

Corruption : The Main Problem in the Administration of India

Corruption in India affects all levels of the society but it's in the administrative one that the biggest damage is done to the people and comes to exacerbate poverty. The most simple daily-routine administrative tasks cannot be performed without a bribe to the civil servant in charge of the paperwork. Got your stuff stolen? Had a car accident? Need to register your name for a permit, a loan, a government grant or subsidy? Don't forget your bribe money.

India ranks 120th on the ease of Doing Business Index 2008 besides countries like China (83rd), Pakistan(86th),and Nigeria(108th).

Corruption has been one of the persistent problems affecting India from the last many years. In India, corruption is growing in the form of bribes, evasion of tax and

exchange controls, fraud and cheating, among [others.it](#) is the upshot of the link between bureaucracy, politics and criminals.

The media has widely published allegations of corrupt Indian citizens stashing trillions of dollars in [Swiss banks](#). Swiss authorities, however, have denied these allegations, which has now been proven in 2015-2016. The Indian media is mainly owned by corrupt politicians and industrialists who also play a major role in most of these scams, thus misleading public with wrong information and using media for mud-slinging their political and business opponents.

That creates three kinds of situations:

- 1. You don't turn to your government to protect yourself and you get used to getting things done by yourself. Whatever business you're in you end**

up not paying taxes anymore. Whatever problem you're having you'll deal with it on your own, which can easily get out of hand if you have to settle on your own an argument over a car accident (which sometimes comes down to who's got the biggest baseball bat).

- 2. You don't trust the authorities anymore and any new policy or plan they have has meagre chances of working because the whole system resists it, even the people.**
- 3. If you're actually trying to be a good law-abiding citizen, you pay your bribes and you end up even poorer than before. Bribes suck a significant share of the poor's income.**

So there's no doubt poverty and corruption are linked. And corruption in India is quite the thing. In 2003, only 15% of the government's anti-poverty funds reached the poor. Anti-corruption laws have existed since 1968, supported by

agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Central Vigilance Commission and yet... failure has been the common point of these efforts. The agencies lack independence and power; of course it'd be dangerous to create a tool that actually works and risks putting its own creators in jail.

Corruption, Indian style

“The more the corruption, the slower the economic growth.” (rule of thumb confirmed by many studies - see references below)

Not only does corruption in India worsen poverty, it also drags the whole country's development down by stealing its resources. When you think of it, if 85% of public money doesn't go to the poor (millions of them), this money surely doesn't land in more than a hundred people's hands. Quite a waste. And to make things just a little worse, corruption also increases inflation (it's a general effect of it). And then.... more poverty.

Yet, India has been developing and it has become important to polish its image especially to reassure investors of the stability of the Indian market. Oh yes, because corruption also affects investment and market stability by increasing uncertainty. Quite a bummer when you're trying to develop your country.

But people have also stepped up in the fight against corruption and citizen websites such as ipaidabribe.com have gained momentum. However they still face other problems such as the underdeveloped judicial system which – by a systemic magic trick - doesn't pronounce any conviction in most corruption charges.

Some things have got better though. Seeing that money gets so easily re-routed into its officials' wallets, the government opted for distribution of food to its poorest citizens. And this time “only” 30% of the food disappeared... to be sold later on the black market! That's still a lot better.

Investment and corruption in India

But the truth is that it's not that easy, especially since the problem of corruption in India has been around for a while.

Corruption grows “naturally” as societies and cities grow and become more complex. More and more intermediaries are needed between the central government and the people.

At the scale of India (or China which has the same issue) that's hell of a lot of intermediaries just while the country is undergoing tremendous changes.

Transitions are always a good time for corruption: the social rules are blurrier as the law evolves and the society changes.

With Indian cities growing very fast, new layers of administration appear for which no code or rule has been really established yet.

It takes time for a routine to take root. The biggest danger is that by not tackling this problem soon enough, corruption will become the routine and the norm. In a way it's already happened. And corruption has already become a major obstacle to investment in India.

How to Reduce Corruption in our Country

We can have better technology throughout the society. Some more examples:

- 1. Spend a few million rupees to design a very good website that has *all* the government forms used in all the government departments. The site has to be so intuitive that filling government forms should be a very simple and straightforward process. Make it very easy to get this accessible on mobile. If you do this well, you can eliminate the army of bribe seekers outside the government offices.**

2. Create videos and test materials to enable a prospective driver to learn the road rules in a simple, fun way. Every type of education can be made fun. Let them learn the rules, and then pass the test for *FREE* (without paying a bribe). Which Indian would not love things for free?

3. Use analytics tools to analyze what the market prices of homes are. Most of the real estate black money involves understating the sale price. Once you build a strong analytics tool, it will be hard to understate price and save the tax. Same for sales tax and others. Share this data openly on the government website.

4. Make credit card transactions more

prevalent. Subsidize the payment technologies so much that people get incentives not to use cash. Cash transactions are the source of half the headache.

These are starting points. There are a millions of things we could do as system designers. The goal of any society should be to make rule-following pragmatic. In India, many of the rules are illogical, outdated, archaic and stupid. This has made even logical people ignore the rules. Once the rational people start following the rules, the government can go brutal on the irrational rule-breakers.

Other Problems and their Solutions

- **Problem 1: Misguidance of followers by Religious Leaders.**

- **Solution:** All the religious leaders viz., Hindu Gurus, Muslim Leaders, Christian Fathers, Buddhist Monks etc., should preach spirituality / morality as the universal religious teachings not fanatic / bigoted / malicious / dogmatic / ritualistic / narrow minded teachings that stands against unity in diversity. Spirituality should be the common teaching to the people by the religious leaders.

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- **Problem 2: Corrupted elections.**

- **Solution:** Corruption during the elections i.e. distribution of money, intoxications, drugs, throwing parties/feasts etc., to the voters by the candidates or demanding them by the voters to the candidates should be stopped. This excess of expenses during elections are the root causes of corruption by the elected public leaders when they become Ministers, MPs or MLAs etc.

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- There should be strict rules to punish both the candidates and the voters who give or demand money etc.

- **Problem 3: Corrupted Government**

Department Heads. Solution: The heads of all the government departments should be the examples of dutiful & corrupt free people of integrity. They should see how his/her department is functioning in the interest/welfare of the people.

- Proper utilization of funds is a must. Department heads should not play blame game to Ministers etc, rather they themselves should be responsible for their respective department functioning.

- **Problem 4: Corrupted Ministers, MPs, MLAs, Governors, Secretaries, IAS**

officers. Solution: Ministers, MPs, MLAs should always keep people's welfare above all in all their undertakings. All their dealings should be based on justice.

Quality work/control must be ensured.

They should not exercise their power for selfish ends. They should be paid good salaries & other facilities to ensure them live decently and discharge public duties smoothly without any fear or pressure. Ministers, MPs, MLAs are the

most important people to stop corruption. Direct government functionaries like Governors, Secretaries, IAS officers should be models of dutiful, corrupt free people of integrity. They should stand for justice and public good.

• **Problem 5: Corruption in Health**

Care. Solution: It is very dangerous because human life is at stake. Unqualified/substandard doctors/surgeons may cost human life due to wrong prescriptions or wrong operations. Drugs from substandard manufacturers can damage people's health severely or even death. Undutiful doctors again cost human life. So, it is in the public interest that all kinds of corruptions be stopped in Health Care.

Problem 6: Corruption in all kinds of appointments. Solution: Stop bribery in all kinds of appointments. Appoint only qualified & merited people