



# **National Youth Integrity Survey 2015<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> This is a revised version as of 6 July 2015.

# **National Youth Integrity Survey 2015**

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## **Executive Summary**<sup>2</sup>

### **The Context**

Youth are the most energetic and productive segment of the country. In Bangladesh, one third of the total population belongs to the youth. For continuous development, Bangladesh needs the adequate number of efficient and honest youth and only the right education with the practice of integrity can ensure the desired level of human capital.<sup>3</sup> The NIS paper of Bangladesh defines integrity as behavioral excellence influenced by ethics, morality and honesty.<sup>4</sup> It also implies adherence to time-tested norms, values, customs and principles of a society.

International surveys have shown that youth are particularly vulnerable as victims of corruption.<sup>5</sup> According to Transparency International (TI)'s Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) 2013, 27 per cent of youth worldwide paid bribe during last 12 months prior to the survey.<sup>6</sup> The findings of the Transparency International's Youth Integrity Survey, 2012 show that young people often struggle to live up to their own integrity standards. In 2008, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) conducted a pilot survey as part of the Youth Integrity Index introduced by TI. Bangladesh scored the highest among four participating countries in the index indicating highest level of integrity.<sup>7</sup> TIB has conducted Youth Integrity Survey (YIS) 2015 with the cooperation of TI as a continuation of its effort to understand the state of integrity of this important population group and to design appropriate advocacy based on study findings.

### **Objective and Methodology**

The main objective of this survey was to assess the views and opinions of youths on integrity and corruption, especially concerning their values, ethical standards and overall attitude towards various hypothetical life situations.

A multi-stage stratified systematic sampling method has been used for this survey. A sample size of 3,656 was determined proportionately, with 58 per cent rural and 42 per cent urban respondents. At first, 31 districts out of 64 were chosen randomly. In the second stage, proportionate to the population density of each of the selected districts, a total of 461 *mouzas*<sup>8</sup> were selected through random sampling. From each *mouza* eight (8) households were selected for interview of target population for the survey.

In this survey, the age group of 15 to 30 years has been considered as youth to maintain the similarities with other countries where this survey has been conducted. However for the purpose of comparison, the survey also included respondents from above-30 age groups. As such, about one-thirds of the sample (1,237 or 33.8%) was drawn from the latter category (above-30 age group) and the rest (2,419 or 66.2%) was from 18-30 years age group. A structured questionnaire prepared by TI was applied to collect the information. The survey was conducted between 22 April and 7 May 2015. Among the youth, 67 per cent respondents are male and 33

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<sup>2</sup> The study was released through a press conference held at TIB Head Office in Dhaka on 30 June, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> TIB 2008, *Youth Integrity Index, Bangladesh Report*.

<sup>4</sup> Cabinet Division Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh October 2012, *Commitment for Golden Bengal, National Integrity Strategy of Bangladesh*.

<sup>5</sup> TI 2011, *Piloting Transparency International's Youth Integrity survey: Youth Integrity in Vietnam*.

<sup>6</sup> U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center & TI 2013, *Best practices in engaging youth in the fight against corruption*.

<sup>7</sup> TI Oct. 2008, *Youth Integrity Index, Report of 2008 Pilot surveys*.

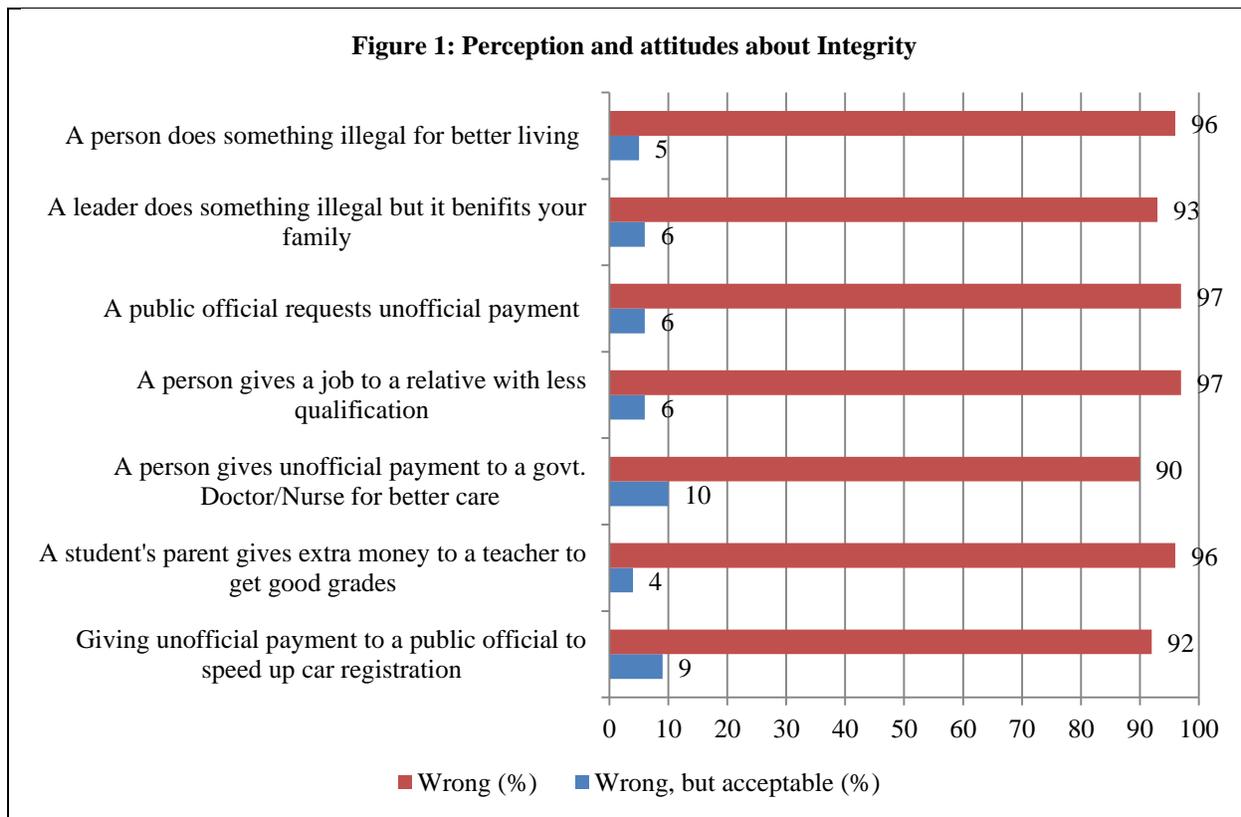
<sup>8</sup> According to Population and Housing Census 2011, Community Series of Bangladesh Bureau of Statics (BBS), '*Mouza*' is the lowest administrative unit having a separate jurisdiction list number (J.L No) in revenue records.

per cent are female, with an average age of 22 years. 5 per cent of them are illiterate or can sign only, 8 per cent have formal primary education and the rest 87 per cent of them have secondary education or above. 50 per cent of the youth are students and 5 per cent are jobless.

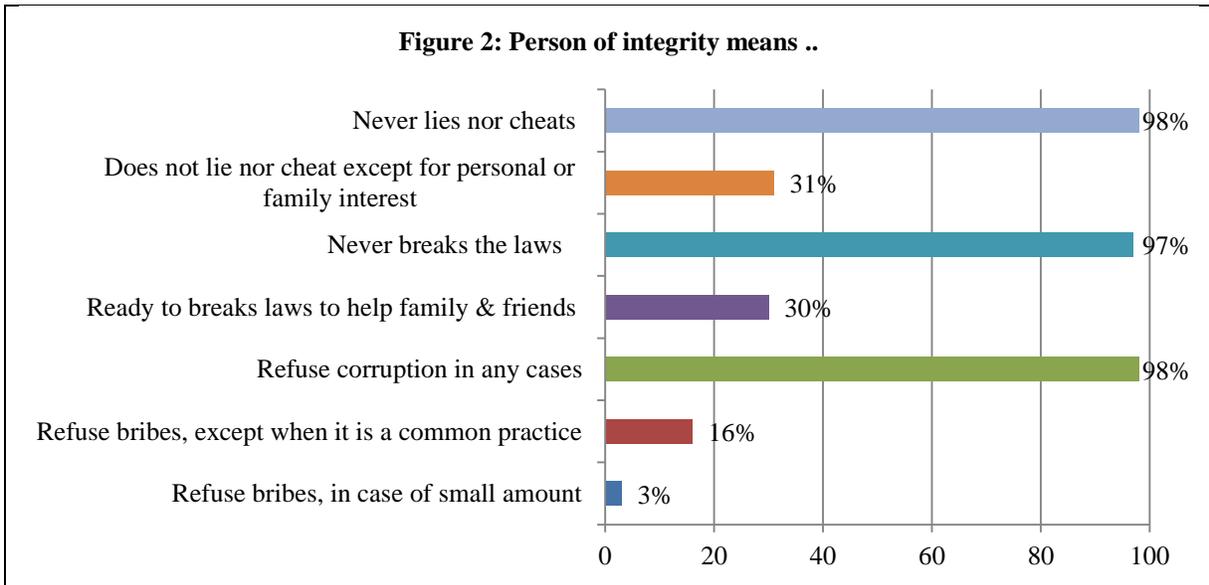
### Key findings

The analysis of survey data indicates that Bangladeshi youth usually adheres to a highly moralistic concept of integrity. As shown in Figure 1, more than 90 per cent of youth considered all the behaviours presented here as wrong, which shows their clarity on integrity standards. Some of them however, ranging from 4 to 10 per cent of all the youth respondents agreed that some wrong doings are currently accepted in our social context, as the social system does not always allow them to act on their principles.

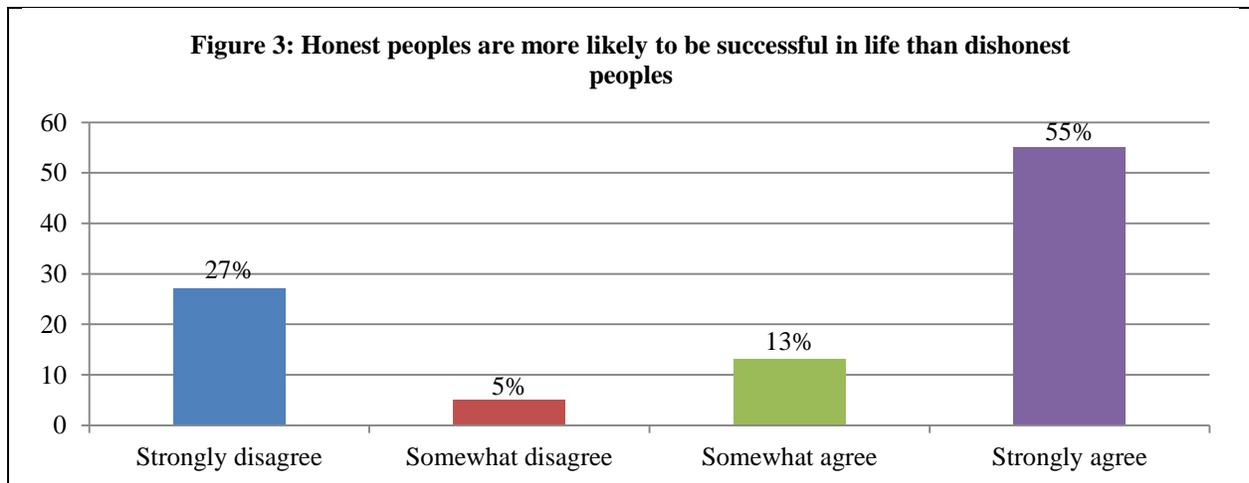
Here, 97 per cent of youth agreed that requesting unofficial payments or bribes to sign a document by a public official, or providing job to a relative with less qualification, depriving a qualified applicant, is wrong, whereas 6 per cent among them in both cases considered this as acceptable. To a slightly lesser extent, 90 per cent of youth acknowledged that giving extra payments to a government doctor or nurse is wrong, whereas 10 per cent of them mentioned this as acceptable, despite believing that as wrong behavior. Again 92 per cent of youth acknowledged that bribing a public official to speed up a car registration is wrong. However, 9 per cent of them reported the behaviour as acceptable in our societal context in spite of acknowledging that as wrong attitude.



97 per cent to 98 per cent of youth surveyed believe that a person of integrity never lies nor cheats, never breaks the law and refuses corruption in every cases.

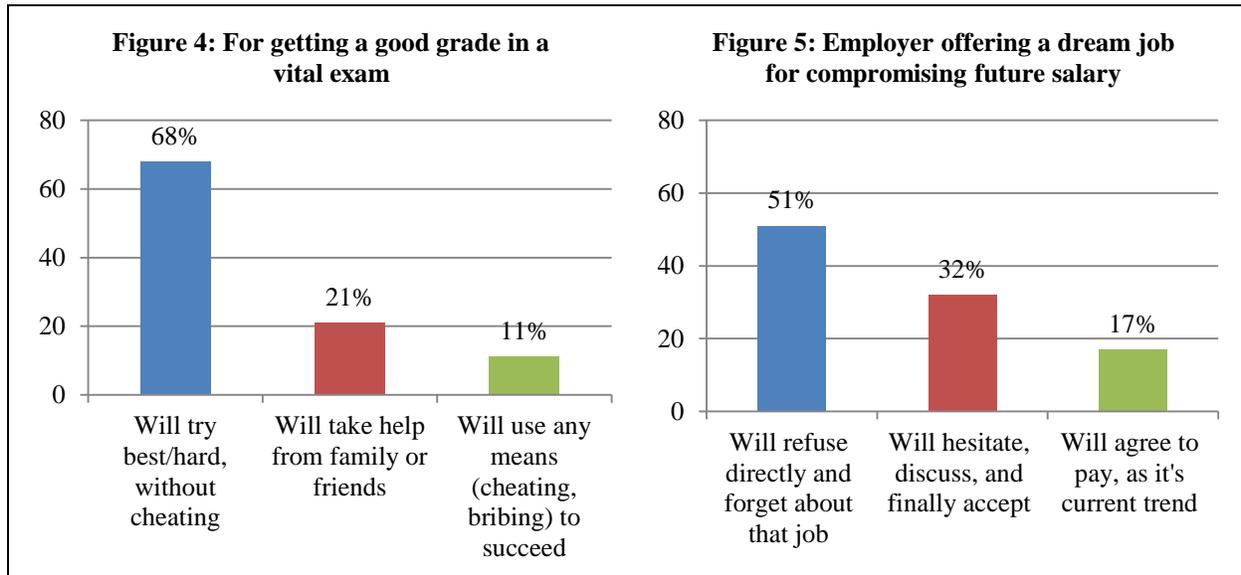


Nevertheless, in response to a more ethically challenging question, around 30 per cent of youth considered that ‘a person of integrity’ can still break the laws or keep lying and cheating, if it benefits his or her family. Around 98 per cent of surveyed youth ascertain “lack of integrity” as an enormous problem and detrimental to country’s economic and overall development. Besides, 92 per cent of them think that being honest is more important than being rich.

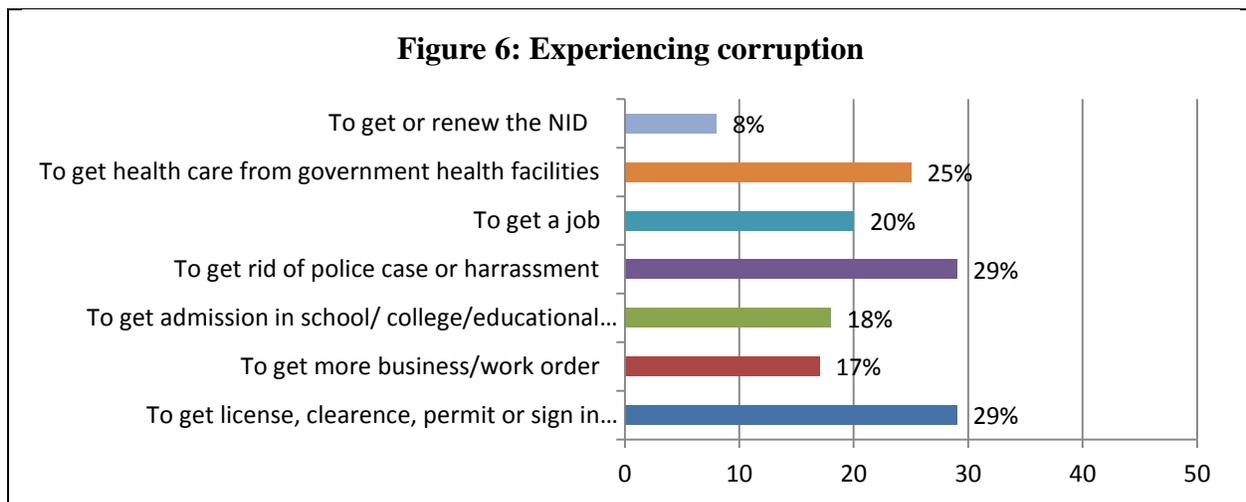


A total of 68 per cent respondents agree with the statement that honest people are more likely to be successful in life than dishonest people. A substantial portion of the respondents (27%) however disagree with this strongly or in other words they believe that corrupt people are more likely to succeed. Another 5 per of the respondents somewhat disagree with the statement. Thus a total of 32 per cent of the respondents believe that there exists some positive correlation between corruption and success.

In spite of having a strong moral perception of integrity, a significant portion of surveyed youth admitted that they would like to participate in corrupt acts for their personal gain in certain hypothetical situations



For instance, for getting a good grade in a vital job (around 32%), for collecting official documents, permits, license (around 32%), and for getting entrance to a good school or a renowned company (around 42%), a section of the youth are willing to compromise with the principles of integrity. Most alarmingly the proportion of such youth is highest when it comes to the question of getting a dream job – about 50 per cent of the respondents reported that they were ready to compromise integrity for such a job.

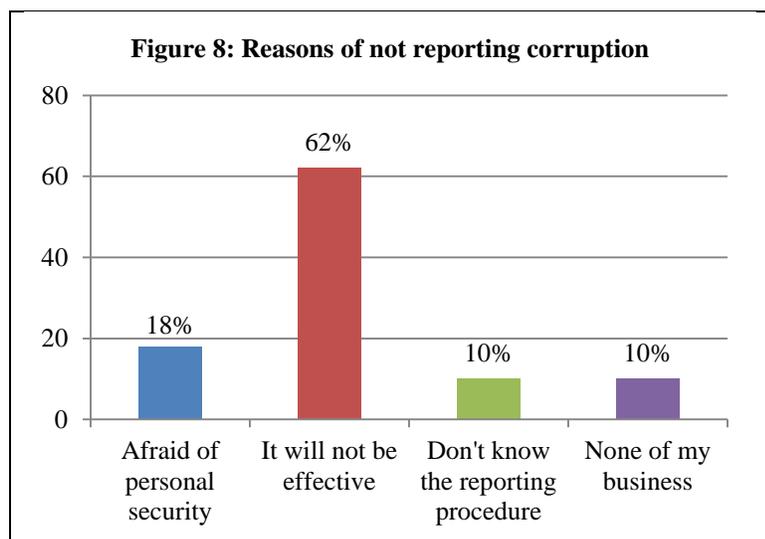
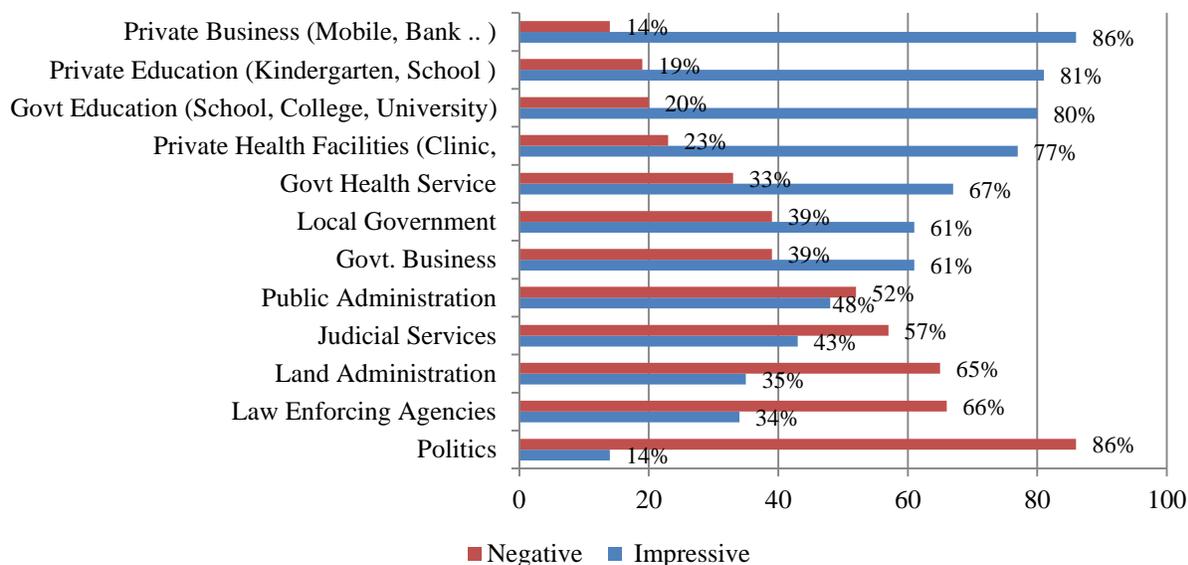


A significant share of youth reported that they had experienced corruption during last 12 months prior to the survey period while accessing six different regular public services. On an average around 21 per cent of them experienced corruption. Among them 29 per cent in getting license, permit or clearance, 29 per cent to get rid of police harassments, 25 per cent to get health care from government health facilities, 20 per cent to get a job, 18 per cent to get admission into school

or educational institution, and another 17 per cent to get more business orders experienced different forms of corruption.

The survey reveals that the trust of youth on public service is fairly low. 86 per cent of youth have negative impression about the level of integrity in politics, followed by law enforcing agencies (66%), land administration (65%) and judicial services (57%). In contrast, 86 per cent of youth have positive impression about the level of integrity in private business sector, followed by private education (81%), government education (80%) and private health services (77%).

**Figure 7: Youth rating of Integrity at different sectors**



82 per cent of youth believe that they can play an important role in integrity-building and the fight against corruption through advocacy and changing attitudes. Moreover, 80 per cent of the youth surveyed would like to blow the whistle on corruption.

Nevertheless, a significant number of respondents (8%) said that they will not report corruption as they perceive that would not be effective, or that's not their duty. Among them, 18 per cent of youth will not report in fear of their

personal security.

Around 38 per cent of youth have received an education or followed a specific programme about integrity or anti-corruption. However, around 89 per cent of youth said that they had no or very little information and knowledge of anti-corruption laws and regulations. Survey finding also

indicates that family and friends mostly influenced youth in building their views, concept and perception on integrity.

However, no significant variation in findings is found in respect to gender, age group, educational background and living areas etc.

### **Recommendations**

1. Promotion and practice of integrity among youth should be more emphasized in the National Youth Policy, and an effective implementation strategy for such promotion should be developed.
2. The role of youth in establishing integrity and preventing corruption should be included in the National Integrity Strategy. The action plan for family mentioned in the strategy should be implemented properly.
3. An effective complain redress mechanism to report of corruption and enabling environment for youth should be ensured.
4. The existing integrity and anti-corruption related sections in the curriculum should be implemented more effectively.
5. Corruption should be established as a punishable offence and thus set examples before youth. The culture of impunity should be stopped.
6. Coordinated programs and massive awareness campaigns should be initiated involving all stakeholders to encourage and motivate youth towards integrity.