

## CORRUPTION

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All luxury corrupts either the morals or the state.

- Joubert

### Introduction

Corruption is the misuse of *entrusted* power (by heritage, education, marriage, election, appointment or whatever else) for private gain. Corruption is a result of the diseases named greediness. It's a termites that is destroying the pillars of our established and potential society. Its main source is we ourselves and our polluted soul. According to Dr. Petrus van Duyne "Corruption is an improbity or decay in the decision-making process in which a decision-maker consents to deviate or demands deviation from the criterion which should rule his or her decision-making, in exchange for a reward or for the promise or expectation of a reward, while these motives influencing his or her decision-making cannot be part of the justification of the decision."

Because of this evil many important facts related our independence, about Subhas Chandra Bose 's death is still not in public. Corruption is spread everywhere from government to long queue of Durga Puja. If one has power or money he can make his work done at an easy by spending the minimum time and energy.

### Different Forms of Corruption

#### Systemic corruption

Systemic corruption is not a special category of corrupt practice, but rather a situation in which the major institutions and processes of the state are routinely dominated and used by corrupt individuals and groups, and in which most people have no alternatives to dealing with corrupt

officials. Examples might include contemporary Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kenya, Cameroon and many others<sup>1</sup>.

### **Sporadic (individual) corruption**

Sporadic corruption is the opposite of systemic corruption. Sporadic corruption occurs irregularly and therefore it does not threaten the mechanisms of control nor the economy as such. It is not crippling, but it can seriously undermine morale and sap the economy of resources.

### **Political (Grand) corruption**

Political corruption is any transaction between private and public sector actors through which collective goods are illegitimately converted into private-regarding payoffs. Political corruption is often used synonymously with “grand” or high level corruption, distinguished from bureaucratic or petty corruption because it involves political decision-makers. Political or grand corruption takes place at the high levels of the political system, when politicians and state agents entitled to make and enforce the laws in the name of the people, are using this authority to sustain their power, status and wealth. Political corruption not only leads to the misallocation of resources, but it also perverts the manner in which decisions are made. Political corruption is when the laws and regulations are abused by the rulers, side-stepped, ignored, or even tailored to fit their interests. It is when the legal bases, against which corrupt practices are usually evaluated and judged, are weak and furthermore subject to downright encroachment by the rulers.

### **Petty corruption**

Small scale, bureaucratic or petty corruption is the everyday corruption that takes place at the implementation end of politics, where the public officials meet the public. Petty corruption is bribery in connection with the implementation of existing laws, rules and regulations, and thus

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Johnston: Fighting Systemic Corruption: Social Foundations for Institutional Reform.

different from “grand” or political corruption. Petty corruption refers to the modest sums of money usually involved, and has also been called “low level” and “street level” to name the kind of corruption that people can experience more or less daily, in their encounter with public administration and services like hospitals, schools, local licensing authorities, police, taxing authorities and so on<sup>2</sup>.

### Legal and Moral Corruption

Corruption is derived from the Latin verb *rumpere*, to break. According to this approach, corruption is where the law is clearly broken. This requires that all laws must be precisely stated, leaving no doubts about their meaning and no discretion to the public officials. A legal interpretation of corruption provides a clearly demarcated boundary between what is a corrupt activity and what is not. ‘If an official’s act is prohibited by laws established by the government, it is corrupt; if it is not prohibited, it is not corrupt even if it is abusive or unethical’<sup>3</sup>.

The legal approach provides a neutral and static method of adjudicating potentially emotive and perception determined concepts of corruption. An understanding of corruption from law perspective serves to underline a deterioration of self-regulated behaviour and a dependence on the legal approach to determine right from wrong. The complexities of modern governance and a proliferation of corruption scandals have corresponded with a proliferation of complex corruption legislation.

Legislating for behaviour warrants focus upon the legality of an action and not the morality of that same action. Morality is increasingly being legislated for in the absence of and a loss of faith in self regulated behaviour. Although an act is committed within legal parameters it may lie outside moral boundaries. A corrupt act can be camouflaged by lawful justification. For example, ‘undue emphasis on narrow legalism has obscured more subtle yet costly manifestations of misgovernance’ where “legal corruption” may be more prevalent than illegal forms<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Corruption in India: a cause of instability & inequalities, (March 24, 2016), available at <http://www.poverties.org/blog/corruption-in-india>

<sup>3</sup> John A. Gardiner, “Defining Corruption.” In: *Corruption and Reform* 7, 1993

<sup>4</sup> D. Kaufmann, September 2006, Corruption, Governance and Security. In: World Economic Forum. *Global Competitiveness Report 2004/2005*.

From this perspective corruption encompasses undue influence over public policies, institutions, laws and regulations by vested private interests at the expense of the public interest. Cultural change, rather than legal change, may be necessary to impede corrupt behaviour. Non-corrupt actions may be within the letter of the law but do not account for the spirit of the law. The legal approach diminishes the role of moral discretion and is constrained by clearly defined edicts<sup>5</sup>.

**Bribing:** It is a form of misusing public property for personal gain. Money or something of money's value is taken by person to do certain work. Previously works which were illegal in nature needed to be bribed for but now even for legal work this is a need. For example it's the duty of police officials to interrogate before passport is granted but now to get a clean chit a minimum amount of 1000 per head has become a mandate. Now interrogation means paying money and getting the work done.

### **Chanakya's View on Corruption**

Chanakya knows very well that just like it is impossible to know when and how much water a fish drinks, it is utmost difficult to know how much money government officials steal away while in charge of it. Knowing human nature which succumbs to greed, fear, lust, anger or any such tamas gunas, and indulges in acts of corruption to accumulate wealth in the country or outside. Chanakya takes multipronged approach to tackle and eradicate corruption. He knows that by establishing one department to tackle corruption problems are not going to be solved, instead will increase many fold later when that department itself becomes corrupt eventually<sup>6</sup>.

He knew how destructive a corrupt person can be for the state. No matter how many numbers of honest people are present in the battle field one corrupt person can put all such hardworking go into vain. History witnesses that weakness of all strong kings, empire, intelligent plans; layout etc. is just one corrupt person who puts his self-interest above common welfare. This is the reason why and how British concurred and ruled over India for almost 20 decades. Reason behind India's participation.

### **Corruption and democracy**

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<sup>5</sup> Elaine Byrne, 2007. *The Moral and Legal Development of Corruption: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Corruption in Ireland*. PhD Thesis, University of Limerick.

<sup>6</sup> Chanakya Niti on Corruption by Dev Dantreliya, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, (2014)

All states have dirty skeletons in the cupboard. In a dictatorship they are just discreetly hidden, sometimes in plain sight. In a democracy, which tends to rely on moral superiority, this is difficult to carry out<sup>7</sup>.

Elections don't choose who is correct—that is essentially chosen by whoever is most ready to say what individuals like to listen. Therefore, numerous contender to political office resort to populism, seeking after strategies that attention on the quick fulfilment of impulses rather than long haul changes. Populist leaders concentrate on feeling before reason and "sound judgment" over more scholarly shrewdness, which regularly delivers awful thoughts. In countries like India where there is a huge diversity and class struggle. Political takes advantages of this. They create situations and makes hate speeches against other community so that people be busy in fighting with each other and can hardly focus on the main problems like poverty which is faced by both. Neglecting the fact that their common problems will be solved faster, easier and in a much better way if they join hands. The political parties know that no matter how much unfair and harmful their policy can be for long terms they pick up them to please their vote bankers. Unfair legislation can be passed if there are vocal groups in the majority (by oppressing the minority) or in the minorities (by entitling them to privileges that the majority can't enjoy)<sup>8</sup>.

No matter how good ones policy are if that is even a bit against socialism the people will start to feel a threat. E.g removing subsidies for greater good is important atleast for them who can leave without the same but this will cause a bitterness in the heart of many specially to middle class whose earning and spending is almost equal and no matter how small the amount is it will affect their family. This happens specially in big family where there is only one earning member even if he earns a lot in the eyes of other and government his/her spending might be even more thus removing subsidy of his/her will make him/her not to vote the political party again. Thus only a strong government can make a policy which will cater to greater good but at the same time it will cut off their votes. Only a tough leader can make and pass laws by thinking of the people and not of his/her own political party.

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<sup>7</sup>10 Reasons Why Democracy Doesn't Work, by [A. J. Simonson](#) (June 16, 2013)  
<http://listverse.com/2013/06/16/10-reasons-why-democracy-doesnt-work/>

<sup>8</sup> I.d f.n 7

## Why corruption is more in India?

Democracy is not the proper cup of tea of India. It is a diverse country. Strictness is required to control its citizens and a democratic country can never be strict. Just because parties will always have a tension of losing their power. They will make promises and will never fulfil it so that it can still be an agenda for further election. Instead they will create new problems so that they can have strong manifesto. If a true worthy citizen want to hold the power parties will either influence it or will never let him become the minister. And by anyway if one becomes the position holder his or her legs will be pulled down by other parties. Now democracy has become a fight rather than a service to the citizen. Practically all citizen in India can never vote.

A most common words that could be heard from common people is “whoever comes in power we have to live our life in the way we are leaving” people are scared of change. They want to leave a life in which they are unnoticed by any evil, they are scared to fight. Cause fighting means power and power means to them evil or political.

Common people segregate themselves from their own rights and thus after a certain time also are not following their duty. They are like paper, cloth or logs flowing in the direction where the waves are taking them even harming the way of few fishes who wants to have their own way, own direction. Today people who want to leave their life with moral principle are regarded as foolish and are laugh at. And in many instances they and their family are threatened to be killed or harmed in a way or the other ultimately dragging them also in the same mud.

Corruption is that evil which is flowing from top to bottom. When top officials are corrupt it forces many a times small officials also to involve into such practices which they might not had been involved if the top officials were not like it.

Direct democracy is something which is very much appreciable but it is impossible in today's world. With given numbers of people in the country. Indirect democracy is not suitable with due respect in a poor, illiterate and diverse country like India. Person who doesn't know his own future, doesn't know whether he can fill his children's stomach with proper food or will have to sleep with empty stomach. Is it possible for him to decide the future of the country or analyse between different policies of government.

Corruption in India is a result of the connection between bureaucrats, politicians and criminals-

It is a perception that “good and honest people will never go to politics”. Only people with criminal associate can be a part of politics. Rather now criminals are politicians. But of course not all there are few nice people too but so less in number that their voices could hardly be heard. Elections in many parts of the country have become associated with a host of criminal activities. Threatening voters to vote for a particular candidate. An increase in the 300% of salary of the MP’S (i.e. from Rs 16,000 – Rs 50,000)<sup>9</sup> has not met the thirst of the politicians, they want even more despite all the free services and facilities that they get in a contrary India’s poor family is hardly getting their square meal.

Low salary- Employee are paid less and made to work more.

E.g- police force in our country is much less in relation to the crime. Thus complains often comes that they are forced to do over time with no remuneration. Resulting in taking bribes from public as a fee for their service to satisfy their wants.

The punishments imposed on the criminals are inadequate:-

The political leaders have spoiled the society completely<sup>10</sup>. They lead a luxurious life and do not even care about the society. People of India are not awakened and enlightened, instead they are motivated to have liquor, cigarette, drugs and all toxic agents so that they remain asleep and don’t dare to ask their rights. And those who are awakened they fear to raise their voice against anti-social elements prevailing in the society.

## Major factors involved in spreading of corruption

Human Nature has an inherent characteristic of greediness. May be to a certain extent it is true that ethical life is only possible in slow life. And in this period of globalisation it is quite tough to regulate the responsibility of one’s own towards other.

E.g- in case we are trying to abode a local train during a rush hour, it’s quite obvious that I will try to abode it as faster a possible regardless of the fact that in the rush I may hurt others, even

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<sup>9</sup> Corruption In India, by Tanvir (as on 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2016) available at <http://www.civilserviceindia.com/subject/Essay/corruption-in-india1.html>

<sup>10</sup> l.d f.n 9

a push of mine may result in a huge accident for another. None of my act will be intentional but it will harm another. Thus it is really quite tough to regulate one's own responsibility towards others.

Is it wrong to think about oneself? To do activities which he thinks may help him in bringing a better life to himself and his family. It's one's duty rather to keep himself and his family happy. It's survival of the fittest, if in the rat's run if one stronger rat have to push or snatched a piece of cheese to feed his family or himself. So what's the wrong in it? On a contrary if a rat is letting others have food and not struggling to have food himself may be for him he is "good" but he is considered as foolish by his others. While in the previous scenario the strong rat may be "Bad" for others but for his family and himself he is the real hero.

How to determine who is right and is really good? A wise rat will not push others but will intelligently pull his portion out and after meeting his and his family's need, will help weak rats to have their share. It's not wrong to have one's own share but at the same time it is not good also to let others have the share of yours. Have your share not other's and at the same time help others have their share if they can't do it alone. It's important to strike the correct balance.

### **But still why democracy:-**

Still people are scared to leave their hard earned so called democracy since other form of government are extremist i.e., Seither the consequence will be good or bad it will be in extreme but in democracy things will be even something in between . People are scared to take risk. They want to be like the way things are going on.

In a hypothetical situation **Bharat** has only Rs 20 left with her. She is hungry and wanted to buy an apple for Rs 20. The vendor gives her an offer that either she has to buy a half rotten apple or buy a mystery box where either she will get a golden apple or a totally rotten one. She chooses the half rotten one since she thought that it's better to have something rather than nothing at all. She chooses to have a half rotten one since she had a fear of having a full rotten one. To avoid that fear she avoided the chance of having a golden apple. Is it wrong? Opinion may and will vary from person to person. None of them are wrong. People are different some likes to take risk will for others taking risk in situations where other options are there is foolish.



## Few suggestions

1. A form of government more rigid with honest people having proper inbuilt strong morals.
2. Setting up of Special courts dealing with corruption cases only.
3. CVC (Central Vigilance Commission). It was setup by the Government to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the areas of vigilance. If there are any cases of corruption or any complaints thereof, then that can be reported to the CVC. This CVC should be totally transparent and accountable to public.
4. Police should be a part of judiciary only and made less accountable to legislature just to avoid unnecessary and arbitrary pressure on police force.
5. Using bit coin for all governmental projects and all such transaction should be available to public in a click. Provided with some reasonable restrictions.
6. To help out this problem teaching of morality and spirituality should be given right from the beginning to children.
7. People should stop and spend some time to know what they are doing and how it may hurt others.

We are in a world in which to have love and peace one needs pretending war and hatred. Only the hard outer layer can help the coconut to have and preserve its soft inner layer.