

A Study of Governance and Corruption in Indian Politics

Dr. Junter Loya¹, Mr. Sandeep Kumar Sharma²

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Saint Claret College, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh, India

²Ph.D Scholar, Faculty of Education and Information Sciences, Apex Professional Univesity, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, India

Abstract

The corruption is one of the significant challenges in most of the country. In the context of India also, it is one of the challenging factors. The roots of corruption in India can be traced back to the colonial era, and it remained after independence to contemporary India. It effects the political, administrative institutions, and good governance. The central government established various bodies and made many reformations and anti-corruption measures to combat the corruption system. But in spite of the efforts done by the government, corruption is still prevalent in the various political and administrative institutions. The present study is an attempt to examine the causes of corruption, its impact on governance, and efforts done by the government to combat corruption in India.

Keywords: Causes of corruption, Impact on governance, Current issues of corruption, Efforts to combat corruption in India.

Introduction

The governance and political system in India have been challenged for many years in various fields, and it has leads weakened the unity and integrity of the political institutions and the successful operation of public offices. The corruption in Indian politics has emerged in various forms, including bribery, favouritism, nepotism, misuse of funds, and electoral fraud. It's affecting the good governance in India can be traced back to the colonial era, where the British exploited Indian resources and misused power and people lose faith in the government institutions. The corruption in India can be traced back to the colonial era, where the British exploited Indian resources and misused power. In post-independence India, despite so many efforts to establish a democratic framework, good governance, and promote transparency and accountability, corruption has remained a continuous challenge, leading to inefficient governance and affecting the socioeconomic development of the country. Corruption not only affects public policy, implementation, and overall trust in the governments but also affects economic development and enhances the social inequalities in society. In a democratic nation, addressing corruption is important to promote good governance and build public trust, which includes principles of efficiency, transparency, accountability, and lawfulness. This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact of corruption's on governance in Indian politics, try to explore the root causes of corruption and assess the efficiency of anti-corruption measures.

State of the problem

Corruption is one of the significant challenges in Indian politics; it's deeply affecting the socio-economic and political systems of the country. It hinders good governance, erodes public trust in the government institutions, and ruins the economic development of the country. Despite numerous reforms made by the legislative and institutional branches, corruption continues to erode, creating various issues and challenges to democratic processes and administration systems in India.

Objectives of the study

1. To examine the effects of corruption in Indian politics.
2. To identify the historical evolution of corruption in Indian politics.
3. To evaluate the adequateness and efficiency of current anti-corruption measures in India.
4. To analyse the impact of corruption on efficiency and good governance.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to explore the relationship between governance and corruption in Indian politics. To analyse the causes and impact of corruption in governance, this study aims to provide the in-depth effectiveness of anti-corruption measures and propose strategies for strengthening good governance in democratic frameworks.

Review of related literature

Bardhan (2006) tries to explore the issue of corruption and governance in India. The study argues that corruption is deeply rooted in the political and economic systems of India, which weakens the government institutions. The author emphasises the role of economic reformation that reduced corruption in certain areas. The study also focusses on the importance of strong institutions and proper implementation and following the rules and regulations as the government norms to combat corruption.

Shah (2007) the study explores the relationship between decentralisation and corruption in public governance in India. The author argues that the decentralisation is often promoted as a means to improve good governance; sometimes it leads to increased corruption at the local level. The author explores the conditions under which decentralisation can either reduce or exacerbate corruption, highlighting the importance of local institutional capacity, accountability mechanisms, and citizen participation. Shah's study provides valuable insights into the complexities of governance and corruption in India, particularly in the context of decentralised governance structures.

Kapur and Mehta (2007) emphasise the intersection of governance, corruption, and the higher education system in India. The authors argue that the governance system of higher education in India subjugated the corruption and inefficiency. The study also highlights the need for strong reformation that addresses both the governance and corruption issues in higher education in India's education.

Bhattacharyya and Hodler's (2010) study explores the relationship between democratic governance, corruption, and natural resources with special reference to India. The study suggested that in the Indian political landscape, the natural resources are often used for corruption, especially where democratic institutions are not strong. The study found that in India, the rich natural resource states tend to experience higher levels of political corruption, and politicians exploit the natural resources for their personal gain. The authors argue that to enhance the democratic framework, transparency and accountability are more important.

Mehta (2011), the study analysis the role of governance and corruption in Indian Politics. The author emphasised the structural and functional aspects of public administration and identified that they contribute to the widespread corruption in India. The study explores the need for institutional reformation that promotes efficiency, accountability, transparency, and more public participation in governance to measure corruption effectively and promote good governance in India.

Research Methodology

The data for the present study has been collected from secondary sources: official reports, records, articles, and any published and unpublished materials wherever relevant. An observation method has been employed. The qualitative method has been used for the study. The study is focused on a comprehensive existing literature review, analysis of historical and contemporary data, and examination of case studies.

Research Questions

1. How does the corruption affect Indian governance and politics?
2. What are the root causes of corruption in India?
3. What measures has the government taken to combat corruption in India, and how have these measures been effective?

Significance of the Study

The study provides an extensive analysis of the relationship between corruption and governance in the political system of India. By identifying the key elements that contribute to the causes of corruption and emphasising the effectiveness of combat corruption measures in India, the study also emphasises the importance of anti-corruption reforms made by the government of India. The study found that the researchers, civil society stakeholders, policymakers, and administrations must play a vital role in combating corruption and enhancing good governance.

Causes of Corruption

There are different factors responsible for the causes of corruption in Indian politics, and it is multifaceted in nature, encompassing political, socio-economic, and institutional factors. Political factors—inefficiency, lack of leadership, unaccountability, the high cost of election campaigns, and unaccountable political fund raising—drive politicians to engage in corrupt practices. Socio-economically, factors such as inequality, poverty, and lack of access to basic services. Institutional factors such as weaknesses and ineffective enforcement of anti-corruption laws, judicial delays, and a lack of efficient expertise in this field.

Impact on Governance

Corruption is one of the factors that effects good governance, hindering socio-economic development, losing public trust, and distorted the implementation of policy. Because of the lack of public trust in government institutions and administration systems, it declines good governance and efficiency. And because of corruption, public policy could not be properly implemented; sometimes it did not properly utilise the government funds and resources; they diverted in some other areas. This not only affects the development administration, good governance, and economic growth but also affects the quality of life

for citizens, creates an unhealthy environment, and discourages the citizens from trusting the administration system.

Current issues of governance and corruption in India

Corruption remains one of the critical issues in Indian politics. The study is showing that the governance is characterised by a lack of efficiency, accountability, transparency, and extensive misuse of public resources. In spite of various anti-corruption bodies made by government like the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Lokpal, their impact is ineffective because of insufficient resources. Political interference and lack of autonomy.

Efforts to Combat Corruption in India

The central government has introduced various bodies and made so many efforts and reformations to combat corruption in India, including the various legislative and institutional measures. The government established the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in 1964. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is a governmental body to look after or vigilance activities of corruption and to promote efficiency, transparency, and accountability in government administrations. The central government also introduced the Right to Information (RTI) Act in 2005 to empower the citizens and demand transparency in the functions of the government institutions. Additionally, the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, also introduced in 2013, aimed to create this act for an independent to combat corruption and to properly investigate corruption complaints against any of the public officials. However, the effectiveness of these bodies is very limited because of various issues and challenges, including lack of expertise, lack of enforcement, political interference, and the multifaceted nature of involvement in corruption in Indian society.

Findings of the Study

1. The findings of the study reveal that institutional weaknesses are one of the major factors that lead to corruption in Indian politics. Inadequacy in the legal framework, ineffectiveness of the anti-corruption laws, and inadequate fines and penalties for the offenders involved in corrupt practices. Political interference in anti-corruption bodies such as the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Lokpal and Lokayuktas. In addition to the slow judicial process and judicial delays in prosecuting corruption.
2. The study also reveals that in politics corruption involves various fields, including unaccountable political funding and electoral fraud, in contributing to perpetuating corruption in politics. It involves high money power in election campaigns; it leads politicians to seek financial assistance and favours from various private entities; it drives conflicts of interest and promotes corrupt practices among politicians.
3. Furthermore, the study reveals that corruption has economic implications as well, including the misuse of public funds and resources, which leads to a lack of economic growth for the nation. Misallocation of funds and diversion of resources for public funds can drive the increasing costs and reduce the quality of life.
4. Additionally, the study also reveals that in our society, the social values, norms, and cultural practices in India, such as favouritism, nepotism, and acceptance and practices of the bribery system, lead to the persistence of corruption. In various cases, it is seen that because of inefficiency and bureaucracy, which leads to corruption practices in India.

Recommendations

1. To keep strengthening anti-corruption institutions, it must be ensuring independence, increasing the available resources, and enhancing the expertise and capability to handle and investigate the corruption cases in a proper manner.
2. To reform the electoral funding processes to enhance transparency and accountability and reduce the influence of money and muscle power in politics.
3. To enhance transparency and accountability, to promote the use of digital governance tools, to raise awareness of RTI among people, and to expand the Right to Information Act.
4. Proper implementation of judicial reforms and quickly the prosecution of corruption cases and increase the norms of legal penalties.

Conclusions

Corruption in Indian politics is a complex issue that significantly undermines governance. The study highlights the root causes of the corruption system in India and its institutional weaknesses, political inefficiency, and socio-cultural values. On the other side, the government also made various reformations and anti-corruption measures to combat the corruption system, but due to various challenges, their effectiveness remains limited.

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