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Mian Farzeen Umal
B-61

English Essay Mock

"The Worst Disease in the World Today is Corruption"

Outline

1. Introduction

2. Understanding Corruption

2.1 Definition and the forms of corruption

3. Ways in which Corruption is the Worst Disease in the World

3.1 Corruption erodes social and moral values leading to a culture of dishonesty

3.2 Corruption destroys public trust in institutions

3.3 Corruption diverts resources from critical sectors like education and infrastructure.

(e.g., Operation Cleanwash in Brazil)

3.4 Delivery of essential healthcare undermined due to corruption (e.g., \$500bn loss annually in global healthcare due to corruption - WHO)

3.5 Corruption drains resources of a country and restricts economic growth (e.g., \$36 trillion)

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Cost to global economy due to corruption
- World Bank)

3.6 Corruption exacerbates global inequality by allowing powerful to exploit resources (e.g., Nigeria has lost \$400bn to corruption since independence)

3.7 Corruption in the political system leads to inefficiencies in the governance (e.g., Pakistan ranks 140 out of 180 on CPI indicating severe corruption and mismanagement)

3.8 Weaker enforcement of regulations leading to environmental degradation.

3.9 Corruption destabilises government leading to political unrest (e.g., Arab Spring uprising partially driven by widespread corruption in the region)

3.10 Corruption weakens law enforcement leading to increase in organised crime, terrorism, and illicit activities.

4. Causes of Corruption in The World

4.1 Corruption, in some societies, is entrenched in the cultural fabric (e.g., Blurred lines between gift-giving and bribery in South Asia)

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4.2 Limited access to information results in lack of transparency leading to corruption

4.3 Corruption thrives in countries with weak legal and institutional framework of accountability

5. Remedies to Combat Corruption

5.1 Raising awareness and educating citizens about the negative impact of corruption

5.2 Government must implement Right to Information laws to promote transparency in governance (e.g., Transparency laws reduce corruption by 25% - World Bank)

5.3 Building strong and independent institutions to ensure accountability (e.g., Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption model)

5.4 Global cooperation to combat transnational corruption (e.g., Increasing adoption of UNCAC measures)

6. Conclusion

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Corruption, like a disease, eats away the very fabric of society, eroding trust, weakening institutions, and undermining development. Corruption is a global issue which affects both the developed and developing nations. Every level and sector of society is negatively impacted by the disease which has contributed in stifling progress and exacerbating inequality within society. Unlike other diseases, which may target a specific component, corruption infects institutions, communities, and governance structures, undermining the very mechanisms intended to promote progress and equity. With billions of dollars lost to corrupt practices annually, this issue has proven to be the greatest barrier in ensuring a fair, just, and prosperous world. In the modern times, corruption needs to be viewed as a moral issue along with governance and should be tackled using concerted efforts to eradicate it from all levels of the society.

Corruption can be defined as the

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abuse of entrusted power for private gain, manifesting in forms such as bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and favoritism.

Globally, corruption is prevalent at the political, corporate, and bureaucratic level along with prominent cases of corruption highlighted in the judiciary and international organisations. High-level corruption cases highlighted in recent times include the FIFA scandal and 1MDB in Malaysia.

Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is commonly referred to as it ranks countries based on their perceived levels of corruption.

Corruption is commonly referred to as a practice which spreads like a virus once acceptability towards it increases. The practice contributes in eroding social and moral values of a nation which leads to a culture of dishonesty where the system seems dysfunctional without the practice. Economists commonly refer to the case of India where the practice of corruption is so deeply

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Embedded within the system that it is referred to as the "grease of the system".

The normalisation of corruption and what is referred to ^{as} speed-money is the indication of long-term acceptability of the practice.

Resultantly, the moral decline reduces the negative notion attached with the practice like in India which signifies the spread of the disease.

Regardless of the perception attached to corruption, its existence indicates the weakness of the social contract which ties the citizens and the government in the system which exists today. Countries which have high levels of corruption have low public trust in institutions. The destruction of public interests in the state institutions leads to low morale of citizens while the control of the state weakens. Trust between the state and the public is what builds a nation and corruption erodes this trust. Nepotism, favouritism, and bribery creates an elitist system which sidelines the less influential strata.

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of society. In the case of South Asia this has been a major reason for high levels of brain drain because the state has failed to uphold the trust of its citizens leading to a flawed system.

The flawed system which is fuelled by corruption is often linked with misallocation of resources by diverting resources from important sectors of society like education and infrastructure development towards sectors which serve the self-interest of the elites. A relevant example is of Pakistan which despite below average levels of literacy rate contributes only 2% of GDP to education. Another example of misuse and misallocation of resources due to corruption was discovered in Brazil under the Operation Car Wash which indicated misdirection of billions of dollars from the public funds by politicians due to corruption. Due to the corrupt practices important educational and infrastructural projects are cancelled.

Global health systems are.

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also a victim of corruption as it undermines the delivery of essential healthcare services, particularly in developing nations, leading to preventable deaths. Embezzlement of healthcare funds can result in inadequate medical supplies, poor infrastructure, and unqualified medical personnel which leaves the vulnerable population without care. As per World Health Organisation (WHO) The estimated cost to the global annual healthcare system annually stands at \$500bn which directly impacts health outcomes and factors like life expectancy.

The World Bank estimates that approximately \$3.6 trillion is cost to the global economy on an annual basis due to corruption. The \$3.6 trillion are resources drained from countries which negatively impact the economy and prospects of economic growth. The problematic part is that as per Corruption Perception Index 2023, two-thirds of countries worldwide score below 50 out of 100. A significant number of countries which fall in the

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Corruption rank are developing nations from Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America which are already economically very weak. The global trend shows that countries with highest level of corruption have lower levels of development and economic progress. The weakened capacity of the countries to perform due to economic corruption leads to economic crisis.

Weakened economic growth and progress which stems due to corruption exacerbates global inequality. The high levels of corruption is correlated with rising inequality because corruption leads to allowing the powerful to exploit resources to their personal gain. The powerful monopolise the available opportunities while the poor suffers consequences. Nigeria which is an oil-rich country has extremely high levels of poverty rate which stands at 38% in 2024 along with severe income inequality. The inequality is driven by corruption through which the resources are allocated to the wealthy.

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elite while the pro-poor policies remain absent. It is reported that Nigeria has lost \$400 bn to corruption since its independence in 1960.

The corruption within the political system not only increases inequality but also exacerbates ineffectiveness. Corruption is linked to poor governance and mismanagement.

Pakistan ranks 140 out of 180 on CPI which indicates the severe corruption in the

country which has been the major reason why Pakistan stands well below

The World Bank's Government Effectiveness

index global average of 50th percentile while

Pakistan is ranked in the 29th percentile. The

Effectiveness of governance is measured on the

quality of civil service, public service delivery,

policy formulation, and implementation

effectiveness. All the components of effective

governance become flawed if the levels

of corruption are high. Corruption leads

to elitist policy formulation, bribery,

influenced public service delivery, and

Selective implementation of policies.

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Ineffective governance, weak enforcement of regulations. Environment is often the most neglected component in corrupt countries because it is collective societal gain rather than a selective benefit. Corrupt countries often ignore environmental degradation by industrialists and elites in exchange of bribery. Corruption significantly contributes to environmental regulation violation as it helps facilitate illegal activities like deforestation and the promotion of unsustainable exploitation of resources. Southeast Asia's large-scale deforestation is an example of how corrupt officials took bribes to allow illegal logging regardless of the existing environmental laws and regulations.

The injustice, inequality, and absence of accountability fuels political unrest which destabilises the government. Public unrest reached the tipping point as loss of ^{trust} in public institutions increases and poverty rises while the wealthy get wealthier by policies that favour

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them unjustly. The Arab Spring which began in 2010 was deeply linked to the widespread corruption across Middle East and North Africa (MENA) due to decades of nepotism and corrupt practices in countries like Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya. The practice had widened socio-economic inequalities to unbearable ends while the elites amassed wealth at expense of the public. Eventually, corruption fuelled public anger leading to a serious wave of protests and resulted in destabilising governments in the region.

Destabilising government results in weakened law enforcement while inequality and lack of trust in public institutions fuels radicalisation and crime. The foundation of organised crime, emergence of terrorism, and illicit activities could be traced back to the systematic failure caused by corruption.

As corruption erodes public trust, instils moral decline, and increases poverty, the public resorts to crime and terrorism.

Tracking the reasons behind the prevalence of corruption is reading

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Like indicates the role of cultural practices. In some societies, a few forms of corruption are entrenched in the cultural fabric and are not regarded as corruption or morally wrong. For example, there is a blurred line between gift-giving and bribery in South Asia. Culturally, South Asians practice gift-giving to speed up the work or to appreciate someone for doing their work. However, the act can be classified as corruption.

The absence of transparency due to limited access to information leads to secrecy. The secrecy and unavailability of information becomes a cause of corruption. Countries like Pakistan which have poor access to information laws tend to score higher on Corruption Perception Index. The element of secrecy in governance becomes a source of misleading information which breeds corruption. Moreover, absence of information means reduced knowledge about rights and thus government officials are able to persuade citizens to obtain

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illicit charges for work which they are bound to do.

Countries with weak legal and institution frameworks allow increased level of corruption towards citizens which already lack information. The lack of accountability in public offices leads to unchecked power which results in high levels of corruption. As per World Bank, there is a strong correlation between weak institutions and high levels of corruption.

In Nigeria, lack of accountability due to weak legal framework has led to unchecked power among politicians. The oil sector revenue of Nigeria is embezzled and mismanaged by corrupt officials and as per the World Bank, these weak institutions have contributed significantly to Nigeria's rising and never-ending corruption history.

Increasing awareness and education is vital to combat the disease of corruption which has entangled all levels of society at a global level. Targetted campaigns which signify the negative

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Consequences of corruption and making citizens more aware about the level of corruption present in their country is vital to begin the process of fighting corruption. Awareness and education allows certification at the individual level which eventually moves across the hierarchy to the system level to resolve the problem. In addition, education reinstates moral values among the population which eventually would combat the culture of dishonesty.

Transparency within a country is key to good governance. Without corruption governments must implement Right to Information (RTI) laws to promote governance transparency in governance.

As per the World Bank, Transparency laws reduce corruption by 25%. When citizens are more aware and have right to information, they can demand their rights and follow the system that exists allowing little room for corruption.

In the cases where despite awareness and transparency, corrupt

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exists, there is need for strict accountability measures which hold the offenders accountable as per law. This must be done by a strong and independent institution which upholds justice and counters corruption. Strong accountability would not only counter instances of corruption but would curb the instances of corruption. Hong Kong adopted this practice by establishing Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in 1974. After establishing ICAC, Hong Kong's corruption declined drastically from being one of the most corrupt countries in the world to ranking among the Top 10 on CPI, consistently.

As corruption transcends borders, global cooperation is needed to combat transnational corruption. There is the need for increased role of United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) to ensure the phenomenon is countered. UNCAC can help adopt

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to counter the existence of corruption.

Corruption is undeniably one of the most destructive and worst diseases affecting the world today. It infects all levels of society, from government to businesses and individuals, crippling development and deepening inequality.

The far-reaching impacts of corruption, from economic decline and political instability to environmental degradation, make it the most pervasive global issue.

To combat this disease, nations must strengthen institutions, enforce transparency, and engage in international cooperation to pave the way for sustainable development and progress.