflected in the books of accounts continued to grow over the years," said Raju. —It was dubbed "India's Enron". With clients abandoning it, shares were hammered down to near-penny-stock levels. The government stepped in to save the firm by appointing a new board of directors and orchestrated its sale to Mahindra group. The firm is now called Mahindra Satyam. Several officials were arrested along with Raju under various charges including fraud. The cases continue in court.
 11. **Stock Market Scam Cost: Rs. 3,500 crores Face of the Scam:** Harshad Mehta (Big Bull). Several Indian stockbrokers were accused of siphoning off over Rs 3,500 crores of funds, mostly from inter-bank transactions, to fuel a rise in the Mumbai stock market in 1992. It involved top officers of state-run and foreign banks and financial institutions, bureaucrats and politicians. Market crashed when the news of the scam broke out, wiping millions of dollars from market value. Harshad Mehta, the main accused, died in 2002. He was convicted in only one of the many cases filed against him, for misappropriation of funds. Several bank executives were convicted for fraud in allowing bank funds to be used for trading stocks.
 12. **Madhu Koda Scam Cost: Rs. 4,000 crores Face of the Scam:** Madhu Koda. In October 2009, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) charged former Jharkhand CM Madhu Koda with money laundering to the tune of over Rs 4,000 crore. Koda is accused of possessing assets disproportionate with his income and for alleged money laundering. Koda's declared assets in 2005 when he became Chief Minister of Jharkhand were just 12 lakhs. In less than four years he established a business empire that reached beyond India, to Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Dubai. His assets included hotels, three companies in Mumbai, property in Kolkata, a hotel in Thailand and a coal mine in Liberia. This one-time laborer has 1,800 bank accounts all over the globe. Investigators said that most of Koda's assets were held in the name of his main associates: Vinod Sinha of Chaibasa (Jharkhand) and Sanjay Chaudhary of Jamshedpur. Presently, Madu Koda is spending his time at the Birsa Munda Central Jail at Hotwar.
 13. **Cement Scam Cost: Rs. 30 crores Face of the Scam:** A R Antulay a R Antulay, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra was convicted of money extortion from the Mumbai builders in the form of donations to Indira

Gandhi Prasthan trust, one of several trust funds he had established and controlled, in exchange for receiving more cement than the quota allotted to them by the Government.

14. Mundra Scam (1957) Cost: Rs. 1.2 crores Face of the Scam: Mundra. This was the first high profile scandal where in 1957 a highly ambitious business, Haridas Mundra got the government-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to invest Rs. 1.24 crores in the shares of his six troubled companies: Richardson Cruddas, Jessops & Company, Smith Stanistreet, Osler Lamps, Angelo Brothers and British India Corporation. The investment decision had bypassed the LIC's investment committee, which was informed of this decision only after the deal had gone through. In the event, LIC lost most of the money. The irregularity was highlighted in 1958 by the son-in-law of Nehru, Feroze Gandhi of the Indian National Congress party, who represented the Rae Bareilly seat in the Parliament of India. It was a matter Nehru wished to handle quietly so that the government would not be shown in poor light. Incidentally, it was Feroze Gandhi's initiatives that led to the formation of LIC through the Life Insurance of India Act of 1956, under which 245 firms were nationalized and consolidated into LIC. The scandal also became high profile due to tense relation between Nehru and Feroze Gandhi. Mundra was sentenced to 22 years in prison. The case also compelled T.T. Krishnamacharya to resign as finance minister.

Causes of corruption

1. India was under the colonial rule of the British Empire for about 200 years, hence corruption has colonial legacy. The British rules started a new practice of "bakhshish" which subsequently got institutionalized and government functionaries started demanding it in advance for performing any public duty. The British government's officers were given too much power in order to control law and order, and rule and regulate the masses and their public activities. Permit and license raj started then and even for playing drama at a public place permission of police/magistrate was essential.
2. There has been a consistent decline in social and moral values in India. Due to the culture of consumerism prevailing in both rural and urban areas, often the people desire 'more' and 'faster' in the age of globalization, liberalization and privatization. In 1950's and 1960's both political leaders as well as bureaucrats had a sense of collective commitment for national reconstructions but it is no more visible these days due to too much individualistic interests in lieu of collective interests. Erosion of moral and social values is crystal clear in all walks of life and the breadth and length of corruption in social, economic and political arenas is drastically increasing.
3. Electoral politics also causes corruption. Over the years the overall expenditure by the candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections has increased manifold exceeding the ceiling fixed by Election Commission of India. This huge extra amount comes from black money, tax evasion, bribe, from people, businessmen, trades and industrialists. Business and politics have a strong and complex nexus. Niira Radia tapes have exposed the business-politics media nexus. Meghnad Desai thinks that the root cause of corruption in India is political control of allocation of goods; hence development is the only cure (Financial Express, 19 December 2010) Many people's representatives have downgraded the image of parliament as they have taken bribe for asking questions in the house! The gap between the people and their representatives has been widening day by day. Many MPs and MLAs have indulged in taking cuts in their local area development fund. During the last two decades local self-government has been given several financial and administrative powers but unfortunately corruption at local level of governance has also increased and so is the election expenditure. Discretionary quota of people's representatives and political executive is also linked to corruption.
4. The new processes of liberalization, privatization and globalization, have finally boosted the corrupt practices resulting into collusive corruption because many big private firms try their level best contracts/supply orders at any cost through illegal kickbacks to government officers/employees. Experience shows that bigger the source of funding, higher the level of corruption. That is, in case of funding by World Bank /IMF /Asian Bank, estimate is more inflated than in union government funded schemes and often estimates in Union government funded schemes which are more inflated government funded schemes. Inflated estimates mean sharing middlemen, executing agency, engineers, etc. Due to LPG often, a public opinion is manufactured that 'private is better', 'private is more efficient and faster', 'private is people friendly', etc. but in actual practice often privatization increases tariffs. For instance, in Delhi privatization of electricity supply has resulted into manifold electricity a tariff which has been questioned by many citizen and opposition leaders. As second administrative Reforms Commission rightly observes. "as the economy is freed from state controls, extortionary corruption declines and collusive corruption tends to increase." Actually, as Marxists point out, private property in a capitalist's system is the root cause of corruption by the ruling class.
5. One more cause is the increase in the number of deviant persons in a developing society who always pursue personal gains at the cost of public good. Deviance has links with scarcity of goods and services in the public sphere in comparison with the high demand. Unfortunately, due to loopholes in laws, cumbersome legal process of trial, delay in disposal, instinctively of the judiciary, ignorance as well as passivity of prosecution and investigation agency, apathy of mass media, lack of awareness of and proactive approach by the general public, cases of corruption are not quickly decided in a just and fair manner and hence often the accused got free. Thus, there is no, strong dent on corrupt practices in India.
6. As Lord Acton rightly says: "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." In India often, many government officers at different levels have more power than due; hence they abuse and misuse that power. For instance, a Station House Officer (SHO) of a police station has the power to register a criminal case; he often takes bribe to register FIR and does not

register if his palms are not greased. Again, he can arrest anybody under section 151 of Cr PC for 24 hours. Further, the investigation officers of a registered police case often take bribe to correctly investigate the case and records all the facts but spoil the case if the accused illegally pays a huge sum to him. The general public perception in India is that police and revenue departments are most corrupt in India. For instance, TII – CMS India corruption study (2007) found that people perception of corrupt in police service was 78% and their actual experience was 52%. Further people's perception of corruption in land records/registration was 69% while their actual experience is 36%³. Similarly, in the society as a whole due to cast, class and gender inequality, there exists most asymmetry of power, decentralization, and delegation of power to the three tier panchayats in India is merge despite the 73 and 74 Amendments to India Constitution because the funds, functions and functionaries have not been adequately transferred to Panchayats.

7. Another cause of corruption is the cumbersome rules, process and procedures of laws which are often archaic too. For instance, Official Secrets Act (1923) has still been in vogue for about a century with the colonial intent of punishing the government official may be official information to general public. Though government officials may be punished for spying, yet most of official information do not amount to spying and hence could be easily shared with people of India. But even after enactment of Right to Information Act (2005), the Official Secrets act has not been repealed – thus there still exists some kind of distrust of the people at large. When the distance and distrust between the government and the governed increases, there emerge several middlemen/agents who get even the genuine tasks done through bribe. Undoubtedly excessive state control as well as exclusive dominance of public sector in certain economic activities lead to corrupt practices.
8. People at large are unaware of many government decisions, policies, rules and regulations and therefore the public officials take undue benefit of such ignorance by charging illegally for different services. Further civil society has not developed enough pressure groups at different levels to resist illegal demands. Regarding house loan, car loan, or personal loan, often bank officials take a certain percentage of sanctioned loan amount as well as charge hidden processing fee/service charges, etc. as birth right, depriving the loanees of a huge sum illegally.

Consequences of Corruption

1. **Loss of National Wealth:** This is the greatest loss for the people of India. Since independence, India is showing tremendous growth in corruption (Jeep deal to 2 G spectrum scams). India lost billions and billions of dollars of money in various scams. Instead of becoming independent affluent nation. India is dependent on international loans, grants and favor due to this tremendous of wealth in corruption.
2. **Hindrance and Obstruction in Development:** Corruption is the only obstruction in the way towards development. We cannot become a developed and self-sufficient nation until corruption is not eradicated from

our country. Many developmental projects are taking unnecessary time for their completion due to corruption. Since, many officials consider these projects as special hens (hens which lay golden eggs every day). If project will get completed, these special hens will die. Hence, they take proper care of these hens.

3. **Backwardness:** Due to corruption, India is behind in almost every field-sports, inventions, health, medicine, research, education, economy, defense, infrastructure, technology and so on. Many scientists do not have latest equipment's and technology for research and development. Sportsmen do not have proper facilities, equipment's, coaching and training. There are scams and corruption in defense deals. Many doctors lack specialized and modern skills of treatment and diagnosis.
4. **Poverty:** Due to corruption, government is unable to eradicate poverty. Rich are becoming richer by snatching the rights and wealth of poor. Various packages, reservations and compensations for poor people, minorities and backward community are announced by government from time to time. But these disadvantaged sections of society hardly get any benefits. Since, affluent people freely consume benefits meant for poor.
5. **Authority and Power in Wrong Hands:** Ineligible and incapable candidates are selected for various important positions. They pay and get selected. Due to their inefficiency, there exist many faults and weaknesses in system and management. These faults get easily hidden through corruption. The deserving and creative candidates satisfy themselves with unsuitable jobs and positions.
6. **Brain Drain:** Corrupt employers and mediators offer jobs to unskilled and incapable candidates by taking bribe. They get their share of wealth. But nation loses its valuable share. Due to lack of good opportunities in India, many creative and talented Indian are serving developed nations. This is a tremendous loss for India. Since, we cannot become a developed nation without the contribution of talented and creative people.
7. **Rise in Terrorism and Crimes:** One of the reasons for rise in crimes in corruption in police administration. Police departments grant security and protection to the citizens. When this departments get engaged in corrupt activities. Then there is no control on crimes and brutal killings. Since, criminals are given freedom and victims are tortured. Besides, corruption also leads to injustice. Injustice gives birth to crimes and anti-social activities. Citizens take up arms for securing justice.
8. **Psychological and Social Disorders:** Due to corruption in judicial system and police administration. Culprits are left free and victims get punishments and injustice. Due to this injustice, many victims suffer from depression and serious psychological disorders. Many victims get frustrated with judicial system and develop feeling of revenge against culprits. As results, the victims become culprits by engaging themselves in

anti-social activities. It corrodes the healthy social fabric of nation.

Combating Corruption

Looking at the number of agencies created to tackle corruption, it is apparent that the government has been keen to eradicate this malady. Even before Independence, the colonial rulers had established the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) to control corruption which surged during the Second World War. The Prevention of Corruption Act was passed in 1947 (Ramakrishna 1997), and an Administrative Vigilance Division (AVD) created in the home ministry in 1955. Vigilance officers were appointed in each ministry to enquire into charges of corruption against employees in these organisations. Then, owing to mounting public criticism, a Committee on Prevention of Corruption was appointed in 1962 under K. Santhanam to examine this issue in depth and recommend remedial measures. As a result of its recommendations, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), independent of ministerial control was set up in 1964. Another important measure during the early decades was the creation of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 1963, which incorporated DSPE as the Investigation and Anti-Corruption Division (Gill 1998).

1. **Political Commitment:** This elaborate and multi-layered apparatus to control corruption could hardly make a dent on the situation because of lack of political commitment on the part of political leadership in the states and at the Centre. It is more than clear all these institutional arrangements to combat corruption can be useful only if correctives come from the political class which is the final legislative and executive authority in a parliamentary democracy. The waywardness of the politicians can be curbed only from within; there is no agency which can continuously impose probity from outside. Unless the politicians are made to differentiate private conscience from public morality, and personal profit from national interest, the ongoing unrestrained plunder of the exchequer cannot be stopped. The case of Bihar during the past decade shows that all anti-corruption instruments and strategies come to naught against a political leadership which has a vested interest in continuing corruption. Similarly, the spate of criminal cases in which a former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Jayalalitha, was herself involved shows that during her tenure political and administrative corruption could not have been checked effectively primarily because of the political patronage she had given to corrupt practices.
2. **Administrative Accountability:** Another essential component of anti-corruption strategy is the strict enforcement of the principle of accountability at all levels. In India the government performs vast functions over a wide range of areas of public concern. Decisions are taken at various levels of government in which discretionary power may be involved. The present situation is that there is general lack of accountability in administration. Almost everyone in the public services is accountable to no one and is considered above the law. Respect for the rule of law is woefully uncommon and it is often noticed that those who violate the law in

the most blatant fashion are the ones who get away the easiest. The judiciary has a key role in ensuring that political and administrative power is used only in accordance with law and everyone is held accountable for wrong doing or misuse of authority. Recent decisions given by the judiciary have created a hope for corrective action. The apex court and several high courts have upheld cases against political and administrative functionaries at the highest levels. The cases involving former chief ministers of Tamil Nadu and Bihar are illustrative of judicial activism that has come to the rescue of rule of law against the custodians of law themselves. The recent action of the Central Vigilance Commissioner of putting the names of administrative and police service officials on the internet against whom charges of corruption are pending has also gone a long way in instilling the sense of responsibility and accountability among these officials.

3. **Procedural Simplification:** As explained earlier administrative delay is one of the major causes of corruption. Therefore, to reduce or control corruption it is necessary to eliminate such delays. For that it is essential that office procedures should be simplified and levels of hierarchy reduced. In the Indian situation the persistence of archaic structures has played havoc with the developmental initiatives. After Independence the country framed an entirely new political and economic agenda and this required new, matching structures for effective implementation, as the old administrative and legal systems clashed with the substance and spirit of the new agenda. And it is this mismatch between politico-economic agenda on the one hand and the administrative and legal structures on the other which is primarily responsible for the poor performance of the government. Instead of the present system in which official files take rounds of several offices before a decision is taken, new pattern of decision-making, which is transparent and simple, needs to be evolved. This requires reorganization of government departments so as to reduce from nine to four the levels through which a case is processed today (Gill 1998). Such simplification and rationalization are especially necessary with regard to all developmental projects in the infrastructure areas because inefficiency and corruption in these areas makes the whole socio-economic system unstable. There is need for single window- decision system for all industrial projects, both in manufacturing and service industries. Official forms have to be brief and simple so that unnecessary complications do not hamper time-bound implementation of projects. Latest management techniques and methods need to be incorporated into the functioning of all public services and public sector projects so that their efficiency and productivity keeps up with their social obligations.
4. **Civil Society Participation:** Civil society is considered as the realm of association between the household and the state. Typically, this includes professional organizations as well as other formal and informal non-profit associations. Such associations fulfil certain functions essential for aggregating and expressing

societal interests, including social integration, social participation in state governance, and promoting the democratic values. Through its many functions, civil society can create pressure for policy reform and improved governance, as well as explicitly monitor the state's actions for fighting corruption and abuse. In other words, the civil society addresses the will of the state to operate in an accountable, transparent and responsive manner.

Civil society organizations have a key role to play in combating corruption. In fact, the task of ensuring sustained political commitment, administrative accountability, and procedural simplification can be achieved more quickly if vigilant and active civil society organizations take up the responsibility of interacting with the government organizations. Civil society is, in the end, the stakeholder and the ultimate affected party of corruption and thus must be engaged constructively to get the support and buy-in for the necessary reforms. Only in this way can the necessary policy and institutional changes become viable and sustainable. Countries that are supportive and hospitable to civil society bodies-through hearing arrangements in their regulatory and legislative procedures, involving them in oversight institutions, etc., have in fact enabled the organic and internally driven evolution of policies and institutions to changes in circumstances.

In recent years a growing number of structures, institutions and associations-outside state apparatus and profit-making businesses-have evolved in India for the joint pursuit of shared interests. Chambers of commerce, professional associations, various forms of non-governmental organisations have become players, shaping opinions, building coalitions, providing testimonies, monitoring government and enterprises. The Report Card methodology developed by the Public Affairs Centre in Bangalore is an innovative instrument to track down and expose corruption in public services. Similarly, the Common Cause in Delhi has done considerable work in the area of public interest litigation which has served the purpose of dragging corrupt officials to the courts. Such information has served to expose instances of bureaucratic corruption.

A sustainable participatory process, extending far beyond the initial awareness-raising and mobilization stages, is crucial for the implementation of the reforms. The experience of the scorecard method mentioned above illustrates how powerful such integration can be. The periodic application of the scorecard evaluation of local public services by the citizenry (including reporting on bribery and extortion), as well as the discussion and dissemination following each survey, provides continuous support for anti-corruption efforts at the local level.

A notable instance of citizen involvement in combating corruption is the launching of Satyagrah (non-violent protest) by S.D. Sharma, an octogenarian freedom fighter and Vice-Chairman of the Transparency International-India, against political corruption and for honest and efficient governance. Established in 1997, the Transparency International-India has been playing a significant role in fighting corruption through Gandhian methods of non-violent mass mobilization. It has now undertaken to organize 24-hour relay fast concurrently with the sessions of the parliament, to remind the government and the parliament that they have failed in their duty to the country to take

effective steps for eliminating corruption from their ranks (Sharma 2000). A participatory process involving citizens in the formulation and monitoring of anti-corruption strategies is thus taking roots in India.

Conclusion

Corruption hurts everyone. It effects on the Poor heavily. There is considerable evidence to show that although rich people are more likely to pay bribes, the poor bear a disproportionately high burden of corruption if measured as the fraction of income paid in bribes. They often face outright exclusion when access to public goods and services require bribing, given their powerlessness due to lack of voice or political influence. Moreover, when corruption results in shoddy public services, the poor have no other options but to live with sub-standard services. Corruption also unfairly weighs heavily on trade and service activities of small enterprises not only for the added cost but also as a discouraging factor. Corruption allows already influential individuals or groups of individuals to take advantage of state activities at the cost of the rest of the population; it hurts the poor disproportionately and increases income inequality.

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