

OUTLINE

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Topic: If Gold Rusts, What Shall Iron do?

1. Introduction

If the role models, who are expected to be free from all evils, commit irregularities, one cannot expect any good deeds from the common people. Thus, the rusting of gold can lead to endemic corruption at social, national and international levels.

2. ~~Transition paragraph~~ Leadership Corrosion: When Gold rusts, Iron crumbles

3. Implications of the lack of true guidance at individual level

(a) Offensive work done by ^{parents} ~~children~~ is then followed by the children.

(b) Individuals will lack strong purpose which leads to lower morale

(c) Deviant behaviours normalized in households.

(d) Lack of moral guidance and supervision.

(e) Children become emotionally uncontrolled which increases their criminal potential.

4. Corrupt behaviour at societal level.

(a) ~~Higher rates~~ Increase in juvenile delinquency

(b) Corruption in professional occupations in the private sector.

(c) Citizens adopt illiberal tactics

(d) Widespread violations in institutions

(e) Increased social stratification.

(f) Depletion of incomes leads to poverty.

5. Deshite reservoir of precedents of good governance

(a) Lower community confidence in public authorities

(b) Defective functioning of pillars of state

(c) Violation of rights of citizens.

(d) Degeneration of national integrity

(e) Can lead to acute anomie

(f) Political cynicism prevails.

6. Conclusion

ESSAY

If the role models, who are expected to be free from all evils, commit irregularities, one cannot expect any good deeds from the common people. Thus, the rusting of gold can lead to endemic corruption at social, national and international levels. "If gold rusts, what then will iron do? For if a priest be foul in whom we trust, no wonder that a common man should rust." The sentence from "The prologue to the Canterbury tales" by Geoffrey Chaucer is a true depiction of the State of Pakistan. This proverbial statement means that if a precious metal like gold can rust, then there is no hope for baser metals. Corruption always starts at the top level and makes its way to the bottom. The corrupt and deviant practices of the rulers and leaders mirror itself among individuals and common households. This disrupts the social fabric of society where injustice, crime, ^{and} inequalities prevail. It lowers the

communities' confidence in public authorities, and leads to a normalization of deviance and corruption in society, which leads to acute anomie in society. Hence, what will iron do if the leaders, the protectors, parents and guiders are rusted?

Pakistan ranks 140 out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2022. Pakistan is turning into a sad project where even the bright and best are turning into unscrupulous opportunists. All tiers of administration are faced with corruption including the bureaucracy, justice system and institutions like police. At national level, National Corruption Perception Survey 2023 ~~is~~ has revealed that police remains the most corrupt sector (30 percent) and the judiciary the third most corrupt (13 percent). This is an alarming situation for Pakistan as when the protectors and law making bodies are corrupt, how can one expect justice and equality to prevail. The corrosion

of leadership portrays itself in the unprincipled methods of all national institutions and the aloofness from moral values among the general public.

The lack of true guidance and leadership corrosion has adverse effects at the individual level. A child's first learning institute is their home. They follow their parents in all proceedings.

Offensive work done by the parents is then followed by the children. If the parents lie, the children will do the same and will consider it as a norm. Without necessary checks and balances, the corruption at national level seeps into the households as well.

Learning theory suggests that criminal behaviour is learned and that the children of criminals might learn and then adopt criminal behaviour. Similarly,

Labeling theory of criminology is of the view that the societal labels lead children of organized crime offenders to do the same.

Similarly,
When there is a lack of guidance from parents or close inner circle, an individual suffers from low self-esteem. Individuals living in households where corrupt practices are the norm lack a sense of purpose and direction in life. This often leads to psychological disorders among children and young adults. Most individuals in Pakistan present symptoms of "Obsessive Compulsive Disorder". We have a system that obsessively compels us to act irresponsibly.

The Aloofness of individuals from moral values and ethics due to lawlessness in society has led to a normalization of deviant behaviour. This phenomena was first coined by the sociologist, Vaughan. Vaughan describes this phenomena as occurring when people in an organization become so insensitive that it no longer feels wrong. This is the case with many households. The lack of moral guidance and supervision by parents has led to children breaking all sorts of barriers of moral conduct.

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Widespread corruption has disrupted the family structure. On a psychological level, corruption perception causes negative emotions among individuals. When individuals live and interact in an unfair social environment, it takes a toll on their mental health. Young adults and especially children become emotionally uncontrolled which increases their criminal potential. This explains why many third world countries, especially those with poor governance have the ~~highest~~ ^{highest} rates of juvenile delinquency.

Illiteracy, unrest in society, increased criminality, lack of parents supervision and unfair social environment are some of the reasons which contribute to the growing rate of juvenile delinquency in Pakistan. Parents never notice the effects their behaviour has on the children and later on, they raise delinquent children with their own hands. When a father sends a child to buy a pack of cigarettes for him, he will get used to getting those for himself too because

he doesn't see anything wrong in it. The same is the case with juvenile delinquency. In Pakistan, every other day we see news of young children murdering ^{their peers} over petty issues like video games. All of which is a result of corruption at both national and social level. In this regard, differential association theory posits that juveniles and young adults turn to deviant activity because they are unable to become financially and socially successful through legitimate means.

Individuals, hence, tend to adopt illiberal tactics and deviant means to acquire capital and status. They believe that there is no right or wrong way to achieve goals. They might get involved in frauds, money laundering, bribery, insider trading, embezzlement of funds, and cyber crime. Since these crimes are considered non-violent, the extent of their damage is ~~not~~ ^{rather} recognized by the government institutions, nor the common people.

The truth, however, is that the impact of these crimes is far from benign.

Consequently, many people in professional occupations in the private sector also conform to illegal and unauthorized acts to gain power and economic status. Private corruption affects the entire supply chain, as it distorts markets, undermines competition, and increases costs to firms. A World Bank's Enterprise survey, which measures the incidence of bribery in companies, shows that in some countries up to 51 percent of all firms experience at least one bribe payment request per year. Hence, private corruption prevents a fair and efficient private sector, and reduces the quality of products and services.

Moreover, the corruption is not only limited to the private sector, but also manifests itself in many state institutions. High level corruption is present in many institutions of Pakistan including police,

judiciary, power sector, health and education, and land administration.

These sectors seem to be affected by chains of petty corruption to access public services or to bypass the law.

And middle and grand corruption through corruption in public contracting and procurement. In addition, political patronage, conflicts of interest, and influence peddling are common place across the sectors. Although, many reforms

such as the National Anti-corruption Strategy (NACS) 2002 have been charged with the initiative to tackle corruption, however, corruption is still prevalent on a large scale.

Corruption in institutions, in turn, leads to a depletion of incomes.

Country suffers from major economic losses and it further leads to poverty.

It increases income inequality and poverty through lower economic growth, biased tax systems favouring the rich, use of wealth by the well-to-do to lobby government for favourable policies that

perpetuate inequality in asset ownership.

The bias among the rich and poor on the basis of income and asset distribution then further leads to social stratification in society. A culture of inequality becomes pre-dominant where the elite become more rich and the poor become poorer overtime. Society becomes divided into two major classes only: the elite and the poor. This also gives birth to capitalist ideologies in society where the proletariat are then exploited by the rich and bourgeoisie.

The effects of poor governance and leadership corrosion are malignant and ailing in society. Corruption at the national scale leads towards a declining confidence of individuals in public authorities. This is actively demonstrated by the low levels of political participation. It ~~can~~ ^{is} also ~~be~~ one of the reasons for brain drain in Pakistan because qualified individuals do not have any hope ~~for~~ ⁱⁿ the current public authorities.

It is a very hopeless situation when individuals can't turn to their leaders and rulers. It leads to trust issues and brings a gap among communities. Individuals lack a sense of security and safety living under corrupt officials.

When the leaders are corrupt, the pillars of state are also running without any checks and balances. The executive, legislature and judiciary ~~are~~ ~~have~~ - none are immune to corruption.

The defined core of the democratic regime is damaged. When the law-making and law-implementing bodies are facing corruption, how can inequality and injustice be eroded from the structure of society. As long as proper accountability mechanisms are not developed to keep the state institutions in check, inequalities will be prevalent.

Corruption in the judicial sector damages the right to a fair trial, as corruption erodes the independence, impartiality, and integrity of the judiciary. Thus,

it diminishes the capacity of state institutions to respect, protect and ~~for~~ fulfill human rights. This, resultantly leads to a violation of rights of citizens, further disrupting peace of the state.

“In unity, we find strength. National integration is the spirit that unites us as one nation.” This quotation by Indira Gandhi is the true depiction of the importance national integrity holds for the well being of a state. When the leaders are corrupt and there is anarchy and chaos everywhere in society, people no longer trust one another and are constantly divided in different groups or social classes. When the citizens of a state are ^{not} united, it is also at threat from terrorist organizations and non-state actors.

With the pervasiveness of corruption and erosion of accountability and leadership in society, society reaches

a state of unrest and normlessness. This is what is referred to as "acute anomie". At this point, a society is going through periods of economic crises and political revolutions. From Durkheim and Merton's perspective, all traditional norms and values are disrupted. There are no moral values or guidance present; society is in a condition of instability and breakdown, leading towards a further decline.

In a nutshell, examples are always set by those who are at the top. If the leaders of a nation will be on the right path, then the nation will also follow that path. However, if the leaders themselves are corrupt, no good can be expected from the common people. If corrupt practices by the leaders are not recognized and they are not held accountable for it, it can drastically weaken the country at both social and national level.