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Corruption: Cotemporary Issue and Challenge in Social Science**Dr. R. K. Kale**Head. Dept. of Political Science,
Balbhim College, Beed. (M. S.)**Introduction:**

Corruption is a global phenomenon and it is omnipresent. Corruption has progressive increased and it now rampant our society. Corruption is a cancer, which every Indian must strive to cure. Corruption is widespread in India. India is ranked 85 out of 179 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, although its score has improved consistently from 2.7 in 2002 to 3.4 in 2008. Corruption has taken the role of a pervasive aspect of Indian politics and bureaucracy. The economy of India was under socialist-inspired policies for an entire generation from the 1950s until the 1980s. The economy was shackled by extensive regulation, protectionism and public ownership, leading to pervasive corruption and slow growth. In this research paper I have explain the meaning of corruption, what is causes and remedies measures to combating corruption in India.

What is Corruption?

Way back in 200 B.C., Kautilya meticulously described 40 different kinds of corruption in his Arthashastra. He has aptly commented: "Just as it is impossible not to taste honey or poison when it is at the tip of the tongue, so it is impossible for a government servant not to eat up a bit of revenue. And just as it cannot be found out whether a fish swimming through water drinks or not so also government servants cannot be found out while taking money for themselves." Corruption is an age-old phenomenon. The word corruption means destruction, ruining or spoiling a society or nation. Selfishness and greed are at the root of it; it also implies lack of integrity and honesty. "A corrupt society is characterized by immorality and lack of fear or respect for the law. When it stops valuing integrity, virtue or moral principles it starts decaying. Corruption is the abuse of public power for private gain." Corruption comes under many different guises: bribery, misappropriations of public goods, nepotism (favoring family members for jobs and contracts), and influencing the formulation of laws or regulations for private gain.

Causes of Corruption:

Corruption in India has wings, not wheels. As the nation grows, the corrupt also grows to invent new methods of cheating the government and public. The causes of corruption are many and complex. The following are some of the causes of corruption.

- Emergence of political elite which believes in interest-oriented rather than nation-oriented programmes and policies.
- Artificial scarcity created by people with malevolent intentions wrecks the fabric of the economy.
- Corruption is caused as well as increased because of the change in the value system and ethical qualities of men who administer. The old ideals of morality, service and honesty are regarded as anachronistic.
- Tolerances of people towards corruption, complete lack of intense public outcry against corruption and the absence of a strong public forum to oppose corruption allow corruption to reign over people.
- Vast size of population coupled with widespread illiteracy and the poor economic infrastructure lead to endemic corruption in public life.
- In a highly inflationary economy, low salaries of government officials compel them to resort to corruption. Graduates from Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) with no experience draw a far handsome salary than what government secretaries' draw.
- Complex laws and procedures deter common people from seeking help from the government.
- Election time is a time when corruption is at its peak. Big industrialists fund politicians to meet high cost of election and ultimately to seek personal favour. Bribery to politicians buys influence, and bribery by politicians buys votes. In order to get elected, politicians bribe poor, illiterate people.

Shortly, Political Patronage, Administration Labyrinth, Lack of Punishment, Social Environment these are main causes of corruption in Indian democracy.

Remedies Measures to Combating Corruption:

Some remedies measures to combating corruption are as follows:

1. Leadership:

Corruption is a cancer, which every Indian must strive to cure. Many new leaders declare their determination to eradicate corruption but soon they themselves become corrupt and start amassing huge wealth. There are many myths about corruption which have to be exploded if we really want to combat it. For proper house cleaning and repairs, it is a good idea to begin by fixing the roof. "Hence, many authors, including Professor Syed Hussein Alatas of Malaysia, a noted authority on corruption, are of the view that the leadership in a country has a key role to play in combating corruption." It is an Asian tradition to hold leaders and those in authority in high regard and esteem. Hence the top leadership must set a good example with respect to honesty, integrity and capacity for hard work. Since fighting corruption will involve taking difficult decisions, the leadership must also display firmness, political will and commitment to carry out the required reforms. But honest and dedicated leaders are a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition to counter corruption. Several other conditions need to be satisfied

2. Credibility:

Credibility is one of them. For success, the offenders both on the demand and supply side of a corrupt deal must be convinced that the government is serious about fighting corruption. One suggestion towards this end is to "fry some big fish", that is to publicly try and punish some well-known corrupt people in the country. Some highly publicized trials and convictions of important officials and businessmen on charges of corruption have taken place in several Asian countries. "However, since allegations of corruption are often used to discredit political opponents, the suggestion is further made that the fish that is fried should preferably be from your own pond."

3. Involving people:

With the help of the Right to Information Act, citizens should be empowered to ask for information related to public services, etc. and this information should be made available to general public as and when required. Such stringent actions against corrupt officials will certainly have a deterrent impact. A publicity campaign to create greater awareness on the adverse effects of corruption and a clear and unequivocal official pronouncement on the desirability to bring it under control would be helpful. Ordinary citizens have a lot of firsthand experience with corruption, they are a good source of information and their help and cooperation should be solicited for the successful launch of an anti-corruption drive. Once people are convinced that a sincere and genuine effort to combat corruption is underway, they will respond and extend their full cooperation in resolving the problem. Just a little opening up and providing opportunities for them to express their views on the matter will bring forth an outpouring of information, ideas and suggestions that will be beyond anyone's imagination.

4. Responsible press:

A responsible press to gather, analyze, organize, present and disseminate information is considered vital to create greater public awareness and to provide the momentum for undertaking reforms to overcome corruption. Secretiveness has been a key factor that has enabled public officials and politicians to get away with corruption. "A responsible and an investigative press has played an important role in many countries, both developed and developing, in exposing misconduct as well as in serving as a watchdog to limit corruption and preventing it from getting out of hand." The press has not always acted in a responsible manner, and like everything else in this world, it is not perfect. Nevertheless, its power to limit conduct and improper behavior should not be underestimated.

5. Oversight bodies:

Views on the effectiveness of anti-corruption oversight or watchdog bodies are mixed. There are instances where they have proved useful. For example, the Independent Commission against Corruption in Hong Kong, China and similar institutions in Botswana, Chile, Malaysia and Singapore are regarded as having done a good job. "However, in surveys and interviews of public officials and members of civil society organizations, most respondents do not have a high opinion of them. The prevailing view is that for such bodies to be effective, they have to be created in a political atmosphere where leaders are honest, civil servants are insulated from political interference, and

better incentives are provided to discourage corruption. Otherwise, the oversight bodies will be rendered useless or worse, misused for political gain.”¹⁸ An unwelcome situation can then arise and the country may have to appoint a watchdog to watch over the watchdog body.

6. Improving institutions:

This is a very large area and only brief mention can be made of the relevant issues. It involves such things as improving the legal framework; smoother, less time-consuming and less burdensome ways to conduct business in the functioning of law courts and in the administration of justice; promoting efficiency of the police force; strengthening the auditor general's office; and appointment of a responsible inspector general empowered to investigate and prosecute corruption.

Conclusion:

Corruption is an intractable problem; it is like diabetes, which can only be controlled, but not totally eliminated. It may not be possible to root out corruption completely at all levels but it is possible to contain it within tolerable limits. Honest and dedicated persons in public life, control over electoral expenses, could be some of the important prescriptions to combat corruption. Corruption has a corrosive impact on our economy and leads to loss of overseas opportunities. Corruption is a global problem that all countries of the world have to confront solutions, however, can only be home-grown.

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