

Eradicating Corruption



Now a days, corruption has become a part of our lives. It does not mean, we all are corrupted but we all are facing it every now and then. Especially in past few years due to the financial scam of Commonwealth Games, Two-G-Spectrum, *Adarsh* Housing, Coalgate, Scam of the distribution of the mines etc.; strong opposition against corruption is building up. There is an increasing demand for declaring the names of the people, having black money in foreign banks. On one side, the government has no money to spend for the welfare of the people and on the other side; we can see the huge figures of scams. 25 years ago, the scam of '*Bofors Canons*' was known and it was of 64 crore rupees. Today the 2G Spectrum Scam has crossed few lakh crore rupees. Due to this, the public is restless. This was reflected in 2011, when *Shri Anna Hazare* started hunger strike against corruption. Lakhs of people voluntarily participated in this movement. This movement for '*Janlokpal*' later became less effective. But the '*Janlokpal bill*', was passed due to the hunger strike of *Shri Anna Hazare*.

This show people's agitation against corruption. Even then Government did not take steps for eradicating corruption. This indicates that, the political parties, the government and the administrative machinery are not willing to solve these problems. The common man of the country has to face the corruption in every field. Nobody wants to change this picture. How will this picture be changed? When will it be changed? Is removal of corruption really an impossible thing?

In Maharashtra, the cases mentioned by the anti-corruption department the cases in the year 2012 are :

1)	Police department	127 Cases	167 Persons
2)	Revenue	94 Cases	118 Persons
3)	M.S.E.B.	23 cases	30 Persons
4)	Land registration	22 Cases	25 Persons
5)	Forest department	13 cases	18 Persons
6)	Public Health	15 Cases	18 Persons
7)	Other departments	195 Cases	257 Persons

(According to the index of 2010, the states opposing the corruption are – W. Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra)

According to the report of Transparency International, in the list of corruption index, out of 176 countries, India is ranked 94th. The country with the lower index means the country having minimum corruption is ranked 1st and the country with the maximum corrupted, is ranked last.



The amount of corruption is nearly zero in the countries like Denmark, New Zealand. Therefore such countries are top rankers. But corruption in India is more hence India is at the end. Is it not possible for India to become top ranker? Corruption in India and the efforts to drive away corruption is a serious state of affair.

Let us see what corruption is. We should see how corruption begins at common and personal level, “For a want of certain thing; instead of working hard, finding an easy way out is being mentally corrupt.” To see a movie instead of standing in a queue, for buying the ticket from the black market is corruption. If the daily basic needs are not fulfilled the person goes to any level to fulfil them. This is natural. Keeping the leg on someone’s head or putting leg in someone’s leg or snatching the bread from other’s hand is also corruption.

It is very important that the basic needs of a person should be fulfilled. But a question arises, ‘even after fulfilling basic needs why a person becomes corrupt?’ The answer is ‘greed’. A person having one room house wants two rooms house. The person with two rooms wants four rooms house. Person having a pair of outfits wants 10 outfits. The need of masses goes on increasing, expanding, giving rise to corruption. The basic principle of economics tells us “human needs are unlimited and the means to fulfil them are limited.” Economics is an outcome of this imbalance and so is the corruption.

When basic needs of a man are fulfilled, demand for comforts starts, when comforts are fulfilled, follows luxuries. Dissatisfaction even after fulfilling expected luxury continues, as Luxuries are never ending. There is no end to needs and wants. This drive “I want more”, drives corruption.

Along with greed, ‘the perceived status’ encourages corrupt behaviour. A person looks for getting a prestigious status in the society, for retaining it and for upgrading it. One says, “I am the founder, I want donations for my institution, I want donations for my political parties. My group wants financial help.” No doubt, money is essential for running a party or an institution, but the greed goes on increasing.

With the help of political parties and institutions, people gain status. Money is required for the parties. Through the need for money, a cycle is formed and corruption increases. People and institutes get

entrapped in the cycle of corruption, they go deep in it. When they are accused, the justification is, “we were working for the institution, how are we to be blamed?” When a person is blamed for corruption, the condition is very much similar to ‘*Vahya Koli*’ (a character in *Valmiki Ramayana*). The family, relatives, friends, well-wishers enjoy at the cost of corruption, black money. On being caught, none comes for the rescue, leaving the person alone to face the punishment. Then there is no use of regretting or repenting.

Once I was interacting with the president of a famous bank, he gave me a nice example of a bandicoot. To give bribe is known as ‘*Ghus Dena*’ in Hindi. That day I realized the meaning of ‘*Ghus Dena*’. We know bandicoot. It keeps on digging out soil. That is its nature. It is unaware of how much soil, stones, it has unearthed. It keeps on digging out and someday the top soil, stones collapse and it gets crushed under it. Similarly corrupt man has the habit of digging. Digging out, corrupt money is the only work. On taking 5 Rs. for giving ‘*sat-bara*,’ thought of ‘how to take 10 Rs. from the other’ starts. Thinking of how to get 500 Rs. from a vehicle owner for breaking the traffic rules starts on receiving 100 Rs. from a person for the same. Earning money, for giving a license, for approving of a contract, builds a mountain of corruption, when the mountain may crash is not known. The society starts hating the corrupt person. The balloon of the greatness bursts and the near ones also, go away. Corruption has got many dimensions. It is not only related to money. It can be in the form of thoughts or morality. Some people have corrupt thoughts. They just speak - meaningless, idiotic statements. They defame others for their own selfish motives. They speak exaggerated baseless statements about a society or region. Saying something bad and then enjoying is their main businesses. If something is said about somebody, people forgetting their hunger and thirst, unnecessarily give importance to the meaningless issues. Nobody talks much about such corruption. But indeed such corruption is harmful.

The corrupt morality is equally harmful like the corrupt thoughts. Remember the mishap that took place at *Mandhardevi* at the fair of *Kalubai*. Many people lost their lives in the stampede. There were many women among them. Some people looted the clothes and ornaments from the dead bodies. It was a shame on humanity. People literally witnessed the Marathi phrase, “to eat butter from the head of the dead body.” Today we see such types of incidents have become very

common. Is the morality almost finished? People adulterate milk, food grains, cement etc. Due to the adulteration in cement, constructions collapse, people lose their lives. These are some morally corrupt acts.

Opening a fake account on the internet and sending dirty pictures is also immoral. Such type of corruption destroys social and cultural life of a person. Such people should be severely punished.

I feel, avoiding the responsibility and not completing the assigned task is also a kind of corruption. We want different posts, but do we give justice to them? When I was in the college, I had a room partner in the hostel, who later became a specialist in veterinary science. He used to say, “I should be posted in a dispensary or hospital, without a single animal for checking.” I call it corrupt commitment, ‘I want a post, all the rights of the posts, all facilities but not the responsibility not the work.’ Many people are corrupt this way. But there is no punishment for being irresponsible. Due to this many issues are kept pending long, leading to losses to society, government and people. Taking undue time, in giving justice, is also a kind of corruption. It is said, ‘justice delayed is justice denied.’ Lakhs of court cases are pending in the court. It may take 25 to 30 years, if they have to be disposed. If a person doesn’t get justice through proper channel, one tries to follow the wrong path, which gives rise to corruption.

Spiritual, education, medical field etc. in human life are regarded as sacred. But they are also not free from corruption. There are many people, who take disadvantage of the faiths, religious feelings of the



people for their selfish motive. Acting as an incarnation of the God or spiritual guru (teacher), start a competition for getting more followers. 'These shops' promising the peace of mind and satisfaction of the souls make good profit. Every day, the realities of such fake gurus are exposed, yet a new 'Baba' is born every day. To deceive people to breach the trust is also a kind of corruption.

Corruption in the educational field is common. Education creates the next generation. People lacking the special knowledge become teachers, professors and impart education. They are not bothered about the students. Organisations are taking heavy donations for admission, compelling the students to give money under different schemes, running the courses without permission, giving fake degrees and certificates by taking money, presenting Ph.D. by taking the necessary material from others, are some of the common example of the corruption in the field of education.

Match fixing or spot fixing is going on in the field of sports. In short, the society is surrounded by corruption from all sides. It has penetrated deep in the society, in the bodies and minds of the people. How to destroy it? How to bury it?

Everybody says, 'it is a difficult question'. But the answer is, 'Imbibing good values'. The immorality in a person should be replaced by good values. Corruption explodes the minds. To become peaceful is possible only through imbibing good values. The values deep in the mind will prevent corrupt behaviour. We always hear, read or see the examples of good values and sincerity. A poor rickshaw driver finding a bag having 4-5 lakh rupees returns it to the passenger or gives it to the police. Such examples are really surprising in today's world. Instead, if the rickshaw driver might have kept the bag with him and taken the money, nobody might have asked him about the money. If the passenger were to find him and were to ask him about the bag, he could have answered that he had no such bag in his rickshaw. Although he is poor, needy, behaves sincerely and gives the money back. Some rickshaw drivers don't even accept money for such honest behaviour. They say it is their duty. From where does this good thinking come from? Of course, the origin is through *sanskara* – (good values). We see such examples. On the other side, there are people who want more and more. This is the consequence of not-imbibing good values on their minds or imbibing bad values.

In our childhood, we used to feel, 'we should have a basin, a dining table, this and that.' But our father used to tell us, 'Make your needs less. Be happy in what you have. I do not eat 1/4th of the bread (*bhakar*) but expect of a full one and become sad, when I don't get it. Hence, I am not satisfied with the piece of 1/4th *bhakar* I have'. If a person minimizes the needs, the situation can change 101%. If all the people decide to walk, instead of using vehicles, their needs will become less. There will be no comparison like "I have a *Maruti* Car, in place of B.M.W. or Mercedes". Perhaps walking everywhere can be an exaggeration but, if everybody uses public transport, then the greed of possessing will become less, competition will be reduced. If we make our needs less, than we are away from greed.

A person should think, "Whatever I have, will never become mine for ever because I have an end i.e. death". Person should behave as trustee, towards the earning, keeping in mind, this earnings or whatever is for the next generation, by guarding it. Like rain-cycle, money cycle should also move continuously. Money should be distributed equally in the society. The feeling of giving something to others is a divine gift. A person should be generous. This feeling takes a man beyond selfishness. If this thought is spread in the society on a large scale, corruption will become less on that scale.

Generally, we see in the society, corrupt people move around and are not punished. Corrupt leaders come out of jail and their followers organise their processions and felicitate them. This gives a wrong message to the society. Corruption is perceived as etiquette. Law has no control over the corruption. People ask for money to the candidates in the elections. They get their own or society's works done by the candidates. There is no point in expecting that the leader should not be corrupt, when people themselves are corrupt. We break the signal, enter in the no entry area and when the police stops, we just give, a hundred rupee note. Then who is corrupt, we or police? When we point at a corrupt person, we should know that the other three fingers point at us. The beginning of ending the corruption should be started from ourselves.

One way of controlling corruption is, severely punishing the corrupt person. If an employee or an officer is corrupt, one should be kept in a cage outside the office. So that the others will see and will not dare to be corrupt, thinking, they may have to face the same. The

Our laws are capable of keeping corruption under control... if only our judicial system has time targets.

people will look at the person in the cage, will criticize, and then the corrupt person will feel ashamed, and will take a vow, not to be corrupt. Corrupt people should be made to eat cow dung. Perhaps humanitarians may not like this, but severe punishments are must, if we have to control corruption. Today's laws are capable enough, to keep the corrupt people under the thumb. If the court cases are disposed in less time and the corrupt are punished, we can bring corruption under control. We should remember that delay in giving justice makes the laws ineffective.

Many a times, we see that, in corruption cases, junior employees are punished but senior officials are not found guilty. In reality whether the virtues like sincerity, honesty, dedication etc. or vices like corruption, carelessness, not doing work in time, keeping away from work etc. always flow from top to bottom. The behaviour of the senior is responsible for corruption. If such officials are punished, naturally the junior employees will keep away from corruption. If a police inspector is punished for corruption, the constable won't dare to do it.

Even today, all are not corrupt. Everywhere, there are some good people and the system works because of these people. When *Shri Anna Hazare* began an anti-corruption movement, many people from all the strata of the society came to join him. There were many retired administrative officers and government officials. The work of *Shri Anna Hazare* will surely bear good fruits.

We say that there should be *Ram-Rajya*. When will we have it? *Ram-Rajya* won't come unless *Ram* comes, means corruption won't be destroyed unless we have morally good leadership. In a democracy, the responsibility of having responsible leadership lies with the people themselves. What do we do at home where there

are insects like mosquitoes and bugs? We spray insecticides and get rid of them. Similarly corruption should be regarded as mosquitoes and should be destroyed. We should not encourage the corrupt person. If we decide firmly it will surely be a step ahead for eradicating corruption.

