

The Worst Disease in the World Today is Corruption

1) Introduction

1.1) Corruption and the World

1.2) Thesis

Rampant corruption across the political, social, economic, and health domains manifests as the worst disease prevalent in the world today.

2) How Corruption is Not the Worst Disease in the World Today (Antithesis)

2.1) Political Domain

a) Menacing Artificial Intelligence (AI): the major threat to the world democracies today

i) Case Study of the US presidential elections

2.2) Economic Domain

a) The inherent vulnerabilities of the global financial system

i) Case Study of the detrimental effects of the Ukraine War

2.3) Social Domain

a) Ongoing socio-ethnic issues at the global level

i) Case Study of the Israel - Palestine Clashes

2.4) Health Domain

a) Undercapacity of the worldwide pharma industry causing supply shortage

i) Case Study of the Covid 19 Vaccine supply

3) Corruption is the Worst Disease in the World Today (Thesis)

3.1) Political Domain

a) Not artificial intelligence (AI), but the systematic corruption undermines democracy

i) Manifestation in the US Presidential elections

3.2) Economic Domain

a) Not the inherent vulnerabilities, but the economic corruption weakened the global economic system

i) Manifestation in the impact of the Ukraine war on the global south economy

3.3) Social Domain

a) Not socio-economic antagonism, but moral corruption breeds the global social issues

i) Manifestation in the Gaza genocide

3.4) Health Pomeir

- a) Not the undercapacity of the global pharmer industry, but the corruption causing supply shortage
- i) Manifestation in the Covid-19 vaccine case

4) Conclusion

4.1) Summary

- 4.2) Corruption is the worst disease the world is facing today. Its presence ranging from the political, social, economic, and health domains provides enough evidence to believe that it is the worst disease in the world today.

'I am scared after listening to the Dr. Weiliang, doctor, he says that it is a life-threatening virus', babbled the patient. 'It is just a febrile disease, currently abounds Wuhan. Follow this prescription, you will be fine,' said the doctor Haoyu and showed the prescription. Both shook hands, fulfilling the adies ritual while violating the virus emergency precautions. The perpetual unpleasing calls by Dr. Weiliang were right. The virus was present but ignored. And this ignorance towards 'just a febrile disease' was about to wreak a havoc on the days to come. Millions died, but the pandemic is ongoing even when these words are written,

Showing no end in sight anytime soon. This analogy equally applies to corruption. It is present globally and is warned against painstakingly. Yet the world has to pay heed to its severity. Yet the world has to take practical measures for its eradication instead of cosmetic policies and lip service. Rampant corruption across the political, social, economic and health domains manifests as the worst disease prevalent in world today.

Politics across the world are threatened by the emerging technologies such as disruptive artificial intelligence (AI). It can be regarded as the biggest challenge for every state as it directly attacks and alters the public choice of representatives. Taking power from the hands of the masses, this stealth intrusion of artificial intelligence becomes the kingmaker ready to exploit on behalf of the few interest groups. It decisively acts by installing favourite group in power and controls the country, bypassing all the hindrances. This makes it the worst disease in the political domain that engulfs the strong and weak states alike. It did not spare even one of the biggest democracies of the world such as the United States of America. For the first time, this debate was initiated there during the

presidential elections in 2016. Those elections brew many conspiracies. Not only were the results alleged to have been altered, but also the voter behaviour is said to be influenced. The Election Assistance Commission of the US had highlighted the vulnerabilities of the voting machine software in 2020, which increased the risk of election meddling manifold. Those findings were verified by the US cybersecurity and infrastructure agency through a cyber-attack red alert. Coupled with this, the voter behaviour is believed to be influenced by the AI. Open secrets organisation reported in 2020 that over \$1.5 bn was spent on targeted political ads during the 2020's elections cycle. They perpetuated social biases through the hateful deep fake such as that of political notable Nancy Pelosi. Therefore, it is the disruptive emerging technology not corruption that is prevalent in the world today.

The economic domain^{also} has its own range of threats among which the inherent vulnerability of the global economic system ranks first. An event occurring in state A that is hundreds of thousand miles away has enough potential to affect the latter's economy to an unprecedented level. As in the political domain, this domain also has blurred division between the developed and developing states as neither of them is spared from its menace. To

To take the case study of Ukraine War as an example, it downgraded the global gross domestic product (GDP) from 3.4pc to 3.0pc shown in IMF data released last year. Russian invasion on Ukraine also negatively impacted the global grain and oil supplies. This all caused a dramatic surge in the prices of commodities. Among the variety of fiscal price indicators, FAO reported that food price index rose 30 pc^{in 2022} compared to the previous years, globally. Similarly, the stats provided by the United Nations trade and development organisation (UNCTAD) showed that the global trade dipped 3pc in 2022 and global debt reached historic \$300 bn. This data manifests how an event happening at the narrowest corners of the world can greatly affect the world indiscriminately. Therefore, it is the vulnerable structure of the global economic structure and not corruption that has engulfed the economic domain of the current world.

Moving towards the social domain, one finds the rise of socio-ethnic conflicts. They are currently posing the greatest threat owing to their escalatory nature. Similar to the political and economic domains, this is also global in nature. Their globalised nature impacts the comity of nations in many ways, as they have to clarify their stance of localised conflicts.

One such conflict is the Israel - Palestine conflict that dates decades back yet continue to mire the global social domain. It originated in the 20th century when the anglo-saxon mandated colonial declaration of balfour sown the seeds of rivalry between two identities, Muslims and Jews. Scholars as Jaffery A. Frieden and Osama Makdessi extensively wrote on its localised and territorial nature ; however, it has been causing polarization and human right concerns globally. The far-fetching consequences of this conflict were even heralded in the halls of the United Nations' commonness' assembly after a millenium of its origina-tion. It has divided not only its region of occurrence, but million miles apart campuses of the western universities. Global public discourse has been garnering the attention towards the Israels' atrocities in Gaza through the depiction of ramshackle hospitals, wounded children and displaced masses. Heart-rending images are brought by the Gaza's social media activists straight to the phones of masses. It shows that the social domain of the world is also not dominated by the issue like corruption. Therefore, corruption cannot be regarded as the world disease world is facing nowadays.

Lastly, health domain also filters out corruption and regards the undercapacity

of the global pharma industry being the worst challenge it faces nowadays. Millions across the world suffer because of the insufficient medical treatment administration. This issue is often exacerbated by the volatility of drug prices and supply chain issues. Case study of the Covid-19 vaccine shows no exception. The vaccine alliance, GAVI noted that nearly 1.4 billion vaccines were underproduced causing worldwide shortage of this life saving drug. America's famous operational management company McKinsey also highlighted various supply chain issues that caused further delays in its administration and cut its supply upto 50%. Collectively, this caused troubles to patients across the global. This case study reiterates that worst challenge prevailing in the health domain is the vaccine underproduction or shortage of the medical treatment and not corruption. Hence, it would be false to hold corruption responsible for the global challenges in the health domain too.

The antithesis successfully presented the case and refused to believe that corruption is the worst disease in the world

today. Through a multifaceted analysis conducted in different domains such as political, economic, social, and health domains, it is proved that corruption cannot be regarded as the worst disease that the world is facing today. Every domain has its own specific challenge and one challenge cannot be generalised across all of them. On the contrary, if the ^{presence of} corruption is deeply examined in the world, the results would shock the antithesis. Therefore, the thesis supports the notion that the worst disease in the world today is corruption.

Beginning the thesis from the political domain, it is not the AI but corruption that is the worst disease. While proponents built the façade of AI as the biggest threat, the deep realities disprove their claims. It is the corruption that systematically disenfranchised masses through various manipulative claims. Going back to the case study of the US presidential elections, corrupt tactics ^{such} as gerrymandering, and the corrupt financing system for the political campaigns are to

for the controversies these Elections. Brennan Center quoted that nearly 5.5 million of Americans were exposed to different voter suppression tactics. Among them gerrymandering where corrupt practices manipulate electoral boundaries to favour a few. This political corruption has been called unconstitutional by the US Supreme Court. Similarly, literal corruption involving the political parties finances challenges the political domain the most. Recent case of An American electable George Santos displays how openly politicians can be bribed and the party finances mishandled. Such corrupt practices sprout from the corrupt roots and weaken the system from inside. Corruptions corrupts the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and employs it for malicious purposes such as election meddling. AI is like a knife that can be used both for stabbing people and while performing their life saving surgeries. Ends defines the means. All the threats prevailing in the political domain of the world are merely symptoms of the underlying cause which is corruption. Hence, the political domain proves that corruption is the worst disease prevailing in

world today.

Moving towards rebuttal of the economic domain antithesis, thesis establishes that not any inherent vulnerability but corruption weakened the global economic system. To examine, the detrimental ^{economic} impacts of the Russian invasion on Ukraine were uneven across the world. The global south was hit harder than the global north. It can be substantiated by a World Bank report that estimated nearly 2pc growth rate reduction of a country due to corruption. It further aggravates when the prevalence of corruption lowers the trust of investors and the country loses potential Foreign direct investment (FDI) too. To demonstrate, the World Economic Forum in 2019 explained that the corrupt states get 30pc less FDI than the less corrupt states. Owing to those discouraging indicators, the corrupt states' economies become vulnerable to the external shock such as Ukraine war and core-periphery relationships. Therefore, regarding Russian invasion and other cursorily investigated issues as 'inherent reality' of the global economic system is a

fallacy. It simply diverts attention from the gravest issue of corruption that the global economies face today. Henceforth, the economic domain also proves that corruption is the worst disease prevalent in the world today.

Next rebuttal is directed at the false categorization of Socio-ethnic conflicts as the worst challenge in global social domain. Where antithesis deemed the identity issues responsible, thesis proselytises corruption as the biggest reason for all the social domain issues. Referring back to the Israel-Palestine rivalry or the Gaza genocide, it is not the socio-economic antagonism, but moral corruption that bred this crisis. UN Special rapporteur Francesca Albanese affirmed the Israel's botched denial of committing genocide in Gaza. Strings of doomsdays happening in Gaza are also connected to corruption.

Moral corruption of the Western countries for being silent despite having agency to intervene and prevent further violence has added fuel into the Gaza bloodbath. Besides the criminal silence, US' double standards were reported by several credible

sources. According to the New York Times, US, with \$3.8 billion annually, has been the largest military supplier to the Israel. Those are the weapons which Israel uses to kill Palestinians indiscriminately. The Guardian went further to reveal the Western moralistic shibboleth that the West condemns violence but often remains silent to Israel's settlement expansion to the Gaza and its humanitarian restrictions. This silence, similar to those western supplied weapons, is complicit in Israel's genocide of Gaza. Eventually, it is the moral corruption, and not and identity or socio-ethnic rifts, which is fuelling this burning social issue of the contemporary world. Corruption in the social domain too has proven to be the worst disease this world is currently facing.

The last rebuttal is directed at the antithesis contemplated in the health domain. Antithesis claimed the undercapacity of the global pharma industry which causes the ubiquitous challenge of medical supply shortages in the health domain. In reality, not the undercapacity but corruption is the real problem. Even in the case study quoted by the antithesis claims, it was the corrupt practices which hindered the

Covid treatment. Unlike the cause claimed by the antithesis proponents, World Health Organization (WHO) also hold prevalent corruption responsible for the hindrances in Covid treatment. For instance, corruption in the procurement process caused severe delays and other supply chain problems. Resultantly, the jab prices soared up to 50pc, noted by PHRMA in 2022. Ancillary reasons such as the undercapacity of the global medical industry are frequently used to hide the real cause of the problems prevailing in health domain. In reality corruption has gristly affected the global health domain. Therefore, the health domain also proves corruption to be the worst evil world is facing nowadays.

To conclude, while emerging disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), global economic vulnerabilities, socio-ethnic conflicts, and deficiencies in health-care supply each present significant challenges, it is imperative to understand that rampant corruption across the political, social, economic, and health domains manifests as the worst disease prevalent in the world today. Contrary to the notion that AI the greatest threat to political

stability, it is corruption that fundamentally undermines democracy and erodes public trust. In the economic realm, rather than economic vulnerabilities, it is corruption that distorts and weakens the global economic system. Similarly, socio-ethnic conflicts are intensified by corrupt practices, and in the health sector, corruption hampers the effective distribution and access to the essential medical resources. Therefore, corruption is the worst disease in the today's world. Addressing and combating corruption is essential to alleviating these broader global issues and fostering a more just and functional world.