PROGRESS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY PROJECT AS ON 01.11.2024

WITH REVISED TITLE AND CONTENTS

MAKING OF
CORRUPTION FREE INDIA
AFTER 75 YEARS

(Preamble of the study project due to be published soon)

During national agitation for 'India against corruption', an article by me on this subject then titled 'Corruption & Lokpal Bill' was published on 19 November,2011 in a local weekly 'Garhwal Post' in Dehradun. Since then corruption has increased manifold. Today politicians, bureaucrats and others are being reported/arrested on a daily basis under MLPA and for holding unaccounted money/ wealth running into crores of rupees. Now even the bank and treasury officers have been arrested for pocketing public money including misappropriation of public funds without any fear. In other words demonetization and Lokpal has neither helped to check growth of black money nor corruption.

The one point agenda i.e. passing of Lok Pal Bill will neither eradicate nor reduce corruption in India. In a country of India's size with population over 140 crore living in 35 states/union territories governed by different political parties who are totally independent to manage the affairs in their respective states, it will be difficult to put up a united front to eradicate corruption when no one government is free from corruption. Therefore, the present exercise to enact Lok Pal and Lok Ayukta bill and appointment thereafter has so far not given any positive results. In fact, the offices of Lok Pal and Lok Ayukta are becoming a parallel center of governance with additional burden on the state exchequer.

The issue of corruption is being raised to malign the ruling party both at the center and states by the opposition parties only to gain political advantage during election and not for eradication of corruption. Whether the Prime Minister and the Judiciary is brought under Lok Pal or not, will not solve the problem of day to day corruption faced by the ordinary citizens of the country. Number of cases involving middle and lower level government employees are regularly caught and reported with unaccounted money and wealth running into crores of rupees which should be the main issue for those interested to eradicate corruption in the country.

It is often forgotten that 73 per cent of India's population continue to live in villages located in varying agroclimatic conditions where they have been practicing fair and co-operative means for their livelihood and survival from time immemorial. It is only the 20 per cent of the 27 per cent population (the lower middle class) mostly living or working in urban or semi urban areas who are facing the brunt of corruption in public services on the one hand and uncertain opportunities in employment, wages and inflation on the other. The political organizations give more importance to community interest and linguistic brotherhood rather than national interest or supremacy of law of

the land. Obviously, corruption is not an important issue for many organizations and political parties. Rural population in each state has their own occupational and cultural practices who are now facing the problems created by new culture of corruption spreading in rural/tribal areas due to urbanization and increasing role being played by the Government to implement welfare and rural development program in the country.

Over a period, we have innovated various forms of corruption in the country. There are ordinary cases of bribery or collusive bribery where the bribe giver and bribe taker together take advantage and deprive the honest citizens of their fundamental rights. The other forms of corruption adopted by the so called literate and the rich people are: income tax evasion by collusion, managing government work orders including advertisements and execution of sub-standard works, corruption by government officials while buying goods and services (public procurement),illegal exploitation of natural resources like mining, forest, production of spurious drug / food injurious to health and violation of safety norms to earn fast and easy money. The most important issue that is being over looked is the corruption within government machinery. Bribery for recruitment, payment of salary, posting, promotions/appointments and payment of dues at the time of retirement. Therefore, the problem can be addressed only by undertaking necessary administrative and legal reforms to check corruption in each sector and departments of the government at various level.

However, administrative and legal reforms should aim at strengthening existing law enforcement authorities vertically from top to bottom. The existing authorities and law include Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Comptroller and Auditor General of Accounts of India , Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI), Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 and Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) etc. which are good enough to check corruption at all level involving multiple authorities and departments of the government such as CWG and Adarsh building society scam etc. Corruption can also be checked if prompt action is taken under existing Prevention of Corruption Act which includes (a) public servant taking gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of official act (b) taking gratification by corrupt or illegal means in order to influence public servants (c) taking gratification for exercise of personnel influence with public servants.

Similarly, corruption in delivery of public services by various departments/agencies of Central/State government can be checked by strengthening and enforcing Civil Service Conduct rules/Classification Control and Appeal (CCA) rules etc. already in existence. Unfortunately, rules are there in the statutory books and amended from time to time but not updated and honestly enforced to regulate the conduct of government employees. Since government employees themselves remain ignorant of Service rules, the number of court cases between government employees and the government continue to rise in various tribunal and courts in the country. Hence, day to day corruption in public services is overlooked and delivery of public services is either delayed or denied till such time one is willing to grease the palm of service providers.

Beside strengthening existing laws, corruption can be checked by simply making each head of office, exercising administrative powers, directly responsible to check corruption in his own office and subordinate offices under his control. The head of the office should either take action against the employees indulging in corrupt practices

or report the matter directly to anti-corruption department/ vigilance authorities of the state for further action. If head of the office fails to do his duty, then action can be taken against Head of the office under civil service conduct rules which can also be amended accordingly.

The scope and form of corruption vary from department to department and profession to profession and therefore needs different regulating mechanism in each department or profession. This can be done by the existing Ministry of Personnel by undertaking reforms of all anti-corruption agencies including departmental vigilance organizations responsible for prevention of corruption. The people are generally ignorant of existing mechanism such as internal audit of accounts, vigilance wing under each department and police vigilance who can be made more effective and accountable after necessary reforms. This could check corruption at the lowest level and provide immediate relief to poor and helpless people living both in urban and rural India.

Now, that the issue of corruption has come to center stage, it will not die till such time concrete steps are taken to eradicate corruption in all walks of life which may take at least 5-10 years. How best this can be done systematically without disturbing political stability, national security, day to day public administration, existing legal system and development of the country- is the key question before the government and civil society which are proposed to be studied in-depth in this comprehensive research study project which has been undertaken by Central Himalayan Institute to make corruption free India for the welfare of the people. There is a need to identify the existing weaknesses in political, economic and civic governance which failed to check high level corruption within government machinery and find long lasting solutions to improve governance to make corruption free India through administrative and legal reforms.

The aim of corruption free welfare state like India should be that the citizens are well aware of their fundamental rights, duties on the one hand and are given equal opportunity to progress depending upon their knowledge and skills in their profession irrespective of the caste, color, creed or religion. At the same time corruption free country also means that deprived section of the society and those living below the poverty line including disabled are not exploited in any manner by those in power or living above the poverty line and are given adequate security in terms of job, food, shelter, medical facilities and education without discrimination or bribe. This will be possible only when honest, dedicated and committed civil servants are deployed to deliver the public services at the lowest level both in urban and rural areas.

No comprehensive study as such has been carried out so far with particular reference to corruption in India. The issue has now drawn the attention of all countries in the world after the study was conducted by Transparency International in 2005 and recorded that more than 62% of Indians had at some point or another paid a bribe to a public official to get a job done. In 2008, another report showed that about 50% of Indians had first hand experience of paying bribes or using contacts to get services performed by public offices. However, in 2020 their Corruption Perceptions Index ranked the country 86th out of 180, reflecting steady decline in perception of corruption among people. Transparency International report broadly recorded various factors which contribute to be the reasons for corruption in India. Major corruption cases reported in the media included Indians stashing millions of rupees in Swiss Banks and Central Board of Direct

Taxes (CBDT) having accepted that undeclared assets of Rs.20,078 crore have been identified by their office in India and abroad following the investigation till June 2021.

Transparency International also briefly recorded the causes of corruption in India. However, comparatively a more comprehensive study could be seen in a report titled "Corruption, causes and consequences" by Stefan Sumah (chapter-5 http//dx.doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.72953 refers) which deals with the corruption in the world since time immemorial. According to Stefan Sumah, studies carried out by various international bodies like World Bank Institutes, European Commission and United Nations are mainly the analyses of the effects of corruption on various economic indicators, such as GDP growth, investments, employment, tax revenues, foreign investment or the study of various forms of corruption in relation to politics, economic environment, social conditions and various manifestations. The author also stated that the causes of corruption will differ from country to country. His study report also recorded that the most commonly mentioned factors that influence the development of corruption are: political and economic environment, professional ethics and legislation, as well as ethnological factors, such as custom, habits and traditions.

This study project has been formulated keeping in view all aspects of political, economic and civic governance which will be studied in depth for necessary reform to realize the dream of making of corruption free India in the near future. People have more or less accepted the corruption as part of life which is not a good sign for the future of any country. If not checked now, it can even break the unity of the country and end parliamentary democracy. The symptoms are clearly visible. The people are seen taking law into their own hand and force the government agencies accept their demand or entitlement which is denied to them under the existing laws due to corruption and inefficiency in the concerned department. Government machinery fails to spot the corrupt practices within the government departments due to poor quality of civic governance, vigilance and action is only taken when the matter is reported in the media.

It should be a matter of concern that mostly the educated, rich and responsible people inside as well as outside the government machinery are found to be indulging in high level corruption today. Once the corruption cases are exposed, the rich people manage to employ experienced advocates to defend themselves and may even get acquitted after long drawn legal battle. The rest of the population remains neglected who have no choice but to bribe at various level to get all kinds of legal entitlements. The resolution was passed by Parliament some years ago i.e. (a) every government department adopt a citizens charter which will ensure time bound rendering of public services (b) Lok Ayukta to be set up on the lines of Lok Pal and (c) the lower bureaucracy be made accountable to the citizens through Lok Pal or any other mechanism. So far no visible impact could be seen on the ground.

Briefly, the study project will examine the existing status of political, economic and civic governance in India today and its ability or inability to ensure corruption free governance for the development of the country on the one hand and welfare of the people and delivery of public services in urban/rural areas on the other hand with a view to keep every body at least above poverty line and maintain human development index at the required level. It is also proposed to test the following

hypotheses during the course of this research study project and draw conclusions accordingly**. (a) How and when 'truth' will triumph? (b) Is India presently or forever lost in political squabbles? (c) Does power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely? (d) Can we ensure corruption free governance, economic growth and welfare of the people in a democratic country like India?** Beside historical background, existing organizational set up and the level of corruption in each sector/ department of the government will be examined after documenting the exact mode of corruption with examples and the reasons will be identified to suggest structural, functional, legal and administrative reform with particular reference to recruitment of manpower, deployment, training facilities, service conditions, pay and allowances of the employees to ensure corruption free functioning of the government department to deliver public services efficiently in national interest.

Further it is also necessary to examine the present status of existing agencies/ laws/mechanism and judiciary and suggest required action plan towards capacity building to reduce corruption in all walks of life. Similarly lawlessness, policing and corruption in India will be examined and necessary police reform will be suggested to eradicate corruption. It is equally important that existing laws and mechanism are in place to protect law abiding citizens from corruption. In case of disaster of any kind, the ordinary people have to pay the price. It is, therefore, necessary that well organized and trained manpower is always available to care for the people affected by any kind of disaster. Finally it is the human resource of any country who need to be given best possible citizenship education so that they can become independent and responsible citizens and contribute together as part of civil society and make India least corrupt like many other countries in the world.

While the bigger scams take time to reach final conclusion, the high level administrative and universal corruption can be dealt with speed through fast track court to produce its impact instantly in the society. Appointment of Lok Pal or Lok Ayukta by itself is not going to solve the problem of corruption. Lok Pal/ Lok Ayukta or CVC may be necessary at district / regional/state and national level who should not only be responsible to deal with complaint about corruption but also take action to prevent corruption by constant vigilance and issue advisory in advance to the concerned authorities for necessary administrative action before actual corruption is allowed to take place.

There is a need to identify all corruption cases decided by various courts during last ten years, status of cases under trial in various courts and status of cases under investigations. This will help Government and all other organizations including media to adopt more constructive approach to eradicate corruption in India. Lastly but not the least corruption in the Armed and Para Military forces and law enforcement authorities, who are responsible for national and internal security, should not be accepted at any cost. Therefore, any one found indulging in corrupt or undesirable activities within Armed Forces or law enforcement authorities must be punished promptly and severely in the larger interest of the country. Similarly Armed forces personnel and their family members

should be given full protection from corruption in civil society and civil administration which will always remain there in one form or other.

This is the first ever in-depth comprehensive research study project report which has been undertaken to identify deficiency and weaknesses in political, economic and civic governance in India and suggest structural, functional, administrative and legal reforms to eradicate corruption in each sector and department both inside and outside of the government. The outcome of this research study project will help educate the people about the scale and volume of corruption prevailing in the country in all walks of life and to what extent it can harm the very existence of the country in future. Once the people are well informed about the corrupt activities of the people in power- the authorities responsible for good political, economic, civic and corporate governance can be made accountable and answerable. The importance of strict anti corruption laws can be understood in correct perspective and the offenders can be punished severely through the court of law and black listed to hold any public office in future.

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1. National human rights commission
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2. Redressal of public grievances in India
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3. Right to Information Act, 2005
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2. HRD and expanding middle class in India
3. Job creation and job opportunities in India
4. Status of jobs in private and organized sector
5. Job for women tribal and poor population
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6. Skill development to increase income and employment
7. Importance of MGNREGS for rural workers
8. Paper leak and recruitment scam in government sector
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9. Conclusion and recommendations
9.1 Political manifestoes and HRD
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9.5 Higher income group and HRD in India
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- 1.1 Definitions
- 1.2 Impact of biodiversity loss and climate change

2. Conservation of water and forest to prevent disaster
- 2.1 Present status of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- 2.2 Existing water management and conservation plans
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3. National green tribunal to control illegal mining etc.
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4. Disaster management in the Himalayan region
- 4.1 Preview
- 4.2 Prevention and precaution against natural disaster
- 4.3 Disaster management related to construction of roads tunnels and bridges
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5. Disaster and pollution free development of urban India
- 5.1 Present status and future of urban development in India
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6. Future shocks due to climate change and global warming
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- 6.2 Global emergency of climate change and progress made so far by COPs
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Part-F

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

EVALUATION OF THE
DRAFT RESEARCH STUDY PROJECT REPORT AS ON 1.11.2024

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This is the first ever in-depth and most comprehensive research study project ever undertaken by any individual or institute which is **purely empirica**l based on factual information about governance with personal experience of public administration and experiment in delivery of public services to all category of citizen at the grass root level both in urban and in rural (real) India. The conceptual framework of the research study project has been broadly narrated in the **preamble** stated above.

Instead of routine research papers or story on a particular incident of corruption, holistic approach has been adopted to study the existing status of political, economic and civic governance in India today at all level and in all branches/sectors of the government with particular reference to present status of structure, composition, role, manpower management, level of performance/ efficiency as per rules/procedure, if any, laid down and capacity to deliver public services to all category of citizens with or without corruption.

The study project has used all relevant information and data which has been in public domain during last 30-40 years for study and analyses to complete the project and suggest action plan to reestablish corruption free governance with sharp focus on corrupt practices reported and known in each sector/department of the government. Accordingly, the study project has been able to identify the impact of corruption which had adversely affected the efficiency of public administration to deliver the public services to the citizens of the country without corruption at all level.

On completion, the study project report is likely to be used as an **'Encyclopedia'** on the status of governance in India today and serve as a guidebook in future for all responsible citizens who are part of the government and members of the civil society to make India corruption free after 75 years of independence. The study project aims to help people in power to ensure first class political, economic and civic governance for the people in a democratic and a welfare state like India through existing parliamentary democracy and in accordance to the constitution of India.

The summary of final conclusion and necessary recommendations will be recorded in the end (Part-F) with particular reference to structural, functional, and legal reform to make all sectors/branches of the government including law enforcement authorities i.e. judiciary, police and vigilance departments more efficient and effective to ensure corruption free governance in accordance to existing laws and the constitution of the country.

The outcome of this research study project expected to educate the citizens about the scale and volume of corruption prevailing in the country in all walks of life today and to what extent it can harm the very existence of the country in future. Once the people are informed about the activities of the people in power- then those responsible for political, economic, civic and corporate governance can be made accountable and answerable. The importance of strict anti-corruption laws can be understood in correct perspective and the offenders can be punished severely through the court of law and black listed to hold any public office in future.

It is proposed to bring out revised and an updated edition of this project after every six months (1 January and 1 July) till such time we are able to see visible improvement in corruption free political, economic and civic governance in India. Those interested to become part of this mission undertaken by CHI, can send their comments or suggestions by email to: trishul_p1@ rediffmail.com Copy of the first edition of the study project report is proposed to be uploaded on our website on 1 January,2025. *-Director& Research Scholar CHI Dehradun*

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