



## INVESTIGATION ON THE ISSUES OF CORRUPTION

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### **Abstract**

*Corruption begins where belongingness ends and when power is got in wrong hands. To feed your greed and your passions, you need to be powerful. The paper deals with various reasons for corruption and some of the steps that can be taken by self and administrative people to stop corruption.*

**Keywords: Corruption, Power, Self Realization, Meditation.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Corruption begins where belongingness ends. A lack of faith, and a missing attitude of service and compassion also contribute to corruption, as do selfishness and a sense of insecurity. People try to find security solely in money. But even after acquiring money, the insecurity does not disappear. In fact, a person becomes more fearful if the money is not earned in an ethical way.

The poor person suffers because he is hungry. The rich person suffers, not because he is hungry, but because now he knows that he may have a good house, good food, a good wife, a cozy family, a warm atmosphere, and still inside, he is hungry — a spiritual hunger. Life is meaningless, pointless, accidental, and empty. A great suffering arises. The poor suffers physiologically; the rich suffers psychologically.

Why are the rich suffering? If it is only a question of richness, then the rich should not suffer. But it is again an alibi, a rationalisation, so that you can continue in your old ways and your old patterns. That, too, proved to be another fallacy; now it too has become a cliché.

### **THE BIG C OF CORRUPTION CAN BE COUNTERED BY FIVE MORE Cs!**

The first is the sense of ‘**connectedness**’. A lack of connectedness or belongingness breeds corruption in society. Often you see people looking for connections in order to avoid corruption! Corruption is much more in urban areas because there is no community sense there. A sense of belongingness among people can root out corruption.

The second C is ‘**courage**’. A lack of self-esteem or confidence in one’s ability, fear or insecurity in a person makes one become more corrupt. He then tries to find his security only through money. But the more money he acquires, the more afraid and fearful he becomes because the money is not earned in a right manner.

The third is an understanding of ‘**cosmology**’ -- looking at one’s own life in the context of extended space and time. How long is your life? Only 80-100 years! Billions of years have passed since the creation. Our creation, scientists say, is 50 billion years old. Everything in this creation is recycled. The air we breathe is old, every cell and atom in our body is old, the oxygen and hydrogen is old! This will continue. Seeing life from a different perspective of space and time is what will deepen one’s vision about one’s life.

The fourth C is ‘**care**’ and ‘**compassion**’. Care and compassion in society can bring dedication. The sense of care and feeling that it doesn’t matter even if I don’t have; somebody needs this more.

The last C is a sense of ‘**commitment**’ — commitment to contribution. When a person has a commitment to a higher cause in life, it brings a shift from gaining to giving. In society, if everyone keeps thinking, ‘What can I gain?’ rather than ‘What can I contribute’, then corruption cannot be rooted out. In society, we need to have this shift in our attitude, from ‘What can I gain?’ to ‘What can I contribute?’

But all this is not possible without spiritual upliftment and a sense of belongingness with the world. The globe has become a village. We have globalised everything but wisdom. This is one of the causes of terrorism and unrest. We accept food from every part of the world, music from every part of the world, but when it comes to wisdom, people seem to shy away.



Even if one pocket in the world remains ignorant of these shared values, the world will not be a safe place. We need to address these issues with a lot of patience. It is not a job that we can do overnight, but through education and creating that sense of community, through inspiration and example.

Corruption can happen only beyond one's sense of belonging. If the sense of belonging is expanded, the natural tendency is to be uncorrupt. The tendency for corruption will go down drastically. A sense of sacrifice is what you want. Spirituality and practices offer a counterweight to corruption and bring ethics and fair practice to government, business, and daily life. Inner strength and contact with one's inner nature can be cultured.

People who take public positions to serve others need a shift in attitude from "What can I gain?" to "What can I contribute?" There are good people in every religion and party who want to work for the society. It is each citizen's duty to vote for uncorrupted and educated candidates -- education defined not simply in terms of holding degrees, but having the human values of compassion, care, and commitment.

### **A TWO PRONGED APPROACH**

There needs to be a two pronged approach. First is the need for a strong legislation through bills and the corrupt should be punished. Second is to create awareness among public about ethical and moral values against corruption. An individual alone cannot fight the menace of corruption. Without strong community support, individuals are likely to succumb to corruption. Strong community which would help the weak and vulnerable is most essential.

### **ROLE OF POWER IN CORRUPTION**

To be violent, to feed your greed and your passions, you need to be powerful. Everybody is full of violence, greed, anger, passion — but has no power; so he remains a saint. To be violent, you need to be powerful. To fulfil your greed you need to be powerful. To satisfy your passions you need to be powerful.

So when power comes into your hands, all your sleeping dogs start barking. Power becomes nourishment to you, an opportunity. It is not that power corrupts, you are corrupted. Power only brings your corruption into the open. You want to kill somebody, but you don't have the power to kill; but if you had the power, you would have killed. Power in the hands of a man who is self realized will not corrupt; on the contrary, it will help humanity to raise its consciousness.

It is almost like when rain comes, different plants start growing; but different plants have different flowers. Whatever is hidden in your seeds, whatever is your potentiality, power gives you a chance — because most human beings are living so unconsciously that when they come to power all their unconscious instincts have a chance to be fulfilled. Then they don't care whether it kills people, whether it poisons people.

Power is misused because you have desires which are ugly. We waste almost one third of life in educating our children. In that one third of life, some time should be given to cleanse their unconscious; so by the time they graduate from their university, and they have some power somewhere — somebody will become a police commissioner, governor, prime minister — if they do not have anything in their unconscious that is poisonous, destructive, then power cannot be misused. Power in itself is neutral. In a good man's hand, it will be a blessing; in an unconscious man's hand, it is going to be a curse.

You may be just sitting in a railway station selling tickets, but that too gives you power. You are standing at the window, and the man does not even look at you. He goes on turning his file — and you can see that he is not concerned with the file, he simply wants to show you your place. Even the peon sitting outside the collector's office behaves as if he is the president of the country — so it is not a question of where you are. Wherever you are, you will have some kind of power.

Psychologists say that people who are afraid of competing in life and becoming powerful, choose a simpler way: they become teachers in schools. Small children... You can harass them, beat them, although it is illegal — but it happens all over the country. Even parents use power. Teachers use power, husbands use power, wives use power. It does not matter where you are.

If mankind comes to understand the deep psychological roots and changes man's unconscious so that there are no seeds, power can go on raining but there will be no flowers of corruption. Otherwise, power is going to be misused always. And you cannot take power from people's hands; somebody must be a mother, somebody must be a father, somebody must be a teacher.



The only way is to cleanse people's unconscious with meditation, fill their inner being with light. It is only meditation that gives you a clean heart, which cannot be corrupted. Then power can never be misused, then power can be a blessing — it is going to be creative. Then you are going to do something to make life more lovable, more liveable; to make existence a little more beautiful. But that great day has not yet arrived, and to make an effort for that great day to arrive, all the power-addicted people are going to be against you

## **STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE POINT OF VIEW TO STOP CORRUPTION**

### **1. A reasonable and transparent tax structure, backed by clean and clear enforcement**

Our direct taxes (personal income and corporate) are no longer unreasonable, so there's little excuse for trying to evade them. But there is an unhealthy trend in piling on surcharges on various pretexts. Also, there are tons of other taxes that can add up to quite a bit. Finally, there's the larger question of how efficiently and honestly taxpayers' money is put to use — when you see the state of government hospitals and schools, and rotten roads, you wonder where the money you paid as tax has gone.

### **2. Liberal and contemporary laws that citizens can understand and respect**

People find it difficult to accept ridiculous, outdated and moralistic laws — worse, they may not even be aware of some of these laws till some law enforcer somewhere decides to use them to harass and to extract money. Once you dismiss a law or rule as stupid and worthy of breaking, there's a human tendency to take other laws less seriously. Therefore, to the extent possible, there's a need to cut back on the multiplicity of unnecessary and complex laws, and zero in on just the ones that are needed to ensure a fair, equitable and just system. These should then be administered without fear or favour.

### **3. Reduce the role of the government in people's lives to the absolutely essential**

In some ways, this is related to our earlier point. The greater the scope for government interference — be it the police or the clerk in a government office or the customs inspector — the greater the scope for harassment and graft.

### **4. Minimize discretionary powers of ministers and bureaucrats**

This would reduce scope for misuse of such powers to favour some --- especially in lucrative areas such as award of government land. Where discretionary powers are unavoidable, bring in checks and balance. After a deal is done, the relevant documents should be put up on the internet.

### **5. Pay government and officers, judges and policemen market-indexed salaries commensurate with their responsibility**

This would minimise the 'need' for bribes. Their salaries could be benchmarked against corporate sector salaries. But higher salaries should be combined with exemplary punishment, including dismissal from service and a police case if an employee is caught indulging in corrupt practices. Mere transfer or suspension won't do.

### **6. Keep transactions online and provide bill for every purchase**

Many of them do not pay taxes and escape This involves corruption. Making payments online through bank accounts and provision of bills for every transaction involving money. This is a better corruption watch. In other words, public should opt for cashless transactions where possible. This will limit the corruption related to money.

### **7. Camera in most govt offices**

In every ATM there are camera to keep a watch on the public taking their money. Then why not government offices have cameras to have a watch on the employ performance. Even there are many employ's who openly take bribe in presence of common men. This public bribery is due to confidence that public wants their work more than the amount they are paying to them as bribes.

### **8. Introduce sweeping police reforms and stronger judicial accountability**

This has been discussed for decades but there's been no action. The recommendations for reforms are already there. Set a time frame for implementation. This will make the police not just a professional force that's not at the beck and call of politicians, but also a trained one with in-built checks against developing vested interests. Today the situation often is that the investigator (police officer) is answerable to the person being investigated (politician). Also, separate the police into two wings: one for investigation and the other for maintaining law and order. The two functions are different and require different skill sets. Sadly, the image of the judiciary has taken a knock in recent years — for the common man, the courts are the last resort for seeking justice.



### **9. Blacklist corrupt businessmen**

Private businesses caught indulging in corrupt practices or bribing officials should be blacklisted for, say, 10 years and be barred from government projects. In the category of corrupt practices would fall use of shoddy material -- like road contractors who give one inch of tar when they are supposed to give four inches and the road crumbles after one monsoon. Bigger instances of private businesses cutting corners in public projects by colluding with corrupt officials should attract exemplary punishment.

### **10. Transparency and stricter scrutiny of government tenders/orders, including auction/sale of public-owned assets**

Hundreds of thousands of crores of orders are placed every year by government departments. It's common knowledge that tenders are often awarded on considerations other than merit. This is one of the biggest sources of corruption in the country. And don't forget, this is taxpayers' money that is being diverted illegally.

Finally, and this is for every one of us, let's try and say no to bribes. This is the right moment to unleash a national campaign against giving bribes as the mood against corruption is high. Ultimately, we can't get rid of the bribe taker if we are willing to be bribe givers.

### **CONCLUSION**

Understand well: you are the cause of your suffering, nobody else. To recognize this is the first step to being a religious person. You don't throw your responsibility onto others; you simply recognize the fact that, "I am the cause of my suffering." And with that, of course, you will feel a little sad, you will look a little stupid. If you are the cause, then why do you go on creating suffering for yourself? Because, you don't like to suffer.

In the beginning, you will feel a little sad, stupid, puzzled and confused. But soon you will feel a great freedom. If you are the cause of your misery, then you can be the cause of your blessing, of your bliss; then great freedom is attained.

When one takes responsibility on oneself, one becomes free. You become free from past karma, you become free from fate, kismet, you become free from history, you become free from psychology. You become free from all excuses. And once you have pinpointed the real cause, things start changing.

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