

GENDER, CULTURE AND CORRUPTION

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MEANING OF CORRUPTION

The United Nations Development Programme 's (UNDP) definition

“the misuse of public power, office or authority for private benefit-through bribery, extortion, influence peddling, nepotism, fraud, speed money or embezzlement”

- Applicable both public and private sector Identified the major forms of corruption

NATURE - Grand and petty

- Grand Corruption- corruption by political leaders and senior civil servants – large bribes and international, hidden money in bank accounts
- Petty- committed by junior civil servants or private sector workers to supplement way of life/insufficient income

Corruption a fact of life or way of life?

Distinction made by Gerald E.Caiden

Corruption a fact of life –in a country when cases of corruption are the exception rather than the rule-more individual rather than systematic

Corruption a way of life- in a country where corruption is rampant,occurs at all levels, is the norm rather than exception

IS CORRUPTION A VICTIMLESS CRIME ?

- Giver and recipient gain
- Who are the victims?
- Increasing cost of goods and buildings
- Construction of others instead of necessity

ASEAN COUNTRIES-2012 CPI -TI

COUNTRIES	RANK	NO.OF SURVEY	SCORE
Singapore	5	9	87
Brunei	46	3	55
Malaysia	55	9	49
Thailand	88	8	37
Philippine	105	9	34
Indonesia	118	9	32
Vietnam	123	8	31
Cambodia	157	7	22
Lao PDR	160	3	21
Myanmar	172	4	15

TI CPI PERCEPTION INDEX ANALYSIS – 2012 INDEX

- The rankings of perceived corruption for several South East Asian countries declined markedly over the past year.
- Indonesia fell 18 places, from 100th to 118th
- Vietnam slid 11 places from 112th to 123rd
- Thailand also fell eight places from 80th to 88th
- Singapore, by contrast, remained stable, ranking fifth.

Causes of Corruption

- Why do countries experience levels of corruption that are dramatically different?
- Several explanations on the Causes of Corruption
- Professor Quah (Singaporean Prof and researcher) :-
An individual is more likely to commit a corrupt act if he or she:-
 - 1) Is paid a low or inadequate salary
 - 2) Is exposed to ample opportunities for corruption
 - 3) Perceives corruption to be a low risk, high reward activity (unlikely to be caught, not punished severely if caught)

Prof Bill Tupman - University of Exeter

- Underpaid
- unappreciated
- underpromoted
- greedy
- deviant

CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

- The idea that corruption is partly a cultural
- If it is cultural phenomenon - it can or has to be tackled as such as well.

What do we understand by culture?

A definition :-

- set of values that an individual grows up with. A combination of personal values and morals as well as the society's influence on the individual in our growing years. Therefore culture influences the ways in which a person perceives and reacts to certain situations.
- Culture differs from society to society
- What is acceptable in one is not acceptable in another

CULTURE AND CORRUPTION

- Various scholars in different fields of research agree that cultures influence personal behaviours (Rokeach, 1972; House et al., 2004; Hofstede, 2001).
- Cultural dimensions may influence individual's perception of ethical situations (Scott et al., 1993, Davis and Ruhe, 2003; Park, 2003; Husted, 1999); therefore, national cultural differences are expected to influence our views towards corruption.
- Understanding cultural dimensions that may influence the level of corruption is critical for a firm's and a country's competitiveness (Davis and Ruhe, 2003) and for conducting international business overseas (Park, 2003).

JOHN HOOKER, 2008

The world is shrinking, but its cultures remain worlds apart, as do its ethical norms. Bribery, kickbacks, cronyism, and nepotism seem to be more prevalent in some parts of the world, and one wants to know why. Is it because some peoples are less ethical than others? Or is it because they have different ethical systems and regard these behaviors as acceptable?

(Corruption from a Cross-Cultural Perspective)

John Hooker, 2009

Analyzed real-life situations in Japan, Taiwan, India, China, North America, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and Korea

His Findings

Corrupting behavior differs around the world partly because of different norms, and partly because cultural systems break down in different ways. Activities such as nepotism or cronyism that are corrupting in the rule-based cultures of the West may be functional in relationship-based cultures. Behavior that is normal in the West, such as bringing lawsuits or adhering strictly to a contract, may be corrupting elsewhere. Practices such as bribery that are often corrupting across cultures are nonetheless corrupting for very different reasons.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES – RESEARCHERS

- different cultures use radically different systems to get things done. Whereas Western cultures are primarily rule-based, most of the world's cultures are relationship-based.
- Westerners tend to trust the system, while people elsewhere trust their friends and family.
- Westerners organize their business around discrete deals that are drawn up as contracts or agreements and enforced by a legal system. Other cultures may organize their business around human relationships that are cemented by personal honor, filial duty, friendship, or long-term mutual obligation.
- Loyalty to cronies is suspect behavior in the West but represents high moral character in much of the world.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Prof Bill Tupman - University of Exeter

- Your “corruption” is my “normal business practice”
- Your “bribe” is my “mark of respect”
- Guanxi: networking or insider dealing?
- Patron-client relations

GENDER ISSUES REGARDING WOMEN

- Women's political participation and level of corruption
- Impact of Corruption on women
- Do women face different forms of abusive or corrupt behaviour from public officials than men?
- Main streaming gender into anti-corruption policy

Today : First issue

GENDER PERSPECTIVE

- During the early 2000s, many research reports claimed the existence of a link between low levels of corruption and more women in government (Dollar, Fisman and Gatti 2001; Swamy et al. 2001).
- A study published in 1999 by the World Bank claimed that women are more trustworthy and public-spirited than men.
- They found that in a large cross-section of countries, greater representation of women in parliament led to lower levels of corruption.

GENDER PERSPECTIVE

- The possibilities presented by these results are truly exciting. Fighting corruption by increasing female participation in government would –no need for a painful and more expensive efforts
- Countries would also have an economic incentive to promote gender equality

RECENT TREND- Anne-Marie Goetz, 2004,

Anne Marie Goetz questioned the notion that more women in government will result in lower levels of corruption. She noted that the advocates of this notion fail to acknowledge the ways in which gender relations may limit the opportunities for corruption, particularly when corruption functions through all-male networks and in forums from which women are socially excluded.

GENDER DIFFERENCES

V. Alatasa, L. Cameron, A. Chaudhric, N. Erkalb and L. Gangadharan

Based on experimental data collected in Australia (Melbourne), India (Delhi), Indonesia (Jakarta) and Singapore show that while women in Australia are less tolerant of corruption than men in Australia, there are no significant gender differences in attitudes towards corruption in India, Indonesia and Singapore.

They suggest that the gender differences found in the previous studies may not be nearly as universal as stated and may be more culture-specific.

GENDER DIFFERENCES

Diana M Bowman¹- Australian Studies

It suggests that, in general, Australian women appear to be less tolerant of corrupt scenarios than their male counterparts, although gender difference was not automatic across all scenarios. The results suggest that there may indeed be a gender dimension with respect to perceptions of corruption.

Findings :

that the relationship between gender and corruption differs by institutional context. Women are more averse to the risks of violating political norms, and because gender discrimination makes violating institutional norms a riskier proposition for women than men.

Where corruption is stigmatized, women will be less tolerant of corruption and less likely to engage in it compared to men. But if corrupt behaviors are an ordinary part of governance supported by political institutions, there will be no corruption gender gap.

CONCLUSION

- There is correlation between culture and corruption
- There is gender differences in perception of corruption
- Perception of corruption may be more cultural than gender and nature of the institution one is in.

Questions?

- Coming back to the perception index and the research on culture and gender
- Is Corruption a cultural issue?
- If it does, why is Singapore successful in combating corruption?
- From the success of Singapore, is it an institutional issue ? Prof Quah causes of corruption.