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Corruption in administration

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ABSTRACT

Administration Corruption is a universal phenomenon. No society is free of this. The types, depths, and scales vary from one country to another. It has always existed in our society in different forms. It has become a part of our administrative and political culture. Corruption undermines beliefs and moral values in society, increases the costs of implementing projects and prevents the growth of competition. There is a wide range of factors that lead to administrative corruption, and the problem is likely or actually causing the outbreak. At the present time, administrative corruption poses challenges to the international community. The paper discusses the causes, possible remedial measures of corruption in the administration.

Key Words : Administrative corruption, Universal phenomenon

INTRODUCTION

Corruption has existed ever since the emergence of human civilizations. Corruption derived from the Latin word "rumpere" which means breaking. Corruption means the destruction of society or the nation. As stated in the Oxford Dictionary, "perversion of the destruction of integrity in discharge of public duties by bribery or favour is called corruption". This evil is widespread. It is condemnable. Corruption at the political or administrative level is more dangerous. The government has been grappling with the abuse cases by state authorities. Over the past centuries, there has been a reverse relationship between the appropriate use of power and expansion corruption. This means that whenever power is used appropriately, corruption is reduced[1]. Corruption in any society is relative and defined according to the values of that society. The consequences of administrative corruption appear in different problems such as bribery, fraud, nepotism, blackmail, leaving the client dissatisfied, selling secret information of the organization etc.[2]. According to Wilson, "men steals when there is a lot of money lying around and no one is watching"[3]. It emphasizes that the lack of transparency, morality, accountability, and integrity, as well as institutional weakness, provided the fertile ground for increasing corruption in India. According to David H. Bayley, "corruption is a general term covering misuse of authority as a result ofconsideration of personal gains, which need not be monetary"[4].

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METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this paper is to define the concept of corruption and highlights the causes and remedies to control administrative corruption. This paper is descriptive and analytical in nature. The data used in it have collected from secondary resources.

Causes of corruption:

In all developing countries corruption has become a problem. As Santhanam committee pointed out "corruption can exist only if there is someone willing to corrupt and capable of corrupting". Following are the main causes for the rapid spread of corruption:

Environment:

Public administration is a sub-system of a political system. The social environment has a powerful impact on the administration. At the political and administrative level Public servants are unable to sacrifice their group loyalty for the sake of the nation. There is another aspect of Indian social life. Unfortunately; corruption has found acceptance in our social psyche and behaviour. Evils like bribery, nepotism, and favouritism have come to be accepted in society. We often approach someone known to us for favours which we know are not legally due to us. So it is very difficult to control corruption in such an atmosphere.

Economic causes:

The salaries paid to the official are inadequate. In recent years, the ever-shooting cost of living has brought down the real income of various sections of the society particularly that of the salaried employees. The Santhanam committee rightly stated, "Possession of larger amounts of unaccounted money by various persons including those belonging to the industrial and commercial classes is a major impediment in the purification of public life"[5].

Political causes:

The biggest cause of corruption in India is the politician. It is not only the ministers at the central level or state level but also the M.Ps and MLAs and the sarpanches exert pressure on the officials at their respective levels and get the illegal things done. Political corruption has produced very serious consequences.

– It has led to the criminalisation of the politics. As the Vohra committee report pointed out that there exists in India in nexus between the politicians, administrators and criminals[6].

– Corruption at the top has interfered with the investigation and trial of the cases involving corrupt political leaders. It is difficult to register a case against them. When this is the condition of politics in our country it is difficult to root out the corruption.

Even the judiciary is not spared. The prosecution is not properly pursued and loopholes are left in the cases so that they should fail at the trial stage. Even judges are approached and pressurised[7].

Administrative delays:

The administration in India moves very slowly. It is added by the negative attitude of bureaucracy. The file moves endlessly from one desk to another because everyone wants to

avoid the responsibility of making the decision. This results in delays in administrative action.

Inefficient Judicial system:

Our judicial system is inefficient and expensive. It takes years for the cases to be decided. As a result of this, the accused often escapes from punishment. The witnesses may become unavailable with the passage of time[8].

Inadequate laws to deal with corruption:

At present, the corruption cases are dealt with under the civil services conduct rule and Indian penal code etc. With a change in the environment, these laws have become outdated. There is no law to prevent corrupt and criminal persons from entering into legislature unless they have been convicted by a court of law.

Lack of willingness to enforce laws:

Laws in India are not sufficient to successfully deal with corruption. The will of enforcement of the law is lacking. There is general atmosphere tolerance. Everyone talks of the corruption but those in a position to check it give it a low priority. Political parties make corruption as an election issue and when elections are over nothing concrete is done.

Pressure groups:

There are several types of pressure groups in India which helps in promoting corruption through their activities. They use different methods to influence the political leader and bureaucracy. They protect their corrupt members by resorting to protect action when some corrupt members are caught and action is taken against them.

Lack of public opinion:

Most of the people in developing countries lack consciousness and don't clamour for the redress of their grievances. People feel concerned only when they are individually affected by the act of corrupt leaders. Most people cast their votes to corrupt political leaders even when they know about the criminal record of leaders.

Sociological causes:

Corruption is rooted in our greedy society where the greatness of individuals and dignity of their family is judged by money. People get involved in material gain regardless of the methods they adopt. In the modern era, most of the people are self-centred they looked upon their personal interests without caring about others and their own country.

Remedies to fight corruption:

Corruption cannot be completely eliminated from our political system. The santhanam committee has suggested that the studies of the present working of the apparatus to be carried out. These studies will disclose the possible scope of corruption and suggest appropriate steps to control the present tendencies. It also recommended[9].

- Vigilance officers should have complete freedom to investigate corruption complaints.
- The employee of the vigilance department should have a guarantee that they will get

opportunities for promotion if they perform their duties with honesty.

– They should be protected from the anger of their colleagues against whom they investigated.

Posting and transfer of civil servants:

Posting and transfer of civil servants should be done in the interest of efficient administration and as per well-settled rule but these rules are not obeyed in practice. There is too much political interference. Hundreds of transfers are done because of political influences. It must be stopped. Rules regarding the rotations of higher civil servants must be strictly observed. This is intended to provide for corruption-free services. Public servants who remain at a certain post for long period of time develop interest and attachment which influences their performance.

Assets statements:

Laws should be passed in parliament that makes it compulsory for our ministers, MLAs, and MPs to declare their assets. These should be printed officially and made available to anyone who wants to pay for it. Any wrong statement should be declared as a punishable offense involving imprisonment. The same rules should apply to a member of the judiciary.

Administrative accountability:

India has a parliamentary form of government which works on the principle of ministerial responsibility. The ministers are head of their department. They delegate their power to the administration. The administration is accountable to the parliament. Most decisions are taken by the administration. It is difficult for the parliament to exercise control over a large bureaucracy. The power must be used only in accordance with the law and everyone must be held accountable for the misuse of power. No public servant could argue that all that a court of law could do was to set aside his decision that he could not be held personally accountable.

Simple administrative procedures:

Administrative delays cause corruption. So it is necessary to eliminate such delays to control corruption. Official procedures should be simplified. Instead of the present system in which file takes rounds of several offices before the decision is taken. The new pattern of decision making should be developed. There should be a single-window decision system that will reduce delay and save the public from harassment.

Separate courts for the corruption case:

An effective way to control corruption is that guilty must be punished quickly. Since it is not practicable through the present judicial setup, separate courts should be established to deal with corruption cases.

Decentralisation of administration:

Decentralize administration helps to control corruption. It makes officials more

accountable. Giving panchayats financial powers and the right to hire and fire officials will increase official accountability. There should be greater participation of the public in administration.

Strong civil society:

There is a need for a strong civil society that takes the initiatives instead of depending on politicians and officers. It brings pressure to bear against corruption. A good legal order in society emanates from a good moral order amongst the people[10].

Electoral reforms:

Most of the corruption is caused by political leaders. For the political parties winning of the election become a sole obsession. They used money muscle power for winning an election. When political leaders started accepting money from any source it come they became grateful to the fund givers. Therefore there is a need of reforming the electoral process. All political parties should be subjected to income tax scrutiny. The auditable account of the political parties should be published. Any failure should lead to disqualification[11].

Autonomous investigating agencies:

The most important thing is to have an autonomous agency to investigate corruption cases. The present framework to control corruption consists of the Central vigilance commission, state vigilance commission, Central Bureau of investigation, Lokayukta, and Lokpal. The Central Vigilance Commission was established in 1964. Vigilance officers have been appointed in ministries and they are attached and subordinate officers. They provide a link between these ministries and the commission. The commission can undertake an enquiry into any transaction in which a public servant suspected. It can hold an investigation into such cases or can assign the enquiry to CBI. When the commission was created it was assured by the government that it would work without any fear but the experience of the working of the commission shows that it has made no changes in corruption.

Excessive secrecy in administration is not helpful:

The official secrets act and other associated instructions must be amended. We need freedom of information that would make it mandatory for the government departments to give information about their decisions and the reasons behind them.

Freedom of the press:

If we accept that information broadcasting is the number one enemy of corruption and that a powerful mechanism for giving information about corruption in the media, then freedom of the press will have significant effects on minimizing the expansion of administrative corruption[12].

Conclusion:

Corruption at political levels is the root cause of corruption among the employees. Administrative corruption is a phenomenon that serves as a major hurdle in the way of social

development in today's world. Administrative corruption can irreparably damage the development process of a nation. The role of various factors in reproductive corruption has given the phenomenon a complex nature. As a result, many of the government programs to fight corruption have failed. Therefore, administrative corruption has not been eradicated to date despite numerous reform programs undoubtedly; the reason behind the failure is not a shortage of rules and regulations. As we know, the rules and regulations aimed to prevent the squandering of government financial resources are so detailed that they mostly end up slowing down the implementation of organizational programs and achieving their goals. Despite this, administrative corruption and abuse of public financial resources are still a challenge facing our administrative organizations. Socio-cultural, economic, political and administrative factors are the main root-causes of the problem. One of the most important costs at the macro-level is deepening the gap between the poor and the rich. This has strengthened the belief that there is no justice in society. Accordingly, people have come to have less and less trust in the social system. Many programs have been implemented in India so far as to fight corruption. However, the programs have not been successful. There are many reasons behind this failure such as Culprits escape justice, and Employees are prone to bribery at organizations and those parts of the political and administrative system where fighting corruption is needed. Anti-corruption programs and government watchdogs are not systematic and consistent. To eliminate or reduce administrative corruption, we need all-out programs. By affecting the public culture of society and its aspects like organizational culture and management, these programs should set the prevention of corruption as its objective instead of drawing up disciplinary measures. Therefore, if the organization's members are decent and cultivated, purging the organizational environment will be faster and will turn into a constant process. Finally, fighting corruption calls for careful planning for all-out knowledge.

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