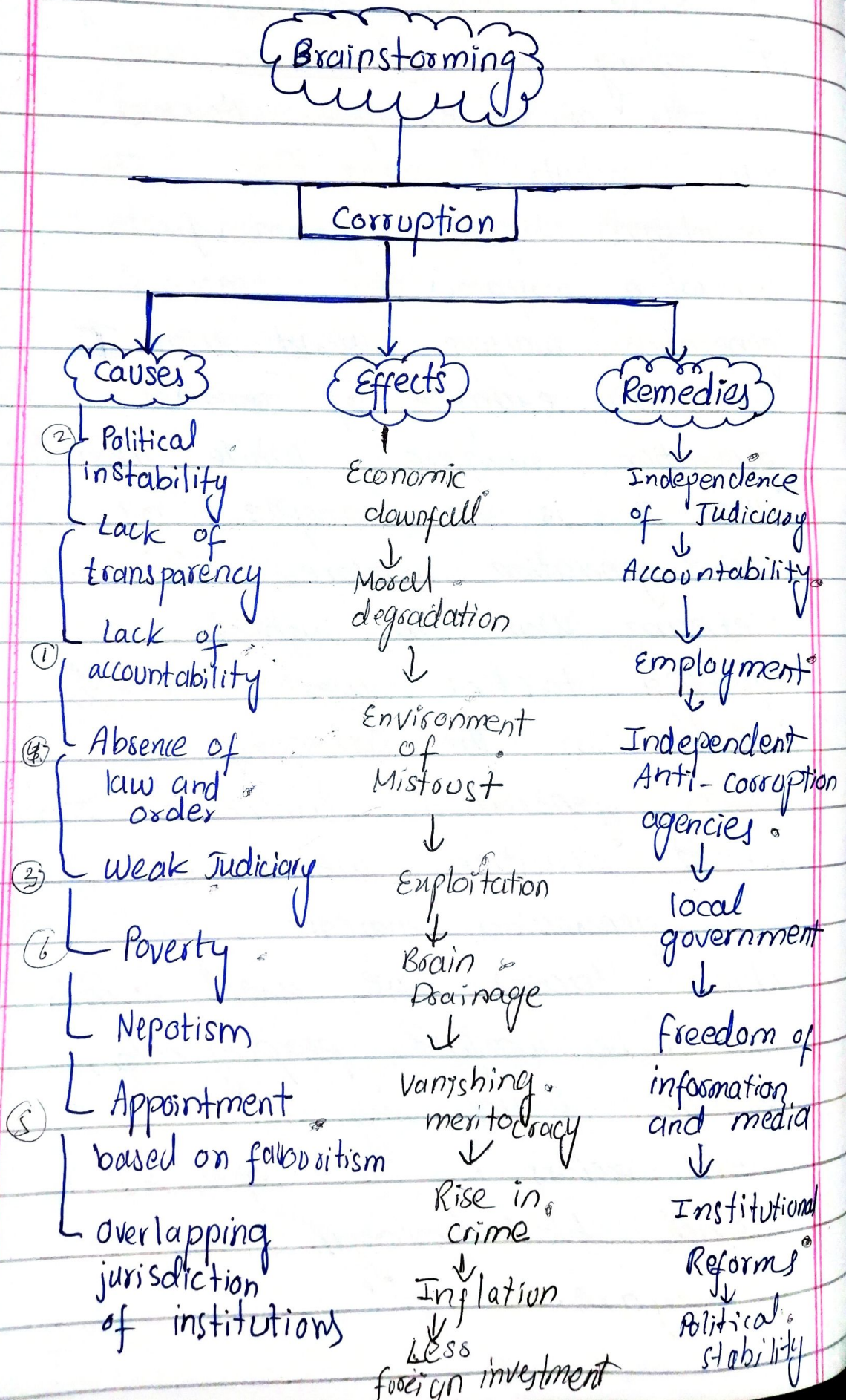


# Corruption: its causes, effects and remedies



# Outline

## 1) Introduction

(a) Attention

(b) General statement

(c) Thesis statement: Corruption, an evil, has many major causes such as lack of accountability, absence of law and order, poverty and nepotism etc. These are worse effects of corruption. That can be countered by ensuring an effective system of accountability, law and order, rise in employment and meritocracy.

## 2) Causes of corruption in Pakistan

(a) Lack of accountability

(b) Political instability leads to corruption

(c) Indadequacy of Judicial System

(d) Absence of law and order

(e) Appointments based off favouritism

(f) Denial of basic facilities of

life due to poverty

### 3) Major effects of corruption

- (a) Mushrooming an environment of mistrust
- (b) Impeding the economic progress
- (c) Corruption leads to moral degradation
- (d) Resulting in the rise of crimes
- (e) Vanishing meritocracy and
- (f) booming brain drainage
- (f) Corruption leads to exploitation

### (4) Remedies to curb corruption

- (a) Ensuring an effective system of accountability
- (b) Assuring political stability
- (c) Providing independence of judiciary
- (d) Guaranteeing law and order
- (e) Affirming to meritocracy
- (f) Enhancing employment opportunities

### (5) Conclusion

When great wall of China was constructed, the attacks from invaders were also increased.

Every time when an invader arrived the gate, he would give bribe to the gatekeepers.

As a result, the gate was opened without any resistance. Therefore, the

strong defense does not give protection to any country. It is the moral standing and character of individuals that make the foundation of a nation strong.

The problem of corruption is not new, the world is facing this for a long time.

Developed, developing as well as under-developed countries are struggling to eradicate this issue. Unfortunately, Pakistan is one of them. Corruption which is an evil has many

major causes such as lack of accountability, absence of law and order, poverty and nepotism etc. There are worse effects of corruption that can be encountered by ensuring an effective system of accountability, law and order, rise in employment and meritocracy.

These remedies should be implemented to solve the issue of corruption.

Corruption is not descended from heavens but it is man made which should be resolved by implementing practical and honest methods. Without eliminating this curse, Pakistan cannot make progress as this problem has hindered the development of every department either it is government or private. At the same time, Pakistan is capable to eradicate this evil if it takes effective measures.

The first and the foremost cause of corruption in Pakistan is lack of accountability. When there is no proper mechanism of accountability, the vicious cycle of corruption keeps on growing. It is because the members in these institutions are themselves ~~are~~ involved in corrupt practices. Corrupts fill the pockets of employees of anti-corrupt departments and ultimately, they deviate from their sole purpose. In this way, a cycle of corruption continues and it weakens the foundation of the country. According to C. Cotton:

"Corruption is like a ball of snow. Once it is set a rolling, it must be increase."

If the accountability is not ensured, the corrupt individuals and institutions practice this

curse without any fear of punishment.

Besides lack of accountability, the political instability also leads to corruption. It is because political instability and corruption are directly proportional. As political instability shortens the horizon of policy makers, so departments which are responsible for the implementation of effective policies are unable to work properly. Moreover, political leaders, themselves are involved in a number of corrupt practices that ultimately brings political instability. Therefore, Pakistan is ranked 140 out of 180 least corrupt countries (Transparency International, Corruption Perception Index, 2023). Hence, Political instability is one of the leading cause of corruption in Pakistan.

When there is political instability in any country, the responsibility of judiciary has increased. However, in Pakistan this concept works in backward direction. Corruption has risen in the country due to inadequate judicial system.

One can see the examples of developed world, that has a strong judicial system but in Pakistan this system is rusted. It is because the judiciary itself is involved in corrupt practices. It is a worst situation and one can bribe judges to alter the decision. Pakistan as an Islamic state should ensure the effective system of judiciary as it interpret laws and serves as a bullet to eradicate many social evils like corruption.

According to **National Corruption Perception Survey 2023**, Judiciary



is the third most corrupt institution of Pakistan with a percentage of 13 percent. Hence, the corrupt judicial system that is unable to work in an adequate manner intensifies corruption in Pakistan.

When Judiciary is unable to perform its role in true spirit, other institutions such as executive also becomes an ineffective institution. Therefore, the situation of law and order in the country suffers. Pakistan is one of the developing countries which is suffering due to fragile law and order system. One cannot go to police station for a report until one can have money to bribe police. Public avoids these institutions because they know that these institutions are themselves indulge in

corrupt practices. Police in Pakistan is one of the most corrupt institution (30.1.) (National Corruption Perception Survey, 2023). In this way, the evil of corruption mushrooms in Pakistan due to fragile system of law and order.

Weak judicial system and law and order situation make corrupts more corrupts. As a result, these corrupts which have power make appointments based on favouritism. In this way, they destroy the system of merit in Pakistan. Most of the political leaders when come in power, appoint their near ones. Besides this, the people who get appointments based on nepotism themselves practice corruption. They are incompetent and ruin the meritocracy. According to United Nations Human

Development Programme, in developing countries where there is political instability and weak judicial system, the appointments are mostly based on nepotism as compared to the developed world. In this way, nepotism ruins meritocracy that is another form of corruption prevailing in Pakistan.

Last but not the least cause of corruption in Pakistan is the decline in the availability of the basic facilities of life due to poverty. When people are unable to access the basic needs of life they indulge in different types of crimes. Corruption is one of these crimes that increases due to poverty. In Pakistan, the salaries of various departments are very low and employees

are unable to fulfil the basic needs of their families, so they do corruption to make money. According to **World Bank** Report on poverty in South Asia, the poverty rate in Pakistan has increased from 34.2% in 2022 to 39.5% in 2023. In this way, poverty leads to corruption as the people have to fulfil their day-to-day necessities. Corruption hurts Pakistan socially, politically as well as economically. The first effect of corruption is the growth of an environment of mistrust. When there is lack of accountability, it ultimately mushrooms an environment which fades out trust and confidence.

**"Corruption is like a cancer that steals from the poor, eats away governance and moral fabric, and**

destroys trust."

(Robert Zoellick)

In the above quotation, it is clearly shown that how it destroys the trust of public that will lead to the degradation of the society as a whole. Hence, one can say that corruption leads to the flourishing of an environment of distrust.

Environment of mistrust further thrives due to another major effect of corruption that is the decline in economic growth. Political instability which causes corruption, at the same time it impedes the economic growth and development of a country. It badly hurts the Foreign Direct Investment as well as the internal investment. When investors do not

invest in a country there is the devaluation of currency which ultimately results in economic downfall.

According to **Global Competitiveness Report** of **World's Economic Forum, 2023**, the <sup>most</sup> <sup>important</sup> reason due to which foreign investors do not want to invest in Pakistan, is corruption. After bureaucracy and political instability. Hence, it clearly depicts how much, the corruption in any country affects its economic growth and development.

Poor economic growth that is caused by corruption also multiplied by the moral degradation. Moral degradation destroys the social fabric of a country. When there is no interpretation of law by the judicial system of Pakistan, the

people shows no interest in accountability. Therefore, public at large do wrong which is morally unacceptable but due to our judicial system it becomes socially acceptable. If one sees the example of developed world, it clearly shows their progress and moral uplift is due to the presence of strong judicial system even at the time of various wars. Hence, Judiciary which is ineffective flourishes an environment of corruption which results in the moral degradation of Pakistan.

The social condition of moral degradation results in the rise of many crimes. When there is fragile system of law and order in a country, it raises many criminal activities.

It is because public knows that police system which has the supreme responsibility to implement law and order is itself indulge into many corrupt and criminal activities.

Therefore, the system of check and balance is collapsed in Pakistan. According to **Pakistan Bureau of Statistics**, crimes

in Pakistan including corruption has increased over 0.89 million in 2023 due to weak law enforcement agencies. Hence, corruption due to weak police system gives rise to many other offences.

Another major effect of corruption besides proliferation of crimes is brain drain and shaking standards of merit. It is because in Pakistan, the culture of nepotism blooms that



washes away the system of meritocracy. When there is a weak economic system and meritocracy, the public prefers to go abroad. The evil of corruption and many other factors including unemployment results in brain drain that is the cause of less human resource in Pakistan. According to Federal Investigation Agency, more than 8 million people left Pakistan in 2023 and the major cause behind that brain drain was poor merit and unemployment.

**(Immigration Report, 2023).**

In this way, corruption not only hurts the social fabric of the country but also leads to brain drain and economic decline.

Last but not the least affect of corruption

is the exploitation. The exploitation is either moral or economic. Islam forbids corruption because it increases the gap between the rich and poor. It results in the stagnation of wealth and businessmen exploit the poor or the workers. Ultimately, this exploitation creates economic disparity and the poor indulge into a number of unlawful and immoral activities and this vicious cycle goes on. In Pakistan, the political leaders do the same thing either in the elections or in the distribution of funds. In this way, one confidently says that corruption is the mother of all evils and its effects on each level are worst.

Corruption has a very bad impact on the image

of state at national and international level. Its writ is under threat. So, it is high time to take practical steps to curb this evil from Pakistan. Firstly, there should be an effective system of accountability at every level. For this purpose reforms are needed in National Accountability Bureau and other anti-corruption agencies. History has witnessed that military leaders made these anti-corruption agencies not against polarizing corruption but against politicians (Stephen Hawkins, A brief history of Pakistan). Therefore, it is the need of the hour to make free these institutions from interference in their work either by national or international agents.

After ensuring an effective system of accountability by introducing new reforms, then the next step is to make country politically stabilize. It is because when the policy makers are unable to perform well how the judicial system interpret laws. After making effective policies, the executive sector of Pakistan will implement those laws. So, the prime responsibility is to ensure free and fair elections because if this is corrupted how the political leadership will play its role to curb corruption. In Pakistan, after the death of Liaquat Ali Khan, the seat of Prime Minister is just a joke (Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan beyond the crisis state). Hence, it is the

need of the hour to ensure political stability in Pakistan which will definitely bring economic and social progress.

Political stability is fruitless, until it is coupled with the independence of the Judicial system of Pakistan.

It is because judiciary's role is not only necessary to curb the evil of corruption but also it is evident for the progress of Pakistan.

When Hitler was bombing London and Churchill's government was almost crippled, then Churchill asked a question that whether their courts were giving justice. He was informed that the courts were giving justice. So, he breathed a sigh of relief and said that if the courts were giving justice, we would win the war. History

has witnessed that England won the World War II. This clearly depicts the importance of justice not only in curbing evils of the society but also in war. Therefore, an effective judicial system is needed to control corruption in Pakistan.

The next practical step after making sound policies and effective judicial system is to implement law and order in the country. There should be reforms in Police department that should improve the effectiveness of the department. Proper mechanism of accountability in police department must be ensured. In this way, they not only perform their role to eradicate corruption externally

but also to weaken its roots in their department. Therefore, profound policies are useless if they are not properly implemented and the organ of government which is responsible for their implementation is executive.

Furthermore, there should be a transparent system that is based on merit.

It will lessen the brain drain and will improve the human resources in Pakistan. When a country works on merit, its investment increases and the people find it best place for working. So, Pakistan should ensure meritocracy to curb corruption, favouritism, nepotism, bribery and gift culture. In this way, by implementing

system of merit, many evils including corruption will be destroyed and eradicated.

The last but not the least remedy to stop corruption is to increase the opportunities of employment. At the same time, the government of Pakistan should increase the salaries of employees that are in low ranks. In this way, people find employment and earn fair to fulfil their basic needs. It will help in restructuring the social fabric according to the principles of Islam. The government should ensure proper system of zakat and usher, so that there would be proper circulation of wealth to eradicate poverty from Pakistan. In this way by implementing these



practical steps, Pakistan will restart its journey to progress and development in social, economic, judicial as well as in political sector.

Conclusively, corruption is the mother of all social evils. It brings poverty, unemployment, crimes, political instability, economic instability and weak law and order in the country.

It will bring Pakistan on the verge of destruction if it not takes effective measures. Therefore, a campaign based on determination and practical steps against corruption to restore the trust of the nation is detrimental. Pakistan needs a system that deters corruption now and in the future because it is practiced culturally as a norm.

By ensuring effective reforms in National Accountability Bureau, police, judiciary, political system and in certain anti-corruption agencies, Pakistan will eradicate the curse of corruption. Once the corruption is rooted out from Pakistan, no power hinders its progress as God has bestowed it with a bulk of human and natural resources. Angel Gurría says, "Integrity, transparency and the fight against corruption have to be part of the culture. They have to be thought as fundamental values."

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