

CORRUPTION IN INDIA: POLITICAL AND CULTURAL PHENOMENA

Dr. Naveen Kumar, Vill+Post:-Digrah Rampur Sah, Dist. Muzaffarpur, (Bihar)

Abstract: India is an incredible land, where innumerable civilizations thrived. It is a country, which has withstood the ravages of time and upheld its identity as an independent, self-reliant nation. A country that is the abode of over one-sixth of the global population is a land of diversity, where variety is the spice of life. The Indian society is presently characterized by social malaise such as insecurity of life, poverty, armed robbery, all forms of corruption, moral degeneration, succession crisis, and a general lack of accountability by those entrusted with governance.

Keywords: India, Civilization, Dream, Poverty, Population, Corruption.

India is an incredible land, where innumerable civilizations thrived. It is a country, which has withstood the ravages of time and upheld its identity as an independent, self-reliant nation. A country that is the abode of over one sixth of the global population is a land of diversity, where variety is the spice of life. B. In 21st century, India is not just a nation, but a dream of one hundred and twenty five crore Indians as well as a vision of countless souls aspiring to belong to a strong, self-reliant, powerful and developed Nation. It is one of the developing nations of the modern world.

From last four-five decades, India is globally recognized for three things: high poverty, high population and high corruption." statics Cal information shows that India is a home of one-third of the world's poorest population. Nearly 1.2 billion extreme poor live here. It's also had the highest number of under-five deaths in the world in 2012, with 1.4 million children dying before reaching their fifth birthday, according to the UN Millennium Development Goals report 2014. India is set to become the most populous country by around 2028 beating China,' and is counted among the most corrupt countries in the world where opening and doing business is a mountainous task. India ranked 94 in the index of Transparency

International's. Transparency International's annual list is the most widely used indicator of sleaze in political parties, police, justice systems and civil services, a scourge which undermines development and the fight against poverty.

In our country the roots of corruption are so deep that in some government departments it has become the order of the day. We have seen, through sting operations that several senior administrative & police officers, ministers, leaders of political parties and many members of Parliament and Stage Legislature accepting bribes red-handedly. Corruption is not confined to political circle only. Rather it is ever vigorous in bureaucratic system now. The biggest irony is that in such departments, the bribed and corrupt people are known to be "talented", while an honest official is termed as 'moron'. A senior officer from Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has elaborated the question of honesty and integrity, during a talk show in "DNA" in a very logical way. He said – "Greed always overtakes morals, principles, integrity, etc. Most officers can be lured with easy money and it is with this knowledge that bribes are offered. People usually do research on the officer before offering him/ her bribe and, if somebody has a clean reputation, they do not dare offer him/her bribe."

That apart, in most cases, be it in police, revenue or BMC, the common man is at the receiving end. "As government officials are in a more powerful position, in, in most cases, they demand bribe to clear files or speed things up. In cases where people lure officers with money, the people involved are rich and powerful and, even if the officer refuses to take the money, she does not file a complaint due to fear," said the officer.

Every one censures corruption at a societal stage but it does not mean that anyone has escaped from the flue of corruption. In India, it has crossed the alarming stage. From the officials of the highest rank to a peon everyone is corrupt. It is a term known to all of us precisely meaning an illegal, immoral or unauthorized act done in due course of employment. But literally it means inducement by improper means to violate duty.

Corruption is not just limited to administration. It is very much prevalent even in legislation and judiciary so much so that it is probably the biggest challenge and needs to be eradicated from its grass root. For the same purpose the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 has been enacted. This Act incorporated the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1952, and sec. 161 to 165-A of the Indian Penal Code. The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, thereby widened the coverage, strengthened the provisions and made them more effective.

Government rules are made, on the presumption that the general public is corrupt. They tend to create a web of complicated procedures, which gives birth to corrupt practices. Corruption has neither disappeared nor reduced but has only grown more sophisticated with the help of lawyers and accountants. The reason for all malaises in the country is that some wrong sorts of people are

always in power. Perhaps they would not be in power, if they were not so. A number of Chartered Accountants have been arrested by the CBI for acting as conduits of the revenue officials either for settlement of the cases or for getting them transferred to the juiciest of the prized wet postings, where such people can line up their pockets. Corruption in our country is hardly a new phenomenon. Surveys after surveys, cases after cases in CBI have documented a widespread pattern of corruption and racketeering prevails in several departments of the Government. Corruption has been more than a problem for India. Recently, the Supreme Court of India had observed over how did efforts were made, to change the prosecutor in Bihar Fodder Scam case and it correctly found fault with how things had been done under the influence of the powerful politicians. For India's expanding, urban middle class, perhaps no issue today is more important than addressing corruption in public life that most perceive to be pervasive and debilitating. For India's expanding, urban middle class, perhaps no issue today is more important than addressing corruption in public life that most perceive to be pervasive and debilitating. It could even be said that for this post- liberalization generation, corruption, and the fight against corruption, has become the predominant theme of the second decade of the twenty first century. On the one hand, rapid economic growth is creating unprecedented opportunities for generating illicit income, reflected in the sheer scale of recent corruption scandals. But, on the other hand, this popular obsession with corruption may also reflect changing popular conceptions of the state.

People have different ideas on how corruption reached such high levels in India and penetrated so deep in the society. There is at least one factor on which we can demarcate the

boundaries of corrupt acts. Implicit in much of the literature on corruption is the view that corruption is essentially a legal offence and essentially a legal offence in the economic sphere. One can identify corruption with economic crimes, such as bribery, fraud, and insider trading. To some extent this kind of view reflects the dominance of economically focused material in the corpus of academic literature on corruption. It also reflects the preponderance of proposed economic solutions to the problem of corruption. The epidemic levels of corruption are destroying the system and its effect on the lives of common man is massive. It is not only restricted to the embezzlement of funds but goes beyond the conventional definition of the word. The systematic corruption is not only limited in few institutions but has seeped into the daily lives of people and the danger is, if not stopped now, it will become normality.

Corruption breeds a distrust of public institutions; it undermines ethical principles by rewarding those who are willing and able to pay bribes, and hence perpetuates inequality. Money laundering becomes lucrative and links are established between corruption and organized crime. Illicit activities invariably rely at some point in time on the support of corrupt public officials. Sometimes, organized criminals acquire such great power that they are in a position to undermine and destroy institutions, with dire consequences for democracy and the rule of law. Moreover, globalization and the changing structure of trade, finance, communications and information has generated an environment in which corruption is no

more confined to national boundaries. It is operating increasing across borders and, in many cases, is transnational and international in character. Criminal organizations have adapted corporate like structures to criminal activities, employing highly skilled manpower and mechanisms to assist in tax evasion, money laundering and concealing income.

The Indian society is sometimes referred to as a permissive society, with the implication that something is 'wrong in some sectors of the society. The sociologist's role in making the society a better place observing systematically changes in the society, evaluating them and making suggestions on the ways in which social problems can be tackled. Today, India has degenerated with basic cultural characteristics fast disappearing for the mundane. The most single cancer worm that has eaten into the fabric of our society today is the problem of corruption. And this has so pervaded the nation that most Indians are corrupt in one way or the other. India is presently in a state of disequilibrium as activities in the various social institutions have become rather unethical and synonymous with decadence. Consequently, the Indian society is presently characterized by social malaise such as insecurity of life, poverty, armed robbery, all forms of corruption, moral degeneration, succession crisis, and a general lack of accountability by those entrusted with governance. Typical of most social science concepts however, there are divergent opinions on what constitutes corruption.

Works Cited:

1. <http://socialissuesindia.wordpress.com>
2. The Hindu. Business Line, 16 Sept, 2014
3. www.transparency.org
4. www.ndtv.com 19 March, 2008.

5. Interview aired on 14 Nov, 2014 on Zee News in DNA Programme. The officer said that “A few months ago, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested two people for allegedly offering a bribe of Rs. 2 lakh to an assistant police inspector in Sindhudurg district to evade arrest in a cheating case. After the bribe was offered, the inspector immediately registered a complaint with the ACB and a trap was laid to nab the two. In another case this year, the ACB caught three men for allegedly offering a bribe of Rs. 50,000 to the sarpanch of Dahegaon (Rangari) village in Nagpur. They wanted an NOC for a power connection for their new office. The trap was set at a hotel in Sitabuldi, after the sarpanch lodged a complaint, and the accused were caught red-handed.”
6. The Economic Times 27 Sept, 2004
7. The Hindu 1 Dec, 2010



Under the Guidance

Dr. Ajit Kumar

Department of History

Associate Professor

M.P.S.Science College, Muzaffarpur