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"The worst disease in the world is corruption"

1) Introduction

2) What is corruption

3) Corruption perceptions Index (CPI)

4) Corruption is the worst disease in the world as

4(a) It harms a person ^{as} an individual

(i) Erodes sense of responsibility

(ii) Eliminates the concept of self-accountability

(iii) Intensifies the greed of materialistic world.

(iv) Destroys the moral character of an individual.

4(b) It renders states and societies in chaos

(i) Weakens the institutions

(ii) Intensifies rich and poor gulf in society

(iii) Creates macro-economic imbalances

(iv) Impairs the social contract

4(c) poses existential threats to states in the international arena.

Case studies

(i) Arab Spring

(ii) Bangladesh riots 2024

(iii) Instability in Pakistan

(iv) Civilian government and corruption in Afghanistan

5) way forward to root out ^{corruption} from the world

(a) Strengthening the institutions with accountability

(b) Religion as first line of defense against corruption

(c) Reforms in education and awareness

6) conclusion

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The year 2020 marked the outbreak of Corona virus. WHO declared it a global emergency and the pandemic engulfed the whole world; however, it took two or three years to recover from this global catastrophe. Gradually world got back to its normal state economies started recovering and businesses starting booming again. It would not be incorrect to say that world was able to defeat the pandemic but there are certain ~~traits~~^{diseases} of humans which exists from day one of their existence; however, man has failed to root out such ill-traits. Consequently, such diseases have turned chronic and have engulfed the whole world. The worst of such diseases the world is facing today is none other than corruption. Corruption has permeated its roots deep into the society and it is getting tougher by each passing day to break its shackles. It is the worst disease the world has ever witnessed as it harms a person as an individual and renders states as well as societies in chaos posing existential threat to the countries in the international arena however, there are multiple ways that proved to be prudent in eradicating the root of corruption from the society.

Corruption is defined by various scholars and each scholarly writing expands its scope however, no universally accepted definition of corruption exists today. It involves action such as taking bribes, avoiding duties, evading tax, abusing power and using public money for personal expenditures. ^{transparency} ~~transparency~~ International defines corruption as **mult-level approach to abuse power ^{and to} appropriate public money for personal gains**. This definition covers wide range of abuses carried out by individuals as well as states to deprive public of their rights and due share. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) published various reports ~~criticizing~~ citing corrupt practices of ruling elite such as mass exploitations as one of the main reasons for ~~corruption~~ instability in the middle east and south America. In spite of lacking a universally accepted definition, corruption has become a buzzword in today's century as it ~~to~~ has broken all ~~shackles~~ shackles and has permeated deep into society rendering no state immune to its catastrophic ways. World has witnessed pandemics, epidemics and panemics but their combine loss could not compensate the loss witnessed by the states due to corruption.

Corruption perceptions Index is an Index that ranks states by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. It is not an individual's taste rather multiple actors are involved who thoroughly assess the public sector corruption in the states involved. CPI is a tool that exposes such destructive practices. Besides, it paves the road to end impunity for corruption. Scoring 0 on the CPI scale indicates the higher values of corruption on the other hand scoring 100 indicates the country or territory has zero corruption. 2023 CPI report ranked Denmark as the most clean country in terms of corruption. **Pakistan was ranked at 133 out of 180 countries while that of Bangladesh was 149 and 162 of Afghanistan.** CPI present a pathway to eradicate corruption otherwise the menace of corrupt practices would destroy the world as it is the worst disease in the world.

Corruption harms a person as an individual and it renders societies in chaos besides, posing existential threat to the states. Corruption exposes the vulnerabilities of human character. It erodes the sense of responsibility from individual's character. Sense of responsibility is the main deterrent to avoid moral deprivation, but corruption **but this directly, consequently, an**

irresponsible man emerges who does not care about his duties, others' rights and responsibilities. This sense of irresponsibility has engulfed Pakistani society as well due to the individual corrupt practices:

offices open their door late and close the doors before the official closing times in most of the public institutions, schools ~~seen~~ in Pakistan witness the short of attendance but teachers are reluctant to take

responsibility for this menace. Individual responsibility is very crucial for the development of society therefore, The Holy

Quran clearly ^{says} ~~states~~ in Surah ^{Zalzalah} ~~Al-Zalzalah~~

مَنْ يَجْعَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ. وَمَنْ يَجْعَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ

"so whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it".

This verse reinvigorates the sense of responsibility in man by clearly stating that one is responsible, even for a minor act of good or evil. In addition to this, corruption also eliminates the sense of self-accountability of the man.

It is the sense of accountability that stops a person from evil or bad deeds otherwise, The Realist School of thought in the international relations, is right to describe man as an evil, nasty and brutal creature, who is self-centered.

Corrupt practices eliminates this sense of responsibility as a result man ^{neatly} pursues its self interest even if it causes loss to others. Moving on, Corruption also intensifies the greed of materialistic world. This greed is witnessed in today's world when graves instead of death bodies are filled with money. This is also witnessed when one segment of society starves while other hoards the food items. This greed is best depicted when people order a lot of food items beyond their capacity to eat, but waste it later filling the dustbins instead of empty stomachs of the malnourished and poverty-stricken people. Mahatma Gandhi rightly said Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed. This is present in humans by nature but corruption and abuse of power emboldens it to an extent that political leaders are ready to empty the public treasury for personal greed. This was best depicted by a statement of Marie Antoinette during the very early stages of French revolution "If they have no bread, let them eat cake". Adding to this, Corruption also destroys the moral

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practices erodes honesty, trustworthiness, integrity of character, respect for law and hardwork. These are the basic pillars to build a good nation in the world however, corruption roots out these traits from the grass root level of society as a result individuals see destruction of their moral character. Cancer, brainstroke, heart attack are very catastrophic in nature yet, these have limited their harms to an individual. However, when a society faces moral deprivation it prevails through out generations hitting ~~hundreds~~ hundreds and thousands of people. Thus, it would not be incorrect to call the corruption as the worst disease in the world. Corruption is not limited to individuals rather it permeates into states and societies.

Corruption has rendered states and societies in chaos. It weakens the institutions, intensifies rich and poor gulf, creates macro-economic imbalances and impairs the social contracts between state and citizens.