

A Critical Study of India's Corruption and Solutions

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ABSTRACT:

India's corruption problem has a variety of effects on the local, state, and federal governments' economies. In India, corruption is a serious issue. It is a global issue, not just an Indian one. Every country has less or more, as we have discovered. India is the most democratic nation on earth. Financial, political, and administrative corruption have a long history there. Since gaining our independence, we have come to realise that many political leaders, ministers, and bureaucrats in our country have engaged in financial fraud and corruption. Nationwide, it has spread from top to bottom. To get rid of it from our administration is a huge problem. People's confidence in the government, the legal system, and political leaders is dwindling. Social values and morality are deteriorating daily. Numerous factors contribute to it, including political favouritism, nepotism, avarice, a lack of openness, rising unemployment, inadequate pay for public servants, etc. It had a negative impact on our culture. Despite the many precautions our nation has taken, this sickness remains uncured.

Keywords: Democratic, Nepotism, Greed, Political patronage.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, fighting corruption has been one of India's top development concerns. Policymakers, companies, and civil society groups have all started to publicly address the problem. The broad degree of awareness regarding corruption has also significantly increased. It wasn't unusual to hear someone talk about anti-corruption just in terms of law enforcement until lately. On the other hand, the majority of professionals in the sector now agree that both public awareness and prevention are crucial. The field has also come to understand how crucial civil society is to the success and sustainability of change. This increased focus on eradicating corruption is explained by a variety of variables. Citizens are now able to utilise their right to vote and newly discovered civil freedoms to fight corruption, which has prompted government and opposition figures to demonstrate a greater anti-corruption commitment. Internationally, donor nations have shifted their attention away from ideological justifications for foreign aid and toward commerce and development, both of which are hampered by corruption. High-corruption nations, like India, have discovered that they are less able to draw help and investment in a cutthroat international market. With the globalisation of trade and finance markets, businesses inside the nation have faced increasing competition and have lessened their willingness to accept the cost and risk of corruption.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

In recent years, a significant amount of theoretical and empirical study has been conducted to systematically examine the issue of corruption (Elliot 2019, Coolidge and Rose-Ackerman 2018, Gandhi 2020, Gill 2017, Girling 2021, HDC 2016, Kaufmann and Sachs 2019, Mauro 2017, Paul and Guhan 2019, Shleifer and Vishny 2019, Stapenhurst and Kpundeh 2021, Vittal 2020, World Bank 2018). A cursory review of the literature reveals that corruption in India and others is acknowledged as a complicated phenomena that results from more pervasive issues with institutional incentives, policy distortion, and governance. Therefore, it cannot be handled by straightforward laws that forbid corruption. The courts, legal institutions, police, and other governmental authorities cannot be depended upon because of the fragility of the rule of law, which may be influenced by corrupt interests, especially in India.

CONSISTENCE OF CORRUPTION

The legislative, executive, and judicial departments of government are established by the Indian constitution, and each institution is given a clear mandate for autonomous operation. Each of these entities must operate ethically and effectively in order to maintain good governance. Legislators are elected officials who serve as the peoples' representatives and are in charge of enacting laws. The executive branch, which is made up of ministers, bureaucrats, and the whole government apparatus, is in charge of putting the laws that legislative bodies pass into effect. The judiciary serves as an objective check on the administration of justice for the general populace. It lacks the authority to create new laws; instead, it must use the constitutional framework to interpret and provide decisions on legislation that have already been approved. However, when corruption takes hold, governance starts to deteriorate, which implies a loss of both integrity and effectiveness. These days, corruption permeates every aspect of Indian politics and administration. There is much need for improvement in the conduct of Indian lawmakers, both at the union and state levels. Every time they do a personal-gain-oriented action. From this vantage point, corruption in the assembly is defined as voting while on the floor, accepting payment or other perks in exchange for questioning, and establishing regulations while being influenced by powerful corporate entities at the expense of the general populace.

Another manifestation of corruption in the present parliament is the criminalization of politics. More over a quarter of the MPs have a criminal history. Many are facing significant accusations. It also draws attention to a situation where electoral changes are urgently required to prevent criminals from being elected to the parliament or state legislatures. Ministers are at the top of the executive branch's hierarchy and are in charge of making public policy because the public has confidence in them and elects them to positions of power. According to current data, ministers have the greatest degree of corruption. The finest instances of it include the G Spectrum Scam, coal allotment Scam, Commonwealth Games Scam, fodder Scam, Sarada Scam, etc. In India's parliamentary system, the bureaucracy is given the duty of carrying out the decisions made by the government at the local level. However, the Indian bureaucracy's report card isn't exactly stellar either. India's bureaucratic corruption thrives on bureaucracy, convoluted processes, and discretionary authority. India's

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governance is defined by the opaqueness of its laws. complicated processes and a bureaucracy with a lot of latitude.

A study on bribery in India by Trace International, which was published in January 2015, found that 90% of requests for bribes came from government officials, with over 65% of those requests being made to avoid harassment, 50% to ensure prompt delivery of services to which the individuals were already entitled, and only 10% intended to give any advantage.

The Indian government is rife with bureaucratic corruption, which manifests itself in widespread acts of bribery, nepotism, and abuse of power and resources. The Indian Constitution guarantees the independence of the judiciary. However, Indian courts are likewise rife with corruption. Transparency International claims that delays in case resolution, a lack of judges, and complicated procedures, all of which are made worse by the prevalence of new legislation, are to blame for judicial corruption in India. In India, around 3% of respondents think that the judiciary is corrupt.

Following independence, corruption has infected every level of the Indian political and bureaucratic system. The Santhanam committee (2020), which looked into the issue of corruption, noted in 2021 that "there is widespread perception 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 unjustly, obtained good jobs for their sons and relations through nepotism, and have reaped other benefits inconsistent with any notion of purity in public life." In the next years, corruption will become more pervasive in Indian society, and there are currently no effective controls in place to stop the problem. The failure of the Lokpal bill to pass over the last several decades says volumes about the total absence of political will in the nation. The Indian public services have been rocked in recent years by a number of significant scandals involving high-ranking public officials.

These incidents indicate that corruption has spread across India's political and administrative structures. Major frauds include the following:

1. The coal allocation scam (Cost –186000 Crores)
2. G Spectrum Scam, (Cost –176000 Crores)
3. Scam at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) (Cost –70000 Crores)
4. Massive money-laundering fraud (Cost –70000 Crores)
5. The Adarsh Housing Fraud (Cost –18978 Crores)
6. Fraudulent Stamp Paper (Cost –20000 Crores)
7. Boforce Fraud (Cost –400 Million)
8. Fodder Swindle (Cost –950 Crores)
9. Hawala Scam (Cost –8000 Crores)
10. Satyam Fraud (Cost –14000 Crores)

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11. Securities fraud (Cost –3500 Crores)
12. Madhu Koda Scam (Cost –4000 Crores)
13. Sarada Scam (Cost- 2500 Crores)
14. The SSC recruiting fraud in West Bengal.

Causes of Corruption in India: Corruption is an omnipresent phenomena that affects the whole world. It gradually got worse till it became extreme in our culture. In India, corruption has wings instead of wheels. As the country develops, the corrupt also advance and develop new schemes to defraud the population and the government. Corruption has a wide variety of complicated causes. Other corruption-causing Emergences include the following:

1. India's weak regulatory framework, exclusive decision-making processes made worse by discretion and official opacity, tight bureaucratic structures and procedures, and a lack of efficient internal control mechanisms are the main causes of corruption in the country. Corruption is made more prevalent by social acceptance of it, tolerance for it, and the lack of a structured system for instilling moral principles.
2. Regardless of having a sensibly strong administration structure, foundations, overall set of laws, and guidelines, India has huge degrees of debasement. It is generally concurred that there are viable enemy of defilement regulation, foundations, and a hearty oversight framework comprised of the CVC, CAG, and CIC. The execution is the issue, and there is a critical error between the strategies and practice.
3. The market and the sector are both significantly impacted by public procurement, which is a practise that is particularly susceptible to corruption.

The World Bank estimates that 15% of the value of a public contract is often paid in bribes in order to win the contract. Therefore, the CVC keeps a keen check on it.
4. Low Pay Slopes/ Wages: The majority of government workers get low pay scales and salaries. As a result, some workers turn to corruption to get greater financial advantages. Government employees' inadequate pay forces them to turn to corruption.
5. Limited employment options. Another source of corruption is this. Since there aren't many jobs available, many individuals choose to use corruption to get a job offer. They will be prepared to pay higher authorities or politicians lump sum money in exchange for the job offer.
6. Lack of Strict and Fast Penalties: Regardless of whether an individual is demonstrated liable or even trapped in the demonstration by the media or hostile to debasement offices, they by the by get merciful sentences. They will initially be put on leave for half a month or months prior to being reassigned to a similar situation with a similar compensation grade. This suggests that the authority who participated in the bad conduct has been conceded a free permit to proceed with his calling.

7. Corruption would be significantly reduced if the government is so stringent that any such corrupt situations will result in permanent termination from employment and penalties like many years in jail.
8. Lack of concern for reputational harm: If someone is dishonest or has engaged in unacceptable wrongdoing, they should not be respected and should be avoided. In any case, people with a background marked by debasement and different violations are being granted key positions, like individuals from parliament or significantly higher positions. They are valued, as opposed to ignored.
9. Lack of Public Unity: It's vital to take note of the fact that, although general society routinely goes against debasement, there is no open agreement on the best way to battle defilement. On the off chance that doable, an individual will utilize defilement to get done with their jobs prior to scrutinizing the bad authority later on. The bad specialists will be compelled to work in a degenerate-free manner, assuming that people in general join against defilement and guarantee that nobody will take kickbacks to tackle their errands. Lawmakers use gifts and different motivations to tempt electors during races. These lawmakers need to recuperate 10 to multiple times the cash they spent on the mission, assuming that they are effective in winning and getting down to business.
10. Lack of openness in business dealings and affairs: There is a lack of transparency in many seat selection procedures, including those involving education, employment contracts, employee income reports (wealth ownership), etc.
11. Absence of an independent detective agency: Inability to conduct investigations with complete authority and independence in order to identify and expose corrupt persons. The current organisations are not free to operate since they are either controlled by the government or the military. Therefore, anybody who commits a crime won't be terrified of the inquiry since they may avoid it with the assistance of people in charge of them.
12. Lack of state money for elections: The greatest method to combat corruption is to provide state funding for elections. Political parties accept money from outside groups but do not fully disclose them. They foster corruption by doing this.
13. They blackmail huge amounts of cash from finance managers with the promise of help once they are in power. State funding might kill party installments and lessen defilement.
14. The accessibility of a few ideological groups: anybody may track down an ideological group in a vote-based system. Hence, it is possible that a few ideological groups in the country might turn bad.
15. On the off chance that an ideological group wins, the party's allies will need to take it from one side of the country to the other. They need adequate monetary assets to do so. Once in influence, they utilize deceitful strategies to create the wealth expected to develop the party

16. The judicial system and other independent institutions don't have adequate authority. For instance, the election commission cannot exclude a candidate from running if they commit an error or break the law during the election campaign (such as giving out money to voters, etc.).
17. A lack of accountability: Corruption in government is on the rise. The reason for this is a lack of responsibility. Government workers fall short of expectations in their performance. They may not even finish 50 of the 100 files they need to delete in a week if there are 100 to do so.
18. Supporting unhealthy competition: In business, competition is an indication of high-quality services to be provided. They frequently put off clearing the records. In this way, people who need leeway rapidly should remunerate the staff members who work in the clearing office. The principal cause of debasement in government organizations is this shortfall of responsibility. Debasement might be fundamentally diminished assuming that it is mandated that all documents, or if nothing else 95% of records, received by government offices for endorsement be cleared within a specific time period.

Nonetheless, unfortunate contention is advanced in arising nations. At the point when a delicate is given, you'll find that main a limited handful organizations submit offers. This is so in light of the fact that organizations with political ties have a higher likelihood of prevailing over those without. Consequently, in spite of being a trustworthy firm, companies without political power won't present a bid for the agreement. Because of the political impact, there won't be many offers for the tender. One of the primary drivers of debasement in India is individuals' resistance to it. India's initiative is ineffectual.

IMPACT OF CORRUPTION

Consequences of corruption:

Reduction of national wealth obstacle and hindrance to progress, Backwardness, poverty, abuse of power and authority, brain emigration escalation of terrorism and crime increase in social, psychiatric, and suicide cases.

An increase in suicide instances has been seen after the Sarada fraud became public knowledge. When certain agents fail to pay the investors' planned money and the investors commit suicide as a result of fraud, the investors lose everything. Many college-educated young people have offered bribes in exchange for jobs, but when they are rejected and lose their money, they end their lives.

Power and authority in the wrong hands:

In India, we have seen significant corruption in official appointments. Men who are untrained and unfit for a position are appointed to it, and they are unable to perform their duties competently. Recent findings reveal that several political parties now demand large sums of money in order to get a candidature in elections for the assembly, loksabha, even municipal and panchayat elections. Honest and qualified men are denied opportunities for employment and elections. Politicians nowadays aspire to get elected as representatives because it is a lucrative career.

Anyone who has the opportunity will unfairly make a lot of money. Young people with talent who are denied employment opportunities go overseas to look for work. We are wasting human resources in this manner.

Escalation of terrorism and crime:

Corruption is contagious. Corruption undermines a nation's rule of law. Terrorism and crime have risen in our society as a result of corruption. Many people turned to terrorism and unjust means to achieve their goals and satisfy their desires when they did not get justice and suitable treatment from the government. In our culture, corruption feeds off itself in this manner.

Black money, be that as it may, comes from debasement. Black money fills in as the debasement's emotional support network. A worldwide examination guarantees that there has been a huge expansion in the amount of illegal cash kept in unfamiliar banks. Assuming cash is reclaimed in India, all unfamiliar obligations might be paid off, and from that point onward, every Indian would have acquired approximately 20,000 rupees. On the other hand, in the event that all dark cash is brought back, India's spending plan can be made with practically no charges for the following 30 years. Our popularity-based framework is being obliterated by this unlawful cash.

Debasement of legislative issues worsens shamefulness and scorn for the law. Opportunity and essential common freedoms are at risk. because of the way that significant legal decisions are made in light of the volume of pay-offs paid to ruin court authorities as opposed to the blamelessness or culpability of the gatherings in question. Instead of being supported by strong legal reasons, police investigations and arrests may be motivated by personal grudges or political persecution. The Indian Supreme Court said that corruption in a civilised society was a sickness like cancer while commenting on the socio-political effects of corruption. It was certain to make the political system malignant and have "disastrous repercussions" if not discovered in time.

Corrective Action for Corruption: What can be done to stop corruption in India?

We can provide some recommendations for action to stop the corruption.

For instance,

1. pay government employees well;
2. make the Indian economy more transparent;
3. try to make the Indian society cashless;
4. increase the number of online transactions and offer a bill for each transaction.
5. Bring political parties under RTI.
6. Determine an Indian politician's eligibility
7. Growing use of digital and e-government.
8. Transparent Taxation via lawful and lawful enforcement
9. More police reforms and a strong judiciary

Regardless of being established in 1964, the Focus on Carefulness Commission didn't become a free legal element until 2003, when a parliamentary act in light of a high court decision gave it that status. Its obligations include directing the organization's carefulness and giving exhortation and help to the public authority in examples including debasement. It investigates episodes of defilement that are accounted for or found by cautiousness wings in various divisions and makes proposals for discipline where it is essential. The leader will then need to train the particular official.

The primary emphasis of anti-corruption initiatives has been on enforcement, with the belief that severe enforcing of anti-corruption legislation and punishing corrupt public officials would have a significant deterrent impact. Due to the lengthy procedure needed in punishing the offender, as well as the loss of the deterrent impact from the delay and dilution of penalty, this strategy has not been successful. The Central Vigilance Commission is now recommending to place more emphasis on prevention, education, and raising public awareness as a more effective and long-lasting method of combating corruption after realising the shortcomings of an enforcement-focused approach. We intend to create a strong framework for preventive vigilance that would allow organisations to assess the risk of corruption, take action to improve their internal controls, and change their policies, procedures, and systems in order to reduce or completely eliminate the opportunity for corruption.

Leveraging technology to fight corruption by convincing organisations to embrace IT and automate the activities and processes exposed to corruption is one of the preventative tactics effectively used by the CVC. The outcomes of this exercise have been gratifying, and our efforts have received recognition on a global scale.

Conclusion

Every Indian must fight corruption like a disease in order to eradicate it. Many newly elected politicians pledge to fight corruption, but shortly thereafter they turn out to be corrupt themselves and begin accumulating enormous fortune. Many individuals have a focus on materialism and money, placing little value on morality and ethics in commercial dealings. This is due to the fact that these individuals have no moral responsibility to anybody, much alone to their community or country. If we are to effectively tackle corruption, a number of misconceptions about it need to be debunked. To fight corruption in India, public awareness is essential. To do this, our educational system must be improved, since it is the greatest way to comprehend basic rights and Right-Wrong debate. If individuals can comprehend and begin to appreciate ethics and morals in their lives, corruption may be remedied. Politicians should play a less role.

In each area of public interest, the implementation of the established policies should be placed in the hands of a separate commission or body.

The sole place to contest a commission or authority's decision should be in court. For corruption to be effectively contained, the public's cooperation must be attained. If voters see that their elected officials are losing interest in the people they serve, they should have the authority to recall them. Political corruption mostly consists of funding for elections. In this context, electoral changes are essential. A number of changes, such as denying those with criminal histories the ability to run for

office, strong enforcement of legal requirements, such as having internal party elections, mandating that political parties have their finances audited on a regular basis, and others, should be implemented. A clean system demands responsiveness, accountability, and openness. The core of effective government is bureaucracy, which should be made more citizen-friendly, responsible, ethical, and transparent. So that cases don't drag on for years and justice is served on time, new courts should be created for swift and affordable justice. To ensure quick justice at little cost, local entities like as Lok pals, Lok adalats, and vigilance commissions should be established. To stop corruption in India, the strongest Lokpal is necessary.

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