Combating the Omnipresence of Corruption

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Abstract--- *Corruption is a global phenomenon and is omnipresent. Corruption has risen steadily and is now rampant in our society. In the words of Atifete Jahjaga, 'Democracy must be built through open societies that share information'. When there is information, there is enlightenment. When there is enlightenment, there is debate. When there is debate, there are solutions. The problem arises when there is no sharing of power, no rule of law, no accountability and only then there is abuse, corruption, subjugation and indignation. From a detailed analysis on corruption, I came to know that Corruption in India affects all levels of the society but it's in the administrative one that the biggest damage is done to the people and comes to exacerbate poverty. Not only does corruption in India worsen poverty, it also drags the whole country's development down by stealing its resources that it causes serious impacts on our society through various means. Also our nation is responding very slowly to this developing issue as a result of lack of proper decision making at higher levels. Being a student of legal background I do have certain responsibilities towards my society that in my main paper I have covered various aspects on the impacts of corruption on our Indian economy along with various solutions to curb this growing evil. We can eliminate corruption if there is a joint effort. And if we do that will be our highest achievement as human beings.*

Keywords--- *About Lack of Transparency, Adverse Effects, Stringent Laws and Responsibilities*

I. INTRODUCTION

CORRUPTION is a global phenomenon and is omnipresent. Corruption has risen steadily and is now rampant in our society. In Indian society corruption has prevailed from time immemorial in one form or the other. In the words of Atifete Jahjaga, 'Democracy must be built through open societies that share information'. When there is information, there is enlightenment. When there is enlightenment, there is debate. When there is debate, there are solutions. The problem arises when there is no sharing of power, no rule of law, no accountability and only then there is abuse, corruption, subjugation and indignation. Corruption in India is a major issue that adversely affects its economy. In 2012 India has ranked 94th out of 176 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. Most of the largest sources of corruption in India are entitlement.

Programmes and social spending schemes enacted by the Indian government. In simple words corruption in India is a result of the connection between bureaucrats, politicians and criminals. Indian media has widely published allegations of corrupt Indian citizens stashing trillions of dollars in Swiss banks. Many recent studies reveals that corruption's impact on our economy is adversely increasing.

II. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

A. Aim

The Aim of the present study was to examine the impact of corruption in our Indian economy and also to propose some remedial measures to curb corruption.

B. Objectives

The objectives of the study were to examine the following,

- Corruption and its characteristics
- Factors contributing corruption
- Corruption and its impacts on our Indian economy
- Remedial measures to curb corruption

III. LITERATURE SURVEY

Based on the personal survey conducted on corruption, it seems that discussion of corruption is extremely difficult as it is a hidden phenomenon in our society. Both parties in exchange of power for privileges want to keep their transaction secret. That makes it so difficult to establish how wide and deep corruption penetrated our economy and social life. Corruption primarily includes abuse of entrusted power and elected authority for private profit. Worldwide complaints are heard about politicians and public officials who accept bribes and enrich themselves privately at the expense of the common citizen. Many among us go one step further. They do not only blame politicians and public officials for willingly accepting bribes. They also often allege that those having authority in our society ask to be bribed or give us the opportunity to bribe. This means that the question 'who is to blame', shifts from the person who pays to the person who extorts and receives. Again on the ground of the allegation: 'There's no escaping from it, for if you don't pay, you are bound to fall behind'. The mere fact that both the payer and the recipient of bribes want to keep their behaviour secret shows that such behaviour is generally considered to be improper. Many consider corruption to be an ethical problem, a behavioral problem. And refer to it as being 'sinful', a 'wrongdoing'. It is a problem to be solved by means of personal 'reform'. Corruption in India is a consequence of the nexus between bureaucracy, politics and criminals. India is no longer considered a soft state. Now it has become a state of mind where everything can be had for a test. Poverty in the

world is often brought up to account for the phenomenon of corruption. In spite of the above said characteristics there are various behavioral, cultural, emotional characteristics of corruption.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The research study is based on empirical method that it involved two methods throughout the study that is the questionnaire method and Direct interview method. Further all details are gathered and manipulated are based on secondary sources only.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Based on my research study, it revealed a shocking fact that almost 9 out of 10 people had paid bribe in their life time. And also they strongly believe that corruption is a never ending phenomenon that they assume corruption to be a part of our traditional society. Only very few people are positive minded about curbing corruption that they proposed certain ideas which are already in existence but ineffective. Also they strongly believe that corruption can be curbed only if there is sent percent transparency in all fields wherever money is being evolved. Whereas the negative minded people believe that by all the remedial measures been undertaken, corruption can only be reduced to certain extent but cannot be eradicated.

They believe corruption is born in three kind of situations, first you don't turn to your government to protect yourself and you get used to getting things done by yourself. Whatever business you're in you end up not paying taxes anymore. Whatever problem you're having you'll deal with it on your own, which can easily get out of hand if you have to settle on your own an argument. Secondly, well you don't trust the authorities anymore and any new policy or plan they have has meagre chances of working because the whole system resists it, even the people. Third if you're actually trying to be a good law-abiding citizen, you pay your bribes and you end up even poorer than before. Bribes suck a significant share of the poor's income.

Table 1: Overall Analysis of Answers from Questionnaires

S.No	Conceptual Questions	Yes	No
1	Have you ever paid bribe in your life time?	89	11
2	Do you think corruption can be eradicated?	12	88
3	Do you think bribe Can be reduced by anti-corruption means?	56	44

Series of 10 questions were asked to 100 people | Age group : 18 - 45

Chart 1: Overall Analysis of Answers from Direct Interview
(Is corruption affecting our Indian economy?)

VI. DISCUSSIONS

A. Definition of Corruption

The simplest definition of corruption is, 'Corruption is the misuse of public power for private gain.' The word corrupt when used as an adjective literally means "utterly broken". The word was first used by Aristotle and later by Cicero who added the terms bribe and abandonment of good habits. A much more difficult, scientific definition for the concept 'corruption' was developed by professor (emeritus) dr. Petrus van Duijne, "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."

B. Analysis of Corruption based on Reports

A study conducted by Transparency International in year 2005 found that more than 62% of Indians had firsthand experience of paying bribes or influence peddling to get jobs done in public offices successfully. In its study conducted in year 2008, Transparency International reports about 40% of Indians had firsthand experience of paying bribes or using a contact to get a job done in public office. In 2014 India ranked 85th out of 175 countries in Transparency International's Corruption, compared to its neighbours Bhutan (30th), Bangladesh (145th), Myanmar (156th), China (100th), Nepal (126th), Pakistan (126th) and Sri Lanka (85th). In 2013, India was ranked 94th out of 175 countries. In a 2011 report on Corruption in India, one of the world's largest audit and compliance firms KPMG notes several causes that encourage corruption in India. The report suggests high taxes and excessive regulation bureaucracy as a major cause. The important causes of corruption in India are poor regulatory framework, exclusivist process of decision making aggravated by discretion and official secrecy, rigid bureaucratic structures and processes; and absence of effective internal control mechanism.

C. Corruption in Public Life

When we talk of corruption in public life, it covers corruption in politics, state governments, central governments, "business, industry and so on. Public dealing counters in most all government offices are the places where corruption most evident. If anybody does not pay for the work it is sure work won't be done. People have grown insatiable appetite for money in them and they can go to any extent to get money. Undoubtedly they talk of morality and the importance of value-based life but that is for outer show. Their inner voice is something else. It is always crying for money. It has been seen the officers who are deputed to look into the matters of corruption turn out to be corrupt. Our leaders too are not less corrupt. Thus the network of corruption goes on as usual and remains undeterred. Corruption is caused as well as the increase due to the change in value system and ethical qualities of men who administer. The tolerance of people towards corruption, the complete lack of intense public outcry against corruption and the absence of strong public forum to

oppose corruption allows corruption to reign over people. The size of most of the population, coupled with widespread illiteracy and poor economic infrastructure tip of the endemic corruption in public life. Complex laws and procedures alienate common people to ask any government assistance.

D. Impacts of Corruption

Corruption in India affects all levels of the society but it's in the administrative one that the biggest damage is done to the people and comes to exacerbate poverty. Not only does corruption in India worsen poverty, it also drags the whole country's development down by stealing its resources that it causes serious impacts on our society through various means. The effect of corruption has many dimensions related to political, economic, social and environmental effects. In political sphere, corruption impedes democracy and the rule of law. In a democratic system, public institutions and offices may lose their legitimacy when they misuse their power for private interest. Corruption may also result in negative consequences such as encoring cynicism and reducing interest of political participation, political instability, reducing political competition, reducing the transparency of political decision making, distorting political development and sustaining political activity based on patronage, clientelism and money, and so on. According to a report by KPMG, "high-level corruption and scams are now threatening to derail the country's it is credibility and [its] economic boom". If corruption levels in India were reduced to levels in developed economies such as Singapore or the United Kingdom, India's GDP growth rate could increase at a higher rate annually. In Social sphere, corruption discourages people to work together for the common good. Frustration and general apathy among the public result in a weak civil society. Demanding and paying bribes becomes the tradition. C.K. Prahalad estimates the lost opportunity caused by corruption, in terms of investment, growth and jobs for India is over US\$50 billion a year. Along with this, corruption is also having a very huge impact on the financial aspects of our nation that it is gradually pulling our economy down. The economic effects of corruption can be categorized as minor and major. However, both in one way or the other have serious impact on the individual community and country. First and foremost, corruption leads to the depletion of national wealth.

VII. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

A. Economic Aspects

Corruption is a serious economic issue as it adversely affects the country's economic development and achievement of developmental goals. Artificial shortages created by the people with malevolent intent destroy the fabric of the economy. It promotes inefficiencies in utilisation of resources, distorts the markets, compromises quality, destroys the environment and of late has become a serious threat to national security. It adds to the deprivation of the poor and weaker sections of the economy. Though India has been hailed as a rising economic power in recent times, attracting FDIs (Foreign Direct Investments) from all over the world, the picture is not very rosy. The rampant corruption prevailing in the country in all the spheres is posing a threat to India's

growth story. Corruption has destabilized India's growth and will continue to do so unless some strict action is taken. Private investments in India are slowing down due to corruption prevalent in the country. Some of the foreign companies as well as India have shifted their bases outside India or are planning to go out. Inflation has also become a major problem even after RBI has raised interest several times to curb it. Corruption is also causing a loss to tax payers that working class people keep on paying tax to the government but it is being misused and fall in pocket of others in form of corruption. Government should take action and should provide details of money that is being collected as tax. System should be transparent. Also corruption is causing inflation that the economy is falling down, corruption is getting high the result is inflation is reaching to its peak. Poor people are becoming poorer and rich people are getting richer day by day. Daily based commodities are going out of reach from people. Corruption may lead to further bureaucratic delay and inefficiency as corrupted bureaucrats may introduce red tape in order to extort more bribes. Such inadequacies in institutional efficiency could affect growth indirectly by lowering the private marginal product of capital and investment rate. Levine and Renelt showed that investment rate is a robust determinant of economic growth. Bureaucratic inefficiency also affects growth directly, such as through misallocation of investments in the economy. Additionally, corruption results in lower economic growth for a given level of income. India's budget for 2012-2013 shows that the government is trying to cut its deficit to 5.1 percent of GDP in 2012, after having missed its target in 2011. Such losses in revenue make it significantly harder for India to meet such targets. Moreover, India was ranked 87th on Transparency International's 2010 corruption perceptions index. And all of this is weighing on India's economy.

B. Political Aspects

Political corruption is the use of powers by government officials for illegitimate private gain. An illegal act by an officeholder constitutes political corruption only if the act is directly related to their official duties, is done under color of law or involves trading. Forms of corruption vary, but include bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, patronage, influence peddling, graft, and embezzlement. Corruption may facilitate criminal such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and human trafficking, though is not restricted to these activities. Misuse of government power for other purposes, such as repression of political opponents and general police brutality, is also considered political corruption. Neither are illegal acts by private persons or corporations not directly involved with the government. In politics, corruption undermines democracy and good governance by flouting or even subverting formal processes. Corruption in elections and in the legislature reduces accountability and distorts representation in policymaking; corruption in the judiciary compromises the rule of law; and corruption in public administration results in the inefficient provision of services. It violates a basic principle of republicanism regarding the centrality of civic virtue. More generally, corruption erodes the institutional capacity of government if procedures are disregarded, resources are siphoned off, and public offices are

bought and sold. Corruption undermines the legitimacy of government and such democratic values as trust and tolerance. Recent evidence suggests that variation in the levels of corruption amongst high-income democracies can vary significantly depending on the level of accountability of decision-makers.

C. Social Aspects

Corruption facilitates environmental destruction. Corrupt countries may formally have legislation to protect the environment; it cannot be enforced if officials can easily be bribed. The same applies to social rights worker protection, unionization prevention, and child labour. Violation of these laws rights enables corrupt countries to gain illegitimate economic advantage in the international market. The Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has observed that "there is no such thing as an apolitical food problem." While drought and other naturally occurring events may trigger famine conditions, it is government action or inaction that determines its severity, and often even whether or not a famine will occur. Governments with strong tendencies towards kleptocracy can undermine food security even when harvests are good. Officials often steal state property. In Bihar, India, more than 80% of the subsidized food aid to poor is stolen by corrupt officials. Similarly, food aid is often robbed at gunpoint by governments, criminals, and warlords alike, and sold for a profit. The 20th century is full of many examples of governments undermining the food security of their own nations – sometimes intentionally. Corruption is not specific to poor, developing, or transition countries. In western countries, cases of bribery and other forms of corruption in all possible fields exist: under-the-table payments made to reputed surgeons by patients attempting to be on top of the list of forthcoming surgeries, bribes paid by suppliers to the automotive industry in order to sell low-quality connectors used for instance in safety equipment such as airbags, bribes paid by suppliers to manufacturers of defibrillators (to sell low-quality capacitors), contributions paid by wealthy parents to the "social and culture fund" of a prestigious university in exchange for it to accept their children, bribes paid to obtain diplomas, financial and other advantages granted to unionists by members of the executive board of a car manufacturer in exchange for employer-friendly positions and votes, etc. Examples are endless. These various manifestations of corruption can ultimately present a danger for the public health; they can discredit specific, essential institutions or social relationships.

VIII. REMEDIAL MEASURES

There are many myths about corruption, which must be exploited, if we really want to fight. Some of these myths are: Corruption is a way of life and nothing can be done. Only people from underdeveloped or developing countries are prone to corruption. You have to avoid all these crude fallacies while planning measures to combat corruption. Following are some of the proposed remedial measures.

- Laws should be foolproof so that no discretion to politicians and bureaucrats. The role of the politician should be minimized. The implementation of the

policies developed should be left to the independent commission or authority in every area of public interest. Decision of the commission or authority should be challenged only in court.

- Strict lokpal bill should be passed. Responsiveness, accountability and transparency are a must for a clean system. Bureaucracy, the backbone of good governance, should be more citizen friendly, responsible, ethical and transparent.
- A new fundamental right to know. Right to Information should be made, which entitles citizens to seek the information they want. Barring some confidential information that relates to national and international security, another type of information should be available to the general public when necessary. Strict measures against corrupt officials will undoubtedly have a deterrent effect.
- On the whole If India has to fight poverty and achieve a sustainable growth rate, it should take proper anti-corruption measures and enforce them strictly. Though corruption cannot be eradicated permanently, proper checks and balances will ensure India's rise as economic powerhouse and future development.
- Also there should be transparency in any deal done by the government that any system should be followed to put the data on a public domain. Public Grievance systems should be made more strong and effective so that work can be executed on time.
- Finally having a simple and straight forward bureaucracy which is incredibly easier today with digital technology is also one of the most efficient way to fight corruption.

IX. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE ENFORCEMENT

In the words of pratibhaPatil, "Corruption is the enemy of development, and of good governance. It must be rid of. Both the government and the people at large must come together to achieve this national objective." Corruption in India has degraded the Indian economy. Strong steps should be taken by the judiciary of India so that every culprit who has taken the national advantages in form of corruption should be punished. Government should bring some changes in administrative procedure to cover all the loop holes so that no exploitation should occur. Though it seerris very difficult to control corruption but it is not impossible. It is not only the responsibility of the government but ours too. We can eliminate corruption if there will be joint effort. We must have some high principles to follow so that we may be models for the coming generation. We must work together to throw away this evil from ourselves and from nation. To finish with the words of Vladimir Putin, "Those who fight corruption should be clean themselves."

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