



Corruption in Bangladesh: A Household Survey

Executive Summary

20th April, 2005

Objectives of the survey:

- Measuring the nature and extent of corruption in public and private service delivery institutions;
- Determining how and where corruption takes place;
- Determining the cost of corruption

Sectors:

1. Education,
2. Health,
3. Land Administration,
4. Police
5. Judiciary
6. Electricity
7. Taxation
8. Local Government: Shalish and Relief
9. Pension

Methodology:

- Sample size: 3000 (70% from rural, 30% from urban)
- Sampling technique: Multi-stage random sampling
- Area: 55 districts
- Duration of data collection: 10 September to 24 October, 2004
- Interviewer: 30
- Data procession: MS Access
- Data analysis: SPSS

Socio-economic condition

- Sex of the respondents: 67.3% Male, 32.7% Female
- Monthly average income of the respondents: 2560 taka
- Profession of the respondents: farmers, labour, business, service holder and housewives
- Religion of the respondents: 87.7% Muslim, 11.2% Hindu and 1.1% Christian and Buddhist

Corruption in Education sectors

- 40% primary students had to pay 209 taka as admission fees



- 21.7% students engaged private tutors from the same institutions where they study
- 32.4% primary school students who have been enrolled for stipend had to pay 40 taka for their enrolment
- 22% female secondary school students who have been enrolled for stipend had to pay 45 taka for their enrolment
- 5% primary school students and 38% female secondary school students made complaints that the authority deduct money from their stipend
- A primary school student had to pay 58 taka yearly as fees

Corruption in Health sectors

- 26.4% outdoor patients had to pay 60 taka to doctors for treatment
- 20% indoor patients had to pay 478 taka to doctors for treatment
- 37.5% patients who had got operation from public hospital had to pay 1420 taka to doctors
- 57% patients who did X-ray from public hospital had to pay 516 as bribes
- 60% patients who did pathological test from public hospitals had to pay 410 taka as bribes

Corruption in Land administration

- 97% households who bought land during one year had to pay 3764 taka as bribes for land registration
- 88% households who changed their names had to pay 2047 taka as bribes for land mutation
- 85% households who withdrew land related documents had to pay 961 taka as bribes
- 83% households had to pay 2370 taka as bribes for land survey
- 40% households who have got Khas land had to pay 9575 as bribes for getting Khas land

Corruption in Police department

- 92% household who made FIR to the police station had to pay 2430 taka as bribes
- 91% household who made GD to the police station had to pay 939 taka as bribes
- 80% household who got police clearance certificate from police had to pay 881 taka as bribes
- 71% households who were accused had to pay 5718 taka as bribes

Corruption in Lower Judiciary

- 66% plaintiff had to pay 6135 taka as bribes
- 64.58% accused had to pay 7728 taka as bribes

Corruption in Banking sector

- The households who withdrew loan from public bank had to wait for 108 days where as who withdrew loan from private bank had to wait 30 days
- 58% household who withdrew loan had to pay 1975 taka as bribes



- 61% households who withdrew loan from public bank and 15% households who withdrew loan from private bank had to pay bribes

Corruption in Taxation

- 49% households who gave income tax had to pay 7487 taka as bribes
- 14% households who gave transport tax had to pay 3166 taka as bribes
- 9% households who gave holding tax had to pay 1538 taka as bribes

Corruption in Electricity

- 10.4% household who have electricity connection are using electricity as illegally for 35 months
- 70% household who took electricity connection during the last year had to pay 1174 taka as bribes
- 4.3% households who have electricity connection paid 1445 taka as bribes for reducing meter reading

Corruption in Local Government

- 26% households who faced judgement by elected local government representatives had to pay 4035 taka as bribes
- 3% households who were enrolled for relief had to pay 56 taka as bribes
- 39% households who received relief got reduced relief

Corruption in Pension

- 71% respondents who received pension during the last year had to pay 8000 taka as bribes

Bribes for receiving 25 services from 9 sectors:

- The estimated cost of receiving 25 services from 9 sectors is 6797 crore taka yearly.
- It has been estimated that each Bangladeshi has to pay 485 taka as bribes yearly

Recommendations for curbing Corruption

- The policy-makers of the government must possess genuine political will if they want to curb corruption.
- The initiatives should be taken to increase the effectiveness of the newly formed Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).
- The Official Secrets Act 1923 must be abolished to ensure transparency.
- A separate judicial bench is necessary for conducting cases of corruption.
- Transferring officials on grounds of corruption is a ludicrous form of punishment and must be changed immediately.
- According to Article 77 of the Constitution, Ombudsmen must be appointed in various institutions.
- TIB feels that administrative reforms are extremely necessary for curbing corruption.
- The civil society can play an important role in mobilising public opinion and developing a social movement against corruption.
- Further research is required to find out the causes of corruption and how it can be rooted out.



- If the mass media is able to develop a widespread social awareness against corruption, it may be possible to reduce corruption significantly.
- Incorporation of articles on honesty and integrity in the text books.

Conclusion

Transparency International Bangladesh has made some recommendations regarding the elimination of corruption in government and private institutions and has been advising the government through seminars and various reports have been produced outlining the different measures to be taken to control corruption. TIB also hopes to inform people through this report about the prevalence of corruption in Bangladesh, and how corruption may be controlled. 7