

POLITICAL CORRUPTION AS A SOCIAL DEVIATION

Bejtulla Demiri

International Balkan University – Skopje, b.demiri@ibu.edu.mk

Abstract

Political corruption represents a particular type of cooperation between social groups. Political Corruption is a social deviation, as results of several causes: the environment of the political, economic and social system as well as cultural dimensions. The goal of political corruption is to obtain the private reward material or service advantages, however, usually accompanied by considerable social damages. Political corruption often becomes as acceptable social norm in politically deviant societies. This paper analyses political corruption as a deviant social activity, examining the countries that are polluted with corruption, which requires functional policy against corruption and the establishment of institutional framework and conditions for the implementation of the policy. This paper marks that political corruption is very negative social activity. The impact of political corruption has very high destructive effects on political system, and whole society. Also we need to mentions that a political corruption is connected with other social activities such as prostitutions, drugs, alcoholism, crime etc.

Keywords: *Political corruption, social deviation, political system, political processes, society*

I. Introduction

The consequences of corruption in field of economic, political and social development are becoming increasingly apparent. The fights against corruption are modest and remain unused in political debates. The true cost of corruption needs to be explained and reasons why governments and business must prioritize the fight against corruption. Political corruption is a very dangerous state and social enemy around the world. All the wealth that a corrupt politician or a corrupt entrepreneur takes is stolen by people who need health care,

students who deserve better education or this money is from towns that need water, roads and schools.

There is a lot of research showing that many countries are involved in political corruption, fiscal evasion and other major financial crimes. Corruption greatly harms people and they are usually people who live in the poorest countries in the globe. The consequences of corruption in the area of economic, political and social development are becoming more visible and with long-term consequences. The struggle against corruption is very modest, and public opinion remains unaware of the amount and intensity of this social deviation. There is very little political debate about this destructive social phenomenon. The real cost of corruption should be shown and be public as well as the explanations of reasons why governments and businesses should give great priority to the fight against corruption. It should be noted that according to the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions shows that countries with a high degree of corruption are those with low levels of political rights and democratic institutions. According to many researches around the globe, the trend of increasing corruption is one of the most dangerous and major social phenomena for a political and economic development of one society. Corruption is a challenge for strengthening democratic institutions in countries that are under totalitarian regimes. Ambitions on establishing a political environment in which political rights political participation, pluralism and civil rights are an objective reality and a primary goal of policymaking is one of the primary tasks of combating corruption. But our idea is to construct this transition in a manner that will reduce the sense of insecurity for the citizens of a country and increase the gain and benefits of citizens and their participation in political processes.

II. The Nature and Definitions of Political Corruptions

The notion "corruption" refers to the misuse of public resources or power from individuals for their one private gain. Transparency International defines corruption as "abuse of trust for private gain". In the political discourse of politics and political science it would be hard to compare the use notions corruptions with any other single term that is more frequently use than the word corruption (Brooks 1909). What is a political corruption we have detailed definitions of corruptions and bribery in every highly developed legal system.

In all legal systems there are sanctions which are applied only to those unashamed practices of corruption. In political discourse a distinction is made between political corruption and bureaucratic corruption. So let's first explain political corruption, which as a deviant social phenomenon develops and is realized at the highest levels of political authority (Amunsen 1999).

In the process of political corruption includes politicians, government ministers, senior civil servants and other elected officials, or appointed to high public office. With this notion we understand the abuse of political power by those who decide on laws, policy and regulations, which serve to make distribution of the various resources that are very important in a society (those who make "rules of the political game"). Political corruption means making suitable state laws and regulations for the benefit of various factors from private sector companies and businessmen to award large public contracts to specific firms, or misuse funds from the state budget (Moreira 2018).

There is also another type of corruption, bureaucratic corruption that occurs during the implementation of public policies. It includes appointed bureaucrats and public administration staff at central or local level who abuse their position for private gain. It is the type of corruption the citizen meets daily at different institutions like the healthcare institutions, education institutions, schools, local government, different governmental departments etc.

Political corruption and bureaucratic corruption as deviant social phenomena are interrelated. Generally speaking all types of corruptions are related, and a corruption as social deviation is related with other social deviation such as drugs consumptions, prostitution, gambling alcoholism etc.

III. The causes and factors of political corruption

Political corruption is a complex and multidimensional social phenomenon. There is a wide range of social, cultural, economic, political and administrative factors at national or international level that make possible political corruption. Political corruption is the result of wider political dynamics, different political interactions, opportunities and weaknesses in sociopolitical systems. We can conclude that political corruption is the result of dynamic

relationships between many political and social actors. Political corruption has a direct impact on the economic development of a country (Šumah 2018).

An important discussion when we analyzing corruption are how political corruption has a direct impact on the development and effectiveness of the economy, and the economic growth of a state. The impact of political corruption on reducing economic growth is one of the most important discussions in our time. Political corruption is a result of the political system and the manner of governance and socio-economic situations in a given society. The causes of corruption are very complex and they consist a combination of political, historical, social and cultural factors, also as factor is the level of economic development. Political implications affect each of these factors, specifically political stability and the rule of law. Corruption is very close connected with the struggle for economic resources. But to mention if one state has a high degree of economic freedom, and high potential for doing business freely, in these cases possibility for corruptions is very low. In these states the government also provides protection of citizens against any unlawful acts that may disturb their business. Economic freedom is characterized by the presence of the legal structure the rule of law, access to finance, and international trade Churchill, Agbodohu, Arhenful 2019).

Deficiency of economic freedom creates expensive and long business process. These deficiencies are related to corruption, because of their illegal nature and lack legal protection. This situation can cause corruption by government officials, for example through the collection of illegal taxes and the sale of various illegal business permits. In this process, police officers may also receive bribes in exchange for protecting this illegality.

3.1 Dysfunctional political institutions as a cause of political corruption

Weak governance is one of the root causes of corruption. The low political and economic opportunities available in various political systems, as well as the low level of power and efficiency of state, social and economic institutions, shape the conditions and opportunities in which corruption can occur (Orre, Mathisen 2008).

In particular, when political power is centralized with control mechanisms in the executive in responsibility and accountability, there are adequate causes to give actors (especially elites) much rights and discretion; with this opportunity they have enough power to abuse political power. It should be noted that the level of political corruption is directly related to

political institutions. We can stress that different political systems have different impacts on political corruption.

3.2 Cultural values as a cause of political corruption

One aspect of this paper is to analyze how cultural norms have influence to political corruption. Can we say that some particular cultures have greater potential for political corruption? Or is there a society or state that is immune from political corruption? We can conclude that political corruption is a common global issue that has existed for many centuries in different cultures. Every state tries to control or reduce this socially deviant phenomenon, but the problem of anti-corruption campaigns is always confronted by people from the ruling party and political elite. (Seleim 2009).

What an anti-corruption commission can do if it caught the big fish? I mean people with high positions in the party and the state. Where should politicians come from and where they get their financial resources? It's an unwritten rule "without corruption there are no financial assets." In this context we bring an explanation of a president of an African state who said; "I know that corruption destroyed my country, but my party finances were based on corruption, if I fight this kind of corruption, it will fall from power, or maybe they will kill me" "a moral dilemma arises"

How do I manage? There are a lot of questions with no answer.

As I continue to elaborate on the impact of corruption on society, I would like to bring up some other examples that clearly show the negative impact of corruption on society. A Brazilian journalist in an interview about the corruption crisis in Brazil says that "Many Brazilians believe that corruption is part of our culture," she said, and that without a major cultural transformation, we will not be able to fight corruption. But we can say that Brazilians are not alone. We have another case in Uganda, Emmanuel Mwaka Lutukomoi, Deputy Commissioner, said: "We live in a failed state, failed municipalities, failed offices, and with failed people all these are the result of corruption"

We have another explanation about impact of corruption in the United States representative of American politics said that corruption has invaded all public institutions. We (the US) have lost our moral sense of shame, (we are not ashamed)." In the United States: the

philosophy of liberal politics is that Washington has been corrupted by crony (best friend) capitalism, and that corrupted political system destroys all ordinary working Americans.

It should also be emphasized that even Pope Francis with a profound complaint says that corruption has become a personal and social statement tied to customs” and “*a greater ill than sin.*”(Corruption is a devastating cancer harming society Carol Glatz)

The scandalous concentration of global wealth is the result of the disregard of the public or political leaders with the political powers who with their powers enable it. Pope Francis talks about the world’s wealth distributed unequally which is created by the global finance and commerce. Never before have had these two worlds allowed so many people to benefit from so many goods, while at the same time “excessively exploiting common resources, increasing inequality and deteriorating the planet.” He says that the “paradox of a globalized economy which could feed, cure, and house all of the inhabitants who populate our common home, but which— as a few worrisome statistics indicate — instead concentrates the same wealth owned by half of the world’s population in the hands of very few people”. (“Power and Money: Social Justice according to Bergoglio” by Michele Zanzucchi) Pope Francis points out that corruption is greater than sin. More than forgiveness, this ill must be treated. Corruption has become a natural phenomenon, to the point that it becomes a personal and social attitude associated with a country's tradition, common practice in commercial and financial transactions, in public contracting, in any negotiation involving the official people of the state (Pope Francis 2014). It should be stressed here that when people complain about corrupted cultures, they have in mind the shared values, beliefs, and norms of a particular group of people.

IV. Concluding remarks

There is huge spectrum of the causes of corruption. The result is that many factors play different role in various ways at different period of time. But we will conclude that there are two most important dimensions one is institutional vulnerability and second is social interaction effects. Considering that political corruption is a highly destructive social phenomenon, with destructive impact in society, we need to conclude that all types and forms of corruption are linked and interrelated, but at the same time, corruption as a social deviation is associated with other social deviations such as drug abuse, gambling prostitution,

gambling, etc. So as conclusion we should mention that an activity known as political corruption is closely linked to other social activities. If we enter deeper into the scientific aspect of social deviation we can detect that there are some theories of social deviance such as biological, social and psychological. These theories explain social deviation phenomena in different aspects as phenomenology and genesis of social deviation.

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