

Common Man – As Victim of External Shocks of Corruption

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ABSTRACT

The paper studies the framework and policy measures that the Indian government should adopt to deal with the corruption and black money evil encountered by our economy. The study further gives greater focus to evils and difficulties suffered by common man as the ultimate victim of corruption and black money trilogy. Researcher draws the conclusion of this paper addressing the ongoing status of issues of corruption related sufferings to common man, and by suggesting counter measures to listed drawbacks for better social cause and collective good. The present paper helps to know about the current status of corruption areas and why it is more accustomed to common man.

INTRODUCTION

India which marked the growth rate of 7.9% in the first quarter of 2016-17 has now slowed to 6.1% and later to 5.7% in April-June of current year. The slowdown was due to introduction of demonetization and GST. Our PM was forced to take such a valorous step to attack corruption and black money, but was not able to control short run inflation followed by effectively. 95% of Indian citizen is subjected to either petty or grand corruption. The cause for this wretched situation is the degradation of three branches – the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. According to Credit Suisse's Global Wealth Data Book 2014 the richest 1% hold as much as 58% of Indian wealth and India's Gini coefficient rose from 45 in 1990 to 51.4 last year. As to much knowledge Forbes annual has recorded 101 billionaires now, as there was none in 1990's.

Transparency International Annual Corruption Perception Index 2016, India is the 79 least corrupted nation out of 175 countries.

Santham Committee which was appointed to examine the problem of corruption in 1962 observed that the minister who have held the last 16 years have enriched themselves illegitimately and reaped advantages. Nagarwala case, Bofor's deal, Common wealth, etc. are some. Encroaching land by the ministers in our district is also another example of corruption.

Corruption and black money hinders our growth as the financial flow from other countries declines. 2001 – 2010 India ranks against decades eight largest victim of illicit capital flight and country experienced loss of US \$123 billion in black money. High amount of capital and money asset is converged to the hands of few which causes inequality in the economy. The aftermath is the final burden of on the common citizen as the marginal utility of money for the poor is more.

In India, it appears that none of the bureaucratic procedures can be forwarded without the bribe or payment. Bureaucrats exploit their power to extract the money from the public for various task. It has become more or less like a traditional form to perform. Thus the access of public services has been highly expensive. Almost 92% of Indian citizens are forced to go through various levels of corruption in their life. This vulnerable habit offers officers to take it as a privilege without any guilty conscience.

OBJECTIVES

- To study and analyze corruption in different economic aspects.
- To examine various areas a common man is affected by evils of corruption.
- To bring out the possibilities for a corruption less society.

Mode of study: To gather information on impact of corruption on economy and its citizens. The researcher has distributed questionnaire to randomly selected 30 respondents of local residents in the ninth ward of Vandiperiyar panchayath, and has used available literatures and web sources.

The researcher was able to classify the impact of corruption to macro and micro level, and as listed follows:

Economic Aspect

Impact at Macro Level

- Corruption declines the ability to attract foreign investment.
- Reduces generating income through taxation.
- Unsuccessful in implementing poverty alleviation programme.
- Optimum allocation of GDP may not be possible.
- Greater inequality in distribution of wealth.

Impact at Micro level

- Ultimate burden on the citizens.
- Marginalized group are detached from the main stream of economic growth.
- Low standard of living.
- Creation of slums and crimes.

KEY AREAS OF CORRUPTION

1. Self-care and medicine

Working group of Tertiary care Institutions for the 12th five year plan says one million Indian dies every year due to inadequate health care facilities. Bribing of doctors by the MNC distributors, influence the surgeons to use their particular product like artificial knee and hips and pressurize them to use modern technology for minor diseases.

2. Education

The progress of the economy can be triggered by investing more on health and education. Government must increase the expenditure on health from 1% to 3% of GDP and education 3% to 6% of GDP. The study shows that low quality of elementary education

and less opportunity for higher education hinders the poor to attain their basic necessities.

3. Beverages

It's the state's main source of income but a social vice. The lobbying and high influence by the political parties' tactics to share the enormous profit ultimately ends in serving low quality and high price hot drinks to the customers.

4. Public services

The government who has to be the safe guard of the constitution and protector of common man denies their role. The government institutions like village office, agricultural office, universities, etc are the resort of bribery. Rich have more source to bribe as their marginal utility of money is less. Poor are more likely to be deprived of these services hence they are likely to rely on petty corruption.

5. Social activities.

Real estate business and 'benami' transactions are the excellent breed of corruption.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Kattappana, the first high range municipal town is a center of production of agriculture product like coffee, tea, spices. Thus the main workers comprise of 86.78% and 13.22% of marginalized workers. As large population of Kattappana are the migrants from the nearby area like Palai, Kottayam, Pattanamthitta in 1950's these cultivators don't have a proper land and building documents. Unlike the olden days, the modern governance is subjected more to accountability and transparency which induced documentation mandatory. This increased the flow of applicants to village and panchayath office considerably. The study reveals that the most corruption can be seen in revenue department.

An applicant has to stand in longer hours of queue and visit the officers frequently for ratification. It is obvious that revenue process is a time consuming procedures but it will be still longer if not bribed and lead to red-tapism – one of the biggest curse of bureaucrats.

The E- governance and online application helped to get most of the certificate like income, caste, death and birth at ease. It has reduced the level of corruption and our youth (students and job seekers) are free from corruption to a certain extend. According to the survey, next most corrupted area is police- they are able to earn illegally more than salary from sand mining lobbies, bars, jewellery shops and even they could charge a petty case if not bribed well.

The studies from the respondents reveals that the common citizen considers the government offices as their last resort of help and the services should be rendered to them without payment. To achieve this aim the attitude and work commitment has to be changed. The influence of politics has to be for the well being of the society rather than their greed. The table below shows the common man's view towards corruption.

PARTICULARS	NO.OF RESPODENTS	PERCENTAGE
Are you a victim of Petty corruption ?	Yes 21	70%
	No 9	30%

Does high paid bureaucracy reduce corruption ?	Yes	0	0%
	No	30	100%
Is education a remedial measure ?	Yes	0	0%
	No	30	100%
Do you think e – governance can reduce corruption ?	Yes	18	60%
	No	12	40%

Source : Primary data

The shocking truth unveiled from the table is that education is not at all a remedy to fight against corruption. This shows degradation of our education system. Idukki where we achieved 92% of literacy is not a contribution to fight against day to day common evils of society. But there is a hope that educated upcoming youths use the facilities of modern technology and there by e – governance, which majority of people think that it helps to cut down the rate of corruption. The public servants and executives who are morally corrupted should be morally aware of their position and responsibilities and maintain a dignity which further helps to pave a way to a ‘corruption less society’.

FOR A CORRUPTION LESS SOCIETY

1. Transparency in official procedures

Public Procurement Bill 2012 which tends to regulate public procurement for all ministers and Central government department. It ensures transparency, promote competition and enhance efficiency in public process. Eg : E- Governance , Jhan Dhan Yojana, etc

2. Participation of poor in development activities.

A sense of dignity should be created among them and realise their importance as a citizen.

3. Importance for education.

Intellectual, educated and well informed citizen should be shaped for the proper public outcry against corruption.

4. Pro poor anti – corruption strategies.

More effective when they promote citizen s basic rights.

5. Strict implementation of rules and regulations

Vigilance and Anti –Corruption Bureau introducing public grievance forum. Efficient implementation of Benami Prohibition Amendment Act 2016,etc

CONCLUSION

The residents and the citizens of the country now perceive corruption as a part of our culture and finds no guilty in bribing others to get their job done. The downward spiral of this trend in our economy is widely ignored by the government and this creates an enabling environment for corruption to further thrive. The lopsided income wealth distribution of the nation will remain unchanged and worsen, if the authorities’ fail to implement adequate counter measures. Sadly, India will remain a developing nation, 70 years of independence notwithstanding.

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