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RESEARCH ARTICLE

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR CORRUPTION: PERCEPTION OF THE CITIZENS FROM VARIOUS PROFESSIONS AND RELIGIONS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the present research are to know what are the important factor affecting on corruption and who are most victimized in this corrupted system. The specific objectives are to review factors affecting on corruption, to know perception regarding factors affecting on corruption of the respondents from various professions, to know perception regarding factors affecting on corruption of the respondents from various religions and to suggest measure for development of policy regarding eradication of corruption. Required data was collected through purposive sampling method and analyzed using SPSS 20. Results indicates that people from all professions are victim of corruption, even the government employees also victim of corruption. Religion wise data also indicates that people from almost all major religions are victim of corruption nobody excluded in these corrupt practices.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, corruption has become an important issue in the developed as well as developing countries. According to the [Transparency International \(2005\)](#) it is most burning issues among a wide audience, including development economists, development institutions, politicians and the general public alike. The economic and political literature suggests a large number of economical, political, historical and sociological factors to distinguish corruption and the relationship with the economic performance of the particular nation or sector of the nation. There is need of the undertake empirical investigation regarding corruption to know what are the important factor affecting on corruption and who are most victimized in this corrupted system. Hence present research was undertaken the address the following objectives.

Objectives & Hypotheses

- ❖ To review factors affecting on corruption
- ❖ To know perception regarding factors affecting on corruption of the respondents from various professions
- ❖ To know perception regarding factors affecting on corruption of the respondents from various religions
- ❖ To suggest measure for development of policy regarding eradication of corruption

There are two major objectives which are tested through this study

Hypotheses -1

Null-1: There is no significant difference in perception regarding factors affecting on corruption among the respondents from deferent professions

Altr-1: There is significant difference in perception regarding factors affecting on corruption among the respondents from deferent professions

Hypotheses -1

Null-1: There is no significant difference in perception regarding factors affecting on corruption among the respondents from deferent religions

Altr-1: There is significant difference in perception regarding factors affecting on corruption among the respondents from deferent religions

DATA AND METHODS

Required data was collected from 130 respondents which were

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selected through purposive sampling methods from Satara District of Maharashtra State (India). Because of the limitations of the individual researcher author have selected only 130 samples from various professions and religions. However, author has collected qualitative data to fulfill the objectives of the research and to draw confirm conclusions. All required data was collected through schedule based on 3 point likert scale (1=Disagree 2=Neutral and 3=Agree) and collected data was analyzed using SPSS 20. Frequency and One-Way ANOVA test was used to fulfill the objectives and testing hypotheses under study.

What Corruption is

There are different approaches and definitions of corruption which concludes this term in different ways and angles. In fact there is no clear definition of corruption, however many researchers and thinkers tried to develop definition of corruption. According to Jakob Svensson (2005) the most devastating forms of corruption include the diversion and outright theft of funds for public programs and the damage caused by firms and individuals that pay bribes to avoid health and safety regulations intended to benefit the public. Djankov *et al.* (2003) mentioned that, the corruption can also arise because of bad policies in the country and inefficient institutional set up of the nation which are put in place to collect bribes from individuals.

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2000, p. 281) describes corruption as dishonest or illegal behaviour, especially of people in authority and the act or effect of making somebody change from moral to immoral standards of behaviour. Waterbury (1973) defines that a corruption as the abuse of public power and influence for private ends. He mentioned that when public power is used to private benefits or private gains it is called as corruption. Similarly defines corruption as an act in which the power of public office is used for personal gain in a manner that contravenes the rules of the game. It means corruption is a failure of public system and good governance or a manifestation of poorly functioning state.

Factors Responsible For Corruption: A Review of Literature

The corruption practices are totally illegal and it is hazardous for the development of the society as well as whole nation. Therefore, we should know about why corruption is in the society and which factors responsible for corruption. No doubt, there is no theory of identifying corruption (Gunardi, 2008), and its determinants but we can identify this factors through observations, instigation, views expressed by many researchers as well as experts. Many researches work direct that corruption is indirectly calculated using the perception of citizen. However, there is one of the problem in measuring corruption i.e. can we measure corruption in only monetary term or non-monetary term. But it is shows that most of researchers have used monetary terms to measure corruption. Here author has tried to focus on those factors which are responsible for corruption;

Devaluation Morality

Devaluation of morality is one of the important cause or determinate of the corruption. Gould (1991) mentioned that a corruption is moral problem of the society. Immoral and unethical phenomenon that contains a set of moral aberrations from moral standards of society, causing loss of respect for and confidence in duly constituted authority. However, there is one of the most important problems of standard of morality. Morality norms are differing from nation to nation and society to society as well as it changes from time to time. According to research undertaken by Frechette, (2006) higher income increases corruption in the nation, especially when country fixed effects are considered where moral standards are lowered during booms, as greed becomes the dominant force for economic decisions.

Weak Judicial System

A weak judicial system implies a low probability of detection and lack of sanctions (Voskanyan, 2000). Many times it is found that weak disciplinary mechanisms, Inadequately monitored court administrative procedures, Lack of transparency, no Accountability and discipline in judicial system is most responsible factor for corruption in the particular nation. It is also found that low salaries for judicial and court also leads to raising salaries may do little to dent corruption. There is no question that the quality of the judicial system is important in explaining corruption. A weak judicial system is fertile land for corruption to grow (Voskanyan, 2000, Nathan M Jensen *et al.*, 2010).

No Respect for Law and Order

Respect for the law and order is essential to mention good governance and public system in the nation. No doubt it is required in common public as well as bureaucrats and public representatives. Holmes (1993) posited that several of the Asian countries were formerly colonies and "the law" has been seen by some citizens as theirs' and therefore not respected in the same way that it might be in a long-established independent country, such as many western states which leads to corruption and malpractices in public services.

Acceptance of unlawful Practices

Many times it is noticed that corruption is often thought of as like a compulsory tax or a fee (Shleifer and Vishny, 1993). Bribing also has parallels to lobbying in the form of campaign contributions or influence buying through other means, but again, they are not perfect substitutes (Harstad and Svensson, 2004). Even these practices are becoming unwritten laws in those specific sectors which are called as "Legally restricted but socially accepted rules". Such practices are very dangerous to the society hence we should restrict these practices.

Monopolistic Conditions

In a system of free competitive environment there is no scope to corruption and exploitation through bribe. Because, there can be market equilibrium if both sides of the market, sellers and

buyers or service providers and service takers; they are equally strong concern to their bargaining power. However, in the monopoly market situation buyers have less bargaining power than service providers or suppliers; hence they can exploit buyers through bribe or inside money/ black money. Voskanyan Frunzik, (2000) also mentioned that the corruption is always an exploitation of the public through public system, which can occur only because the civil servants occupy a constitutionally independent position vis-a-vis the public.

Increasing Income Inequality

Income distribution is some time cause and sometimes effect of corruption because it acts both ways. It is found that income equality leads to corruption and another way corruption leads to income inequality in the specific country. proved this fact with advanced statistical analysis; he claims that income disparity significantly increases corruption. Jong-sung and Khagram (2005) also argued that income inequality increases the level of corruption through material and normative mechanisms. The wealthy have both greater motivation and more opportunity to engage in corruption.

More Intervention of the Government

According to Nitzan (1994) there is systematic relationship between the size of government and the incidence of corruption. He also mentioned that a larger government might also imply greater bureaucratic delay inducing rent seekers to offer bigger bribes. Similarly (LaPalombara 1994), argued that, the larger size of the government or the greater extent of government intervention was proposed to increase corruption because government intervention transfers resources from one party to another, it creates room for corruption. Almost all research indicates that results show that government size, in particular spending by state governments, does indeed have a strong positive influence on corruption.

Problem of Education & Literacy

Education increases the ability of society to control government behavior and to judge performance of the public services as well illegal activities of the bureaucrats (Ades and Di Tella, 1999). At the same time, an educated person also plays a role as a controller for corrupted practices, they usually try to control corruption in the public services as well as administration of the government offices (Brunetti and Weder, 2003).

Fragmented Communities

discussed that highly fragmented communities are likely to be more corrupt than homogenous societies. Homogeneous society has some ethics and directed life style even peoples of such society are follower of law and orders. Most of times it is noticed that homogeneous society is self directed society there is no need to extraordinary use of judicial system and regulations to control their behavior.

Poor Participation of Women's in Politics

It is globally accepted truth women are more loyal and honest than men. Women's participation is also argued to correlate

with corruption. Swamy et al. (2001) indicate that the more women are involved in the public arena, the lower corruption will be. They also found that a higher share of women in parliament and in government reduces corruption. Dollar et al (1999), find a strong negative statistically significant relationship between female participation in government and level of corruption. It shows that, if women’s participation will increase in the organization or in the government automatically corruption will decline.

Demographics of the Respondents

Table 1 indicating the profile of the respondents; all required data for this paper was collected from these respondents; Table indicates that, 84 male and 46 female respondents were selected who are belongs to deferent religions, profession, income groups as well as deferent educational groups.

Table 1 Demographics of the Respondents

	Profession						Total
	Private Employee	Govt. Employee	Businessmen	Farmer	Retired	Student	
Male	15	14	29	13	5	8	84
Female	15	16	5	3	5	2	46
Hindu	9	8	13	10	2	3	45
Muslim	9	7	11	2	3	2	34
Nav-Budhha	12	12	6	4	5	4	43
Other	0	3	4	0	0	1	8
Rural	20	11	18	16	4	3	72
Urban	10	19	16	0	6	7	58
<SSC	6	4	5	2	0	0	17
SSC	2	13	7	2	2	5	31
HSC	10	9	17	7	4	2	49
Degree	5	3	5	4	4	1	22
PG	7	1	0	1	0	2	11
Dependent	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
< 1 Lac	0	5	3	7	0	3	18
1 to 3 Lac	15	15	4	2	9	0	45
3 to 8 Lac	11	10	7	3	0	0	31
8 to 15 Lac	4	0	13	2	1	0	20
> 15 Lac	0	0	7	2	0	0	9
Total	30	30	34	16	10	10	130

EMPIRICAL RESULTS

Based on above factors author has developed schedule to conduct data and analyzed to understand perception of the people in deferent profession i.e. Employees in private companies, Govt. employees, businessmen, farmers, retired persons and students. The result of data shows that; Table 2A indicates that 93 respondents out of 130 are agree with devaluation of morality is cause of corruption, 98 respondents out of 130 are agree with weak judicial system cause of corruption, 104 respondents out of 130 are agree with disrespect for law and order cause of corruption, 93 respondents out of 130 are agree with acceptance of unlawful practices cause of corruption, 113 respondents out of 130 are agree with monopolistic conditions cause of corruption, however, 28 respondents are disagree, 24 are neutral and only 78 respondents out of 130 are agree with increasing income inequality cause of corruption.

Table 2B indicates that only 58 respondents out of 130 are agree with more intervention of the government cause of corruption, 111 respondents out of 130 are agree with problem

of education & illiteracy cause of corruption, only 73 respondents out of 130 are agree with fragmentation of communities' cause of corruption, only 71 respondents out of 130 are agree with poor participation of women's in politics cause of corruption, 74 respondents out of 130 are agree with monopolistic conditions cause of corruption, however, 28 respondents are saying that they are victim of corruption, 54 respondents neutral about their responses and only 02 persons says that they are not victim of corruption.

Table 2 A Profession wise Perception Regarding Factors Responsible for Corruption

Profession	Is devaluation of morality cause of corruption?			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	2	6	22	30
Govt Employee	2	4	24	30
Businessmen	8	7	19	34
Farmer	0	3	13	16
Retired	0	2	8	10
Student	0	3	7	10
	12	25	93	130
	Is weak judicial system cause of corruption?			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	3	5	22	30
Govt Employee	1	6	23	30
Businessmen	4	5	25	34
Farmer	0	4	12	16
Retired	0	1	9	10
Student	2	1	7	10
	10	22	98	130
	Is disrespect for law and order cause of corruption?			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	1	4	25	30
Govt Employee	1	3	26	30
Businessmen	3	6	25	34
Farmer	0	1	15	16
Retired	1	3	6	10
Student	3	0	7	10
	9	17	104	130
	Is acceptance of unlawful practices cause of corruption?			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	3	6	21	30
Govt Employee	3	3	24	30
Businessmen	4	6	24	34
Farmer	4	2	10	16
Retired	2	2	6	10
Student	1	1	8	10
	17	20	93	130
	Is monopolistic conditions cause of corruption?			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	0	3	27	30
Govt Employee	2	2	26	30
Businessmen	1	4	29	34
Farmer	1	2	13	16
Retired	0	0	10	10
Student	1	1	8	10
	5	12	113	130
	Is increasing income inequality cause of corruption?			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	5	7	18	30
Govt Employee	1	5	24	30
Businessmen	16	5	13	34
Farmer	5	2	9	16
Retired	1	2	7	10
Student	0	3	7	10
	28	24	78	130

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 B Profession wise Perception Regarding Factors Responsible for Corruption

	Is more intervention of the government cause of corruption?			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	1	11	18	30
Govt Employee	27	1	2	30
Businessmen	4	9	21	34
Farmer	0	9	7	16
Retired	1	5	4	10
Student	1	3	6	10
	34	38	58	130
	Is problem of education & illiteracy cause of corruption?			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	0	6	24	30
Govt Employee	1	4	25	30
Businessmen	0	4	30	34
Farmer	0	1	15	16
Retired	0	1	9	10
Student	1	1	8	10
	2	17	111	130
	Is fragmentation of communities' cause of corruption?			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	2	9	19	30
Govt Employee	1	9	20	30
Businessmen	6	14	14	34
Farmer	0	8	8	16
Retired	0	4	6	10
Student	0	4	6	10
	9	48	73	130
	Is poor participation of women's in politics cause of corruption?			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	2	13	15	30
Govt Employee	2	10	18	30
Businessmen	0	16	18	34
Farmer	0	5	11	16
Retired	0	5	5	10
Student	1	5	4	10
	5	54	71	130
	I am victim of corruption			Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Private Employee	0	16	14	30
Govt Employee	0	15	15	30
Businessmen	1	15	18	34
Farmer	0	5	11	16
Retired	1	1	8	10
Student	0	2	8	10
	2	54	74	130

Source: Primary Data

Hypotheses Testing

There are two hypotheses under the study and these hypotheses were tested using One-Way-ANOVA test using parametric statistical tests.

Hypotheses-1

Null-1: There is no significant difference in perception regarding factors affecting on corruption among the respondents from deferent professions Altr-1: There is significant difference in perception regarding factors affecting on corruption among the respondents from deferent professions Table 3 indicates that perception regarding increasing income

inequality (F 4.690, DF 5, Sig.001) and more intervention of the government (F 21.83, DF 5, Sig.000) is not same as a factor affecting on corruption table 2-A and 2B also indicating same things. However, there is no significant difference between responses given by the respondent for reaming factors i.e.

Table 3 Hypotheses-1-Profession and their perception about corruption (Results of One-Way-ANOVA)

Factors	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Results	
1 Is devaluation of morality cause of corruption?	Between Groups	4.419	5	.884	2.187	.060	Accept Null
	Within Groups	50.112	124	.404			
	Total	54.531	129				
2 Is weak judicial system cause of corruption?	Between Groups	1.168	5	.234	.613	.690	Accept Null
	Within Groups	47.263	124	.381			
	Total	48.431	129				
3 Is disrespect for law and order cause of corruption?	Between Groups	3.008	5	.602	1.839	.110	Accept Null
	Within Groups	40.569	124	.327			
	Total	43.577	129				
4 Is acceptance of unlawful practices cause of corruption?	Between Groups	1.584	5	.317	.614	.689	Accept Null
	Within Groups	63.985	124	.516			
	Total	65.569	129				
5 Is monopolistic conditions cause of corruption?	Between Groups	.736	5	.147	.663	.653	Accept Null
	Within Groups	27.541	124	.222			
	Total	28.277	129				
6 Is increasing income inequality cause of corruption?	Between Groups	13.801	5	2.760	4.690	.001	Reject Null
	Within Groups	72.969	124	.588			
	Total	86.769	129				
7 Is more intervention Of the government cause of corruption?	Between Groups	40.998	5	8.200	21.833	.000	Reject Null
	Within Groups	46.571	124	.376			
	Total	87.569	129				
8 Is problem of education & illiteracy cause of corruption?	Between Groups	.541	5	.108	.637	.672	Accept Null
	Within Groups	21.067	124	.170			
	Total	21.608	129				
9 Is fragmentation of communities' cause Of corruption?	Between Groups	3.241	5	.648	1.701	.139	Accept Null
	Within Groups	47.251	124	.381			
	Total	50.492	129				
10 Is poor participation of women's in politics cause of corruption?	Between Groups	1.151	5	.230	.690	.632	Accept Null
	Within Groups	41.341	124	.333			
	Total	42.492	129				
11 I am victim of corruption	Between Groups	1.519	5	.304	1.089	.370	Accept Null
	Within Groups	34.604	124	.279			
	Total	36.123	129				

Hypotheses-2

Null-1: There is no significant difference in perception regarding factors affecting on corruption among the respondents from deferent religions

Altr-1: There is significant difference in perception regarding factors affecting on corruption among the respondents from deferent religions

Table 4 Hypotheses-2 Religions and their perception about corruption (Results of One-Way-ANOVA)

Factors	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Results	
1 Is devaluation of morality cause of corruption?	Between Groups	1.370	3	.457	1.083	.359	Accept Null
	Within Groups	53.160	126	.422			
	Total	54.531	129				
2 Is weak judicial system cause of corruption?	Between Groups	.539	3	.180	.473	.702	Accept Null
	Within Groups	47.892	126	.380			
	Total	48.431	129				
3 Is disrespect for law and order cause of corruption?	Between Groups	4.454	3	1.351	4.613	.049	Reject Null
	Within Groups	45.638	126	.326			
	Total	50.443	129				
4 Is acceptance of unlawful practices cause of corruption?	Between Groups	2.552	3	.851	1.701	.170	Accept Null
	Within Groups	63.017	126	.500			
	Total	65.569	129				
5 Is monopolistic conditions cause of corruption?	Between Groups	.280	3	.093	.420	.739	Accept Null
	Within Groups	27.997	126	.222			
	Total	28.277	129				
6 Is increasing income inequality cause of corruption?	Between Groups	.324	3	.108	.157	.925	Accept Null
	Within Groups	86.445	126	.686			
	Total	86.769	129				
7 Is more intervention of the government cause of corruption?	Between Groups	3.763	3	1.254	1.886	.135	Accept Null
	Within Groups	83.806	126	.665			
	Total	87.569	129				
8 Is problem of education & illiteracy cause of corruption?	Between Groups	.751	3	.250	1.513	.214	Accept Null
	Within Groups	20.856	126	.166			
	Total	21.608	129				
9 Is fragmentation of communities' cause of corruption?	Between Groups	4.854	3	1.618	4.467	.005	Reject Null
	Within Groups	45.638	126	.362			
	Total	50.492	129				
10 Is poor participation of women's in politics cause of corruption?	Between Groups	.078	3	.026	.077	.972	Accept Null
	Within Groups	42.415	126	.337			
	Total	42.492	129				
11 I am victim of corruption	Between Groups	.443	3	.148	.521	.668	Accept Null
	Within Groups	35.680	126	.283			
	Total	36.123	129				

Table 4 indicates that perception of respondents of various religions regarding disrespect for law and order (F 4.613, DF 5, Sig.049) and fragmentation of communities' (F 4.467, DF 5, Sig.005) is not same as a factor affecting on corruption table 2-A and 2B also indicating same things. However, there is no significant difference between responses given by the respondent for reaming factors i.e.

Policy Recommendations

Based on above situation author want to suggest following measures to reduce or eradicate corruption in India.

- The government and organization working for social development should try to mention morality among the citizens. Special programme for creating awareness regarding moral values can be conducted.
- Weak Judicial system and disrespect with on law and order is found one of the important problem concerns to corruption. Hence we should develop respect to the law and order. The government should try to develop strong and efficient judicial system for restrict corruption. There should be strong legal provisions of fine and punishment for controlling corruption in India.
- It is noticed that many unlawful activities are accepted in the social system of the nation which are hazardous and leads to corruption in India. Even these practices are becoming unwritten laws in those specific sectors which are called as “Legally restricted but socially accepted rules”. Such practices are very dangerous to the society hence we should restrict these practices.
- Increasing monopoly conditions in the public services as well as in the market, increasing income inequality, more intervention of the government in various economic activities is also one of the major problems regarding corruption in India. Therefore, the government should try to develop alternative arrangement for this which may lead to competitive environment in the market and try to decline income inequality.
- More illiteracy and problems regarding good education always leads to corruption. It is tested hypotheses in different countries. Illiteracy leads to enable corruption due to the lack of proper information and information asymmetry about laws and rules. Hence, the government should take necessary efforts to provide legal education, conduct awareness programme about rules and regulations about public schemes/projects/services etc. not only formal education to the people.
- Many researchers have proved that women’s participation in social services as well politics will helpful to restrict corruption in the nation. Because many researcher have proved that women are more loyal and honest than men. Present research also confirmed this hypotheses (Rejected Null hypotheses at F .690, Sig-.632 df 5 (profession wise) & F .521, Sig-.668 df 3 (religion wise)). Hence, the government should provide more opportunities to the women in the politics and social activities

CONCLUSIONS AND DIRECTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The results of statistical analysis indicate that there is no significant difference regarding factors affecting on corruption in India. Almost all respondents expressed same attitude and their perception about factors affecting on corruption. Professions wise data showing that people from all professions are victim of corruption, even the government employees also victim of corruption. Religion wise data also indicates that

people from almost all major religions are victim of corruption nobody excluded in these corrupt practices. Factor wise data indicates that devaluation of morality, weak judicial system, disrespect of law and order, acceptance for unlawful practices in business and public services, monopoly conditions in public services, increasing inequality, Increasing intervention of the government in economic activities, problem of education and illiteracy, more fragmented society and lower participation of the women in politics are important factors which affects corruption in India. No doubt this research was based on limited samples and factors. Hence there are some limitations for the generalization the results drawn from this research. Therefore author suggest that there is need to conduct more extensive research in this regard.

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