Public Opinion towards Corruption

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Abstract
Corruption as a Phenomenon is both Universal and Historical. It is a fact of history that there existed no society in the past in which corruption was totally absent. At the same time corruption is practiced in one way or another in all the existing societies of the world. It content and character its forms and intensity, of course, may differ from society to society. Independent from the countries size, economic conditions, and political dimensions every state nowadays suffers from this phenomenon. Even the most successful developing countries have suffered from significant corruption and other governance failures during the early stages of their development. It is a various illegal activities, viz, illegal gratification, bribery, misuse of power, undue influence at election, false statement, tax evasion, favoritism, perjury, false charge of offence, etc. In this study the researcher find out the public opinion on various government departments, like RTO, Government Hospital, Taluk Office, and Municipality in Pollachi. Using the interview schedule, data were collected through convenient sampling of 80 respondents from the above departments in Pollachi.
Keywords: Corruption, Public Opinion Study

1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption means deviation or distortion form an established, expected or a desirable path. The Oxford Dictionary describes a corrupt person as dishonest, especially the one using bribery. It has been rightly considered an immoral activity. The term corruption is generally used for mistreatment of power for other purposes. It is also often defined as the abuse of public authority or trust for private benefit. It is the abuse of entrusted authority for private gain and represents a major hurdle on the road to social and economic development. Corruption may be defined as According to D.H. Bailey, Corruption can be understood as the "misuse of authority as a result of consideration of personal gain which need not be monetary". According to Elliott and Merrill "Corruption is a willful failure to perform a specified duty in order to receive some direct or indirect personal gain. Unfortunately, India is regarded as one of the countries where corruption has become very much widespread during the recent years. Corruption is one the factors that has contributed to the degradation of the Indian Politics. Corruption in India has become deep-rooted and its growth is unchecked and unhindered. All those leaders who declared war against miserably lost the battle.

1.1 CAUSES OF CORRUPTION IN INDIA

There are different causes for corruption such as Lack of effective management and organization, Lack of economical stability, Lack of effective leadership, Lack of support, Lack of values, Lack of love for country, Lack of proper system, Lack of satisfaction, Lack of autonomy, Lack of good control and vigilance, Lack of good remuneration, Lack of employment, Lack of seats and educational institutions.

1.2 CONSEQUENCES OF CORRUPTION
- Loss of National wealth
- Hindrance and obstruction in development
- Poverty
- Authority and power in wrong hands
- Brain drain
- Rise in terrorism and crimes

1.3 CORRUPTION IT'S IMPACT ON SOCIETY
- Economic insecurity
- High rate on income tax
- Meager salary being paid to the government servants
- Emergence of new sources of wealth and power
- The system of democracy
- The very presence of Black Money
- Social and economic modernization
- Lack of heavy punishment
- Ignorance of law

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❖ Individual causes

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Corruption Perception Index (2008): Though India is credited with having made considerable progress in terms of economic reform over the past few years, corruption is perceived to be widespread and entrenched at all levels of the political and administrative system. India ranks 85 from 180 countries surveyed in Transparency International's 2008 Corruption Perception Index (CPI), with a score of 3.4. Since the first iterations of the index, India has scored between 2.7 and 3.5, indicating that, despite some progress, corruption continues to be perceived as rampant and endemic by the various CPI sources.

Freedom House (2008): Freedom House 2008 comes to similar conclusions, nothing that government effectiveness and accountability continue to be undermined by the close connections between crime and politics, weak government institutions and widespread corruption.

World Bank Governance Indicators (2007) Similarly, the 2007 World Bank Governance Indicators suggest little change over the years. The country performs consistently above average on indicators of voice and accountability, government effectiveness and the rule of law, but poorly in terms of regulatory quality and control of corruption. Its rating for political stability is particularly weak.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1 Objectives of the study
- ✓ To assess the socio – economic condition of the respondents.
- ✓ To find out the major areas of corruption
- ✓ To identify the important factors of corruption
- ✓ To study the respondents opinion about corruption

3.2 Research Design
The researcher has used the descriptive design for the study.

3.3 Sampling procedure
The Researcher adopted purposive sampling to select four departments, like Government Hospital, Regional Transport Office, Taluk Office and Municipality in Pollachi. It was decided to interview 20 publics from each department and through convenient sampling method were used for data collection, thus a total of 80 respondents were interviewed.
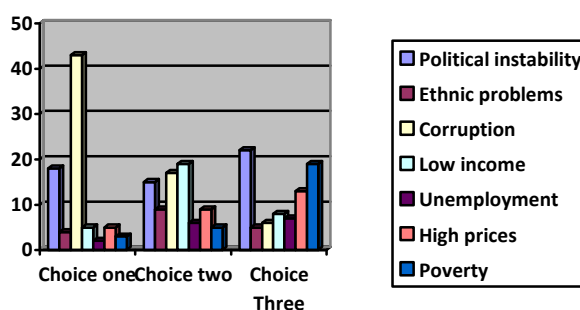
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table – 1   Socio – Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

S.No	Attributes	Categories	No. of respondents (n:80)	Percentage
1	Age	20 – 30	36	45.00
		31 – 40	28	35.00
		41 – 50	11	13.75
		51 – 60	5	6.25
2	Sex	Male	58	72.50
		Female	22	27.50
3	Marital Status	Married	58	72.50
		Unmarried	22	27.50
4	Educational Qualification	Illiterate	18	22.50
		Primary	13	16.25
		High School	24	30.00
		Higher Secondary	22	27.50
		Degree	3	3.75
5	Occupation	Government	7	8.75
		Private	55	68.75
		Self employee	18	22.50
6	Monthly Income	Below 3000	1	1.25
		3001 – 6000	43	53.75
		6001 – 9000	29	36.25
		Above 9000	7	8.75
7	Family Type	Nuclear family	50	62.75
		Joint family	30	37.25

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Table – 1 demonstrates that nearly fifty per cent of the respondents belonged to the age group of 20 – 30 years, the reason is the youth generation applying different types of certificates to various government departments like that, ration card, driving license, community certificate, building approval, water connection and so on. Majority (72.50%) of the respondents are male and married. Because of our society family setup is male based, so the out side the family works mostly done by male. 30 per cent of the respondents have only high school education 68.75 per cent are private job, 53.75 per cent of the respondents have only Rs. 3001 – 6000 as monthly income and 62.75 per cent of the respondents who belong to the Nuclear family.

Table – 2 Factors of the Corruption

Opinion	No of the respondents		
	Choice one	Choice two	Choice Three
Low salaries	2	9	2
Crisis of morale	1	4	4
Imperfect legislation	14	19	13
Communist past legacy	6	7	11
Judicial system	5	17	21
A quick buck	3	10	14
Lack of strict control	49	14	13

4. SUGGESTIONS

The corruption problems that our nations face today cannot be fought by government alone. Such problems call for the involvement of the private sector, civil organizations and non – government organizations. Until now, such cooperation and coordination have been insufficient. Therefore, all sectors need to join efforts, at the national and international levels, in order top promote:

- A better understanding of the problem, as well as of the institutions that fight it and enhanced exchange of information.
- Awareness of the gravity of the phenomenon and a better understanding of the existing legal instruments to fight it.
- Mutual technical assistance, better institutional coordination and a solid and internationally focused approach to the problem.
- The establishment of practical measures for the implementation of member states strategies in the fight against corruption.
- The development of judicial system that are honest and transparent and that effectively punish corrupt people.
- Leaders from all spheres of life who are hones, professional and upright and who set an example through their behavior and provide new role models, new behavioural standards and new ways of social interaction.

5. CONCLUSION

The researcher has completing the study was satisfied with the public opinion corruption – many factors analyse the researcher like that socio – economic conditions,   problem area of corruption, important factors of corruption and public opinion about corruption. There is a much better grasp today of the extent to which corruption is a symptom of fundamental institutional weaknesses. Instead of tackling such a symptom with narrow intervention designed to " eliminate" it, it is increasingly understood that the approach ought to address a broad set of fundamental institutional determinants. Thus identifying key institutional reforms in India, and mobilizing support for such reforms, needs to be fully integrated into the participatory process from very early on. Such early convergence is likely to promote a better balance between prevention and enforcement measures in

addressing corruption. Therefore, corruption is an intractable problem, it is like diabetes, which can only controlled, but not totally eliminated.

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