

CORRUPTION: AS AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE TO SOCIETY

The first thought coming to my mind about corruption is that people hardly know its full range. They often resort to it unconsciously. In fact, researcher Suzana Jašić (October, 2015), on his Lecture on Good Governance states that “there is no accepted definition of corruption. Therefore, it becomes difficult to convey the meaning of corruption from one entity to another.” Now-a-days corruption can be seen everywhere. It is like cancer in public life, which has not become so rampant and spread overnight, but in course of time. Corruption has been defined variously by scholars. But the simple meaning of it is that *corruption implies perversion of morality, integrity, character or duty out of mercenary motives, i.e. bribery, without any regard to honor, right and justice. In other words, undue favour for any one for some monetary or other gains is corruption.* It is also the misuse of authority for personal gain of an individual or group. It is the unfair use of public power for some private advantages by breaking some rules and regulations made by the government by someone to gain his/her personal gratifications. It has spread its tentacles in every sphere of life, namely business administration, politics, officialdom, and services. In fact, there is hardly any sector which can be characterized for not being infected with the vices of corruption.

Corruption is a global phenomenon and is omnipresent; it has risen steadily and is now rampant in our society. It has been spread in the common public lives, politics, central governments, state governments, businesses, industries, etc. It has not left any field. Corruption is increasing day by day instead of decreasing or staid because of the continuous increase in the appetite of people for money, power, position and luxury. It is social evil which is playing humans body and mind socially, economically and intellectually, It is a position which has been spread in the mind of wrong people of the society, community and country.

The causes of corruption are many and complex but to mention few:

Firstly, Appearance of the political elite who believe in programs to interest rather than nation-oriented policies. Secondly the tolerance of people towards corruption, the complete lack of intense public outcry against corruption and the absence of strong public forum to oppose corruption allows corruption to reign over people. Thirdly, the size of most of the population, coupled with widespread illiteracy and poor economic infrastructure tip of the endemic corruption in public life. Fourthly In the private sector, corruption increases the cost of business through the price of illicit payments. The last but not the least the time of elections is a time when corruption is at its peak. Great political fund employer to comply with the high cost of the election and ultimately seeks personal favor.

There are many myths about corruption, which must be exploited, if we really want to fight. Some of these myths are: Corruption is a way of life and nothing can be done. Only people from underdeveloped or developing countries are prone to corruption. You have to avoid all these crude fallacies while planning measures to combat corruption.

Nowadays political leaders are making interest oriented programs and policies instead of nation oriented programs and policies. They are just wishing to be a famous politician for completing their own interests instead of citizen's interests and requirement. There is increasing level of change in the value system in the human mind as well as decreasing ethical qualities of human being. The level of trust, faith and honesty is decreasing which gives to the corruption. There is a strong connection between the officials, politicians and criminals who are making this country weak and so weak.

To root out the evil of corruption from society, we need to make a comprehensive code of conduct for politicians, legislatures, bureaucrats, and such code should be strictly enforced. Judiciary should be given more independence and initiatives on issues related to corruption. Special courts should be set-up to take up such issues and speedy trial is to be promoted. NGOs and media should come forward to create awareness against corruption in society and educate people to combat this evil. Only then we would be able to save our system from being collapsed. Declarations of property and assets of the government employees are made compulsory and routine and surprise inspections and raids be conducted at certain intervals.

Though it is very difficult to control corruption but it is not impossible. It is not only the responsibility of the government but ours too. We can eliminate corruption if there will be joint effort. We must have some high principles to follow so that we may be models for the coming generation. Let us take a view to create an atmosphere free from corruption. That will be our highest achievement as human beings. Also Laws should be foolproof so that no discretion to politicians and bureaucrats.

Furthermore people should put on their mind that fighting corruption is everybody's business not just an individual person or agency.

Corruption is a serious problem that must be tackled before any meaningful development can take place in any country. While poverty is a contributing factor to corruption, endemic corruption enhances and spreads poverty - it is a vicious circle. The effects of corruption are so overwhelming that it could stagnate a nation. It poses a serious developmental challenge. In the political arena, it undermines

democracy and good governance by subverting the electoral processes and governmental procedures. Thus, Nigeria finds herself with a good legal instrument that should ordinarily tackle the problem, but is unable to do so because of the human factor or what can be derisively referred to as the “Nigerian factor.”

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