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Corruption In India: Causes And Remedies

Public Administration

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ABSTRACT

Corruption became a part of our administrative and political culture. Our sixty six years of existence as an Independent nation and sixty three years of working of the constitution have resulted a common experience to all Indian citizens, one cannot go to any public organization or offices today and get the services which they are supposed to get without either paying bribe or bringing influence by way of recommendations or references from VIPs. Corruption has affected our total political, administrative, economic system like a cancer disease. Despite having reforms to curtail and control bureaucratic discretion, licence raj, open the economy to the rest of the world, improve the transparency and accountability, corruption has scaled up even further. Corruption is a major serious problem country facing today. Highly corrupt India is poorly governed may be the main reason for rampant and widespread corruption in India.

Introduction

Corruption is a universal phenomenon. Corruption in India is a pnenomenon that one has to face practically at every level and in every walk of life. In India administrative and political corruption is no longer surprises, it is a common thing. Corruption became a part of our administrative and political culture.

Generally, term corruption means misuse of public authority or office for the benefit of personal gain. As Santhanam committee pointed out "corruption can exist only if there is someone willing to corrupt and capable of corrupting" our Ancient statecraft text Kautilya's Arthasastra noted about corruption "It was not easy to detect corruption, just as it was impossible to know when a fish moving in water is drinking it or not so, it was not possible to find out when the government servant incharge of public business misappropriates money or not. He therefore prescribed very heavy penalty for corrupt officials, he did not recommend any punishment to the bribe giver because he considered such person to be victim of the corruption. He advocated the compensating the bribe given for the loss".

Corruption Perspectives in India

Our sixty six years of existence as an Independent nation and sixty three years of working of the constitution have resulted a common experience to all Indian citizens, one cannot go to any public organization or offices today and get the services which they are supposed to get without either paying bribe or bringing influence by way of recommendations or references from VIPs. Corruption has come to affect every citizen in the country. Corruption pervades every aspect of our administrative system. Public dealing counters in most of the government offices are the places where corruption is most evident. Nowadays corruption can be seen everywhere in all public organizations, politics, business and industry etc.,

In India bribes have to be paid for rationcards, passports, all type of certificates, driving license, building permits and for doing normal business of the government. In our country it is very shame to say street vendors are forced to pay bribe for exercising their fundamental rights. If we consider our VVIPs travel trips it is more costlier than other Western countries counterparts, where its money come from?

Nowadays study available indicates that Villagers are forced to pay bribe for getting their wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). It is clearly indicates that below poverty line people are forced to pay bribe to get their benefits under any other poverty alleviation and unemployment programmes or for any other entitlements in other schemes.

In India higher level corruption is plundering the public exchequer, distorting government policies and creating a criminal mafia, which has come to dominate all institutions of power. Lower level corruption is making life impossible for common people. Corruption has affected our total political, administrative, economic system like a cancer disease. India is no longer considered as a soft state but it has now become a consideration state where everything can be had for consideration. At once upon a time, bribe was paid for getting wrong things, Now bribe is paid for right things done at right time. Corruption in India leads to promotion not prison. As Nation grows corrupt also grows to invent new methods of cheating the government and public. Corruption is damaging our images in International market and kills our growth story.

After Independence our country adopted the mixed economic pattern and planned economy as its goal wanted to place major public sectors on the commanding heights of Nation's economy. It resulted in restrictions on private initiative in the name of regulation ultimately it ushered into era of big government and license raj. It was accepted as one of the most evidently accepted reasons for rampant and widespread corruption in India.

But in post-liberalization era, despite having reforms to curtail and control bureaucratic discretion, licence raj, open the economy to the rest of the world, improve the transparency and accountability corruption has scaled up even further. Recent scams like 2 G Scam, common wealth games scam and coalgate scam are example for this recent corruption evils.

Corruption is a major serious problem in India today. In India corruption is anti-national, anti-economic development and also anti-poor. Corruption is a consequence of nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and criminals in India. The biggest cause of corruption in today's India is the politician. Because there is no corruption in the bureaucracy un connected with politicians. Nowadays higher level corruption and scams are threatening to derail the country's economic position.

Corruption and bribery generates popular anger that threatens to further destabilize societies and exacerbate violent conflicts, corruption translates human sufferings, it amounts to a dirty tax, failure in the delivery of basic goods and services. Corruption and bribery is a major serious problem country facing today and also it has affected our total social, political, economical and administrative system. According to transparency International corruption perception Index 2012, India has ranked 94th position (95th in 2011) in the Index with a score of 36.

Some of the causes have been indentified for widespread and rampant corruption in India, here it follows :

1. Social environment
2. Political causes
3. Administrative delays
4. Complicated and cumbersome administrative procedure.
5. Outdated, colonial model of bureaucracy.
6. Low salaries of public servants
7. Administrative culture
8. Un-controlled political parties

9. Lack of inner party democracy in Indian political parties
10. Lack of electoral reforms
11. In efficient judicial system.
12. In adequate law to deal with corruption cases.
13. Lack of transparent laws
14. Excessive regulations in administration
15. Political patronage of public servants
16. Clumsy handling of corruption cases
17. In efficient constitutional, legal and institutional framework mechanism against corruption.
18. Absence of strong public opinion and civil society against corruption.
19. Lack of political commitment against corruption
20. weak local self government institutions.

Remedies to Combat corruption
Some suggestions have been made to combat the extent of corruption in Indian administration, some of these are examined below.

1. Administrative procedure should be simplified and delays eliminated
It is one of the main causes of corruption in India. To reduce and control corruption in administration it is necessary to eliminate such type of procedures and delays. Office procedures should be simplified and level of hierarchy reduced. New pattern of decision making process ought to be evolved. We should have single window system and effective O and M machinery for governmental functioning.

2. Declaration of Assets
Law should be passed to make it obligatory for all ministers, MPs, MLAs, all levels of public servants to declare their assets owned by them, their spouses and children every year. These should be made available to everyone who wants to pay for it. Any falsification should be declared as a punishable offence.

3. Investigating agency should have teeth and Autonomy
The most important thing is to have an autonomous and effective agency to investigate into corruption cases, the present form of Central Bureau Investigation, Central and State Vigilance commission is not having proper autonomy to function effectively

4. Separate Courts for Corruption Cases
Separate courts should be established to deal with corruption cases in India.

5. Creation of Administrative Courts
Administrative courts should be created for redressal of citizens grievances against administrative authorities. These courts should deal with administrative law for trial of cases of disputes between citizens and administration. It should be separated from ordinary court.

6. Alternate to Bureaucratic Model
Our present form of bureaucracy is inefficient, rule oriented, neutral, dysfunctional, and also highly corrupt. We have to find out a new model of bureaucracy Alternate to old model, United Kingdom's agency type model system should be introduced in all important departments.

7. Improving good governance parameters
Our administration should have improved good governance parameters. It can be helpful to minimize the extent of corruption in Indian administration.

8. Electoral Reforms
The biggest cause for corruption in today's India is mainly because of politicians and political parties. It is an urgent need to evolve a new strategy, and code of conduct to regulate the political party activities. Strong amendment should be made to people's representation Act.

9. Decentralization of Administration
Decentralized administration helps to reduce the corruption. Because it takes decision making process closer to beneficiaries at bottom level. Devolution of more powers to local self government institution is mandatory for reducing corruption in India.

10. Administration should be made Accountable
In India we have a big government performing enormous functions. Decisions are taken at various levels of administration where use of discretionary power may be involved. It is difficult for legislators to exercise control over administration and also Judiciary is bogged down by heaps of mounting arrears of cases. So the principle of accountability does not work in the desired manner. We have to ensure accountability at all levels of administration.

11. Strong Civil Society
We needed strong civil society that takes initiative instead of depending helplessly on politicians and officials to fight against corruption.

12. Creation of strong Public opinion against corruption
Public opinion must be created against corrupt politicians and officers unless people take up cudgels against corruption, no amount of anti corruption measures can succeed.

13. Establishment of Strong, Efficient Lokpal at Centre and Lokayukta in States
Establishment of strong lokpal at centre and lokayukta in states are need of the hour, because at present we are not having Independent, empowered, accountable institution to investigate the complaints of corruption cases and prosecute the guilty.

14. State Funding of election
State funding of elections expenses may encourage honourable and well meaning individuals can enter into politics.

Conclusion
Highly corrupt India is poorly governed may be the main reason for rampant and widespread corruption in India. Despite having economic reforms, increased transparency, E-governance tools, corruption in public life continues to grow. Corruption and good governance go hand in hand in India, so controlling corruption is a tough task in India. Because corruption and bribery has affected our total political, administrative and economic system like cancer disease. Whether, it is possible to control corruption in India. I think it may not be possible to eliminate corruption at all levels but it is possible to control it within tolerable limits unless people say 'No' to illegal gratification or expose such greedy public servants and politicians, the corruption chain can't be broken in India.

We needed well functioning state with more focus on people, strengthening our legal and institutional framework mechanism to control the corruption is the need of the hour and order of the day. Corruption and bribery is a contemporary challenge that is posed to every citizen of India How to conquer the menace of corruption in India. Let us take a view to create an atmosphere free from corruption in India means that may be our highest achievement.