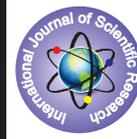


# Political Corruption in Ethiopia



## Political Science

**KEYWORDS:** Corruption, Political Corruption and Ethiopia

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### ABSTRACT

Corruption in Ethiopia is one of the main cause of its ever failure today including its instability. Every development projects and every day to day service in public office are parasitical in the hands of customers. The corruption type includes both grand corruption which committed mostly by decision makers and owners of big industries and company as well as petty corruption which practice on the mass people day today service. The forms of corruption is vary, but most commonly includes bribery, nepotism, embezzlement, patronage etc. Corruption may facilitate instability and criminal enterprises. This paper try to illustrate about political corruption cause, types and remedies to be taken to prevent corruption in Ethiopia.

### 1. Introduction

One of the many social , economic and political ills like poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and ill health, that confront Ethiopia, the most damaging and challenging of all is the problem of widespread administrative and political corruption. Corruption is a disease or cancer that eats the cultural, political, economic and fabric of the society and destroys the functioning of the vital organs of governments.

It is difficult to describe corruption in one things but it can be said that corruption is a symptom that something is wrong with the management of state.

Corruption is recognized as a major hurdles to enhancing state capacity and detrimental to development in general. It weakens and destroys state structure by distorting public funds into personal benefits and by hampering the economic growth by deterring private investments into the economy.

Political corruption is the use of powers by government officials for illegitimate private gain. It involves decision makers. It takes place at high levels of political system.

### 2. Cause of Political Corruption in Ethiopia

**1. Illiteracy among people:** In Ethiopia the majority of population is illiterate and the mass illiterate people have no any knowledge about their rights. They pay for the works which are their rights because of the lack of knowledge. The public officials took the advantage of their ignorance to commit corruption

**2. Lack of patience:** In Ethiopia for the widespread of corruption it is not true only the ignorant (illiterate) are responsible for corruption but it is also a fact that the educated people who have complete knowledge of their rights are also the reason behind it. They have no patency regarding the process of their work to be done. They think it is better to pay money rather than to devote time for the process of their work. which again affect the total system of work and leads to discrimination on the service takers.

**3. Degradation of values:** Values have very important place in the society and in the life of an individual. In present days, peoples and individuals does not give any importance to values, as they have no connectivity is among and with each others in one hand and they are busy in gathering material things to struggle survival for the majority and deep interested in social standards of for few. They does not consider as the essential fact of the society but pay important to their own interests. The value erosion is the reason for political corruption and the reason for value erosion is the lack of time, patience, connectivity and developing behaviour of self interested.

**4. Complex law and procedures:** Laws in the country sometimes not understood by the common people and the laws and procedures is also very complex. So, common people does not devote time to make Ethiopia free from corruption.

**5. Lack of severe punishment and delay in judgement:** People

does not afraid of corruption activities because they know that there is lack of severe punishment on corrupt individuals and the courts make delays in giving judgments on corruption cases.

**6. Personal interest:** To satisfy their interests political leaders/ public officials at local, regional and national levels misuse their public office. Whenever they see something which is anti of their interests they try to abolish that thing with the use of their power.

### 3. Types of political Corruption

There are different types of corruption prevail in Ethiopian public institutions. Some of them were:

**A. Bribery:** It is the mostly common type of corruption in the country which a person make payment to a government officials in exchange of his/her use of official power.

**B. Embezzlement:** it s another type of corruption by which public officials use public money or property without specified to the public

**C. Nepotism:** this is a kind of corruption in the country by which officials favours some friends, family or in his/her identity like religions, ethnic line and other characteristics by using public office to give service.

**D. Patronage:** It is a kind of political corruption by which government favours in employment for its followers or supporters

**F. Kickback:** It is a form of negotiated bribe in which a commission is paid to the bribe taker in exchange for service rendered. Politicians and public officials in charge of choosing how to spend some public funds by giving to contractor for company that is not the best bids and allocate money more than they deserve. In this case, the company benefits and exchanges for betraying the public the officials received kickback payment which is the portion of sum the company received.

### 4. Remedies to Tackle Corruption

To tackle corruption in the country there should be

**i. Ethical Education-** The ethical education system should be in line teaching the citizens about the values and moral principles, truth than focusing party policy agenda

**ii. Leadership Quality:** The issue of leadership is a very important issues. Since corruption is occurred due to leadership failure creating committed and competent leadership plays an important role in preventing corruption

### iii. Literacy rate must be high

iv. Transparency and fast Judgement on punishments of corruption since individuals will take lessons from penalty

**V. Prosperity** achieving economic growth which serve all section of society will decrease the prevalence of corruption due to the fact that

one of the cause of corruption is poverty.

**vi. Avoiding of complex bureaucracy system.**

**5. Conclusion**

Political corruption in the country is a big challenge and highly affecting the social, economic and political systems of the country. The major cause of corruption in the country is poverty, illiteracy, lack of moral values, complex bureaucracy and procedures, lack of serious punishments etc. The major cause of concern is that political corruption is weakening the political body and damaging the supreme importance of the law governing society. Now a days in Ethiopia politics is only for criminals and criminals are meant to be in politics. The laws sometimes finds itself helpless in reaching the politicians and the politics has become the means of acquiring wealth and last refuge of scoundrels.