

Mechanisms for Combating Corruption in Uzbekistan

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Annotation:

This article examines the multifaceted nature of corruption from various perspectives, including sociological, legal, economic, and political approaches. It explores the definition and key elements of corruption as a social and legal phenomenon, as well as its negative impact on society and governance. The study provides an in-depth analysis of the legal mechanisms for combating corruption and highlights the importance of establishing a comprehensive anti-corruption policy. Additionally, it emphasizes the need for preventive measures to reduce corruption through the development of legal frameworks and the promotion of ethical behavior within government institutions. The article underscores the importance of involving both the government and civil society in creating a transparent and accountable governance system.

Keywords: Corruption, Anti-corruption policy, Legal framework, Governance, Sociological approach, Economic approach, Public officials, Transparency, Accountability, Civil society.

Introduction

The Oxford English Dictionary provides nine meanings for the word corruption, only one of which can be applied in a political context: the use of bribery or other forms of corruption in the performance or non-performance of state duties, the exploitation or involvement in corrupt practices within governments, corporations, and other institutions. The Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language states that corruption is the use of one's official rights and authority to gain personal wealth, which includes bribery, abuse of office, and other illegal actions.

There are different approaches to the term corruption worldwide. It is defined as the abuse of public office for private gain. Authors of the Legal Encyclopedia explain corruption as a criminal activity in the political or governmental sphere, expressed by officials using their authority and power to

gain personal wealth. But is corruption limited to public officials? I think not! What they describe is a higher form of corruption. Etymologically, the term corruption comes from the Latin word "corruptio," meaning "spoiling" or "swaying for a bribe." From this, we can conclude that any action taken in exchange for a bribe is corruption.

Since corruption is a broad phenomenon, there are various approaches to studying this issue today: sociological, legal (criminological), economic, political, and moral-cultural approaches. One of these is the sociological approach, which has led to the development of different methods for studying corruption and understanding its phenomenon. According to sources, from a sociological perspective, corruption is a dysfunctional phenomenon that forms in interactive relationships involving subjects of corruption, areas of corruption, the goals of corruption, methods of execution, forms of corruption, and its objects, all interrelated elements. This interaction occurs based on the rational choice of participants, representing an exchange of material and symbolic resources (E. Giddens, J. Habermas, G. Mead, H. Blumer, N. Luhmann, T. Parsons, R. Merton, N. Smelser, J. Homans, P. Blau, A. Downs, G. Becker, J. Coleman, M. Olson). In this context, it is important to instill in the population the idea that corruption negatively impacts social life, undermines trust in social relations, and prevents the establishment of positive ethical relationships among people. This should be emphasized to prevent corruption and bribery from hindering societal progress.

In political science, attention to corruption began to emerge in the 1960s. Political scientists who have been successful in their research in this field point out that the main element of bribery is government officials accepting bribes and their desire to gain direct control. Specifically, English academic, lawyer, and diplomat James Bryce argued that corruption appears in four forms in society:

1. Government officials accepting bribes in cash;
2. Government officials accepting bribes in other forms;
3. The sale of documents;
4. Engaging in bribery for the benefit of candidates.

In economic theory, corruption refers to actions aimed at gaining profit by using state resources for personal interests. Here, the state is the main body responsible for distributing material privileges, controlling taxes, and overseeing their distribution. Officials, in turn, are the individuals authorized by the state to distribute these privileges. Those individuals or companies that desire more privileges may try to buy them in order to gain greater financial benefit. According to Professor Rose Ackerman of Yale University, the rise of corruption is linked to excessive and inefficient government intervention in the economic life of society. Therefore, one of the main measures in combating corruption is to limit the arbitrariness of government officials and reduce their involvement in society's economic activities.

The legal description of the concept of corruption considers it a dangerous illegal phenomenon, characterized by the bribery and greed of officials who exploit their official powers for personal gain. Corruption is not only of a criminal nature but also evolves into a complex phenomenon that encompasses administrative, legal, civil, and disciplinary features. Many scholars in the legal field have attempted to substantiate the legal nature of corruption and the measures to combat it. Notably, the legal framework for fighting corruption, the issues related to its emergence and development, as well as the legal mechanisms for combating corruption, have been discussed in the scientific works of N.G. Alexandrov, S.S. Alekseyev, L.I. Antonova, B.C. Afanasyev, V.V. Borodin, G.A. Gadzhiev, Yu.I. Grevtsov, D.A. Kerimov, S.F. Kechekyan, A.I. Korolev, M.M. Kuritsyn, D.I. Lukovskaya, L.A. Nikolaeva, M.N. Marchenko, I.F. Pokrovsky, V.P. Salnikov, L.I. Spiridonov, G. Nurmammedov, B. Isroilov, and R. Obidov. The renowned Russian scholar G.N. Borzenkov

believes that corruption should be understood as the breakdown of the administrative apparatus, arising from officials using their official powers for selfish purposes. A broader interpretation of this approach can be seen in the definition provided by S.P. Kushnirenko: "Corruption is a socio-legal phenomenon that reflects the regular use of official powers by state officials for the material benefit of a third party or group of individuals, resulting in a decline in the prestige of state authority and public services. In this process, officials use their official powers either directly or indirectly." Thus, as a result of corruption, the authority of the state government is diminished, and the administrative apparatus may become fragmented. Preventing such a situation requires responsible organizations and state bodies to develop comprehensive measures to reduce bribery.

In our opinion, the task of establishing an anti-corruption policy places a complex and significant responsibility on the administrative organs of government, requiring them to operate according to a well-developed plan. This is because political activity aimed at combating corruption must be implemented based on an analysis of the criminological situation related to corruption in the country, considering potential future problems and the available social, economic, and political opportunities within the nation. At this point, it is crucial to first clarify the definition of anti-corruption policy. Based on scientific sources, anti-corruption policy refers to the systematic and consistent activity of state bodies and civil society institutions aimed at preventing corruption, mitigating its negative consequences, and eliminating the factors and conditions that give rise to corruption. According to political scientist Professor V. Lopatkin, the following elements should be included in the structure of anti-corruption policy:

- a) Developing a concept of anti-corruption policy, including its goals and principles;
- b) Establishing the activity of state and civil society institutions to protect human rights and freedoms;
- c) Identifying priority areas and measures for preventing corruption, as well as determining the entities responsible for implementing anti-corruption policies; d) Defining the authority of governing bodies in shaping and implementing the fight against corruption;
- d) Developing and implementing anti-corruption principles in legislative and law enforcement activities, and forming society's legal consciousness in line with anti-corruption standards.

In conclusion, corruption remains one of the most pressing challenges facing modern society, affecting various aspects of social, political, and economic life. It undermines the legitimacy and efficiency of government institutions, erodes public trust, and hinders sustainable development. As this article has highlighted, corruption is not merely a criminal phenomenon but also a complex issue that encompasses legal, social, economic, and ethical dimensions. Addressing it requires a multifaceted approach that includes both preventive and punitive measures.

The legal frameworks for combating corruption must be strengthened, ensuring that public officials are held accountable for abusing their positions for personal gain. Moreover, fostering a culture of transparency, integrity, and civic responsibility is essential to reducing the occurrence of corrupt practices. The role of civil society, along with the efforts of government bodies, is crucial in shaping public awareness about the negative consequences of corruption and promoting good governance.

To effectively fight corruption, it is imperative to implement a well-developed anti-corruption policy that integrates legal, administrative, and societal measures. By adopting a comprehensive and systematic approach to combating corruption, governments can restore public confidence, enhance the credibility of state institutions, and create a fair and just society where corruption is no longer tolerated.

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