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VIGILANCE SECTION
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F.No.Con.Vig.14(190)/2016/

Date: 11.01.2017.

Note to the Income tax officer (PR), O/o Pr.CCIT, AP & TS, Hyderabad.

Sub: Vigilance Awareness Week - 2016 – Essay writing competition conducted by the Directorate of Vigilance (South), Chennai – Prize winning essays and prize winners – Uploading in official website of the department – Reg.

As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week – 2016, the Directorate of Vigilance (South), Chennai conducted an Essay Writing Competition on the theme of the Vigilance Awareness Week – 'Public Participation in promoting integrity and eradicating Corruption'. The O/o ADG (Vigilance)(South), Chennai vide letter dated 21.12.2016 has communicated the details of the prize winners of the above competition as under:

S. No.	Name & Designation and Office in which working	Prize	Cash award
1	Sri S.Maharajan, Sr.TA, O/o Pr.CIT-1, Chennai	First	Rs.5,000/-
2	Sri Swapan Kumar Chakraborty, ADIT(Inv), Mysore	Second	Rs.3,000/-
3	Dr.Brahma Vidya, ACIT, Non-corporate Circle-4, Coimbatore	Second	Rs.3,000/-
4	Smt A.Manjula, ITI, O/o JCIT, Non-corporate Range-11, Chennai	Third	Rs.1,500/-

The names of the above prize winners and the prize winning essays [hard copies enclosed] may be uploaded in the official website of the Department.


(LAKHAVATH SURESH)
Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax,
(H.Qrs)(Vig)(i/c),Hyderabad.

“ MY DREAM: A CORRUPTION FREE INDIA ”

No deeds of ill, misled by base desire
Do they, whose souls to other joys aspire.

- Thirukkural 173

(Those who desire the higher pleasures (of heaven) will not act unjustly through desire of the trifling joy)

The great sage Thiruvalluvar wrote the above lines when honour and purity are the blood of the mother (motherland). But due to modernisation and development we have not only updated ourselves in technology but also brought the current situation of corruption as the leukaemia to our motherland.

It's an irreversible damage caused to the society as the corrupt cells flow from “head to toes”. When I was in school, my teacher started the day with the following poem to imbibe the feeling of patriotism about motherland to all the students.

I born as nature child
Rise iN the ancient world
Since then aiD my kids
As to become yogl best
All call me as IndiA
Also as mother of healia

Our mother (India) is the best in the world, as she not only holds all qualities (cultural & climate diversification) but also gave birth to wonderful children (scholars, poets, etc). Her kids have invented many mathematical functions including Zero, on the basis of which the world is functioning. But that was the period prior to getting affected by leukaemia. Even now also she gave birth to so many talented kids but the corruption won't let them to grow. No one is hundred percent perfect nowadays, because each and every one of us are helping Corruption directly or indirectly in one or the another form. I am not an exception.

Twenty years ago I also did the same mistake of bribing my teacher in the way of service (cleaning her home) to get pass marks, but eventually got caught by my clever father who is a Gandhian follower. I jumped from the roof to create panic and sympathy but unfortunately i got my leg fractured. When I was taken to the hospital, the doctor asked huge amount for treatment. The logic behind him charging so much amount was “ When I spend more to get a doctor seat, why not earn?”.

From that moment I heard the same mind voice everywhere as “when I spend to get, why not earn?”. As I was not so studious, I decided to go to abroad for job opportunities. So in order to go abroad i had to grease the palms of few authorities and agents. I was totally surprised to see the immediate effects

of the corruption wherein I immediately landed in Singapore and managed to work there. I was wondered to see the corruption free functioning of the state there. After 20 long years of no contact with my family I started on journey to my home with lots of hope that everything would have changed including my father's disappointment and anger.

I reached Chennai airport and the customs officials were checking all the passengers' luggage. I was so much curious to see whether the leukaemia that affected the motherland strengthened or reduced. In an Utter shock the officer-in - charge warned the person who tried to bribe him as "Sir, please stop this attitude here itself, don't bring it inside the land. Its a strict warning. Now pay the fine" .

I collected my luggage and took a cab to go to railway station. While on the way, the cab stopped at a signal and a guy approached all the vehicles and gave a pamphlet. I smiled inside because the richly resourced nation still has people to beg. I gave him 2 Singaporean dollars but he rejected that with a smile and gave me the pamphlet. I put that pamphlet in my bag as I was so busy in watching videos in my mobile. I asked the cab driver to check once again as the fare has showed just 64 rupees only. But he said " Sir, you are coming after so many decades I guess. We Indians are now in 21st century not in 20th". I paid him and entered into the queue to get my train ticket. To know the situation there I asked one person where I can get black tickets. But he slapped me with his words as" here they print in black only and that is the only black ticket you will get. Dont start corruption again please".

I opened my bag to get tissue to clean my face and I saw the pamphlet which was given by the brother near that signal. The pamphlet has the following lines printed on it.

"Congratulation to all of us as India is ranked No.1 corruption free nation in the world by The Berlin-based corruption watchdog Transparency International (TI)". The following are the points which brought us this credit

- 1) The first nation in the world where the politicians have willingly reduced their salary to serve people.
- 2) All the government officials do the timely work in a genuine manner and serve the public on or before scheduled time with 100% no procrastination or red-tapism.
- 3) People register their properties in the original value and pay the accurate stamp duty. They also pay the tax voluntarily before the due period for smooth functioning of the Government.
- 4) People perform all their transactions through bank and not by agents.
- 5) All the government servants are getting paid reasonably revised salary to serve the public happily.

- 6) The brothers and sisters who save the country as soldiers are getting paid double the salary which was paid earlier.
- 7) The farmers get adequate loans for agriculture with lowest interest rate in the world which made the country's food production to be in the position in the world.
- 8) The farm produce are procured by the dedicated government department without any middlemen, by which the inflation is in proper control and the farmers get reasonable profit.
- 9) The Government machinery has proper check for the private machinery.
- 10) The government took complete responsibility for education by considering it as a duty and service but not as business.
- 11) The candidates contesting for election invest their time and knowledge in the meetings but don't invest their money anymore for getting elected..
- 12) All the universities of the country are in the top list of the world university rankings.
- 13) The national flag stands at the top in all the sports like Olympics, World Cup etc because of the change in selection process from recommendation and remuneration to talent.
- 14) Honourable Judiciary of the country is functioning independently without any political influence/interference; thus getting the name of best Judiciary in the world.

India!!!!, its my mother India
Its a big diversified family with different culture
But unified always that's our nature
Kanyakumari will aid for Kashmir floods
With love and care prepared homely foods
Himalayas save us from cold air mass
Indian Ocean serves us lovely breeze
We might fight ourselves sometime
But never lost our bond anytime
We live as a family in vast region
Never see terrorism by religion
We have the affection by natural
Don't know to treat others artificial
We don't want to top the world
Coz we are not in dream world
We have ourselves everything
Except the one "nothing"
In corruption free we are at first
We will maintain it until the universe last.

So we spend time to thank ourselves and promise to do the same forever.
Jai Hind!!!

After reading that pamphlet I felt ashamed to have left my country 20 years ago. I cleaned my face with tissue and heart with tears. I felt so so happy about my homeland until the captain of the flight waking me up with his words “please fasten your seat belt as we about to reach Chennai”. Then I realised that it was all just a dream about my motherland and wish it should be real too. I came to collect my luggage and noticed that there was some dealing between one passenger and one officer. My heart cried inside and consoled me to understand that still the same leukaemia flows.

I recollected the speeches of one of my favourite Singaporean leaders. When he was asked about how he had changed the country in short span, he replied “we politicians are same like politicians of other countries. When people give us sweet (bribe) to get there food (work), we happily ate and got the diabetics (poor development). We didn’t bother about that because of the taste of sweets but our people bothered so much and decided to starve to sow seeds (future) and gave us fruits (appreciation) which is healthier and tastier than sweets and also cure our diabetics. So we decide to water (real service) the seeds to bring it as tree (developed nation). Now we have enough fruits to feed our younger generation to grow more trees. So the colourful flowered trees are not brought by us but by the people. They decided to not feed us sweets but fruits; hence we have the only choice to eat fruits but not sweets until we knew the goodness of fruits. So they changed the country corruption free and I just served them for the fruits to grow the trees along with my peers as we are just servants to serve the nation”. I had also realised that when even a short dream had filled me with so much happiness, then what about the happiness that it would give when it becomes a reality. I wish my dream would become a reality and decided to follow the words of the great sage Thiruvalluvar and my favourite leader. I will try my level best to make others also to follow the same.

MAHARAJAN S
Senior Tax Assistant
O/o Pr.CIT-1, Chennai.

WAYS AND MEANS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PROMOTING INTEGRITY AND ERADICATING CORRUPTION

"When public money is stolen for private gain, it means fewer Resources to build schools, hospitals, roads and water treatment facilities. The vulnerable suffer first and worst"

----- Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General, 2009.

It is very disheartening to see that up to 17% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in developing countries is lost due to corruption, fraud and mismanagement (Asian Development Bank, 2004), thereby affecting basic human rights and democracy, as well as vital public services such as access to education, water, healthcare, roads and social services. We know that this impacts poor people the most, but also undermines communities' trust in the social contract between the state and citizens.

From the statistics given above, we see that we live in a world where corruption is endemic and widespread. History teaches us that corruption is not just a case of public officials abusing their positions of power for private gain. Business managers, heads of families, religious leaders, and the list goes on and on, have taken opportunities to abuse the power given to them for private gain. India is the largest democracy in the world with a developing economy. In a democratic country the welfare and well-being of the citizens is of paramount concern of the government. But all efforts to promote sustainable and equitable development would be undermined in the face of rampant corruption in public life. Corruption defeats the whole purpose of democracy. It is not just for statistical purpose that I incorporate this information that India ranked 87th (out of 178 countries) in the Corruption Perception Index (2010) published by Transparency International. Focus on tackling corruption is growing but unfortunately most strategies deployed to curb it have proved to have fallen short of its purpose. The government has enacted several laws to curb corruption – the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, to name a few. Framing of stringent laws alone is not enough as it has been proved over the years. The public themselves are the main promoters of corruption. Our self-interest leads us to augment this evil process which culminates into more corruption. Yet taking a leaf out of our history books will show that laws framed against evil practices, namely, abolition of Sati, Widow Remarriage Act, after some initial whimpers, were largely successful due to public support. In order to combat corruption effectively, collective effort is needed to promote integrity.

One of the demands of the UN Convention against Corruption is to oblige countries

“to develop and implement or maintain effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency, and accountability.”

The convention emphasizes the role of transparency in fighting corruption by regulating that central arenas in which a state operates — such as public procurement, managing public funds, or recruitment for public posts — should be transparent, and public officials in these areas should be held accountable. Public participation can only be empowered by offering open access to official sources. This is recognized by the OECD, which, in its Recommendation of the Council on Digital Government Strategies, emphasizes the role of new technologies in social inclusion and public participation. The Open Government Partnership Declaration states that countries should be --

“making policy formulation and decision making more transparent, creating and using channels to solicit public feedback, and deepening public participation in developing, monitoring and evaluating government activities.”

Corruption is a multilayer phenomenon. To fight corruption, government has to engage a lot of sources, people, and tools. Allowing data to be open means that more experts can access the information (for example, on public procurement) and more risk factors can be identified. This will not only result in revealing cases of corruption, it will also enable the development of a system that can prevent corruption. Corruption likes secrecy. There are so many cases, in both the public and private sectors, in which access to data would help to prevent and fight corruption. Open data allows more people to engage in decision-making processes and to influence other important activities of public officials.

For practical purposes, the term Integrity means honesty and uprightness. That there has been a systematic erosion of these very qualities from our society with the advent of a booming market economy cannot be denied. Corruption is largely sustained through unfair, unjust and illegal business practices. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that corruption in public life has become the order of the day. Corruption has become manifest not only in the corridors of power that be, but it is now a public phenomenon to extract the best deal in an underhand way with no qualms about what we in our individual capacity owe to our nation. By focusing on building integrity at scale, multi-stakeholder groups can now contribute to a culture change where a critical mass of citizens within a country can effectively act with and demand integrity in their workplaces, communities, and within government ministries. Rather than trying to reduce corruption, the focus is starting to shift towards building more effective, fair and efficient societies where human rights and civic responsibilities are realized. The OECD is one of the main

international organizations to recognize the importance of public integrity as the foundation for any long-term anticorruption reform.

In this scenario it is no mean feat to instill in the minds of crores of citizens of this country a feeling of collective responsibility to participate in the eradication of corruption from public life in order to reap the utmost benefit of a democracy. I strongly believe that this can be best achieved by spreading information and awareness among the public through the services of an independent and free electronic and print media. For it is the media that can access each and every household in every nook and corner of this country. The media is to be vested with the ostensible objective of providing public service by spreading information of different government schemes/yojanas enacted for public benefit, contact numbers and address of all authorities under the Anti-Corruption Laws who can be approached to report against any unwarranted favours sought by unscrupulous public servants and such other like. The public will thus be in a position to access such information easily so that they don't fall prey to dubious deals and also seek redressal if the need so arises.

Participation in any cause depends much on awareness and feeling of involvement. To promote integrity it is necessary for the public to feel involved in the process of nation-building. Here again the role of the electronic and print media comes into focus.

However, the media too needs to be conscious of its responsibilities towards providing unadulterated service to the public because on many occasions they fall prey to commercial interest and in the process unfortunately, truth and objectivity get suppressed.

Transparency is the best guarantee against corruption. Specific measures have been also taken by the government against anti-corruption laws to promote public participation to eradicate corruption. There is the Public Interest Discloser (Protection of Informers) Bill, 2002, Right to Information Act, 2005, Anti-corruption Grievance Redressal and Whistleblower Protection Bill, 2010, Proposed Revised Lokpal Bill, 2011. But these are all useful only when people actively file applications to seek clarification on matters involving the interest of the public. We are all looking forward to the efficacy of The Lok Pal Bill that is another means of public participation in promoting integrity but only time will prove its effectiveness since ultimately the responsibility for integrity is on the individual himself.

Further, the public can consistently participate in the exercise towards eradication of corruption from governance through effective utilization of its adult franchise – the most powerful tool in the hands of the citizens of a democracy.

Over and above, as responsible and patriotic citizens, we cannot shun our Individual responsibility towards promoting integrity and eradicating corruption. The realization should come from within each of us that paying bribes only weakens the root of development and

mutual progress. It is time for each of us to ask this bitter question – why was it that wealthy individuals are growing richer while the poor are becoming increasingly poorer. Although such a discourse could be seen as evangelism but yet it cannot be denied that it is you who have to refrain from giving bribes and complain if someone asks you to do so. We should not be scared to expose corrupt people. For this we should be mentally ready to bear some harassment or delays in the work. But slowly officials will give in. Making results/ response time bound from govt side will help to reduce pressure on public alone in stopping corruption.

Integrity cannot be taught. It has to come from within. Parents have to lead by example for children to follow their practised morality norms. Corruption can stop if both govt and citizens work together to end it. One sided effort will not be helpful. To participate in the promotion of integrity each of us need to introspect and ask silently how much we love our country India, our Mother India, and how we shame ourselves through each and every act of corruption & dishonesty and deprive our nation of its rightful dues.

X-X-X-X

Submitted by: Swapan Kumar Chakraborty, ADIT (Inv.), Mysuru
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX,
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Date : 10.11.2016

To,

The Addl. Director of Income Tax (Vig.),Unit-3,
O/o the Additional Director General (Vig.) (South), CBDT,
8thFloor , Annexe Building , 'AayakarBhavan' ,
121, Nungambakkam High Road, Chennai – 600034 .

Respected Sir/Madam,

Ref : Communication-O/o ADG(Vig) (south),CBDT,Chennai-Dated 14.10.2016.

Sub : Essay writing competition –Reg

I herewith enclosed the hard copy for the Essay-writing competition conducted towards the 'VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK – 2016 '.

Topic for the Essay competition -

03 . 'WAYS AND MEANS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PROMOTING INTEGRITY AND ERADICATING CORRUPTION'.

And also a soft copy is forwarded to the vigilancesouth16@gmail.com.

Kindly acknowledge.

Thanking you sir.

Yours faithfully,

DR.B.BRAHMA VIDHYA I.R.S.,

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX,
NON CORPORATE CIRCLE – 4,
COIMBATORE.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK -2016

ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

03.WAYS AND MEANS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

IN PROMOTING INTEGRITY AND ERADICATING CORRUPTION

**DR.B.BRAHMA VIDHYA I.R.S.,
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Corruption is *anti-poor, anti-national, anti-economic, anti-social, anti-developmental*. In all countries and at all levels of society, corruption threatens to distort social and economic interactions, reducing efficiency and increasing inequality by favouring the well-positioned. As a result, the cost of doing business increases, public resources are wasted and the poor are pushed aside. The crisis has also led to a loss of trust and confidence in the economic system as a whole. A coherent, co-ordinated and effective commitment to fight corruption and promote integrity is now crucial to restore citizens' confidence and pave the way for stronger, cleaner and fairer growth.

THE REAL COST OF CORRUPTION

Corruption is a global scourge that imposes costs in terms of human suffering that go far beyond the money lost to bribery, embezzlement or fraud. Counterfeit medical drugs at best do no good and at worst can kill; bridges built with substandard materials at best cost more to maintain and repair and at worst may collapse, injuring and killing people.

Corruption covers a wide range of activity, from the multinational company that pays a bribe to win the contract to build a local highway, to the local official who demands a bribe to issue a driving licence. In both cases, the ultimate burden falls on the individual taxpayer or customer .

Corruption is not a victimless crime, and those most hurt by it are the world's weakest and most vulnerable. Child mortality rates in countries with high levels of corruption are about one third higher than in countries with low corruption, while infant mortality rates are almost twice as high.

On a purely financial level, the sums involved are huge, and this is money we cannot afford to waste as the world struggles to emerge from economic and financial crisis.

The cost of corruption makes itself felt at multiple levels. Investors are wary of countries where systems are known to be corrupt because they cannot assess the likely risk or return on their investment. IMF research has shown that investment in corrupt countries is almost 5% less than in countries that are relatively corruptionfree. And lack of investment hampers economic growth and development. The World Economic Forum estimates that corruption increases the cost of doing business by up to 10% on average.

In the public sector, it is not just a matter of officials taking bribes to award contracts or favouring friends and family when approving projects. Corrupt officials might also artificially slow down bureaucratic processes to increase their chances for personal enrichment.

All of these elements underline the need to intensify the global fight against corruption in the interests of ensuring economic recovery, achieving better services with taxpayers' money and re-establishing public trust around the world.

LONG HISTORY OF GOVERNMENT FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

India is also a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Corruption since 2005 (ratified 2011) which is the most comprehensive legally binding anti-corruption instrument in existence today. India has a long history of fight against corruption starting from Indian Penal Code (1860) , Prosecution Section Of Income Tax Act(1961), The Prevention Of Corruption Act(1988), The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act (1988) , Prevention Of Money Laundering Act (2002) to The Lokpal And Lokayuktas Act(2013) ,The Companies Act(2013), Right To Information Act, Right To Public Services Legislation, Right to Education , Electoral reforms, The Directorate General Of Income Tax Investigation, Central Vigilance Commission , Central Bureau Of Investigation.

Instruments like citizen charters, centralised public grievance and monitoring system (CPGRAMS), citizen report card, delivery of public service through e-governance, social audit, community radio plays a major role in creating public awareness. Public participation along with integrity in each and every field helps in improving quality of life, develop value based society that will eradicate corruption. But corruption is a multi-headed monster which needs to be tackled in all its dimensions if it is to be conquered. Following areas to be focused upon.

HEALTHY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Corruption free governance is the important aspects of transparency and ensuring accountability. Putting in place healthy systems of laws, rules and institutions to ensure functioning markets and good governance. Such well-designed systems satisfy the needs of citizens and consumers and thus curb incentives for corruption.

The ***right regulatory policy*** is the first key to strong governance. The absence of adequate regulations results in opportunities and incentives for improper practices and corruption. On the other hand, if there are overly complicated rules corruption very easily finds its way in the daily life of citizens. Governments need to ensure that regulations are justified, are of high quality and achieve their policy objectives.

Fair competition rules are essential when it comes to the private sector. Well-designed competition law and effective law enforcement work to the benefit of all. Competition works for the consumer by encouraging innovation and value for money. But when businesses try to avoid competition by persuading governments to give them a protected position or by colluding with competitors to fix prices, the result for the consumer is a higher price for inferior goods.

Reliable judicial systems are crucial to make sure laws and regulations are actually enforced. If verdicts or favours can be bought, any set of laws to curb corruption will be crippled. Clear rules on ethical conduct for judges and court officials, built around the fundamental principles of independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety, equality, competence and diligence, are essential, along with a system to make sure they are being implemented.

Sound public financial management can help governments to be sure they are making good use of taxpayers' money. Public budgets should therefore be as comprehensive, informative and timely as possible. This is all the more true in light of the recent economic crisis. A credible and transparent budget process that shows how money is being spent can at the same time help win public support for difficult budget choices and minimise possibilities for embezzlement of funds or their biased allocation according to the private interests of politicians.

Development co-operation can be an important tool for building strong governance systems. The effects of corruption are felt especially hard in developing countries, where corruption reduces states' ability to deliver basic services such as health and education, weakens democratic institutions and slows inclusive economic growth.

EFFECTIVE PREVENTION

Effective prevention by establishing safeguards, integrity frameworks and scrutiny in risk areas of corruption.

Public sector integrity is essential to maintaining trust in government. Mapping out good practices and developing principles, guidelines and tools to achieve them, as well as identifying "at risk" areas vulnerable to misconduct, fraud and corruption, Recommendation on Improving Ethical Conduct in

the Public Service, the Guidelines on Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service and the Public Sector Integrity Assessment Framework, as well on Police Accountability, Oversight and Integrity, help governments instil a culture of public service integrity.

Business sector integrity is important because clean companies are more efficient and more competitive, which in turn leads to healthier markets and greater investor confidence. Governments can promote greater private sector integrity by encouraging companies to adopt stronger anticorruption practices and robust corporate governance systems and to compete fairly and openly. A strong arsenal of resources to help keep business clean is available.

Civil society has a key role to play in fighting corruption, from monitoring public services to denouncing bribery and raising awareness. Civil society organisations are uniquely positioned to investigate and bring to light cases of corruption as representatives of the general public. In this context, social media can be particularly helpful by gathering information and publically holding governments to account. Governments need to take measures to enable and strengthen civil society participation, such as involving the public in decision-making and raising awareness of the importance of combating corruption both for governments and civil society. Governments are recognising the growing importance of civil society participation and are starting to involve them in scrutinising government activities.

Lobbying by private interests is part of the policy-making process in modern democracies. Lobbying can improve government decisions by providing valuable insights and data. But poor policy decisions may result if lobbying is carried out behind closed doors or if too much influence lies with vested interests. Clear rules are needed to ensure lobbying has a positive effect on public decisionmaking.

Tax transparency is a major prerequisite for building integrity in governments, business and society. Tax evasion and other tax crimes thrive in a climate of secrecy and lax regulation. In a climate of tight public finances, governments need to demonstrate to their citizens that the tax system is being fairly applied to all.

Integrity in public procurement is a vital element in keeping the public sector clean. Taking a bribe or favouring a friend when awarding a contract could result in building a school using substandard materials that could put the safety of pupils at risk. Enhancing Integrity in Public Procurement is a key instrument to monitor their commitment to promoting fair and transparent procurement systems. Moreover, public procurement systems that are well defined, effective and efficient reduce the opportunities and incentives for corruption.

SHARP DETECTION

Strong systems of detection to be able to spot out corruption and denounce this clandestine crime.

Money laundering enables criminals to hide the proceeds of corruption or disguise them as legally-acquired funds, so they can enjoy their illicit gains without fear of them being confiscated. A proper culture of compliance with standards of anti-money laundering creates an environment in which it is more difficult for corruption to thrive undetected and unpunished. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the international standard setter in developing and promoting national and international policies to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation. Effective implementation of the FATF Recommendations has a positive impact on anti-corruption efforts.

Tax administration is a valuable weapon in the anti-corruption armoury. And then there is the role of tax administrations in detecting financial crime and also improving anti-corruption efforts by

harnessing the information, investigative expertise and enforcement authority of different government agencies to tackle illicit activities.

Whistleblower protection is essential to encourage the reporting of misconduct, fraud and corruption. But employees who witness a corrupt act may be unlikely to say anything if they are subject to retaliation. Protecting whistleblowers in both the private and the public sector is therefore integral to efforts to combat corruption, safeguard integrity, enhance accountability, and support a clean business environment. Whistleblower protection has been recognised by all major instruments concerning corruption.

An **independent media** is critical in raising public awareness, promoting integrity, detecting and reporting on corruption. Governments, media owners and journalists have a shared responsibility to ensure that media can and does effectively contribute to strengthening accountability and curbing corruption. Investigative journalism is responsible for nipping in the bud many corrupt individuals.

ROBUST PROSECUTION AND RECOVERY

Criminalising bribery of public officials, and enforcing the anti-bribery laws and measures, are a key component of a comprehensive anti-corruption frame-work.

Recovering stolen assets, reclaiming the money, property or other assets amassed through corruption, is an important element of making sure bribery does not pay.

As a citizen, As an employee, As a government official should learn good practices to improve integrity and puts in practice its commitments. Rabindranath Tagore once observed, 'every time a child is born it shows that God has not lost faith in humanity. The youth still carry a spark of idealism'. It may be worthwhile to start anti-corruption clubs in all colleges and educational institutions. These could be patronised by the CVC so that they have a right to expose corrupt practices in various public organisations. They should also be able to participate and help in conducting raids against corrupt individuals.

Governments wanting to step up their anti-corruption efforts and boost integrity often wonder where to start. What are the priority reforms to reinforce healthy systems of governance, and to be able to prevent, detect and prosecute corruption?

Countries face different problems and it can be difficult for governments to determine which are the most urgent and appropriate for them to address first. Therefore, governments assess the strengths and weaknesses of their legal, administrative and economic framework. In a quick but comprehensive process, identify priority reforms and improve integrity among public in a given economic and institutional context. This in turn will help reinforce confidence in government and fight corruption in a cost-efficient way.

Ways and means of public participation in promoting integrity and eradicating corruption

“If you look at great human civilizations, from Roman Empire to the Soviet Union, you will see that most do not fail simply due to external threats but because of internal weakness, corruption, or a failure to manifest the values and ideals they espouse.” – Cory Booker.

The demon called Corruption has polluted the society in every possible way and is operating in every sphere of life. Areas on which corruption is rampant, the modus operandi, the black money so generated and the law enforcers who prevent or act hand in glove are factors, better not discussed for the simple reason that it is better to focus on positivity than on negativity.

In a democracy, majority only counts?

Here is a story. There were two parallel tracks, one was de-funct and in another, trains were plying regularly. Nine children were playing in the functional track, knowing fully well that anytime trains would pass through the track. A lone child was playing in the de-funct track. Suddenly, an express train came fast approaching and on seeing the children playing, the train driver tried to change the track. He noticed the lone child playing blissfully on the de-funct track. Now he was in dilemma? Hope you are also? Whether the train driver should change the track or not? Sure enough, the train driver changed the track because he chose nine lives over one. But the point to ponder over here is, were not the children who were playing on the functional track to pay the price than the lone child which had not done anything wrong? But in most circumstances, we act like the train driver, who went by numbers than on morality. When everybody, pays money to the broker to get licence to drive(LLR), We also do, not because we intentionally want to, but because, majority does. When everybody, pays donation without receipt for school admission, we also do, not because we want to, but because, majority does.

In real life circumstances, We tend to tolerate corruption or be part of the system, though not actively, atleast passively. When We don't want to stand in the RTO office queue or passport office queue, we try to 'grease' someone to avoid any time delay or to finish off the process before the due course. The said process is called 'being practical'. When someone insists on going through the straight route, he is described as 'impractical person'. That is we go along with the crowd, not wanting to set a path that is straight but lengthy.

One may think that these are small acts of negligible importance compared to the volume of corruption committed by big corporate houses and politicians. But as Charles Caleb Colton rightly said, “Corruption is like a ball of snow, once it’s set a rolling it must increase.”

Maslow’s theory of hierarchy:

This theory lists the hierarchy of needs of human beings. Physiological needs and biological needs are the prime needs and they have to be met with. These cannot be controlled by any moral values and normally goes unbridled. But those who indulge in corrupt practices are mostly in a position to take care of their physiological needs by moral means. That is the positive sign that we have to take. Corruption according to this theory is dispensable, because it is not the basic need of human being, which has to be met, which will be met, by hook or crook.

When the higher order needs of human beings like self belongingness or self-actualization are tapped, attested, honed and respected by the society, the habit to give or take corruption will die its own death.

The role of the public is to respect, appreciate and acknowledge that corruption is a sin and if taking bribe is wrong, so is giving. If nobody is ready to be part of corruption circle, then it naturally has to break. But as public we expect the other party to change and the ‘other’ is never ‘we’. As is said, if we are not part of the solution, then we are the problem.

Ivan Pavlov rings a bell:

The famous psychologists, Ivan Pavlov, conducted an experiment whereby he gave a dog, meat powder. While giving the meat powder he rang a bell. Meat powder is a biological stimulus for the dog and hence naturally the dog would salivate on seeing the meat powder. The ringing of bell was a secondary stimuli. But after a certain point of time, the dog began to salivate on hearing the bell ring, without even seeing the meat powder. The dog is now conditioned to think that the ringing bell would satisfy its hunger. Such conditioning happens to human beings also. Money which is connected with the biological needs is a primary stimuli. Power which is connected with money is the secondary stimuli. Where no one can eat power and drink money,

we are conditioned to think that these are basic needs and to get these, people corrupt or get corrupted.

Who is to bell the cat?

“The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything” said Albert Einstein.

There are two ways to lead a life. Do nothing and suffer the consequences or take the responsibility to change. We as public cannot be passive supporters or onlookers. We have to be participative. If we as public, decide to abide by rules, in our own simple ways, like wearing helmets, avoid drunken drives, spend some time to get our LLRs, register properties for its true value, pay our tax dues appropriately, produce proper documents to the authorities, we have the moral right to become angry at the bribe seekers. If only there is a lacunae on our part, we tend to cover it up with bribe. So as public, we have to be law abiding citizens, in every possible way, without giving any concession to us. “Those who fight corruption should be clean by themselves” , said Vladimir Putin.

Mere ‘liking’ some honest act posted in the Face book or forwarding some positive messages in Whatsapp alone is not positive participation. We have to be proactive and pledge to ourselves that we will not be even a small nail in the great machinery called corruption.

As said rightly, “Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely”. But there are umpteen number of ways and means, if only we look for it, to bring about transparency in public sphere. Corruption is authority plus monopoly minus transparency. Public has to equip itself to keep itself abreast of rules and regulations, which is not a difficult task given the technological advancement that we have achieved. It has to be proactive in following it and also to pinpoint any procedural lacunae, to the higher authority, to the next higher authority, to the next and to the next, until it is heard and set right. Public adamancy in not bowing down to corruption, will go a long way in eradicating corruption.

The Future Generation:

It is also our duty to educate and train our children to raise their voice against corruption and teach them not to be part of the chain, by being a model. Our Late President, Shri. APJ. Abdul Kalam said, “If a country is to be corruption

free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher”. Though the solution seems to be too simple, this is the solution. The future generation has to be educated on the worthlessness of money and power and the true value of morality and kindness. Ultimately, true pleasure lies not in physically consuming everything but in offering atleast something for the soul. If children are not taught this, they will turn out to be more corrupt than us or more frustrated than us, thereby creating a total unrest society, where no one will be able to lead a peaceful life.

The Solution:

“The first sign of corruption in a society that is still alive is that the end justifies the means”, said George Bernonos. Now the public has to decide that it will not go through shortcuts and will seek transparency in all spheres of public life. It takes only a match stick to ward off century old darkness. Every giant leap begins with a small step. Let us not wait till others change. Let us be the change.

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