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The Worst Disease in The World Today is Corruption

Outline:

1- Introduction

2- Corruption as the worst disease in The world today

- (a) Promotes injustice in society
- (b) Makes institutions inefficient
- (c) Brings an economic crisis
- (d) Promotes other criminal activities
- (e) Compromises system of meritocracy
- (f) Increases poverty and unemployment
- (g) Affects technological innovations by compromised education quality
- (h) Causes political instability
- (i) Invites humanitarian crisis
- (j) Allows misuse of authority
- (k) Weakens law enforcement
- (l) Causes money laundering

3- Ways to prevent corruption

(a) ^{and implementing} Introducing strict punishments for involvement in corruption

(b) Segregating the powers and ~~introduction~~ enhancing check and balance mechanisms.

4- Conclusion

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It is surprising to witness that countries which have ^{achieved} the best human development and economic prosperity are the ones who have successfully prevented corruption. On the other hand, countries which have not been able to prevent it have not succeeded in achieving human development and economic prosperity. Corruption promotes social injustice, causes economic crisis, promotes criminal activities and compromises the system of meritocracy. Moreover, it increases poverty and unemployment, affects technological advancement by compromising quality of education, causes political instability and causes humanitarian crisis. Therefore, corruption is the worst disease in the world today.

Corruption promotes injustice in society by giving undue favors to ones and depriving the others. It gives birth to a society in which might is right. Those having power could easily suppress those not having it. A case study from Pakistan would be helpful in explaining this. There was a politician having corruption charges in billion of Pakistani rupees. He

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easily escaped the cases no sooner did he get in the government. This is how the corruption nurtures injustice. A poor man not having power could be held behind the bars for years for a small theft. Conversely, a rich person would not spend a day behind the bars. Rich could easily get away by using undue influence that is; corruption.

Besides this, corruption makes the institutions inefficient that is, when there is culture of corruption, everyone would look for some personal, though undue, interests before performing their duties. A person, whose salary was stopped by his drawing and disbursing officer, went to ^{accounts} his officer and begged for opening of his salary. The officer did not open account ^{as} on account of his demand for half payment of the accumulated salary, and the person refused to pay half. A case of WAPDA in Pakistan shows this perfectly. WAPDA is responsible for electricity distribution, due to corruption by its employees, much of the national electricity goes in theft and government cannot even recover its expenses out of it. This is how corruption makes the institutions ineffective.

Economic crisis is yet another problem exacerbated by corruption. Economy of any country depends on policies of government to promote ease of doing business and and on institutions to carry out these policies effectively. When there is corruption, policies are not effective and, therefore, economic activities are affected. Recently, more than 30 percent of multinational companies closed their operations in Pakistan due to economic slowdown. This slow down is partly due to government officials who involve in taking bribes and let the businesses remain unregistered and, from these businesses not a single rupee is paid to the government. This way government's ability to function effectively gets undermines and people and investors leave the country further aggravating the economic crisis.

Often, to influence others and to take undue favors, many use criminal activities as a tool. Those who get used to corruption, get the desired favors no matter who they are dealing with. These people also use frauds, embezzlement and forgeries to get take benefits. An em example of this is, an officer in Pakistan who fraudulently took

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took billions of rupees in corruption and announced pre-mature retirement from service on medical grounds. After ~~few~~ some time, the corruption was detected, but, by then, he had already got retired from the service and this way, he got it done. Therefore, corruption gives birth to other crimes too.

Compromised system of meritocracy is another evil of corruption. When there is corruption, merit disappears. In education, politics, employment and administration, nepotism takes place. For example, a person having key position in a specific department would, when there is chance, appoint a person who pays him the highest rather than appointing someone based on their skills and abilities. In education, for example, medical council takes exams every year, this time, in 2024, the test was conducted twice because of allegations of corruption on Pakistan Medical Council (PMC) which reconducted test meaning thereby acknowledged the corruption in it. In this test, many qualified students

could not make it for medical degree due to corruption which illegally brought other students up. This way corruption compromises meritocracy.

Moreover, corruption increases unemployment and poverty. Unemployment increases as people cannot get their rights due to corruption, and resultantly poverty strikes these people. A comparison between countries shows that those countries who are good in corruption perception index (CPI) are good at have ~~high~~ low unemployment and poverty ratios too. While countries which are bad at CPI have higher unemployment and poverty ratios. This indicates that there is strong relation between corruption and unemployment and poverty. The higher the unemployment and poverty ratios will be if more is corruption there.

Corruption also affects technological innovations especially by compromising the quality of education. Technological advancement is possible if only there are highly qualified scientists who keep working on innovating new technologies. But corruption limit the students'

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motivation to study as they could observe the non-deserving people having high positions while qualified ones having nothing who if they have none to influence. Moreover, corruption is getting good scores and getting passed also discourages individuals to work hard and, therefore, become scientists. Therefore, prevalence of corruption in a society hampers its technological innovations and affects the overall economic, and political advancements based on technology.

A recent fight among politicians Pakistan is the best example of how corruption brings political instability. The situation worsened when a ruling party filed numerous cases of corruption by another party. Since ~~last~~ 2018, the country remains in big chaos and political parties do not come to a page to bring stability in country rather keep fighting among themselves. The countries around the world over which have least corruption in their systems have relatively stable politics for example, The United States. Whereas, the countries which have high corruption, ~~or~~ have higher political

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instability. Somalia is the most corrupt country according to CPI, and it is politically unstable too, for example. Given this debate, it is obvious that higher the corruption, the higher will be political instability.

Corruption also causes humanitarian crisis. It involves health crisis, food insecurity, harassment, increased class differences and much more. These crises tend to increase with corruption. Misuse of power in administrative position enables an officer to exercise nepotism, low check and balance of doctors in healthcare system motivates them to embezzle with the government pharmaceuticals and prevent their free access to general public and a manager might harass his subordinates for gaining favors in absence of audit and responsibility mechanism. All these and many other are the examples of how corruption creates humanitarian crisis. Finland is said to have the one of the best health, education, and judicial systems and it ranks second ^{based} on corruption perception index. Therefore, higher the

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corruption, the higher will be humanitarian crisis.

Misuse of authority is another problem caused by corruption. Ranging from national to individual level, misuse of authority affects any country so badly. Electoral frauds by those in power, nepotism in the workplace, issuance of unfair ~~verdicts~~ verdicts in the courts, fraud and insider trading systems in companies and discrimination in social arena are some examples of misuse of power. Pakistan, for example, is a country which has been imposed martial laws multiple times, each time, except one, the martial laws were declared lawful by the judiciary. This was simply to avoid confrontation with the military might and remain safe. In this way authority was misused to favour some powerful individuals.

Corruption also weakens the enforcement of law. Weak enforcement of law refers to compromised situation of implementing reward and punishment against individuals and institutions because of their

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ability to exercise undue influence.

In such system, law becomes the net of an spider. Where the mighty will find no resistance it his way while the weak will be trapped in survival.

struggle. Feudal system, which still dominates in some areas of Pakistan like Sindh, reflects this phenomenon.

These feudals have their people who are used to create influence in society and sometimes engage in criminal activities. When any of these is found guilty, feudals easily get them out of cases while common man has none to support even for legitimate purposes. Officers in every department including police, take bribes and, therefore, law enforcement is compromised.

Money laundering is also the by product of corruption. It refers to illegal flow of money from one country to another in order to make it legitimate. Often, when someone engages in corruption, they end up having some reward out of it, which is not their legal income. This amount, sometimes, is so big that

The perpetrators could not easily declare it as their property due to insufficient evidence for its source. Therefore, they try to send this money out in to some other country so that it may be declared legal money. Then some of it might or might not come back to the country.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an organization which oversees terrorist financing and money laundering, places countries with high money laundering on 'Black list' and those suspected to carry out these are placed on 'Grey list'. Pakistan, for example, a South Asian country, was placed on 'Grey list' till late 2022. While during this period, the country's position on CPI was also the worst.

Corruption can, however, be controlled with some pragmatic solutions.

Introducing strict punishments for those involved in corruption can control it significantly. People are motivated to engage in corruption due to absence of strict implementation

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of laws against corruption. To ensure this, robust punishment mechanism should be brought in force. It could involve accountability of government servants including accountability of their actions, their resources, their connections and their decisions. A criterion for each level of officers must be defined. If someone performs good, ~~for~~ they must be given rewards, if someone performs bad like ends up having higher than expected resources, they should be punished. Moreover, a complaint mechanism should be introduced in which everyone could openly complain about anything wrong done to them and then the culprit should be held answerable. Saudi Arabia, for example, cuts hands of thief. And this way, they have decreased the theft commitments.

Segregation of powers is also essential in order to eliminate corruption. Corruption takes place in absence of fear of being checked and having excessively more power. For example, a person who buys equipment is also the issuer of payments,

He would find no difficulty in involving in corruption. He could take extra money and report it in payment. However, when the procurement officer and issuer of funds are two separate individuals, and procurement needs approval of funds, it is less likely that the former would engage in corruption. Audit firms very wisely manage their human resource by segregating the power among different individuals on different levels. KPMG is the best example for eliminating corruption by segregation of power.

To conclude, it is a fact that corruption is the worst disease in the world today. There would be no exaggeration in saying that it is the mother of all other evils. It causes money laundering, it allows the misuse of authority and power, it causes humanitarian crisis, and causes political instability. Moreover, it affects technological innovations by compromising the quality of education, increases poverty and unemployment, compromises the system of meritocracy and

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exacerbates other criminal activities. With all these issues arising due to corruption, one can understand the gravity of problem and the need for its elimination. However, the worst, it can be controlled through the introduction and implementation of strict reward and punishment mechanisms, and through segregation of powers.