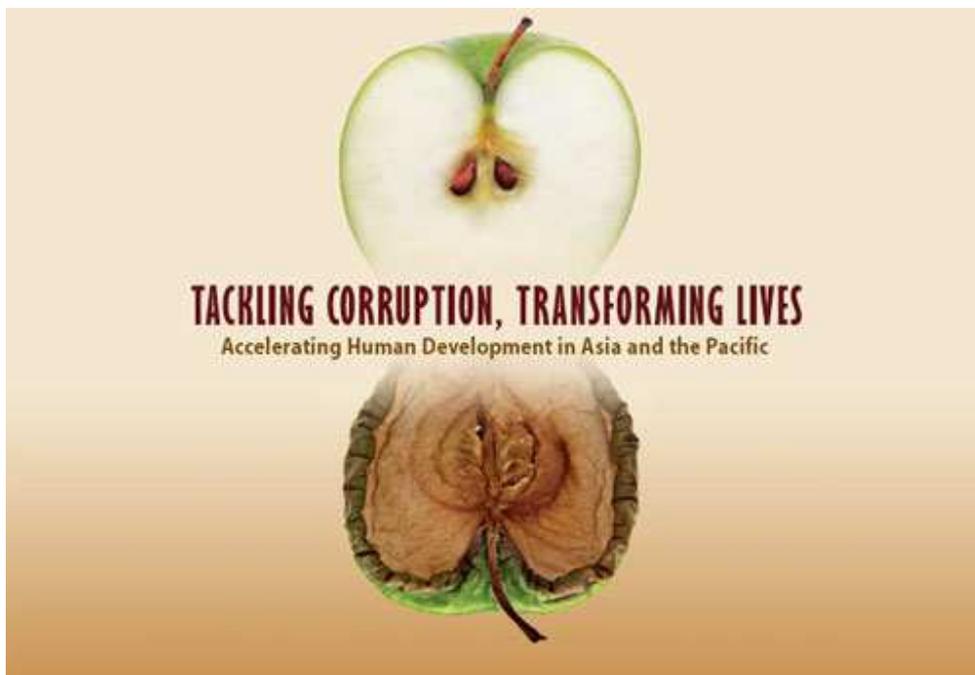




**WRITTEN RESPONSES FROM THE EMINENT PANELISTS OF THE
EXPERT DEBATE**

**“TACKLING CORRUPTION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
IN ASIA-PACIFIC”**



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WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM H.E. DR. HAFIZ PASHA

TACKLING CORRUPTION, TRANSFORMING LIVES

1. Opening Issue: Corruption and development

Is corruption a development issue at all - why should developing countries concentrate on tackling it, rather than focusing on economic growth and poverty reduction?

2. Theme for Dr. Hafiz Pasha: The politics and economics of corruption

Many countries perceived as highly corrupt seem to register good economic performance. Can we really conclude that corruption adversely affects growth? Does the type of political system - the relatively free or authoritarian - matter for corruption? Are strong authoritarian states, for example, better at controlling corruption?

The Politics and Economics of Corruption and Development in Asia-Pacific: Lessons from the Past and the Road Ahead

Hafiz A. Pasha

Institutions, governance and policy priorities of countries are of utmost importance for delivering a better quality of life. Corruption undermines institutions, diverts resources and distorts policy when it comes to a country's development – such as achieving the Millennium Development Goals and pro-poor growth. Corruption is not a poor-country phenomenon that disappears in the process of growth - we do see periodic media flashes exposing large corruption cases in developed countries. But it is even more important for developing countries to tackle corruption as they have much more to gain in terms of improving living conditions of their of people and removing barriers to attracting foreign investment and aid. Corruption can exacerbate inequalities and divert much needed capital intended for infrastructure and essential social services into the hands of special interests. It can also cross national borders and involve developed countries as with the exploitation of natural resources.

Thus, controlling corruption is not a question of sequencing: it is a crucial part of the development challenge. In other words, anti-corruption measures and strategies have to become an integral part of governance. Moreover, action has to be rooted in national contexts while simultaneously entailing co-operation across borders. The provisions of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) stress cross-border approaches based on cooperation involving governments, civil society and the private sector to fight corruption. The UNCAC promotes a five-pronged anti-corruption strategy – prevention, criminalization, international cooperation, asset recovery and mechanisms for implementation.

The relationship between corruption and economic growth is a complicated one. Some social scientists¹ emphasize that corruption may even be efficient, at least in the short-run, if it speeds up and facilitates transactions. Bribes are seen as necessary tools to “grease the wheels” of commerce by cutting down red tape-and improving efficiency. The central point here is the *predictability* of bribes, rather than their mere *existence* is important. This makes it possible for business, for example, to factor the cost of bribery into their decisions. This is probably part of the explanation why some countries in Asia have experienced high levels of growth - the East Asian Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs) or “Asian Tigers” and more recently, some South Asian countries, such as India – and yet rank quite high on perception indexes of corruption². The major shortcoming of this argument is that corruption apparently facilitates growth because the analytical lens used is that of partial equilibrium perspective – that is, the full costs of corruption are not factored into the equation.

When one looks at the *quality* of growth (and thus adopts more of a general equilibrium perspective), the assessment is different: corruption is not pro-poor but instead causes inequality and marginalisation, leads to disaffection, social instability (which is probably the underlying motive for India’s NREGA legislation and China’s focus on corruption in rural areas) and reduced growth in the long term. When benefits are captured largely by the upper-end elites, employment outcomes are inadequate and people are impacted by policies over which they have little influence, there can be profound socio-economic consequences. Short-term gains to limited segments of the economy (which may well be enormous) will not offset longer term-inequities, which breed a feeling of exclusion and injustice amongst those affected, creating potential destabilizing pressures for governments. Empirical evidence shows that high levels of corruption have been positively associated with political and economic volatility rather than stability³. Cases of grand corruption have become widely known through media exposés and popular demonstrations. Corruption leads to a breakdown in trust between governments, big business and everyday citizens, causing a dangerous lack of confidence, especially in the government – collusive corruption between politicians and big businesses can be seen to have exacerbated the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990’s. Corruption has been used as a justification for the overthrow democratic regimes in Asia-Pacific, including those in Bangladesh, Fiji and Thailand.

¹ Huntington (1967), Leff (1964), Merton (1972) and Nye (1967)

² India ranks in last place (30th) in Transparency International’s 2006 Bribe Payers Index (BPI), followed by China (29th), Malaysia ranks 5th to last (#25) and the Republic of Korea ranks 21st. Source: http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/bpi/bpi_2006

³ The Pacific Island nation of Tonga ranks 175 out of 179 on the 2007 Corruptions Perceptions Index (CPI) and has experienced violent pro-democracy riots and demonstrations of late. Other countries in Asia-Pacific which experience high levels of instability also rank high on the CPI: Afghanistan (172), Bangladesh (162) and Pakistan (138). Countries experiencing instability outside of the region also demonstrate this: Somalia (179), Iraq (178), Haiti (177), Sudan (172) and Zimbabwe (150). Source: http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2007

A diverse range of political systems prevail in Asia-Pacific - from democracies, to kingdoms, to authoritarian states - all vulnerable to corruption, though forms may differ. The region includes those who fall both in high and low ranks of indices measuring corruption⁴. States that are perceived to have tackled corruption more effectively, especially the day-to-day type that affects people's everyday lives, such as Malaysia, Hong Kong (SAR, China) and Singapore, have done so under regimes with questionable democratic systems. Does the Asian experience with corruption control suggest that democracies cannot tackle corruption? Certainly not. Equally, there are examples of authoritarian regimes that are perceived to be very corrupt - for example, Myanmar and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The key factor for success in the cases listed above was not so much the restriction of democracy, but rather the maintenance of relevant democratic principles in institutions, such as transparency and checks and balances. The determining factor was the presence of strong political will to tackle corruption from leaders such as Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamed and Singapore's Lee Kwan Yew. Nevertheless, democracies can be vulnerable to take-over on grounds of corruption as the examples of Fiji, Thailand, Pakistan and Bangladesh show. This is an important message: that all political systems are vulnerable to corruption.

How can political will come about? It can happen through determined leadership as the examples of Singapore or Hong Kong (SAR, China) show. It can also result from combined pressure from below - from people, civil society and media - which makes it politically worthwhile for governments to support (at least publicly) clean governance. *Retention* of political will over time is no less critical - this also leads from bottom-up pressure as people come to expect clean systems on a permanent basis. International support can help, especially where donor interests are important, but the core motivations must come from within.

What does this mean for Asia-Pacific countries today? *Generating* and *sustaining* political will for anti-corruption approaches which are linked to human development gains has strong popular support. It can provide political dividends as citizens cast their ballots in favor of leaders who curb corruption as part of strengthening justice systems, access to better health and education, improved utilities, and wider employment opportunities.

What failed policies on anti-corruption have lacked in many instances is a holistic attempt to recognize the importance of tackling the issue from a human development perspective for the everyday person; giving the effort a "human face." This means going beyond grand corruption, catching the "big fish" so to speak, to focusing more sharply on so-called 'petty' corruption. From the perspective of the poor, focusing on everyday corruption among the police, for water and electricity, in schooling and health care, is critical. Although this

⁴ Single party state Singapore ranks favorably as 2nd in the region (out of 32) and 4th (out of 179) globally on the 2007 CPI, whereas democratic Indonesia ranks poorly at 25th (out of 32) regionally and 143rd on the global ranking. Source:

http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2007/regional_highlights_factsheets

kind of corruption involves smaller sums per transaction, it has a high frequency and consumes a significant share of the incomes of the poor.

At the dawn of what many have called the “Asian Century”, countries in the region have the opportunity to show the world that high levels of growth can be achieved in an equitable and just manner. They can demonstrate that corruption can be controlled, if not eliminated. They can illustrate that controlling corruption is good for the poor in particular because it widens human capabilities and freedoms. Examples in the recent Asia-Pacific Human Development Report, *Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives*, show that there are many successes happening right now throughout the region. These successes should be scaled up and adapted for holistic solutions to the corruption which affects everyday lives.

WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM H.E. DR. OSMAN FARRUK

TACKLING CORRUPTION, TRANSFORMING LIVES

1. Opening Issue: Corruption and development

Is corruption a development issue at all - why should developing countries concentrate on tackling it, rather than focusing on economic growth and poverty reduction?

2. Theme for H.E. Dr. Farruk: Corruption in social services - health and education

The poor rely on public provisioning much more than the well-off - hence corruption in public health and education services disproportionately harms the poor. Corruption in education is especially paradoxical, as education can be part of the solution-set in building values that contribute to corruption prevention. What are some of the main factors that contribute to corruption in public health and education? What is the role of the private sector - multinational drug companies, for example? Does large staff contribute? What is the role of shortages and 'survival corruption'? How can corruption in health and education be curbed?

Corruption in Education and Health hit the Poor the Hardest

M. Osman Farruk

Corruption is commonly understood to be acts of rent seeking by politicians and officials holding public offices. This is a myopic view because corruption is not the exclusive domain of politicians and public officials. There is increasing evidence of corrupt practices - monetary and non-monetary, among private sector companies, multinationals, professionals (lawyers, doctors, engineers etc) and NGOs. There also is a perception among many that the manner in which technical assistance and other goods and services are provided by some bi-lateral and multilateral donors, verges on corrupt practices of some sort, even if no money directly changes hands.

A broader and more inclusive definition such as the following one would, therefore, be more appropriate: acquisition of financial and other resources through unethical and illegal means by individuals and/or groups of individuals enjoying certain political, administrative, social and business positions, nationally as well as internationally.

A common perception is that corruption is primarily an issue for the low income underdeveloped /developing countries. Notwithstanding the fact that corruption is pervasive in the low-income countries, it is surely not exclusively a poor country phenomenon. Instances of corrupt practices, of some form or other, in many developed and rich countries in the west are a matter of public

knowledge. The modus operandi of lobbyists, influence peddlers and entities such as Political Action Committees are also not always strictly ethical.

Corruption must not be underestimated as a potent development inhibitor because most corruption in developing countries of Asia, Africa and Central Asia manifest itself in the squandering, misdirection and wastage of scarce public/national resources, impinging upon economic growth and human welfare. Studies on corruption in Bangladesh have estimated that if the level corruption could have been contained at the average levels that exist in the European countries, incremental GDP growth would have been around 2.5% per annum. That would have given the country an average GDP growth of over 8%, sufficient to make a sustainable dent on the poverty profile of the population. This would have also enabled Bangladesh to graduate to a middle-income country by the mid- 90's. Similar analysis in other developing countries will possibly show similar outcome from reductions in the levels of corruption.

Focusing on accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction policies is a *sine qua non* for developing economies. Accelerated economic growth, however, invariably creates new opportunities for rent seeking and unethical business practices with concomitant deleterious effects on efficient resource use. Policies and institutions for combating corruption and ensuring good governance at all levels should, therefore, be viewed as a necessary condition and supportive instrument for maximizing the economic and social outcome of public and private investments.

Finally, we must understand that (a) corruption is a two-way traffic: those who giveth are equally sinful as those who taketh! (b) Greed is a more powerful motivation for a corruption-prone mind-set than low income and poverty; (c) mitigating the problems of corruption requires determined and sustained long term efforts, and (d) raising awareness among people in all walks of life and imparting lasting moral values through the learning system are more important than simply creating an anti-corruption legal framework.

Corruption in the delivery of education and health services

Efforts to promote broadly shared economic growth and reduce poverty are most effective when people across the board and irrespective of gender, caste or creed are empowered to work efficiently and productively. Access to knowledge is key to skills formation, which in turn assures improved productivity. It is, therefore, not merely a coincidence that nine highly populated poverty-stricken countries of the world are also homes for more than 70% of the 770 million illiterate population of the world.⁵

Equitable access to efficient health and nutrition support services is of paramount importance for sustaining and enhancing productivity performance of a country's human resources.

⁵ So called E9 countries -Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan

In view of the above, poor governance affecting the delivery of human development services is a matter of serious concern.

Despite recent surges in private sector involvement, public provisioning of health and education services remains the cornerstone of socio-economic policies of the developing countries, for political as well as egalitarian reasons. Typically these countries spend 2-5% of their GDP and 20-30% of public expenditure on education and health services. While one could justifiably argue that the levels of public funding needs to be further enhanced, one could also justifiably argue that inefficient use of the current levels of public resources is of greater concern.

Country studies show that distribution of benefits from public spending on health and education, barring one or two exceptions, has largely not been pro-poor and, more importantly, there are large inefficiencies in the delivery of services and leakages in the application of budgetary resources.

Some of the governance problems in the social services sector arise from the difficulties inherent in managing supplies and services to a large clientele over dispersed locations. Monitoring and supervision of functionaries at the different tiers of the system are virtually absent or ineffective. In the health sector, opportunities abound for rent seeking because the supplies and services provided by the public sector are in high demand and have high scarcity values. Private sector enterprises in the health sector often thrive not as a genuine competition to the public sector operations but as a direct beneficiary of the corrupt practices in the public sector. Examples of public sector medical practitioners diverting critical patients to their private practices, and patients at government clinics buying medicines at nearby pharmacies stocked with supplies pilfered from government stores are real life experiences in most low income countries.

In the education sector, private provisions have increased dramatically at the pre-tertiary levels in many countries, but the high costs of such education have effectively excluded low-income families. School teachers coercing students to accept private tuition rather than concentrating on class room teaching; school management boards appointing teachers with inadequate qualifications, to cite a few examples, highlights corrupt practices at the school levels.

Public sector approval, accreditation and financial subventions for private schools represent another vast area of corruption at the national levels of education management.

Misdirection, misuse and misappropriation of public resources in the social services or any other sectors can be minimized and brought to a tolerable level through strong commitment of the top political leadership(s) to address the problem. Measures through which they could tackle corruption include institutional/operational reforms to establish clear responsibilities and accountability for all levels of public functionaries; adopting clear operating procedures with minimal discretionary powers for the relevant functionaries;

creating and enforcing a strong legal framework for disciplinary and punitive measures against corrupt individuals; and removing the potential opportunities for rent seeking in public decision making.

Bangladesh has already achieved considerable success in introducing a framework for the robust and clean delivery of public services in health and education. This includes instituting an incentive structure for promoting primary school enrollment and achieving gender parity at the pre-tertiary levels; creating institutions for ensuring recruitment of qualified teachers by private sector schools; using private sector contractors for oversight of public sector school support system; and proactive health sector programs. Results from the latter include dramatic reductions in infant and child mortality; a reduction in population growth rate; and total immunization coverage against childhood diseases. This demonstrates the very real development outcomes possible if efforts to curb corruption are employed.

WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM MR. KUNDA DIXIT

TACKLING CORRUPTION, TRANSFORMING LIVES

1. Opening Issue: Corruption and development

Is corruption a development issue at all - why should developing countries concentrate on tackling it, rather than focusing on economic growth and poverty reduction?

2. Theme for Mr. Kunda Dixit: Corruption and the media

The media can expose and educate, contributing not only to 'catch and punish' but also to 'prevention'; however, the media can themselves be corrupt. Media can be controlled by government or business interests. What are some of the factors that contribute to corruption in the media? What are some of the benchmarks for the media to be effective in doing their bit in the fight against corruption (independence from government and business, competition, existence of freedom of expression and right to information, whistle-blower protection, etc.)? Do the media themselves need capacity building for better reporting on corruption?

Corruption and the Media

Kunda Dixit

Is Corruption a Development Issue At All?

Corruption in developing countries is often a matter of life and death. When the official of an international agency skims funds meant for building a network of safe motherhood clinics in rural Nepal, it costs lives. The health posts are shoddily built, and lack the facilities promised. As a direct result, complicated pregnancies cannot be adequately treated and over the years the cost of this corruption could be counted in the hundreds of mothers who needn't have died. The official involved is transferred and the matter hushed up because of the fear of scandal.

This culture of impunity that accompanies graft is one of the reasons it is so rife. We do not even know how many people die as a direct result of the international trade in fake pharmaceuticals, but we do know that the trade flourishes because regulatory authorities are on the take. Again, the victims are mostly the poor people in the poorest countries.

Other types of corruption may not have such a stark correlation with issues of life or death, but there are always indirect effects as in the embezzlement of an education budget which was intended for school repairs, that leaves schools vulnerable to earthquakes.

There is a prevalent theory that environmental pollution and corruption both become less of a problem as countries raise their per capita income. This is true to a certain extent with issues related to delivery of basic services, but grand corruption persists as long as impunity does. We have many examples of rich countries where corruption is much more endemic than much poorer countries because of the lack of rule of law.

However, the reason we have to focus on developing countries is because corruption is a factor which undermines governance and therefore the potential for economic progress. Trans-national corruption that affects developing countries can also work through aid policy mechanisms in a phenomenon called the “corruption quadrangle”—collusion between the donor government with a donor country company with its agent in the recipient country and its government.

Such corruption ends up in the construction of grand projects that may not be the priority of the people in developing countries, but because big projects have big kickbacks they are favoured over smaller, indigenous and more sustainable programs.

Corruption is linked not so much with the standard of living of a country as it is to governance, proper checks and balances, democratic institutions, independent judiciary and a free and watchdog media.

Corruption in the Media

Let’s face it, the media is not exactly a popular institution. In a public opinion poll in the United States some years ago, journalism came second from the bottom for integrity in a list of ten professions. Only lawyers were deemed to have less integrity than reporters.

The situation in some of our countries is only slightly better. The reason is not just because reporters have the nasty habit of hunting in packs and poking their noses into other peoples’ business. It is because of the perception, justified to a large extent, that journalists are also on the take.

There are lots of temptations for reporters to have elastic morals in the daily course of reporting. Salaries are often low, so reporters have got used to giving a positive spin on a story in return for favours. In many countries, reporters receive envelopes just for attending press conferences. Such “envelopmental journalism” is much more pervasive than we think, with business reporters especially susceptible.

But as with corruption everywhere, media corruption also thrives in the dark. And it sometimes reaches right to the top of media companies with large payoffs for ignoring a major scandal, editors actually on retainer for downplaying stories that would be detrimental to certain businesses.

But it is with the concentration of media ownership in fewer and fewer hands, and those hands belonging to Big Business, that the collusion of money with media coverage becomes seamless and sinister.

Private media depend on advertising for their sustenance. With circulation dropping and competition from television, many newspapers and magazines are under pressure to please advertisers. It is easy in such a situation for publishers, editors and reporters to be excessively beholden to advertisers, and an advertisement itself becomes a form of corruption because it filters coverage of issues.

Luckily, most journalists are not corrupt. There are many publishers and media owners who understand the public service role of newspapers, tv and radio. There is zero tolerance in many newsrooms for any requests for 'favours', and some code of conduct guidelines even require reporters to pay for their own lunch during interviews.

Journalism ethics must be given much more importance in media colleges than they are currently, and the emphasis on training young journalists in the skills and craft of reporting should be matched by having curricula that place the emphasis on commitment, integrity and the public good.

**WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM HONOURABLE
JUSTICE NAZHAT SHAMEEM**

TACKLING CORRUPTION, TRANSFORMING LIVES

1. Opening Issue: Corruption and development

Is corruption a development issue at all - why should developing countries concentrate on tackling it, rather than focusing on economic growth and poverty reduction?

2. Theme for Honourable Justice Shameem: Corruption in the judiciary

The judiciary should be part of the solution and not the problem. Why do we see corruption in the judiciary? Where is corruption more prevalent in the judiciary? What are the perspectives from the side of the judiciary? What are some of the key factors specific to the judiciary that contribute to corruption? Is there an area of trade-off between judicial independence and accountability? How can corruption in the judiciary be curbed?

The Justice System and Corruption

Honourable Justice Nazhat Shameem
High Court of Fiji

“Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government’s ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice, and discouraging foreign investment and aid.”

Kofi Annan, former U.N. Secretary-General

One of the most effective deterrents to the growth of corruption is a strong and independent judiciary. This is because of the separation of powers doctrine. The independence of the judiciary from the executive and legislative branches of government renders it a suitable institution of accountability for those who abuse their powers. The judiciary is necessary for the rule of law. To paraphrase Bracton, the powerful are subject to God and the law. However, it must be remembered that the judiciary is also the source of great power. As with all power, it can be, and often is, easily corrupted.

A corrupt judiciary will also frustrate the efforts of the police, and prosecutors, to hold people accountable. It will itself be frustrated when those other institutions of justice become corrupt. The struggles of these justice institutions to remain strong and accountable in themselves, are often tied to development issues – lack of resources, a loss of man (and woman) power with the migration of the qualified to more developed countries, the impact of globalization on traditional power structures, traditional ties leading to cronyism, nepotism and favouritism, and ethnic and religious tensions connected to political influence in appointment and promotions within the justice system. These problems can be summed up very simply. When you fail to recruit the best and most honest people for the job, and when you deprive people of the resources to run efficient and transparent systems of justice, the system will become weak and corrupt. There is therefore a link between development, and the ability of a nation to deal effectively with corruption. Corruption exists in all countries, rich and poor. In my opinion, it is the ability to fight corruption through the justice system which is most affected by lack of economic development. This then leads to empirical findings which show a link between corruption and under-development.

A judiciary determined to prevent its own corruption will have computerized and judge-driven case-management systems. Those systems will have random case-allocation, and will be transparent. Registries will be run by competent and honest clerks who are recruited on merit. There will be a “no tolerance” level for judge-shopping.

Judges will be governed by a transparent and clear code of ethics, based on global standards of ethical conduct. Those ethics are – impartiality, independence, diligence, integrity and propriety (the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct 2002).

Judges will be adequately remunerated and have security of tenure. They will be accountable to an appropriate disciplinary process for breaches of the code of ethics, and they will always sit in open court so they are subjected to media scrutiny. Open justice is crucial for judicial accountability. The Asia-Pacific Human Development Report on “Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives” says (at page 49) the laws which exist to protect judicial independence can also be used to prevent judicial accountability:

“Unquestioned power of the judiciary can also be a source of potential corruption, even as it protects its independence. In most countries where judicial independence is institutionalized, contempt of court laws not only insulate the judiciary from the legislature and the executive, they also keep it from media scrutiny.”

The challenge for the judiciary in any developing country is to balance independence with accountability, to ensure transparency in court processes and to insist on sanctions for corrupt judicial behavior. Adequate resources are required to pay for court recording, and for the adequate remuneration of court

clerks and judicial officers, but most importantly the judges themselves have to adopt a will to keep themselves independent, accountable and efficient. There needs, if you like, to be a development of a judicial will to withstand corruption. The absence of such commitment will lead to the erosion of the rule of law, and the inability of the institution to provide any form of accountability in the prosecutions of corrupt conduct. The erosion of the rule of law, and the lack of public confidence in the honesty of the justice system, deprives the judiciary of its own legitimacy. Such a situation, found in many developing nations, provides the perfect breeding ground for corrupt conduct.

**WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM DR. KIRAN BEDI FOR THE
TACKLING CORRUPTION, TRANSFORMING LIVES**

1. Opening Issue: Corruption and development

Is corruption a development issue at all - why should developing countries concentrate on tackling it, rather than focusing on economic growth and poverty reduction?

2. Theme for Dr. Kiran Bedi: Corruption in the police

What are some of the main reasons why the police system in a country may be vulnerable to corruption? How can police corruption be kept in check? Are there gender dimensions to police corruption? Are there cross-border dimensions of police corruption? What are the links between police and judicial corruption, between police and political corruption?

Corruption in the Police

Kiran Bedi

Corruption is a vital development issue particularly in situations where financial resources are in short supply, where there is a compelling need for infrastructure and other essential services, and where the people are highly dependent on those very limited resources. Diversion and pocketing of such resources leads to serious imbalances and inadequate fulfillment of social, economic, health, education, transportation and security needs of a large populace; it in fact impacts generations!

Corruption is heavily dependent on individuals and systems. Individuals prone to corrupt practices act as magnets. Weak financial and administrative systems provide them easy routes.

Corruption impacts directly on development where resources are scarce. It leaves people deprived of their basic human rights. Its effect is indirect where the resources are in surplus. Therefore corruption is a failing in both developing and developed countries, but the impact is especially wide ranging and painful in a situation where critically needed money for development is diverted for personal gain.

Given the potential gains that can be accrued through corrupt means, it is perhaps unrealistic to believe that corruption can be altogether eliminated. It can however be contained by making it riskier, through transparency, democracy and the rule of law. There is therefore a compelling need to focus on opening up processes and procedures in developing countries in order to make indulgence in corrupt practices more identifiable and punishable.

The developing world urgently needs to ensure that more resources reach its poor. Therefore ensuring the practice of integrity amongst officials and actors is a matter of survival. The prevalence of growing poverty, deprivation and ignorance is a result and cause of corruption at the same time. Integrity breaks this vicious cycle. In the developed world, corruption and development can and do run parallel.

The main reason that the police system is corrupt in many developing countries is that majority of its human resource comes from lower income groups. The service in turn does not provide for them adequately: their salaries, housing, education and the health care provided for their families are not sufficient.

Not only do policemen suffer from personal resource shortages, they are often also not sufficiently provided for to meet the essential professional obligations which their duties require. They may be required to pay mobility, investigation and travel costs in advance, or to cover the costs of stationery and hospitality themselves, with little hope for any compensation or immediate reimbursements.

These shortages lead the police to seek outside support which clearly opens the doors for corrupt practices to enter, take root and grow with far reaching implications. These may include injustice, favoritism, patronage and the creation of a criminal nexus between police, criminal, and corrupt political powers.

Women tend to be heavily under-represented in the police services of the developing world but at the same time are known to be less prone to corruption. Perhaps they have had fewer opportunities as compared to the men? The determinants of this needs more research.

Corruption may never be totally eliminated but can be kept under tight control by the presence of professional and sound leadership, one which is sensitive and down to earth, which “walks the talk”, which is itself not vulnerable and which promotes systems of financial management with inbuilt checks and balances.

The focus needs to shift to prevention of corruption before its detection. This is possible if all levels of supervision, most of all the top leadership, adhere to open communication, right to information and grievance redress processes which are not arbitrary but flow with confidence of implementation

Greater and enhanced use of information technology, can be an effective tool in curbing corruption. This will provide a level playing field to many. Moreover providing right to information to those in the media and civil society who can expose corruption can help create bottom up pressure for change.

Police corruption is one crime that is apparently not reducing. Moreover there is a correlation between systematic police corruption and high crime rates. Unlike police brutality, police corruption is often viewed as a victimless

crime because the victim is often a neighbourhood rather than an individual. Often attention goes to the officers who “crossed the line” or “made a mistake” and again, we too often forget the psychological and social effects police corruption has on its victims and their communities.

For those who are truly seeking solutions to crime and violence, there is an equally important imperative to place police corruption at the center of the debate.