

THE VISIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF AN INVISIBLE ILL

Elov Farrux Akmalovich

Lecturer at Asian International University

Email: elovfarrukh86@gmail.com

Tel.: +99891 975 10 49

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20267964>

Abstract: This article provides a scientific theoretical and sociopolitical analysis of the negative impact of corruption on relations between the state and society. It examines the influence of corruption on the effectiveness of public administration, the rule of law, citizens' trust in state institutions, and social stability. Furthermore, the article highlights issues such as social injustice, the decline of civic engagement, and the weakening of moral values resulting from corruption. The study substantiates the importance of transparent governance, civic oversight, legal culture, and digital technologies in combating corruption. The research concludes that strengthening trust between the state and society is a crucial factor in ensuring an effective anticorruption policy.

Keywords: corruption, public administration, civil society, social trust, rule of law, transparency, political relations, legal culture.

Introduction. In today's era of globalization, corruption has emerged as one of the most serious challenges facing countries around the world. It poses a significant threat not only to economic development but also to justice, public trust, and the rule of law within society. Since corruption is often carried out in concealed forms, it may be characterized as an "invisible ill." However, its consequences become clearly evident in all spheres of social life.

Civic engagement plays a significant role in relations between society and the state. However, in an environment where corruption is widespread, citizens tend to lose interest in actively participating in public administration. This is because they believe that their opinions and initiatives will not produce meaningful results. Consequently, this leads to the weakening of civil society institutions.

Another negative aspect of corruption is its influence on the consciousness of young people. If the younger generation observes that success in society is achieved not through honesty and merit, but through illegal means, their perceptions of justice and integrity become weakened. This, in turn, negatively affects the moral foundations of society in the future.

Cooperation between the state and society is of crucial importance in combating corruption. Ensuring the rule of law, strengthening transparency in the activities of state institutions, supporting the freedom of mass media, and enhancing the legal culture of the population are considered effective mechanisms for preventing corruption.

Corruption reduces the effectiveness of public administration, weakens citizens' trust in the state, and intensifies social inequality. Therefore, combating corruption has become one of the priority tasks of every state.

The Concept and Essence of Corruption. Corruption refers to the unlawful use of official authority or professional position for personal gain. It manifests itself in various forms, including bribery, abuse of official power, favoritism, and conflicts of interest. Corruption is one of the major factors hindering societal development, as it leads to violations of the principles of transparency and justice in public administration. In particular, the existence of corruption in the fields of education, healthcare, the economy, and law enforcement has a profoundly negative impact on social progress.

The results of the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) indicate that corruption continues to remain a serious threat across all regions of the world, despite some limited signs of positive progress.

World leaders must take decisive measures to eliminate abuses of power and the factors contributing to the escalation of corruption. In particular, the weakening of democratic checks and balances, as well as pressure exerted on independent civil society institutions, has contributed to the intensification of this problem.

At present, corruption is considered one of the most pressing issues confronting the international community. It has a profoundly negative impact on the effectiveness of public administration, economic development, and the principles of social justice within society. In particular, corruption serves as one of the primary factors contributing to the weakening of relations between the state and society.

Relations between the state and society are founded upon mutual trust, the rule of law, and the principles of justice. When corruption intensifies within state institutions, citizens' trust in government declines. This occurs because people begin to perceive that laws are not applied equally to everyone and that certain individuals obtain advantages through illegal means. As a result, feelings of dissatisfaction, indifference, and social injustice increase within society.

Corruption also undermines the efficiency of the public administration system. Public officials become inclined to perform their duties not in accordance with the law, but rather on the basis of personal interests. Consequently, the quality of public services deteriorates, state budget funds are embezzled, and economic development slows down. In particular, the presence of corruption in the education, healthcare, and law enforcement sectors causes substantial harm to societal development.

Antigovernment protests observed in various regions of the world demonstrate that people are increasingly dissatisfied with irresponsible and unaccountable governance, while demands for reforms continue to grow steadily.

According to the reports of Transparency International, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) provides an assessment of 182 countries and territories worldwide based on perceived levels of corruption in the public sector. The results are presented on a scale ranging from 0 points (highly corrupt) to 100 points (very transparent and free from corruption).

Since 2012, 31 countries have succeeded in significantly reducing corruption levels, while in many other states this problem remains unresolved. In some countries, the situation has remained unchanged, whereas in others it has deteriorated further. The global average score has fallen to a historic low of 42 points. Moreover, more than two-thirds of countries recorded scores below 50.

The negative consequences of corruption are directly reflected in people's daily lives. These include inadequate financing of healthcare systems, the failure to construct flood protection infrastructure, and the undermining of the hopes and aspirations of younger generations. Corruption intensifies social injustice within society. Illegal interests begin to prevail over honest labor and lawful activity, resulting in a decline in citizens' trust in state institutions.

Furthermore, corruption contributes to the embezzlement of state budget funds, deterioration of the investment climate, increased poverty and unemployment, and the spread of negative attitudes among young people. In societies where corruption is widespread, development slows down because resources are not distributed fairly and equality of opportunity is undermined.

Corruption causes substantial damage to economic development. Investors are often reluctant to invest in countries with high levels of corruption, leading to a decline in the rate of economic growth. In the social sphere, corruption results in the deterioration of educational quality,

inequality in healthcare services, a decline in the legal culture of the population, and the growth of social apathy. Most dangerously, corruption gradually becomes normalized within society, which negatively affects the upbringing and moral development of future generations.

In combating corruption, factors such as ensuring the rule of law, strengthening transparency in the activities of state institutions, widely implementing digital technologies, developing civic oversight, and enhancing public legal awareness are of crucial importance.

Today, Uzbekistan is also carrying out largescale reforms aimed at combating corruption. The introduction of egovernment systems, open data platforms, and the digitalization of public services represent important steps in this direction.

Conclusion. Corruption is regarded as one of the most dangerous sociopolitical phenomena negatively affecting the development of both the state and society. Despite its concealed nature, corruption leads to a decline in economic growth rates, violations of the principles of social justice, reduced effectiveness of public administration, and a decrease in citizens' trust in state institutions. In particular, corruption causes serious damage to the atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation between the state and society.

From this perspective, combating corruption should not remain solely the responsibility of state institutions, but must also be recognized as a shared responsibility of society as a whole. In this regard, ensuring the rule of law, strengthening openness and transparency in public administration, and enhancing citizens' legal awareness and legal culture are of crucial importance. By establishing a society based on the principles of honesty, justice, and responsibility, it is possible to prevent corruption and achieve sustainable development.

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