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## 4. Combating Corruption in India: The Role of Civil Society

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**Abstract:**

*The term corruption is used in everyday language, so most of us are familiar with it. In our minds, various images emerge. "Corruption is another type of tyranny" said Joe Biden, America's 47th president. According to the statement, corruption is on par the cruel and tyrannical government rule. Corruption, on other hand, is a struggle that common men or women encounters every day in order to maintain his or her fundamental rights and another benefit as human beings granted by the constitution. Corruption in public life is a means of obtaining personal benefit through illicit means and the abuse of public means and property. Private sector corruption is all about making unjust profit by exploiting employees and consumers while skirting government regulations. Corruption exists in every sector and at every level of government in the country, large or little. People in public and private sector employ corrupt methods and unfair methods to complete a variety of large and minor tasks.*

*This is because the desire to make a lot of money without putting a lot of efforts. Despite that fact India's ranking in global corruption index 2018 has improved by three places, it still ranked 78 among other countries. India is a long way from being a corruption free country. As per research conducted by transparency international in 2005, more than 62% of Indians have paid the bribe to public officials at some time in their lives. Another report of 2008 found that the half of the Indians has first-hand experience paying bribes or using contact to get service from government agencies. In India anyone can enter politics and form political party. The education qualification of the person is not a part of eligibility criteria. Ministers have been appointed who have never attended school and have little knowledge of Indian political system.*

*There are also some people convicted of crime. Corruption is unavoidable when such people oversee the government. There is various explanation for our country's high level of corruption. The quality of available employment on the market is smaller than the number of competent young people. While many young people today are unemployed or working in the position that far below their qualification. Dissatisfaction among these individuals, as well as their desire to gain, more money, has led them to dishonest methods. People in our country get away with corrupt practices such as paying and receiving bribes, not paying income taxes, running enterprises by unscrupulous means, and so on. Corruption is less frequent in the country where people are educated. When people are uneducated, they count on unequal and unscrupulous methods to make a living. The vast majority of people still do not recognize the value of education, which contribute to an increase in corruption.*

**Keywords:**

*corruption; India; civil society; behavior; government.*

## **Introduction:**

Fighting corruption has emerged as a key development issue in India in these years. More and more policymakers, businesses, and civil society organizations have begun to confront the issue openly. At the same time, the general level of understanding about corruption has risen markedly. Until recently it was not uncommon to hear someone discuss anti-corruption strictly in law enforcement terms. By contrast, most people working in the field today acknowledge that public education and prevention are equally important. The field has also come to appreciate how critical the role of civil society is for effective and sustained reform. A number of factors explain this growing emphasis on fighting corruption. Expansion and consolidation of democracy at the grassroots level have enabled citizens to use the vote and new-found civil liberties to confront corruption, prompting leaders and opposition figures to show a stronger anti-corruption commitment.

Internationally, since the end of the Cold War, donor governments have focused less on ideological grounds for foreign assistance and concentrated more on trade and development, both of which are undermined by corruption. Countries with high levels of corruption, like India, have found themselves less able to attract investment and aid in a competitive global market.

At the same time, a business within the country has faced ever stiffer competition with the globalization of trade and capital markets and has become less willing to tolerate the expenses and risks associated with corruption. Corruption encompasses a wide range of behavior, including accepting bribes, double-dealing funds laundering cash, and other assets, etc. Corruption is an ancient problem. In a treatise on public administration back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC in India.

## **Literature Review:**

Heineman and Fritz (2006) discussed in their article that the corruption in developing countries. After describing the corruption effects on the national economics, the author discusses the demand and supply side of the corruption. They suggest the different strategies to mitigate corruption including consideration of culture dimensions of problem, understanding the cultural aspect, help strengthen enforcement, prevention and state building. After giving an overview of existing international legal treaties to fight corruption the author contented the ensuring compliance with these treaties is important and call for more rigorous monitoring to determine whether the government lives up their commitments. At same time, the transnational corporation which are often a source of corruption and a target for extortion, should be fundamental in an anti-corruption strategy. In conclusion the author underlines that corruption inhibits development and economic growth and undermines assistance program.

Raballand and Bilangna (2010) report that public sector corruption is a problem without easy solution. Much of academic literature describe the problem and its impact on the organization, but fails to offer possible solutions, especially ones that are social scientifically sounds in that can be benchmarked and measured over time. In this paper the author presents the formulation, implementation, and the evolution of use of performance contact between customers Director General and frontline officers conducted at the Cameroon customs.

Anderson and Cherly (2007) in their analysis say that corruption in several Eastern Europe countries in 2002- 05. The author asserts that during this period customer related bribery decreases in many countries due to systematic effort to combat corruption that included in the revision of legislation, implementing risk analysis, random audit, and strong enforcement and sanctions mechanisms. Drawing from the project on trade and transportation facilitation in southeast Europe led by the US, the world bank, the EU and eight participating governments, the author also notes a positive impact of international cooperation for streamlining procedures in these countries in which they assert lead to improve efficiency and lower corruption.

Robert (1998) wrote that the principal agent – client framework to explain the phenomenon of corruption, where the principal (a policymaker) authorizes his agent (a civil servant) to provide services to client (service recipients). Within this framework Klighard defines three conditions under which corruption is more likely to occur: a monopoly of power by agents (e.g.: - custom officers) over clients (e.g.: - traders/taxpayers) discretionary decision power by over provision of services from the side of agent and level of accountability of agent in front of principals. Within this framework Klighard identifies the cost and benefits as well as incentives and sanction for corruption.

Using case studies, he answers more practical questions related to the policy in order to combat corruption: he describes the policies instruments to deal with expected gains of the corrupt act, the enforcement mechanism and profitability of being caught.

### **Objective of the Study:**

To study the positive and negative impact of corruption

To study the methods of measuring the size of corruption

### **Hypothesis:**

H1: The more people trust in government and trust in other citizens the less likely they are to engage in corrupt behavior

H2a: The more positively the people define a corrupt behavior the more likely they are to engage in it

H2b: The more whisper the people perceive a corrupt behavior to be, the more likely they are to engage in it.

### **Methodology:**

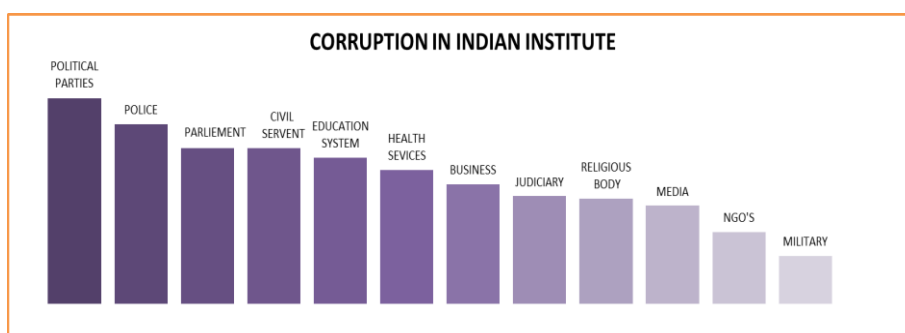
In recent years significant improvements have been made in the measurement of corruption, in the construction of composite corruption indices, and in the design implementation of surveys. Beyond applying improved empirics through a multi-prolonged approach to surveys, it is now possible to construct a framework linking the analytical and empirical research with operationally relevant utilization.

we can effectively utilize empirical analysis in the design and implementation of action programs the economic development institute at the world bank in collaboration with the transparency international and local NGOs, has developed a methodological approach integrating within one empirical framework the various components identified so far for understanding and combating corruption. This overall empirical approach links worldwide database and analysis, the country action program. In this research paper, the world bank framework is used to understand and explain the civil society in combating corruption in India and consider recent initiatives for an effective action plan in this regard.

### Effects of Corruption:

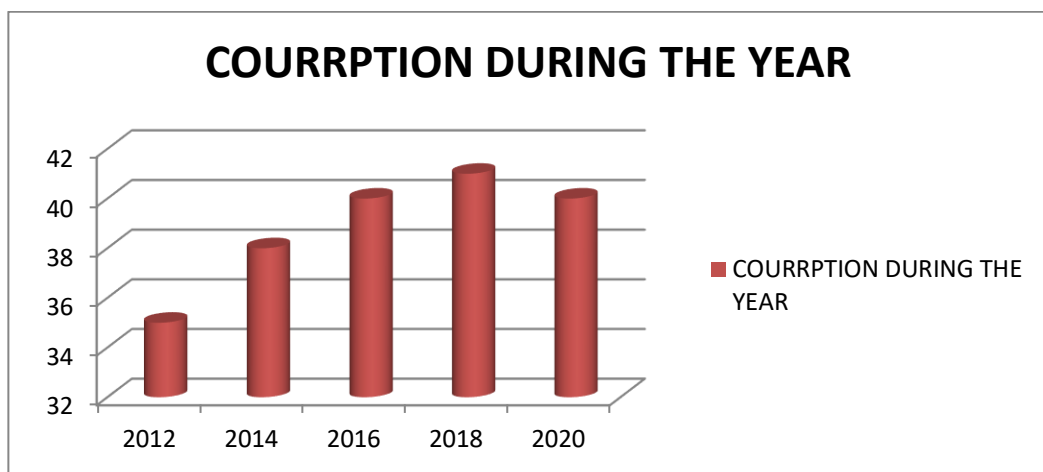
The cause of corruption in India includes excessive regulations, complicated tax and license systems numerous government departments with opaque bureaucracy and discretionary power, monopoly of government-controlled institutions on certain goods and services delivery, and the lack of transparent laws and processes. The impact of corruption goes beyond the corrupt individuals, the innocent collagenuous, who are impacted, or the reputation of the organizations they work for. Ultimately Victorians are the ones who lose out. Corruption eroded the trust we have in the public sector to act in our best interest. It also wastes our taxes or the rate that has been earmarked for important community projects-meaning we have to put up with poor quality service or infrastructure. *On economic level:* Hindering the development of the economy, which affects the short-term goal of development plans. Wasting states resources, which prevents their optical use. Shutting out local and foreign investments due to lack of infinitives. Weakness of the state income due to customs smuggling and tax eversions by means of fraud and manipulation. Misusing public expenditure in large projects prevents key sectors from befitting from those resources. *On political level:* Undermining the government’s role in implementing the state’s public policy and development plans. Spending mistrust in the rule of law and states institution. Weakening of democratic reforms which damage political stability. Depriving the rights of people holding high positions, which increases hatred affects cooperation with state institutions. Undermining the monitoring of public and private sector activities. *On social level:* The collapse of social structure and spread of hatred among society’s classes due to injustice and inequality. Undermining national security and the social ladder, directly and indirectly, due to a corrupt economy and political repercussions

### Data Analysis and Interpretation:



Data based on 2021

This data represents the Indian institution of 2021 a life issue that the highest rate of corruption is in the political institution therefore every good person who wants to change the situation of the country doesn't want to enter the political line, as it is seen as the most corrupted industry of the society. The least corruption is in the line of NGOs and the military. The military is seen as the very less corrupt area because the law and punishment of this industry are very strict therefore the people working under the center are very disciplined this shows if the rules and policies of the particular industry are meant in the world the punishments equally provided to the people then the corruption rate of the industry will be much lesser.



The graph represents the corruption scenario from the year 2012-2020. This shows that there is a lower rate of corruption in 2012 but in the upcoming year, it goes on increases and reached the highest level i.e., up to 41% in 2018, showing an increase in income inequality and poverty. In 2020 it came down to 39.5% signifying the improvement in the corruption rate of the country.

### **Findings and Recommendations:**

Corruption demoralizes governments and weakness the whole endeavor of policy formation and implementation. Corruption takes many forms and is found in many contexts. Corruption undermines trust and corrodes legitimate community expectations.

The frequency of bribes is decreased if the firm has an effective resource through a government channel or a managerial superior to obtain proper treatment without making unofficial payments. Determining the corruption level during the year and underlying causes beneath them.

### **Recommendations:**

Strengthen institutions and preserve check and balance. Close the implementation gap between anti- corruption legislation, practice, and enforcement. Empower citizens to speak out and hold governments accountable. Project press freedom so no journalist has to fear for their lives when reporting on corruption.

## **Conclusion**

Corruption occurs not only just in India but everywhere in the world, especially in places where the risk of getting caught is low and the reward is high. It is not a matter of whether it is unlawful or illegal but a question of personal integrity. It is unethical to hoard money and gain an advantage by wrongdoing.

It results in social inequality, widens the gap between the rich and the poor, makes the administration slow, and makes the country shameful in the eyes of the world. It is vital for the people of India to realize that what starts as greed and selfishness turns into corruption one day.

Apart from the remedies suggested above, the mindset of the people has to change, and the people themselves can only do that. There is no medicine, no book that can teach the same to them. The root of greed and selfishness must be from their brains.

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