



Corruption in Education Sector –An Empirical View

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ABSTRACT : National education systems across the developing world are particularly weak to persistent corruption. A few governmental agencies with high visibility representation all the way down to the community level education are an attractive structure for patronage and manipulation of local sentiment. Decisions perceived to have significant consequences for people's lives are made by gatekeepers who control decisions at each of those levels (e.g., district education officers, headmasters, and teachers). A considerable amount of education funds are spent in small amounts, across many scattered sites, most of which have weak accounting and monitoring systems.

This paper discusses reasons that national education systems are particularly weak to pervasive corruption, forms that corruption takes within the education sector and interventions that have been suggested for reducing corruption. The central argument of the paper is that, while there are ample examples of large-scale corruption within central education ministries, the most serious consequences arise from the pervasive, petty corruption that permeates the day-to-day transactions at the classroom, school, and district levels. The real damage to a society occurs when entire generations of youth are mis-educated by example to believe that personal success comes not through merit and hard work, but through favoritism, bribery, and fraud. Such lessons.

I. INTRODUCTION

Teacher absenteeism does not just affect quality of education; it is also a huge drain on resources resulting in the wastage of 22.5% of education funds in India the study said. Politics in teacher appointments and transfers is a major reason for teacher absenteeism according to a professor at National University for Education Planning and Administration.

This paper explores the cost of corruption in education, a problem growing in size and scope as the demand & increased competition for advanced training and credentials expands in countries around the world. Corruption, in general, is a matter of great significance in the international community. Corruption is virulent in Indian education sector. According to UNESCO's International Institute of Educational Planning India's education system is mired in corruption and a high rate of teacher absenteeism in the country was a key factor for it according to the new global study. The study identifies the absence of well established criteria for teacher recruitment a uniform policy on promotion, remuneration and deployment as some of the main reasons identified for teacher absenteeism.

II. THE STRUCTURE AND DYNAMICS OF CORRUPTION IN EDUCATION

The quality of education is another casualty of corruption. For the institutions getting approval by corrupt practices, making money is the sole mission (as shown in Fig. 1. These greed-centric institutions thrive on unethical practices and are virtually degree printing machines having

no correlation whatsoever with quality. The ill-baked products of these institutions in no way can help the nation build a knowledge-based economy.

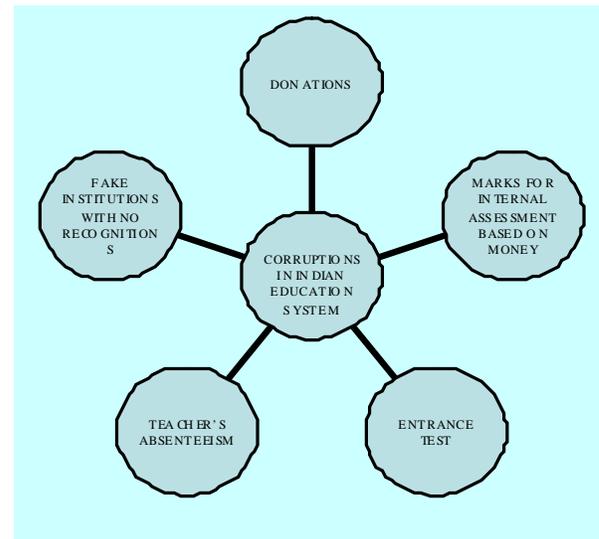


Fig. 1. Corruptions in Indian Education System.

Again study by Tandon Committee constituted by the HRD Ministry found that of the 130 deemed universities, 44 had abysmal academic and physical infrastructure and are mainly family fiefdoms. On the recommendations of the Tandon Committee, the HRD Ministry derecognised 44 deemed universities. The case of the derecognised deemed universities, having two lakh students on their rolls, is with the Supreme Court.

In case of the AICTE scam, the CBI has completed its probe in about 200 complaints. The agency found that 42

institutes were granted illegal approval by the AICTE. In a glaring case the agency detected that one building was inspected by the experts appointed by the AICTE thrice and recommended approval for three different colleges for the same building. A few inspection committees did not visit the site of the proposed colleges but submitted their reports. The AICTE scam is so large that 17 CBI branches are investigating it.

The Medical Council of India has also a dubious record for granting approval to medical colleges. The MCI President was arrested recently for accepting a bribe of Rs 2 crore. According to reports, the CBI in its recent raids found that the former President of the MCI and his family possessed disproportionate assets worth Rs 24 crore. A good development is that the President of India has dissolved the MCI and replaced it by a six-member Board of Governors.

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III. MAJOR FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR CORRUPTION

The most important factor is the nature of the human being. People in general, have a great thirst for luxuries and comforts and as a result of which they get themselves involved in all unscrupulous activities that result in monetary or material benefits.

- Moral and spiritual values are not given utmost importance in educational system, which is highly responsible for the deterioration of the society.
- The salary paid to employees is very less and as a result of which they are forced to earn money by illegal ways.
- Our private schools/colleges obtain signatures for higher UGC scale salary but pay nearly 50% of the amount. Thus corrupt teachers/Professors/management etc is running the schools/colleges.
- The punishments imposed on the criminals are inadequate.
- The political leaders have spoiled the society completely. They lead a luxurious life and do not even care about the society.
- People of India are not awakened and enlightened. They fear to raise their voice against anti-social elements prevailing in the society.

IV. SIGGESTOPM TP CPMTRP; CORRUPTION

Is it possible to contain corruption in our Education system? Corruption is a cancer, which every Indian must strive to cure. There are some specific measures to control increasing corruption.

1. Right to Information: The Right to Information Act (RTI) gives one all the required information about the Government, such as what the Government is doing with our tax payments. Under this act, one has the right to ask the Government on any problem which one faces. There is a Public Information Officer (PIO) appointed in every Government department, who is responsible for collecting information wanted by the citizens and providing them with the relevant information on payment of a nominal fee to the PIO. If the PIO refuses to accept the application or if the applicant does not receive the required information on time then the applicant can make a complaint to the respective information commission, which has the power to impose a penalty up to Rs.25, 000 on the errant PIO.

2. Central Vigilance Commission: Another potent check on corruption is Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). It was setup by the Government to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the areas of vigilance. If there are any cases of corruption or any complaints thereof, then that can be reported to the CVC. CVC also shoulders the responsibility of creating more awareness among people regarding the consequences of giving and taking of bribes and corruption.

Establishment of special courts for speedy justice can be a huge positive aspect. Much time should not elapse between the registration of a case and the delivery of judgment.

3. Strong Laws: Strong and stringent laws need to be enacted which gives no room for the guilty to escape.

4. Paid Better: In many cases, the employees opt for corrupt means out of compulsion and not by choice. Some people are of the opinion that the wages paid are insufficient to feed their families. If they are paid better, they would not be forced to accept bribe.

5. Anti-social regulations: The one thing that needs to be ensured is proper, impartial, and unbiased use of various anti-social regulations to take strong, deterrent, and timely legal action against the offenders, irrespective of their political influences or money power. Firm and strong steps are needed to curb the menace and an atmosphere has to be created where the good, patriotic, intellectuals come forward to serve the country with pride, virtue, and honesty for the welfare of the people of India.

V. CONCLUSION

Although it may be impossible to have a corruption-free society it is possible to restrict it to a minimum level. Strong policy cooperation at international level with sufficient resources may improve the balance between different levels of corruption. Very high sincere and concerted participation is needed from the developed nations and of international agencies to achieve a global balance. It is difficult to expect much within a short period of time if we go by the past experiences.

Corruption is an intractable problem. It is like diabetes, can only be controlled, but not totally eliminated. It may not be possible to root out corruption completely at all levels but it is possible to contain it within tolerable limits. Honest and dedicated persons in public life, control over electoral expenses could be the most important prescriptions to combat corruption. Corruption has a corrosive impact on our economy. It worsens our image in international market and leads to loss of overseas opportunities. Corruption is a global problem that all countries of the world have to confront, solutions, however, can only be home grown. We have tolerated corruption for so long. The time has now come to root it out from its roots.

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