

# The Study of the Problem of Corruption at Apex level in India

## An Empirical Study of the Attitude of Intellectuals of Anantnag District in Jammu And Kashmir

Shafeeqa Khurshid & Azhar Ud Din  
Research Scholars Vikram University Ujjain

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**Abstract:** Corruption is one of the social evils founds in all the societies of the world. In some societies it is more rampant than some others. Unfortunately, India is regarded as one of the countries in which corruption has become very much widespread during the recent years. Corruption is one of the factors that have contributed to the degradation of the Indian politics. Therefore it is imperative that research is undertaken to understand the causes and remedies of the problem.

The present research study was proposed to study the attitude of intellectuals of Anantnag district in J & K towards the Problem of Corruption at Apex level in India. The study has based its analysis on primary data from intellectuals. The observations are based on surveys and interview, while performing the field work through questionnaire. For this, Anantnag district of J&K was selected using stratified sampling method. Sample consists of 100 intellectuals.

It is found that at Apex level the government or government officials of administrators, bureaucrats, judiciary, police Armed Forces, public officials and politicians etc somehow they are involved in corruption. Several measures have been initiated by the government to curb this evil practice. But despite significant measures the network of this evil is spreading every day and it is destroying the overall administrative structure and people's lives.

**Key words:** Intellectuals, corruption, Attitude, Apex level, Jammu and Kashmir, India

### Introduction

Man was not born corrupt. The history of mankind does not give any indication of corruption being there in the ancient or prehistoric times. But in the later history there are innumerable instances corruption essentially started with influence and authority of any kind. Man became corrupt when he started dealing in or with money. Perhaps the

first evident act of corruption to be found in Christianity in Judas was always close and loyal to Christ until he made the great act of betrayal. The very fact that he betrayed Christ was an act of corruption in itself, but this was attached to the lure of money.

In Islam, corruption seems to have started in the form of smuggling when the practice of Hajj Pilgrimage became more common.

In general corruption started because of three basic reasons. Money power, Religious Authority, and Sexual Perversity and Sex power.

The practice of corruption, with time, undergoes a change. The present are the most disturbing times. Today social, political and psychological conditions are so prominent in world that nothing works without one's indulging in corruption in one way or the other willingly or unwillingly corruption calls the tune of time.

### Objectives

The present Study has been undertaken with the following objectives:-

- 1- The prime objective of the study is to see the attitude of intellectuals towards "The Problem of Corruption at Apex level in India."
- 3- What are the causes of rampant corruption in India?
- 4- What are the measures taken for eradicating the menace of corruption in India?
- 5- Are these measures effective in tackling the problem of corruption?
- 6- What steps should be taken to eradicate this evil practice.

## Research methodology

In the present study survey (interview of experienced people & literature review) are used for collecting information. The aim of the experience survey is to obtain insight into the problem or into the relationships between variables and to get an accurate picture of current practice by interviewing the experienced people the researcher also had to take help from intellectuals towards parliamentary practices in India. The present study is based on systematic stratified sampling and then using simple random method. In the study 100 intellectuals are selected by stratified sampling and made 5 strata then from each strata chose 20 intellectuals by sample random sampling of district Kulgam. The selected groups under study are:-

- (1) Doctors
- (2) Engineers
- (3) Lecturers
- (4) Journalists
- (5) Lawyers

## Results

### Corruption in the government

Corruption is there at the very root of our social life. Suresh Kohli points out in his book "corruption in India". "There is not a single individual who has not been lured into corruption, if corruption is accepted in a wider perspective, exploitation of any kind is corruption; shirking work is corruption, wastage of time, energy and money is corruption, deceiving or betraying is corruption, mismanaging of public or private funds is corruption, undue use of authority, force or power is corruption; smuggling has become one of the biggest areas of corruption.

Table No. 3.1

S.No.	Options	No. of respondents	Percentage age
1.	Yes	44	88%
2.	No	1	2%
3.	Some what	5	10%
4.	Can't say	0	0%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

Present survey shows that 88% respondents think that there is corruption in the government, while as 2% respondents think that there is no corruption and 10% respondents think somewhat.

### Which do you consider more corrupt

There is little doubt that corruption in present-day India pervades all levels and all services, not even sparing the Indian Administrative Service and Judicial Service. The bureaucracy of the British India was considered to be largely untainted with

corruption. Compulsions of electoral politics in independent India changed this image and the administrative as well as the police and judicial services came to be charged with colluding with the political leadership to indulge in systemic corruption, making a mockery of democratic governance.

Table No. 3.2

S.No.	Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage age
1	MP's/MLA's	7	14%
2	Bureaucrats	6	12%
3	Judiciary	1	2%
4	All are same	36	72%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

Corruption cannot be fought only by individuals or by specialized agencies like the Central Vigilance Commission, the CBI or by Government Anti-Corruption Bureaus. It has to be a fight at all levels of society. Corruption is a major challenge confronting India, it is affecting social and economic growth, it is anti-poor and affects the growth of an equitable and just society and that people at large, and not just agencies, have to be sensitized to its evil effects. Survey conducted indicates that 14% respondents think that MP's/MLA are more corrupted, 12% say bureaucrats, 2% say judiciary and 72% respondents think that all are same.

### Transparency and Accountability of Government

Transparency and accountability are the two cornerstones of any pro-people government. Transparency and accountability not only connect the people closer to the government but also make them equal and integral part of the decision making process.

Table No. 3.3

S. No.	Options	No. of Respondents	% Age
1	Yes	3	6%
2	No	37	74%
3	Somewhat	9	18%
4	Can't say	1	2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Were the accused people punished according to the Law of Land

The basic cause for corruption is that our government is not designed for accountability and delivering services to its citizens. Fundamentally, we are still unable to punish the few corrupt persons identified by the investigating agencies, within a specific time limit

Table No. 3.5

S. No.	Options	No. of Respondents	% Age
1	Not all of them	22	44%
2	Some of them	22	44%
3	All of them	3	6%
4	Can't say	3	6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

We need to find a way to decide on cases of corruption within a reasonable time, by getting our judiciary to accept that decisions need to be given in some reasonable time if the justice system is to be meaningful.

Accused people were punished according to the law of land, 44% respondents say not all of them, 44% say some of them, 6% say all of them and 6% respondents answer was can't say.

### Corrupt people remain unpunished

India despite its long cherished glorious cultural heritage and customs still is facing the problems of corruption precariously. It is because, though Indian Constitution provides laws to fight-against corruption and anti-corruption agencies have been established, the obstacles created by undue interference of politicians are blaming the effective implementation of those laws.

Table No. 3.6

S. No.	Options	No. of Respondents	% Age
1	Because of political power	6	12%
2	Money power	4	8%
3	Both	39	78%
4	Judicial influence	1	2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Table indicates that 12% respondents believe that corrupt people remain unpunished because of political power, 8% say money power, 78% say Both and 2% say because of judicial influence.

### Corruption is caused because of the people's tolerance towards corruption.

Several measures have been initiated by the govt. to curb this evil practice. But despite significant measures the network of this evil is spreading every day and is destroying the overall administrative structure and our lives. These

problems will keep on continuing till man doesn't learn the principle of not compromising his conscience and this is only possible if we as individuals will put in our best effort in the direction

Table 3.18

S. No.	Options	No. of Respondents	% Age
1	Agree	34	68%
2	Disagree	11	22%
3	No opinion	5	10%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Table indicates that 68% agree that corruption is caused because of the peoples tolerance, 22% Disagree, and 10% people did not give any opinion.

### Low salary of government officials compels them to the road of corruption.

"Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely", that is what the events at the national politics scene seem to suggest, at least during the last couple of years, practice of corruption at lower levels by some clerks, peons and attendee's for some petty amounts, is understandable and tolerable. They may practice it due to tough financial conditions, excessive demands from family, friends or society, health hazards or some or other kinds of pressures. What is more disturbing and dangerous is corruption at higher levels. Corruption in various forms has become the measure stay of our national polity in the recent past. It invariably involves negation or betrayal of normative values of society, which are essential for the smooth functioning of society.

Table 3.19

S. No.	Options	No. of Respondents	% Age
1	Agree	23	46%
2	Disagree	26	52%
3	No Opinion	1	2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Table indicates that 46% respondents agree that corruption is caused because of Low salary, 52% disagree and remaining 2% give no opinion.

**Who is more loyal in fighting against corruption**

The Nation’s progress is seriously hampered by all pervasive corruption. Weeding out corruption today is a major challenge before Indian society. To eradicate the evil of corruption, the Central Government has enacted Anti-Corruption Laws to deal with the prevention of corruption and constituted commissions such as Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to enforce the Anti-Corruption Laws effectively

Table No. 3.7

S. No.	Options	No. of Respondents	% Age
1	Police	Nil	Nil
2	C.B.I.	14	28%
3	Anti-corruption wind	7	14%
4	Cann't say	29	58%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

The survey shows that 58% respondents believe that they can't say who is more loyal in fighting against corruption, 28% say C.B.I & 14% say anti-corruption wind.

**Political parties should deny Tickets to the candidates with criminal records**

From a decade it is evident that the presence of criminals has increased in Indian politics and government wants to check the presence of criminals in politics. Different efforts were also taken in this regard. Here the purpose for posing such question is to know which government organ will be efficient in preventing criminalization of politics

Table 3.10

S. No.	Options	No. of Respondents	% Age
1	Yes	42	84%
2	No	6	12%
3	Cann't say	2	4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

Present Table indicates that 84% respondents feel that political parties should deny tickets to candidates with criminal records, 12% say no and remaining 4% respondents answer was cann't say.

**Confidence and trust in the judiciary that they can transparently judge the cases of corruption**

The Supreme Court of India in a recent judgment gave its comments on the far reaching effects of corruption, and these comments deserve to be mentioned in some detail. The apex court observed that, “Corruption in a civilised society is like cancer, which if not detected in time is sure to malignise the polity of the country leading to disastrous consequences. It is termed as a plague which is not only contagious but if not controlled spreads like a fire in a jungle

The most pressing problem facing the judiciary is its inability to deliver speedy justice. It is possible to ease the congestion by introducing shift system in all courts deploying retired judges and administrative staff who enjoy high reputation for integrity and efficiency

Table 3.14

S. No.	Options	No. of Respondents	% Age
1	Yes	13	26%
2	No	13	26%
3	Somewhat	20	40%
4	Cann't say	4	8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

Survey conducted reveals that 26% respondents say yes they have confidence & trust in the judiciary that they can transparently judge the cases of corruption, 26% say No, 40% say somewhat and 8% respondents answer was cann't say.

**National policy for eradicating corruption**

There is no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to the design and implementation of anti-corruption strategies. Experience has shown that the effectiveness of a national anti-corruption strategy will depend to a great extent on whether it has been designed taking into consideration the country’s context and main corruption challenges. Furthermore, political will and coordination with other on-going efforts to fight corruption and improve governance in the country is instrumental. In addition, anti-corruption strategies should include a strong and manageable monitoring and evaluation system that provides for participation of civil society organisations and other external stakeholders.

Table 3.26

S. No.	Options	No. of Respondents	% Age
1	Agree	50	100%
2	Disagree	Nil	Nil
3	No Opinion	Nil	Nil
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

Present survey shows that 100% percent respondents agree that there should be a national policy for eradication of corruption.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

Corruption has been a destructive feature of public life and public administration all over the world. However for the last couple of years, At Apex level the govt. or govt. officials of administrators, bureaucrats, judiciary, police Armed Forces, etc somehow they are related with corruption. It has spread its tentacles in every department of our times and has become one of the major causes of inflation. In the recent years not only at the lower rungs, of various sections of society, but the problem has engulfed in its various circles, the highest level authorities also. If corruption is to be extirpated from the society, it is necessary that government should Give better salary in government jobs, Increase the number of workers, should make such Law to dismiss from service if found to be involved in corruption, Keep transactions online and provide bill for every purchase, Cameras should be installed in most government offices, check on inflation, Speed up the judgment and increase the courts and increasing direct contact between government and the governed

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