

# Evaluating Political and Bureaucratic Corruption in India

Paper Submission: 13/07/2020, Date of Acceptance: 25/07/2020, Date of Publication: 27/07/2020

## Abstract

Unabated corruption is a “new normal” of life in our country. The web of political and bureaucratic corruption is so intricate and enormous that it has impacted each and every aspect of society. Politician, police and gangster nexus, gaining political power at any cost, manipulating rules, lack of accountability, transparency, responsibility, eroding moral and ethical values, cumbersome rules and regulations have helped corruption to flourish day and night with double speed. Constitutional and legal provisions to curb corruption, so far, have proved ineffective and inadequate. Elimination of corruption is not possible in one night, it requires social, political, administrative and cultural reforms to be carried out coupled with awaken civil society and responsible constitutional institutions. Political will, administrative cooperation supported by aware civil society can succeed to root out this menace.

**Keywords:** Corruption, Political Corruption, Bureaucratic Corruption, Corruption in Politics, Politician, Bureaucratic and Police Nexus.

## Introduction

Dr. Radhakrishnan in his Independence Day eve speech truly highlighted “Unless we destroy corruption in high places, the love of power, profiteering and black marketing which spoiled the good name of this great country in recent times, we will not be able to raise the standards of efficiency in administration as well as in the production and distribution of the necessary goods of life.” Corruption is not merely a distinguishing feature of developing countries; it is common even in the developed societies. However, its nature, volume and dimensions differ largely from country to country and from one environment to another<sup>1</sup>. In India corruption has become a social phenomenon. It is wide spread and found increasing at a fantastic pace. There is hardly any area of activity that has remained wholly free from the impact of corruption. In fact, corruption has now been institutionalized and has become a commonly accepted way of life. In India, acceptance of bribes, commissions, under-the-table payments and gifts, by politicians or the bureaucrats are no longer frowned upon, and even subtle ways have been discovered to legitimize them as a part of normal life activities. In fact, corruption has become the part and parcel of daily life of the citizens. This can be proved by the argument that earlier the perception was that a citizen will have to bribe a public servant if he wants to get a benefit which was illegal. But today we have reached a stage where even for getting the legitimate demand satisfied, the bribe is must.<sup>2</sup> Chandra Mitra, an Indian scholar has rightly put that corruption has triumphed over every resolve, every ideology, every mass movement.<sup>3</sup>

## Concept

In the context of public office, the most widely accepted definition of corruption that it is the abuse of public power for private benefit. Corruption may involve two parties; as would be the case for instance in bribery, extortion, nepotism, and speed money. Corruption by public authorities may also be a solitary engagement, as in embezzlement, fraud and the misuse of official facilities<sup>4</sup>. Oxford Dictionary defines “corruption as the perversion or destruction of integrity or fidelity in the discharge of public duties by bribery or favour”.

World Bank defines as, “corruption occurs when a function, whether official or private require the allocation of benefits or the provision of a good or service. In all cases, a position of trust is being exploited to realize private gains beyond which the position holder is entitled to”. Ralph Braidanti described the inevitable nature of the corruption in government organizations, “Government corruption found in all forms of bureaucracies

## Ranjit Singh

Assistant Professor,  
Dept. of Public Administration,  
University College, Moonak,  
Punjab, India

in all periods of time"<sup>5</sup>. Political and bureaucratic corruption dilutes established processes and procedures of control to the extent of rendering them totally ineffective, thereby jeopardizing the ability to govern and administer. In the development context too, it adversely affects both policy-making as well as implementation levels allowing thousands of crores to go down the drain. Gunnar Myrdal says, "Corruption puts sand in the economic machinery; it is a force slowing down development"<sup>6</sup>. In legal context section 5 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 defines the scope of corruption. It extends to:

- (a) Habitual acceptance of gratification;
- (b) Obtaining of any valuable thing;
- (c) Misappropriation;
- (d) Abuse of position to secure pecuniary advantage; and
- (e) Possession of property disproportionate to one's sources of income.

Thus, comprehensively, we can define corruption as the misuse of public power for private or personal profits by violating the laws and deviating from the accepted norms of the society. Corruption is spread as an epidemic disease in the form of the bribe, nepotism, misappropriation, patronage, commission, and favoritisms<sup>7</sup>.

#### **Political and Bureaucratic Corruption: An Interwoven Web**

Concluding the Constituent Assembly, its president, Rajendra Prasad said on November 26, 1949: "If the people who are elected are capable and men of character and integrity they would be able to make the best even of a defective Constitution. If they are lacking in these, the Constitution cannot help the country. India needs today nothing more than a set of honest men". The biggest cause of corruption in today's India is undoubtedly the political leadership at the helm of affairs in the country. From the fountainhead of political corruption flow various streams of corrupt practices which plague the economic and social activities in the country. Our politicians profess to live for the people, and swear by them in every speech. But there is no other section of humanity which so flagrantly robs the people and works against their interests<sup>8</sup>. They have transformed the nature of politics and administration. Amoral politics, self-aggrandizement, disregard of the constitutional norms in the pursuit of power, political survival at any cost are their rules of the game. They interfere with the administration of justice and have bent bureaucracy to do their bidding<sup>9</sup>.

Corruption has grown exponentially and is becoming a matter of national concern. Historically, corruption has been associated with the exercise of power. A citizen whether living in a democracy, monarchy, or an authoritarian or alien rule has to daily deal with innumerable authorities whose power devolves officially from the top to the concerned authorities in the field. This exercise of power, if arbitrary or discretionary engenders corruption. Our elected representatives indulge in easy money. There have been scams in Parliament where parliamentarians are even alleged to have taken cash for asking questions by corporate houses. There have

been allegations of taking money in the local area development schemes against the members of Parliament. Similar, accusations also surfaced in state legislatures from time to time.

As a consequence of valueless polity governing the country, steel frame of the civil services has been crumbling. To achieve their short-term objectives, political executive have been deploying pliant functionaries, handpicked on consideration of political affiliations, to man key assignments. This has resulted in the cadres of civil services, including the police and judicial services, being demoralized and their functioning adversely effected. Therefore, there are no more any role models- unknown persons of dubious distinction can get appointments to the highest posts in the country<sup>10</sup>. In fact, in our country we are facing a situation wherein people have accepted corruption as part of their lives. A man commands respect and status on the basis of his acquisition not by merit.

Sanathanam committee was constituted in 1962 to suggest measures to eradicate the problem of corruption in the country, on the recommendations of Sanathanam committee Central Vigilance Commission was created. It identified the following four major causes of corruption:

- i. Administrative delays;
- ii. Governments taking upon themselves more than what they could manage by way of regulatory functions;
- iii. Scope for personal discretions in the exercise of powers vested in different categories of government servants; and
- iv. Cumbersome procedures in dealing with various matters which were of importance to citizens in their day-to-day affair.

Corrupt officials always neglect their obligation in their exclusive attention for corruption. The degree of these composite effects of corruption is different in different contexts. But, the pattern of wide spread negligence due to lack of interest is same everywhere. Important decisions are determined by personal motives regardless of the consequences to the community at large. It not only confines itself to the corrupt transaction intended by two or more parties but also includes consequences arising from the behaviour of the corrupt man, and affects the day-to-day life of the common man. Some of the reasons can be further elaborated:

#### **Gaining Power is the Sole Goal**

Gaining command and control over power at any cost is the only religion most of the political entities follow. They have turned the politics into "the struggle for power"<sup>11</sup>. For this, politicians can go to any extent without bothering the interests of people and state. Out of this greed for power at any cost flows the river of all the ills of society. People elect politicians and political parties expecting them to act in the public interest. By electing them we give them access to public resources and the powers to take decisions that have impact on our lives. Given this privileged position, immense damage can be inflicted by politicians or parties acting out of greed, or in the service of those who bankroll their ascent to power. It

is not surprising that now the people the world over are demanding absolute probity of their political leaders: citizens in three out of four countries polled by Transparency International (IT) and Gallup International (GI) in 2003 singled out political parties as the institutions they perceived as most corrupt.<sup>12</sup>

#### **Morality and Ethics are no more Required**

When the corruption enters from door morality and ethics jump out of window. In fact, the cancer of corruption first attacks the roots of humanity which stands on the strong pillars of moral and ethical values. It is widely accepted fact that politics in India is ridden with corruption. Moral and ethical values are compromised and no more regretted upon by the concerned; and it has given the birth to a "New Normal" where corruption is just a way of life not a problem. Mahatma Gandhi famously stated that, "I have derived my politics from ethics.... It is because I swear by ethics that I find myself in politics". Tragically people perceive that politics and ethics cannot co-exist. Such feeling is gaining ground and as a result values are completely lost sight of by those who are engaged in political persuasions and are key players in our public life. For example, politicians before independence and in the early years after independence lived for politics (for a public purpose) while politicians now live off politics and make a good fortune for themselves, their families and kiths and kins.

#### **Negligence towards Accountability, Transparency and Responsibility**

Over the year's responsiveness, accountability and transparency remained the catch words of good governance. In fact this is what democracy is all about. But as we mostly tend to substitute slogans for action, these catch words are being bandied about in the absence of political will to realize their intent. These are most operational than legislative issues, and their effective implementation can help reduce corruption and enhance the government's credibility.<sup>13</sup> There is much talk about good governance, but the political class has been brazenly and firmly frustrated all efforts at making them accountable for their actions. In UK once a minister is indicted, he quits politics for good. In India scores of central ministers and Chief Ministers have been held guilty by commissions of enquiry. But they seldom quit office. In fact, when stalwarts like Biju Patnaik and Laloo Prasad Yadav were faced with corruption charges, they came up with astounding defense that as they had been elected by the people, the people's court should judge them.

#### **Criminalization of Politics**

A disturbing and rising political trend in recent years is the criminalization of politics. Earlier, it was said that politicians called into service criminals to use muscle power and gather votes. But now, criminals themselves have become politicians. A case of an unholy alliance between criminals, politicians and police is the notorious<sup>14</sup> reality of the day. Criminalization of Indian politics is a serious problem. Recent incidence of Uttar Pardesh notorious goon Vikas Dubey who killed eight police men is a stark reality of politician, police and criminal nexus. In July

2008, The Washington Post reported that nearly a fourth of the 540 Indian Parliament members faced criminal charges, "including human trafficking, immigration rackets, embezzlement, rape and even murder". There are ample evidences to support the argument that money generated through corruption encourages criminalization. Rampant corruption breeds criminals; in turn, criminal elements make corruption a fearless affair for politicians. There is nothing more worrying than the fact that our law makers; who are supposed to work for the welfare and wellbeing of common people, are themselves indulged in such heinous activities. How can we imagine a nation to progress with such law making and law enforcing elements at the helm of affairs?

#### **Election Funding and Money involved in Government Formulation**

It is now widely accepted and recognized that the electoral system has become corrupt, unfair and dishonest. It's essential aim is the gaining of power and influence by hook or crook. Political parties do not maintain accounts and are not subjected to any independent audit. It takes a great deal of money to fight elections. Some estimates indicate that to effectively fight for a state legislature seat the likely expenditure can vary from 1.5 crore to Rs. 4 crore. For a Parliamentary seat this expenditure can range between Rs. 8-12 crore. Even standing for Village Panchayat election can cost lakhs of rupees. Election funding works as a "gateway" of corruption in the political system. Through an analysis of election funding, the intent and attention of upcoming leadership can be traced. Not only expenditure on election but ticket distribution by different parties also remained a subject to be objected in the recent past. There are no effective checks and balances available in election system that can ensure free and fair election for the largest democracy in the world. Political parties collect huge amount of money, often obtained from illegal sources, which they require during elections, to spend and to get elected to the public office. Furthermore, a huge amount of money is also spent during the formation of coalition government and in the distribution of portfolios.

#### **Sanskritization of Corruption**

Corruption has entered in the blood and veins of bureaucratic body. It has become a way of life in processes and procedures of administrative structure and functions. A general complaint is "that no paper moves in most government offices unless chased from office to office and from seat to seat by the applicant with the help of 'speed money'". This kind of corruption in public dealing offices and countries has become almost open during the last few years.<sup>15</sup> Opportunity to indulge in such corruption is provided by nature of work, discretionary power, amount of superior supervision, sharing of information without accountability, chances of defection and punishment and other systematic factors such as secrecy, delay, inefficiency, insecurity, instability in administration and lack of objectivity at higher level. Corrupt civil servants are not subject to social shaming. On the contrary, corrupt civil servants, because of the wealth they accumulate, have become

social role models, and most others, not so fortunate because of the lack of opportunity; have desperately wanted to emulate them. In this context, Kaushik Basu, the economist, talks of the *sanskritization* of corruption, a process currently fashionable in India—corruption gets *sanskritized* when others start becoming corrupt because it is badge of belongingness to the elite class.<sup>16</sup>

#### **Rule Twisting**

Administrators are adept in the interpretation and application of rules and regulations and are astute enough to manipulate government policies, decisions and actions in a manner that these would appear to be in consonance with the formal laws and rules, though in this process, there may be a gross violation of the norms of fair, equitable and moral conduct. C.P. Bhambhri maintains that politicians and bureaucrats in India are partners in bending rules. Both provide support for each other for their common benefits at individual levels.<sup>17</sup> Further, Article 311 of Indian constitution impedes action against civil servants ostensibly to shield them from capricious politicians. Moving a criminal investigation against an officer can be delayed for as long as it suits them, because the political class and the bureaucracy are tightly linked in the subversion of office.

#### **Discretionary Powers**

Both the political executive and bureaucracy have been enjoying wide range of powers in the existing governmental framework. Despite elaborate structure of rules and regulations, further reinforcement with discretionary powers, there is hardly any worthwhile check to deter them from improper discharge of authority or using their discretionary power as an effective corrective measure.

#### **Political-bureaucratic-police Nexus**

“I will scratch your back and you scratch mine” is the encouraging motto of wide spread unchecked corrupt practices in Indian system. Political executive, civil service and police administration are the strong pillars of policy formulation and implementation. Police administration works as a bulwark against all the wrong doings. All the three are expected to be working in tandem for the welfare and wellbeing of people and protect the public exchequer against any misuse. But what is happening is totally opposite. Political-bureaucratic-police nexus has become a breeding ground for endless and fearless corrupt practices. This unholy alliance has resulted in loss of principles of the rule of law. Rule of law which is the primary pillar of a democracy is being shaken by such a nexus. The politicians who are elected are expected to work for those in grief and not for their own greed. Promises that are made during elections are never kept. The poor and the needy get swayed away by such promises, and thereby lose their most powerful weapon of voting. Once power is achieved, greed of the politicians overpowers the problems of the citizens. If the protectors themselves turn into predators then who should the citizens turn to for “Help”? Police with the support of politicians twist and break the law according to their own will. Their ideal role is to follow the law and work accordingly but a

reverse attitude is observed where the police serve their political masters and work according to their orders, thereby, undermining the rule of law. They do this in order to pursue their own interests and serve the interests of their political masters. If any one of them dares to oppose them then they are threatened with transfers, clearly reflecting the abuse of power by the political masters.

#### **Complex Matrix of Administrative Procedures**

The procedures of the Government even in respect of ordinary things like getting a ration card or diesel permit etc. have unnecessarily been complicated. This provides the government employees an opportunity to extort money from the clients. The archaic system of government working came in handy for public servants at various levels to make money. The old procedures and regulations, designed for leisurely colonial times and based on general distrust, had in-built provisions for delay and prevarication. Then there was the obsession with official secrecy. It was all right for colonial rulers to not make public their decision-making processes, but to continue such practices in democratic society is an affront to the democratic ethos.

#### **Unawake Civil Society**

A well-awaken and organized civil society is the strength of the democratically governed country. But the reality is somewhat different. Power is exercised in the government system in the absence of any checks in the form of watchdog groups, advocate society organisations, healthy mutual balancing political party system, independent labour unions, strong business organisations, educated and well informed public opinion, and independent media with positive approach. In other words, ignorance, unawareness and apathy on the part of civil society can be cited as the major reason for the prevalence of unabated corruption.

#### **Corporate Sector's Self-orientation**

A number of big businessmen try to oblige the government servant in many ways to obtain some favours in future. They take it as an investment for the future. A matter of much greater concern has been the use of democratic institutions to promote private privilege and elitism instead of fostering an egalitarian culture. Furthermore, it also promotes siphoning off money to safe heavens abroad. According to the report titled ‘The Drivers and Dynamics of Illicit Financial Flows from India: 1948-2008’, “68 per cent of India’s aggregate illicit capital loss occurred after India’s economic reforms in 1991, indicating that deregulation and trade liberalization actually contributed to/accelerated the transfer of illicit money abroad.”<sup>18</sup>

#### **Combating Corruption**

Integrity in public affairs and administration is essential and there must, therefore, be insistence on it in every branch of public activity. The First Five Year Plan rightly emphasized: “The influence of corruption is insidious. It not only inflicts wrongs which are difficult to redress, but it undermines the structure of administration and the confidence of the public in the administration. There must, therefore, be a continuous

war against every species of corruption within the administration....”

From the point of view of tackling corruption there are two separate but complimentary strategies that need to be tackled. The first consist of the preventive approach- creating a set of rules, systems and processes that effectively provide checks on arbitrary and corrupt action by creating incentives for providers and clients to conform to ethical standards. The second approach- the enforcement approach- consists of the establishment of anti-corruption laws of institutions that provide legal framework for investigating corruption and enforcing sanctions and penalties on those found guilty of indulging in corrupt.

Bureaucratic and political corruption in India is a legacy of the colonial system. As colonial governments were generally regarded as alien and hence illegitimate, consequently cheating and deceiving such an alien power was considered a fair game. Thus, this was one of the reasons how the culture of corruption got embedded in the fabric of Indian society. Therefore, knowing the gravity of the problem, as early as 1941, Special Police Establishment was set up to tackle corruption and this was given statutory status in 1946 by enacting Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act. After gaining independence, Government enacted in 1947 the Prevention of Corruption Act which defines the scope of corruption in regard to public servants. In addition to it, later on Rules of Conduct were laid down for All India Services in 1954, for Central Services in 1955 and for Railway Services in 1956. Besides many enquiry commissions were set up of which two merit mention Railway (Kriplani) Enquiry Committee 1953-55. On the recommendation of the Kriplani Committee, the Administrative Vigilance Division was set up in 1955. Another Committee on Prevention of Corruption was appointed in 1962 under K. Santhanam to examine this issue in-depth and recommend remedial measures. As a result of its recommendations, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), independent of ministerial control, was set up in 1964. Further, Prevention of Corruption Act was amended to extend the definition of criminal misconduct to include those in possession of assets beyond known means of income for which no satisfactory explanation was available. Another important measure was the creation of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 1963, which incorporated DSPE as its Investigation and Anti-corruption Division. Except this, Union Government has enacted Lokpal and Lok Ayukta Act in Parliament in 2013 on the pattern of Sweden's Ombudsman, to check corruption at the higher bureaucratic and political levels. In many states the institution of Lok Ayukta is already in operation with variations of powers and functions across the states.

#### **Review of Literature**

The body of theoretical and empirical research that objectively addresses the problem of corruption has grown considerably in recent years. A preliminary analysis of literature shows that corruption in India and elsewhere is recognized as a complex phenomenon, as the consequence of more deep

rooted problems of policy distortion, institutional incentives and governance.

In his study of bureaucrats in India, Richard P. Taub<sup>19</sup> observed that the way British controlled and administered India can be termed as the historical cause of corrupt bureaucratic psychology. The British method of over centralization of rules to maintain control over the decision making powers of the Indian subordinate civil servants had caused delay and confusion and provided many opportunities for corruption. Even today, these rules cause delay and confusion; and provide ample opportunities for corruption.

In his analysis of corruption in the Indian Civil Service, P.C. Alexander<sup>20</sup> (1995: 79) identified as a major cause of corruption, 'the ease with which corrupt officials are able to get away without punishment [that is] commensurate with their offence'. According to him: The constitution has justly given the guarantee to all officials that they cannot be dismissed, removed or reduced in rank except after an enquiry for which they will be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard. However the procedures involved in such enquiries have become so complicated and dilatory that the protection intended for the honest official has also become the loophole for the corrupt to escape. ...When punishments are not prompt and deterrent, they cease to be disincentives for the dishonest.

Palmier<sup>21</sup> has argued that delays in investigations, prosecutions increase the opportunities for corruption in judiciary as 'delay breeds corruption'. Hence, it is not surprising that 'this vast backlog leads to long adjournments and prompts people to pay to speed up the processes. Another important cause of corruption in India is the insufficient policing devoted to curbing corruption. In other words, as the probability of detecting and punishing corrupt behaviour is not high in India, the public perceives corruption as a low risk, high reward activity as those involved in corrupt practices are unlikely to be detected and punished.

In his study of civil service pay structure in South Asia, David C.E. Chew<sup>22</sup> found that 'despite salary revisions and dearness allowances, starting basic salaries of the five kinds of civil servants in South Asia remained very low in December 1987 by international standards'.

C.P. Srivastava<sup>23</sup> compared the monthly salaries of the prime ministers in 1996 in India, Japan, Singapore and Thailand, and found that the monthly salary of Singapore's prime minister was 162 times higher than that of the Indian prime minister.

N. Vittal<sup>24</sup> (2003: 19), the former Central Vigilance Commissioner, has attributed the 'social roots of corruption' in India to Hinduism's 'eternal message of tolerance, the sense of forgiveness, the hope held for sinners to come to the right path [which] probably have also led to the tolerance of a sin like corruption'.

Lastly, Krishna K. Tummala<sup>25</sup> (2002: 64) has attributed the extensive corruption in India to the society's attitude towards corruption as 'no amount of legal restrictions would help combat corruption in

India so long as the society itself in general is lenient and tolerant'.

#### **Objective of the Study**

Corruption is a global phenomenon. It is found almost in every society in one or the other form since time immemorial. The main aim of this paper is to explore political and bureaucratic factors that are directly or indirectly responsible for this wide spread corruption in the country. It further analyzes the constitutional provisions, legal specifications and administrative mechanism available to deal with corruption. It also aims to find out and suggest some concrete steps to chalk out future strategy to cope up this cancerous problem.

#### **Remedy and Conclusion**

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It hurts everyone whose life, livelihood or happiness depends on the integrity of people in a position of authority. It can become the reason of systemic failure if not timely cured. Therefore, preventive, detective and punitive measures should be taken to check it. Sanathanam committee accepting corruption as a "long-term problem" recognized the significance of an overhaul of "the entire system of moral values and of the socio-economic structure".<sup>26</sup> In this direction some of the major recommendations of the Sanathanam Committee Report are:

1. Decrease in the discretionary powers.
2. Improved pay scale for the low-paid civil servants and greater socio-economic security.
3. Strengthening of special police department including vigilance agencies.
4. Change in penal code and the laws to punish corrupt officials speedily and effectively.
5. Action against those in the private sector who corrupt public services.
6. Income tax reports and assessments be made public.
7. Special procedure for complaint against ministers and legislators.
8. Check on business enterprises to make contributions to political parties.
9. Protection of the persons making bona fide complaints, etc.

In terms of tackling of corruption cases in a public organization, the following should be ensured:<sup>27</sup>

- a. Prescribing firm time limits for all the stages from preliminary investigation to issue of charge sheet, to actual enquiry and the issue of final orders of exoneration or punishment,
- b. Suspending or transferring to non-sensitive posts those personnel who are being prosecuted or proceeded against departmentally on charges of corruption.

To comply with the Freedom of Information Act, 2002, each public authority should publish periodically and keep updated information indicating:

- c. Particulars of its organisation, functions and responsibilities,
- d. Description of decision making process in terms of procedures and powers and responsibilities of its officers and employees
- e. Norms for performance of activities

- f. The facilities provided for access to information. The name, designation and other relevant particulars of the officer, to be called the Public Information Officer, to whom requests for information may be addressed.

Funding elections by business houses has a great impact on the corruption. This should be put to an end too. The Election Commission in recent times has fixed certain norms on spending on electioneering and has effectively controlled such expenditure. This practice should be encouraged. Further, there is controversy on the state funding of elections which needed to be appropriately addressed. State funding of elections can eliminate vested interests and could draw persons of integrity into the legislative wings.

Transparency is the tool by which corruption can be killed. If a system is transparent, accountability is automatically enforced. Therefore, transparency must be ensured in the activities of the government. In this series, it is recommended that the reports of committees and commissions of enquiry established by government should be made public. Most enquiry reports do not have much to say against the government, but their suppression leads the people to suspect the worst. Publication of these reports on the other hand would generate public pressure which may lead to reforms. In fact, there should be provision to publish all enquiry reports except the few which may harm the national interest.

The corruption can be fought only with collective effort. While many intellectual, educated, articulated and well informed citizens are worried about this monstrous problem of corruption, they fail to channelize their unhappiness into strong public opinion. A collective and concerted effort by the youth will drive this monster away. In other words, the role of civil society in the removal of an evil like corruption which is interwoven in the social structure needed to be well accepted. Almost all the commissions and committees have envisioned the greater role for civil society in the reduction of corruption.

Though, after a lot of the institution of Lokpal has been enacted. It should be vested with autonomy and powers but with due accountability to entertain and investigate corruption charges against politicians (even if in power) and bureaucrats (either serving or retired). Despite this, the institution of Lok Ayukta in states should be empowered in letters and spirit to perform with impartiality and independence.

Recent experiences have strengthened the belief that it cannot be expected from directly government controlled agencies to prosecute serving minister and others in positions of power. CBI and CVC have a proactive role in the investigation process, it is essential to give them an independent statutory status, so that they do not function as handmaid of the political executive. Moreover, there should be strong and independent prosecuting machinery that can ensure speedy justice to the citizens with a genuine grievance against the state. Administrative tribunals in Britain and other European countries are performing this function admirably.

The role of constitutional institutions such as Supreme Court, Election Commission, Comptroller

and Auditor General and Public Service Commission at the centre as well as at state levels should be independent, impartial and fair. In fact, corruption exists more or less everywhere in every public institution and organization, therefore to deal with it every judicial, semi-judicial and quasi-judicial institution will have to serve fearlessly and promptly. Along with this, Right to Information Act should be implemented in letter and spirit, only then it will be helpful to bring transparency and accountability; and, Public Services Guarantee bill should also be enacted to ensure services and minimize discretion of the bureaucrats. Indeed, corruption is not an alien intruder, as British were, this is internal disease, as the cancer is, so to cope up with it internal immunity of the political and administrative system will have to be strengthened first.

Edward Gibbon, the author of the volumes on the rise and fall of Roman Empire summed up the reasons for the fall of Roman Empire in one word. And, that word was "Corruption". Asked to sum up his volumes in one sentence he said: "Rome rose to great heights when Romans and their leaders want to give their best to the Rome and Rome fell when Romans and their leaders began to take the best from Rome". Corruption is no doubt deep-rooted, complex, and interwoven in socio, economic, political and administrative structure of developing countries. In fact, the total eradication of corruption is a herculean task but systematic reduction cannot be ruled out. In this direction, structural and functional reforms in political and administrative institutions are highly needed to bring some concrete changes and then sustain them. To effectively deal with political and bureaucratic corruption, a three dimensional strategy comprising preventive, detective and punitive actions needs to be devised and systematically but strictly followed. Furthermore, all sections and sectors of society and government should join hands to fight a full fledge war against corruption. To check corruption undue emphasis has been given to individual cases of corruption and that too of smaller fries mostly rather than in eradicating its basic causes. The real solution to eliminate or minimize corruption lies in removing its main causes. As malaria cannot be eradicated by merely killing some mosquitoes here and there, but it can be eliminated by attacking their breeding grounds. Curbing of corruption similarly needs removal of its root causes and not by merely catching some individual culprits alone.

#### Endnotes

1. L.M. Helmore, *Corrupt and Illegal Practices: A General Survey and A Case Study on An Election Petition*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1967.
2. Jai Narain Sharma, *Power, Politics and Corruption : A Gandhian Solution*, Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, 2004, p.46.
3. Chandra Mitra, *The Corrupt Society*, Viking Publications, New Delhi, 1998, p.8.
4. Harsh Mander, *The Riped Chest: Public Policy and the Poor in India*, Books for Change, Bangalore, 2004.
5. Ralph Braidanti, "Reflections on Bureaucratic Corruption", *Public Administration*, Winter, 1962, p.357.
6. Gunnar Myrdal, *Asian Drama: An Inquiry into the Poverty of Nations*, Panteon, New York, 1968.
7. See details in Ram Ahuja, *Society in India: Concepts, Theories and Recent Trends*, Rawat Publications, New Delhi, 1999, p.403.
8. S.S. Gill, *Pathology of Corruption*, Harper Colling Publishers, New Delhi, 1998, p.187.
9. Sunil Sondhi, "Combating Corruption in India: The Role of Civil Society", Paper prepared for the XVIII World Congress of International Political Science Association, Quebec City, Canada, August 1-5, 2000, p.7.
10. N.N.Vohra, "Corruption and Indian Polity", in *Denouement*, New Delhi, December 1999, p.36.
11. "Struggle for power" expression is used by political scientist Hans J. Morgenthau to define politics.
12. M.G. Ramakant Rao, *Good Governance: Modern Global and Regional Perspective*, Kanishka Publishers, New Delhi, 2008, p.44.
13. S.S. Gill, *op.cit.*, p.233.
14. P.R. Dubhashi, "Fighting the Cancer of Corruption", *Mainstream*, Vol. XLVIII, No.31, July 24, 2010, p.22.
15. U.C. Aggarwal, "Good governance: Cutting Edge of Administration", *Indian Journal of Public Administration*, Vol. XLIV, No.3, July-September, 1998, p.432.
16. Kaushik Basu, *Economic Graffiti: Eassays for Everyone*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1994, p.56.
17. C.P. Bhambhri, *Indian Politics since Independence*, Shipra Publications, New Delhi, 1994, pp.312-315.
18. *Monthly Commentary on Indian Economic Conditions*, Indian Institute of Public Opinion, Vol.LII, Series No.619, No.7, p.18.
19. R. P. Taub, *Bureaucrats Under Stress: Administrators and Administration in an Indian State*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1969.
20. P. C. Alexander, *The Perils of Democracy*, Somaiya Publications, Bombay, 1995.
21. L. Palmier, *The Control of Bureaucratic Corruption: Case Studies in Asia*, Allied Publishers, New Delhi, 1985.
22. D. C. E. Chew, *Civil Service Pay in South Asia*, International Labour Office, Geneva, 1992.
23. C. P. Srivastava, *Corruption: India's Enemy Within*, Macmillan India, Delhi, 2001.
24. N. Vittal, *Corruption in India: The Roadblock to National Prosperity*, Academic Foundation, New Delhi, 2003.
25. K. K. Tummala, "Corruption in India: Control Measures and Consequences", *Asian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 10 (2), 2002.
26. Cited in J. Shivananda, *Contemporary Social Problems*, Alfa Publications, New Delhi, 2006, p.140.
27. Action plan for an Effective and Responsive Government, Government of India Document , 1996, p.28