Original Research Paper

Management

PEOPLE AWARENESS ABOUT CORRUPTION IN ROAD TRANSPORT (A study conducted at Municipal Area in Karaikal District, U.T. OF PUDUCHERRY)

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KEYWORDS :

Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a Government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice and discouraging foreign aid and investment. Corruption is a key element in economic underperformance and a major obstacle to poverty alleviation and development because ordinary people, all over the world, bear the cost of corruption every day. In many countries, corruption affects people from birth until death.

People around the world regard corruption as a serious, and in many cases, very serious problem for their societies. All around the world, there are significant corruption risks in the political process as well as within political parties in terms of how they are funded to run their campaigns. The people and organizations that fund political parties tend to have a large influence on the actions of these parties.

Concept of Corruption:

The word "corruption" in English comes from the Latin word "corruptio" meaning "moral decay, wicked behaviour, or rottenness". Corruption is the abuse of public power by elected politician or appointed civil servant for personal gain. That is, corruption is the abuse of entrusted power by heritage, education, marriage, election, appointment or whatever else for one's personal gain. Vast literature dedicated to corruption defines it differently. For the purpose of this paper corruption is defined as the 'use of public office for private gains' (Bardhan, 1997). Robert Klitgaard has defined corruption in equation form as follows:

$$Corruption = Monopoly\ Power + Discretion - Accountability$$

Corruption is a global phenomenon. It is found almost in every society in one or the other form since time immemorial. Corruption has increased progressively and it is now rampant in our society. According to D. H. Bailey, corruption is "misuse of authority as a result of consideration of personal gain which need not be monetary".

1.1 Need for the Study

India, the largest democratic country in the world with a population of over a 1.2 million people, is the fastest growing economics and it attracts huge investments from the developed countries. Despite India experiences healthy economic growth, vast population in the country still lives in poverty primarily due to corruption, which has become a part in every walk of life.

Weeding out corruption today from the society is a major challenge before Indian Government. Though the Central Government has enacted Anti-Corruption Laws to deal with the prevention of corruption and constituted commissions such as Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) to enforce the Anti-Corruption Laws effectively. But the evil of corrupation could not be eradicated due prevalence of corruption identified with any one leading or taking part in institution of the government who misuses the discretionary decision making power conferred on one. Ordinary citizens face unnecessary problems in their routine interactions due to misuse of the discretionary decision making power of officials in Government organizations.

Today there is not even a single institution in India from the Office of the Prime Minister to the Secretary of the VillagePanchayat that can claim freedom from corruption. Despite legislations and commissions appointed by the Government, there is a rapid growth of corruption in India. No doubt there are numerous laws to curb corruption, and various anticorruption agencies for implementing the anti-corruption policies and raising the awareness on corruption issues. However, the rampant of corruption has corrosive effects on society. At this crucial juncture there lies the grave need to find out the reasons for cancerous corruption in Government administration in Regional Transport Office (RTO) and to examine the consequences as well as to assess the implementation of anti-corruption policies by the agencies in addition to recommend rational suggestions in the pursuit of combating the evil of corruption in India.

1.2 Objectives of the Study
The present research work is undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To study the extent of corruption in Regional Transport Offices as perceived by the General public (Respondents).
2. To Study about the economic level of the respondents
3. To analyze the respondents' perception about how corruption in these departments paralyzes administration (consequences of corruption in administration)

1.3 Research Methodology
Data for Study
The present research work is mainly based on primary data but also supported by secondary data. While primary data are of the opinion of general public about their experience with corruption in RTO and as well as their opinion about how it paralyzes corruption in administration. The secondary informations are obtained from articles in journals, publications and books relevant for the research area. The primary data also include the socio-economic attributes of the sample (general public). The respondents for the sample are selected using simple random sampling technique among the general public in Karaikal region.

The questionnaire instrument is used to collect the data. The process of collecting data using questionnaire involves face to face interviews. The questionnaire was designed in such a way that it could be understood and answered easily by the respondents. The questionnaire contained closed ended questions. The close ended questions were dichotomous and multiple choice in nature. Since some of the questions required answers on the basis of memory of the respondent (ranking the items) and in such type of questions there is a risk of answering whatever comes to the minds of the respondents is likely to reduce the impact of the study. So, keeping these considerations in mind, the time taken by respondents was reduced in order to get more accuracy in reporting since it has been found that the longer the reporting period, the less accurate the reporting.

1.4 Profile of the Study Area
Karaikal district is one of the four districts of the Union Territory of Puducherry in India. The Karaikal is a town located at about 16 km north of Nagappattinam and 12 km south of Tarangambad is the headquarter of Karaikal district. Karaikal region is made up of five Commune panchayats, viz., Karaikal, Kottuchery, Nedungadu, Tirunallar, Neravy and Tirumalarayanpattinam. The study was conducted at Municipal area in Karaikal.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
Bertrand *et al*.[1] (2007) conducted a study in New Delhi about driving skills and methods of acquiring a driving license found out that some applicants acquired their licenses through corrupt practices and therefore had no immediate incentive for learning how to drive. They

have stated that this practice, of course, puts the lives of the citizens and the drivers themselves at risk, and also adds to the society the cost of meeting medical expenses for those who survive accidents.

Das-Gupta[2] (2007) cites a Transparency International survey of 2002 which ranks the following seven government agencies in decreasing order of corruption: police, judicial services, land administration, education, tax, and health services. Bribes to the police are paid to avoid harassment. A significant finding is that bureaucratic corruption payments were paid directly to officials and not to middlemen, and mostly to officer-level staff and not to subordinate staff.

As stated by Olken[3] (2007), there is some evidence that corruption perceptions can be good indicators of corruption realities even if there are obvious possibilities of biases in both perception and measurement of corruption.

As per Syed[4] (2007), the menace of the corruption has been an important issue that bothers the policy makers, administrators and the general public since a long time. It is one of the crimes that have been a problem in any country of the world. It is a global phenomenon capable of paralyzing a country's development and diverting its precious resources from the public needs of the entire Nation2. The corruption adversely affects not only the social, economical and political structure of the State, but also destroys the democratic values and ideals.

Quah[5] (2008) has analyzed the serious problem of corruption in India by examining its causes and the various anti-corruption measures employed by the government from the formation in 1941 of the first anti-corruption agency, the Delhi Special Police Establishment, which was expanded to form the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in April 1963. He stated that India's ineffective anti-corruption strategy can be attributed to the lack of political will of its leaders and its unfavourable policy context, which has hindered the enforcement of the anti-corruption laws. To enhance the CBI's effectiveness, it should be removed from the jurisdiction of the police and be established as an independent agency dedicated solely to curbing corruption. The Constitution of India should also be amended to empower the CBI to investigate corruption cases at the state level without obtaining the consent of the chief minister of the state. In view of the lack of political will, this article concludes that curbing corruption in India remains an impossible dream in the foreseeable future.

Ezung[6] (2012) has conducted a case study with reference Nagaland State in India to examine the causes, extent and depth of corruption and suggests ways and means to overcome this sickness of society. Primary data was collected in a survey conducted on 100 Naga intelligentsia (teachers teaching in higher education) in four districts of the State and 14 middle men who act as agents in chasing files in the office and they all were interviewed in 2009-2010. The secondary data on misappropriation of funds, illegal appointments, tax at check gates and corrupt activities of the public were collected for the period 2003-2011 from newspapers, viz, Eastern Mirror, Nagaland Post, Morung Express, Naga Realm and Nagalim News. He has identified that corruption has become a way of life for Naga people and corrupt activities are still rampant. The adverse effect on development is shown by the improper construction of infrastructure and improper implementation of any projects. Unless corruption is curtailed by anti-corruption laws, the development in the state will go from bad to worse. He has also found out that the effect of corruption on development is always negative because it makes someone better off while making others worse off.

Rajak[7] (2013), in his paper, has discussed issues related to the nature, causes, consequences and possible remedial measures of corruption in Indian Society. He has emphasized that lack of transparency, morality, accountability and consistency as well as institutional weakness provided fertile ground for the growth of corruption in India. He further stated that how corruption related to development issues in India and which kind negative effects are shown in Indian social, political and economic system. His paper also touches that which kind of reforms is necessary to fight against corruption in India.

1.5 Corruption in Regional Transport Office in India
The Regional Transport Office or Regional Transport Authority (RTO / RTA) is the organisation of the Indian government responsible for maintaining a database of drivers and a database of vehicles for various states of India. The RTO issues driving licences organises collection of vehicle excise duty (also known as road tax and road fund licence) and sells personalized registrations. Along with this, the RTO is also responsible to inspect vehicle's insurance and clear the pollution test.

The owner of a vehicle can apply and get duplicate copy of the vehicle registration certificate from the concerned RTO office if it is stolen, lost, destructed and completely written off. A complaint should be lodged to the police station which is situated under the jurisdiction / area of lost before approaching the regional transport officer. After completing the formalities, the owner has to submit FORM 26 and the Police Certificate to the Registering Authority along with the required documents for applying duplicate vehicle registration certificate. But it is very difficult to avail all the services without bribery.

Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Transport and Highways, has stated that RTO is the most corrupt organisation in the country. He further stated that they are indulged in loot surpassing even what the dacoits did in the forests of Chambal while giving vent to his anger over large scale corruption at RTOs. He has felt guilty conscious as nowhere driving licences can be obtained so easily as in India. According to his, 30 per cent of these are bogus licences.

TABLE NO. 1 TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE SEX OF THE RESPONDENTS

Sl. No	Sex of the respondents	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Male	53	53
2.	Female	47	47
	TOTAL	100	100%

The table showing the distribution of the respondents based on their sex. From the above table, the researcher came to know that, 53% of the respondents are belong to the sex of male, 47% of them are falling in the female category.

TABLE NO. 2 TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Sl. No	Age of the respondents	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Below18 yrs	28	28
2.	18-36 yrs	62	62
3.	36-54 yrs	23	23
4.	Above 54	07	07
	TOTAL	100	100%

The table showing the distribution of the respondents based on their age. From the above table, the researcher came to know that, majority (62%) of the respondents are belong to the age group of 18-36 yrs, 28% of them falling in the age group of below 28 yrs, 23% of them are 36-54 yrs and only 7% of them are in the age group of above 54 years.

TABLE NO. 3 Table showing about the Educational Qualification of the respondents

Sl. No	Education Qualification	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Illiterate	05	05
2.	Middle	38	38
3.	SSLC	11	11
4.	HSC	17	17
5.	Degree & above	59	59
	TOTAL	100	100%

The table showing the distribution of the respondents based on their educational qualification. From the above table, the researcher came to know that, 59% of the respondents are belong to the education qualification upto Degree & above, 38% of them falling in Middle school level, 17% of them upto HSC, 11% of them upto SSLC and only 5% of them are Illiterate.

TABLE NO. 4 Table showing about the Family income for monthly of the respondents

Sl. No	Family income for monthly	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Below 8000	07	07
2.	8001-16000	26	26
3.	16001-24000	23	23
4.	24001 & above	44	44
	TOTAL	100	100%

The table showing the distribution of the respondents based on their

family income. From the above table, the researcher came to know that, 44% of the respondents are earning 24001& above per month as their family income, 26% of them are earning 8001-16000 per month, 23% of them are 16001-24000 per month and only 7% of them are earning below 8000 per month.

TABLE NO. 5 Table showing about the corruption to Issue of Permanent license of the respondents

Sl. No	Issue of Permanent license	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Strongly Disagree	05	05
2.	Disagree	11	11
3.	Neither Disagree nor agree	23	23
4.	Agree	50	50
5.	Strongly agree	11	11
	TOTAL	100	100%

The above table shows that the distribution of the respondents about the corruption to Issue of Permanent license. From the above table, the researcher came to know that, most (50%) of the respondents are agreed that the corruption took place while Issue of Permanent license, 23% of them are Neither Disagree nor agree, equal percentage of them are strongly disagree.

TABLE NO. 6 Table showing about the corruption to Issue badges to the drivers of public service vehicles of the respondents

Sl. No	Issue of drivers of public service vehicles	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Strongly Disagree	23	23
2.	Disagree	11	11
3.	Neither Disagree nor agree	35	35
4.	Agree	20	20
5.	Strongly agree	11	11
	TOTAL	100	100%

From the above table, the researcher came to know that, most (35%) of the respondents are opined about corruption to Issue of drivers of public service vehicles are neither disagree nor agree, 23% of them are strongly disagree, 20% of them are agree, equal percentage of them are disagree and strongly agree.

TABLE NO. 7 Table showing about the corruption on Registration of new vehicle of the respondents

Sl. No	Registration of new vehicle	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Strongly Disagree	14	14
2.	Disagree	23	23
3.	Neither Disagree nor agree	32	32
4.	Agree	23	23
5.	Strongly agree	08	08
	TOTAL	100	100%

From the above table, the researcher came to know that, 32% of the respondents are neither disagree nor agree about the corruption to the Registration of new vehicle, equal percentage of them are strongly agree and disagree, 14% of them are strongly disagree and only 8% of them are strongly agreed.

TABLE NO. 8 Table showing about the Lack of transparent procedures of the respondents

Sl. No	Lack of transparent procedures	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Not at all	28	28
2.	Least Important	17	17
3.	Somewhat Important	11	11
4.	Important	41	41
5.	Very Important	23	23
	TOTAL	100	100

The table showing about the distribution of the respondents based on their Lack of transparent procedures. From the above table, the researcher came to know that, majority (41%) of the respondents are opined that the transparent procedures are lacking but it is important, 28% of the respondents are told that transparent procedures are very

important, 23% of them opined that the transparent procedures are not at all, 17% of them Lack of transparent procedures are opined that it is least important. 11% of them told that it is somewhat important.

TABLE NO. 9 Table showing about the Lack of independent and effective Judiciary of the respondents

Sl. No	Lack of independent and effective Judiciary	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Not at all	08	08
2.	Least Important	23	23
3.	Somewhat Important	11	11
4.	Important	47	47
5.	Very Important	11	11
	TOTAL	100	100%

From the above table, the researcher came to know that, majority (47%) of the respondents are expressed about the Lack of independent and effective Judiciary are important, 23% of the respondents are opined that it is least important, equal percentage of them opined that it is very important and somewhat important, 8% of them told that it is not at all.

TABLE NO. 10 Table showing about the Decentralization of power in Administration of the respondents

Sl. No	Decentralization of power in Administration	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Not at all	11	11
2.	Least Important	20	20
3.	Somewhat Important	32	32
4.	Important	26	26
5.	Very Important	11	11
	TOTAL	100	100%

The tables showing the distribution of the respondents based on their Decentralization of power in Administration. From the above table, the researcher came to know that, 32% of the respondents are opined about the Decentralization of power in Administration are somewhat important, 26% of them expressed that it is important, 20% of the respondents are expressed that it is least important, equal percentage of them are very important and not at all.

TABLE NO. 11 Table showing about the Recruitment of public servants purely on merit basis of the respondents

Sl. No	Recruitment of public servants purely on merit basis	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Not at all	11	11
2.	Least Important	08	08
3.	Somewhat Important	44	44
4.	Important	17	17
5.	Very Important	20	20
	TOTAL	100	100%

From the above table, most (44%)% of the respondents are belong to the Recruitment of public servants purely on merit basis are somewhat important, 20% of the respondents told that it is very important, 17% of the respondents are opined that it is important, 11% of them expressed that it is not at all. Only 8% of them are opined it is least important.

TABLE NO. 12 Table showing about the effective is the Government action to curb corruption in the State Administration of the respondents

Sl. No	Effective is the Government action to curb corruption in the State Administration	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Not at all	0	0
2.	Least Effective	19	19
3.	Somewhat	23	23
4.	Effective	35	35
5.	Very Effective	23	23
	TOTAL	100	100%

The tables showing the distribution of the respondents based on their Effective is the Government action to curb corruption in the State Administration. From the above table, 35% of the respondents are

opined that it is effective, equal percentage of the respondents are opined that it is very effective and somewhat, 19% of the respondents are told that it is least effective.

TABLE NO. 13 Table showing about the corruption in administration has changed in the State of the respondents

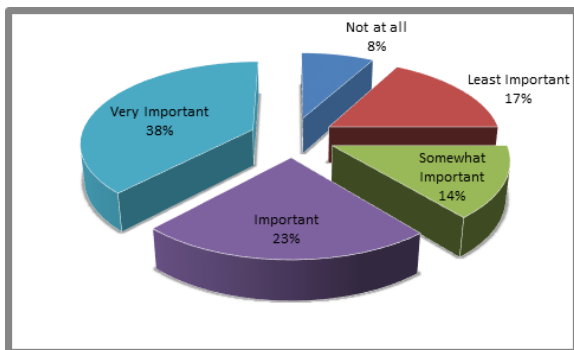| Sl. No	corruption in administration has changed in the State	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Decreased	08	08
2.	Decreased Little	05	05
3.	Unchanged	35	35
4.	Increased Little	35	35
5.	Increased Little	17	17
	TOTAL	100	100%

The tables showing the distribution of the respondents based on their corruption in administration has changed in the State. From the above table, the researcher came to know that, equal percentage of the respondents are belong to the corruption in administration has changed in the State are unchanged and increased little, 17% of the respondents are belong to the corruption in administration has changed in the State are increased little. 8% of the respondents are belong to the corruption in administration has changed in the State are decreased and only 5% of the respondents are belong to the corruption in administration has changed in the State are decreased little.

TABLE NO. 14 Table showing about the extent a few big entities who head the government act in their own interest of the respondents

Sl. No	extent a few big entities who head the government act in their own interest	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Not at all	17	17
2.	Limited extent	11	11
3.	Somewhat	32	32
4.	Large extent	26	26
5.	Entirely	14	14
	TOTAL	100	100%

From the above table, the researcher came to know that, 32% of the respondents are belong to the extent a few big entities who head the government act in their own interest are somewhat, 26% of them opined that it is large extent. 17% of them expressed that it is not at all. 14% of them opined that it entirely. 11% of the respondents are opined that it is upto limited extent.

DIAGRAM NO: 1 THE 3-D PIE DIAGRAM SHOWING THE WEAKNESS OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION

From the above table, the researcher came to know that, 38% of the respondents are told that laws and regulations against corruption is very important, 23% of the respondents are expressed that it is important. 17% of the respondents are opined that it is least important. 14% of the respondents are told that it is somewhat important. 8% of the respondents opined that it is not at all.

Findings of the Study:
- 53% of the respondents are belong to the sex of male
- Majority (62%) of the respondents are belong to the age group of 18-36 yrs,
- 59% of the respondents are belong to the education qualification upto Degree & above
- 44% of the respondents are earning 24001& above per month as their family income
- Most (50%) of the respondents are agreed that the corruption took place while Issue of Permanent license
- Most (35%) of the respondents are opined about corruption to Issue of drivers of public service vehicles are neither disagree nor agree,
- 32% of the respondents are neither disagree nor agree about the corruption to the Registration of new vehicle
- Majority (41%) of the respondents are opined that the transparent procedures are lacking but it is important
- Majority (47%) of the respondents are expressed about the Lack of independent and effective Judiciary are important
- 32% of the respondents are opined about the Decentralization of power in Administration are somewhat important
- Most (44%)% of the respondents are belong to the Recruitment of public servants purely on merit basis are somewhat important
- 35% of the respondents are opined that Government action to curb corruption in the State Administration is effective.
- Equal percentage of the respondents are belong to the corruption in administration has changed in the State are unchanged and increased little.
- 32% of the respondents are belong to the extent a few big entities who head the government act in their own interest are somewhat.
- 38% of the respondents are told that laws and regulations against corruption are very important.

Conclusion:
This article is attempted to know about the level of corruption in road transport and the awareness level of public about the acts to eradicate the corruption.

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