

---

**DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF CORRUPTION IN INDIA:  
SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR PREVENTION**

**Dr. Dhanpal Singh**  
**Department of Legal Studies**  
**C. C. S. University, Meerut**  
**[drdhanpalsingh19@gmail.com](mailto:drdhanpalsingh19@gmail.com)**

---

Corruption is not a new phenomenon for India. It has been for centuries everywhere, but the level of corruption is up and down time to time and place to place. Corruption is a social evil, Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. In its simplest sense corruption may be defined as an act of bribery or misuse of public position or power for the fulfillment of selfish motives or to gain personal gratifications. It has also been defined as misuses of authority as a result of consideration of personal gain which need not be monetary.

Kofi Annan (former secretary general of the United Nation) foreword to the U.N. Convention against corruption. "Corruption is an insidious plague that has wide range of corrosive effects on society. It undermines democracy and rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and it allows organized crimes, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish. This evil phenomenon is found in all countries, big and small, rich and poor-but it is in the developing world that its effects are more destructive, comiptidn hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining the government's ability to provide basic services feeding inequality and injustice and discouraging foreign aid and investment."

**Meaning of Corruption**

Corruption in simple terms may be described as 'an act of bribery'. If any public servant is caught taking bribe or is found holding assets more than his known sources of income, it is called corruption. Black money is the money on which a person does not pay tax to the government and is not in record of government is also a part of corruption. Corruption has been defined by the world Bank, "Corruption is the misuse of public office for private gain."

International Police Organization "Corruption is any cause of action or failure to act by individuals or organizations public or private, in violation of law or trust for profit or gain." "In our country there are five major players on the corruption scene, interdependent, strengthening and supportive of the vicious cycle. They are the neta, the corrupt politician; the babu, the

corrupt bureaucrat; the lala, the corrupting businessman; the jhola, the corrupt NGO; and the dada, the criminal of the underworld."

"Corruption is moral deterioration and perversion of a person's integrity in the performance of duty or work by bribery" corruption is dishonesty and illegal behavior by people in positions of authority or power. The corrupt know that corruption is low risk with high gains. "Corruption in its various forms can also be viewed in terms of bribes, speed money, blackmoney, extortion, outright fraud, embezzlement, misappropriation of assets and operation of vested interest."

### **Corruption in India**

Corruption is the mother of various problems arising in India, and giving birth to crime and culprits. It is a social, economic & political offence. Corruption is not a new phenomenon for India.. History is full of various examples of corrupt behavior. "As early as 1000 B.C. the laws of manu stated that corrupt officials who receive bribes from villagers are to be banished and their property should be seized." In "Arthashastra" Kautilya quoted about corruption that, "Just as it is impossible not to taste the honey or the poison that finds itself at the tip of the tongue, so it is impossible for a government servant not to eat up at least a bit of the king's revenue. Just as a fish moving under water cannot possibly be found out either as drinking or not drinking water, so government servants employed in the government work can not be found out (while) taking money [for themselves]. It is possible to mark the movements of birds flying high up in the sky; but not so is it possible to ascertain the movement of government servants of hidden purpose."

During the medieval period in India corruption rampant the lower officials, particularly those, belonging to the department of revenue. Allauddin Khilji realized that the low salaries of the officials tempted them to accept and even extort bribes. When the Tughlaq Dynasty was in power in India corruption prevailed in the form of nepotism and heredity. In Mughal Rule, corruption prevailed in the form of nazrana or offering of present to the emperor and high officials. Describing the conditions prevalent towards the end of this sixteenth century. Sir Thomas Roe writes: "The people of India live as fishes did in the sea-great ones eat up the little. For first, the farmer robs the peasant, the gentleman robs the farmer, the greater robs the lesser and the king robs all."

The lower-rank officials of Mughal India were "incurably corrupt". The low salaried employees, like clerks and other subordinates, had to supplement their salary by accepting bribes from the people by bestowing favours upon them.

During the British rule in India was almost systematic corruption involving almost all officials starting from the Governor down to the lowest revenue officials. "The days of Clive and Hastings were famous for bribery and corruption, Clive and Warren Hastings were corrupt to such an extent that often their return to England they had to face a trial by a parliamentary committee."

The cancer, of corruption has increased many folds. Now the assets of corrupt officials

are in thousands of crore. It has no limit of bribes, kickbacks, cut, commission and black money etc. Indians are creating history in all fields. They are also creating a new history in the field of corruption through scams. Independent India's first scam was revealed in 1948's Jeep Scandal, which related to the purchase of army jeeps. The cycle imported scandal in 1951. The Mundhra Scandal (1958), Before scam (1987-1990) which is considered the 20th century's most complicated political corruption scandal in the country, Harshad Mehta securities and banking scam, Sukh Ram telecom scandal. The first decade of the 21st century witnessed over ten major Indian corruption scandals including cash-for-votes during the 2008 confidence vote in the Lok Sabha and the 2-G spectrum allocation scam (Rs. 1,76,000 crore, as the estimated by the comptroller and Auditor General of India). Common wealth games scam, Adarsh housing society scam, and Coal mine scam, Sukna land scam. Above list of corruption is not a complete list it is increasing day by day. Some people say that the cancer of corruption in our democracy has been incurable, but it is not true. We have to amend some and stringent corruption laws with exemplary punishment. Only then corruption can be eliminated or controlled to a large extent.

In recent decade India has been given 94th rank in the list of most corrupted countries out of 177 countries in the world (corruption perception index's report 2013). Transparency International - a Berlin based corruption watch agency has been publishing its Annual Survey Reports based on its corruption perception' index since 1995-96.

**Table-1 : India's Rank and Corruption Perception Index- 2013**

S.No.	Year	Number of Countries	Rank	Score
1.	2001	91	71 <sup>st</sup>	2.7 out of 10
2.	2002	102	73 <sup>rd</sup>	2.7 out of 10
3.	2003	133	83 <sup>rd</sup>	2.8 out of 10
4.	2004	145	90 <sup>th</sup>	2.8 out of 10
5.	2005	158	88 <sup>th</sup>	2.9 out of 10
6.	2006	163	70 <sup>th</sup>	3.3 out of 10
7.	2007	179	72 <sup>nd</sup>	3.5 out of 10
8.	2008	180	85 <sup>th</sup>	3.4 out of 10
9.	2009	180	84 <sup>th</sup>	3.4 out of 10
10.	2010	178	87 <sup>th</sup>	3.3 out of 10
11.	2011	183	95 <sup>th</sup>	3.1 out of 10

12.	2012	176	94 <sup>th</sup>	36 out of 100
13.	2013	177	94 <sup>th</sup>	36 out of 100

Source: Global Corporation Reports of Transparency International

This table shows a random movement of India's rank from year to year which is understandable because it is relative to other countries and therefore it depends as much on the changing state of corruption elsewhere. That apart, one thing is quite obvious: India has all along figured among the highly corrupted countries of the world.

### **Causes of Corruption in Modern India**

The main causes of corruption in modern India are following:

1. Deterioration of the religious values and morality are the main cause of corruption in India.
2. Now the faith in God or religion is decreasing from their heart and they are running after money and their belief in materialism has attracted them so in short time they want to get more money.
3. Election time is a time when corruption is at its peak level. Big industrialist funding politicians to meet high cost of election and ultimately to seek personal favour. Bribery to politicians buys influence, and bribery by politicians buys votes.
4. Lack of Accountability is one of the causes which increase corruption in all level of government services.
5. If the government is weak and ineffective and has no control over his ministers and officials, the corruption will increase.
6. Lack of transparency in administration is the root cause of corruption.
7. Due to lack of deterrent punishment this problem is increasing.
8. Slow motion justice as approximately three crore cases are pending Indian courts. People want to see justice done undelayed, because "Justice delayed is justice denied".
9. Insufficient or poor salary: insufficient or poor or low salary of government officials compel them to involved in corruption.
10. Nepotism in all level: Nepotist corruption denotes extending official favours to family member or relatives often with no regard for merit or competence. It is about keeping family interests against of public interest.
11. Red tapism is one of the causes of corruption. Due to red tapism bribe

is treated as speed money.

**12.** Lack of awareness or Ignorance of rule and law.

**13.** Complicated legal procedures alienate common people to help government in corruption cases

### **Suggestion to Eradicate Corruption in India**

India has 94th rank out of 177th countries in 2013 of Transparency International Corruption Perception Index report. It shows that India is one of the most corrupt countries in the world. It effects upon the investment in India, So the businessman and investor do not take interest in investing in India. To eradicate this monster of corruption we should follow the following suggestions:

1. Motivate the present generation for certain values there is a need for value based education by this people understand and start to believe the values of ethics and morality in their lives and they start believe in God.
2. Political corruption is the source of many problem in election time, state should be funding of election expenses for candidates.
3. Speed up the trial as well set up a time limit for each case at rate of months for non-cognizable and 6 months for cognizable offences. This shall apply even in the cases relating to corruption.
4. Role of media should be aware to expose scams & corruption. Media can play an important role to control corruption and give suggestion and exposes scam honestly.
5. Simplification of law and procedures:- foolproof law and procedures should be made so that there may be no room for discretion for politicians and bureaucrats.
6. Responsiveness, accountability and transparency are must for a clean system. Bureaucracy, the backbone of good governance should be made more citizens friendly accountable, ethical and transparent.
7. Empowering the public and bringing in greater transparency
8. Properties should be confiscated, acquired by corrupt public servants by corrupt or illegal means not only in their own names but also in the names of their relatives and other under their control.
9. Increase salary of servant low salary is the another reason for corruption. Government should increase salary of the public servant.
10. Whistle blower should be protected; and their identification should be confidential; this shall increase reporting of any phenomenon of corruption.
11. Local bodies, independent of the government, like Lokpal,

Lokayukta, CBI, CVCs and vigilance commissions should be formed to provide speedy justice with low expenses.

12. Another essential components of anti corruption strategy are the strict enforcement of the principle of accountability at all levels.
13. The changing public perception of corruption as low risk, high reward' activity to 'a high risk, low reward' and also basing the comprehensive anti corruption strategy on the logic of corruption control in terms of focusing on the removal or minimization of incentives and opportunities that make individual corrupt. India just has to have strong determination to combat corruption, given the various legislations and its legal structure.
14. The demand for electoral reforms includes the "right to recall" an elected representative who performs badly or inadequately in the interest of his constituency.
15. There is a need for the inclusion of the new fundamental right like the right to corruption free service.

## REFERENCES

1. *Define by the International Criminal Police Organization, 1999*
2. *Jain, R.B., "Public Service Ethics: As Indian Perspective" Paper delivered at ethics in public service conference, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, August 5-9, 1996, p. 2.*
3. *Joshi, Chandr Shekhar, Need of Lokpal as Legal Instrument for Prevention of Corruption in India. Civil and Military Law Journal 2012 Oct-Dec; 48(4), p. 266*
4. *Mishra, Mritunjay K., "Corruption in Public Life, "Corruption in India, Anamika Publisher & Distributors (P) Ltd. 2007, p. 317*
5. *Padhy, Krushna Singh & Munni, P.K., Corruption in Indian Politics, Discovery Pub. House - 1987, p. 30.*
6. *Rahi, M.S. Corruption and Its Effect on Social Life, Cr. LJ. 2002, p. 268*
7. *Sharma, S.L., Towards a Sociological Theory of Corruption. IASSI Quarterly 2012, Jan-March; 31(1), p. 16*
8. *Singh, Subodh K. Corruption: Menace in India; Criminal Law Journal 2012 April: 118(4) p. 103*
9. *Trehan, Jyoti, Crime & Money Laundering- The Indian Perspective. Kluwer Law International, London/New York, 2004, p. 49*
10. *Vittal, N. Combatting Corruption, p. 1. <http://legalserviceindia.com> /visited on 11/05/2011*