Global Corruption Report:
Education

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Dhaka, 01 October 2013

Leading TI Reports on Corruption

- **Corruption Perceptions Index –** International ranking of countries based on data from surveys by 10-15 international organizations
- **Global Corruption Barometer -** survey of public attitudes toward and experience of corruption
- **Bribe Payers Index -** willingness of foreign firms to pay bribes
- **Global Corruption Report** - Annual research-based assessment of the state of corruption on a specific subject/theme on a global level

What is Global Corruption Report

- GCR brings together leading global experts, researchers and practitioners to analyse a selected current issue/sector and explore solutions
- The theme of GCR this year is education. Previous editions focused on: Climate Change (2010), Water (2008) judicial corruption (2006)
- GCR 2013 compiles research on corruption trends, factors, implications, and recommends measures in education
- It showcases practical experiences and innovative practices in addressing corruption in the education sector

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Main highlights

- Education sector is highly vulnerable to corruption, the cost of which is unacceptable now and for the future
- Bangladesh is relatively less affected than the global average – still the risks are high
- Leadership and political will are the fundamental key
- Openness, disclosures, transparency and accountability at all levels are indispensable
- Rule of law is a must - good laws & regulations, effective institutions and effective enforcement
- People's engagement, participation and oversight
- Integrity in education - investment for next generations

Education

- Fundamental human right, a driver of personal, social and economic development
- Key to a better future, provides the tools that people need to sustain their livelihoods, live with dignity and contribute to society
- Education is particularly prone to corruption - huge resources - complex administrative layers, inadequate monitoring top to bottom
  - Nigeria $21m lost in two years, double that amount in Kenya in five years
  - Vietnam – Bribe to ensure a seat in a prestigious primary school costs more than double the country's GDP per capita.
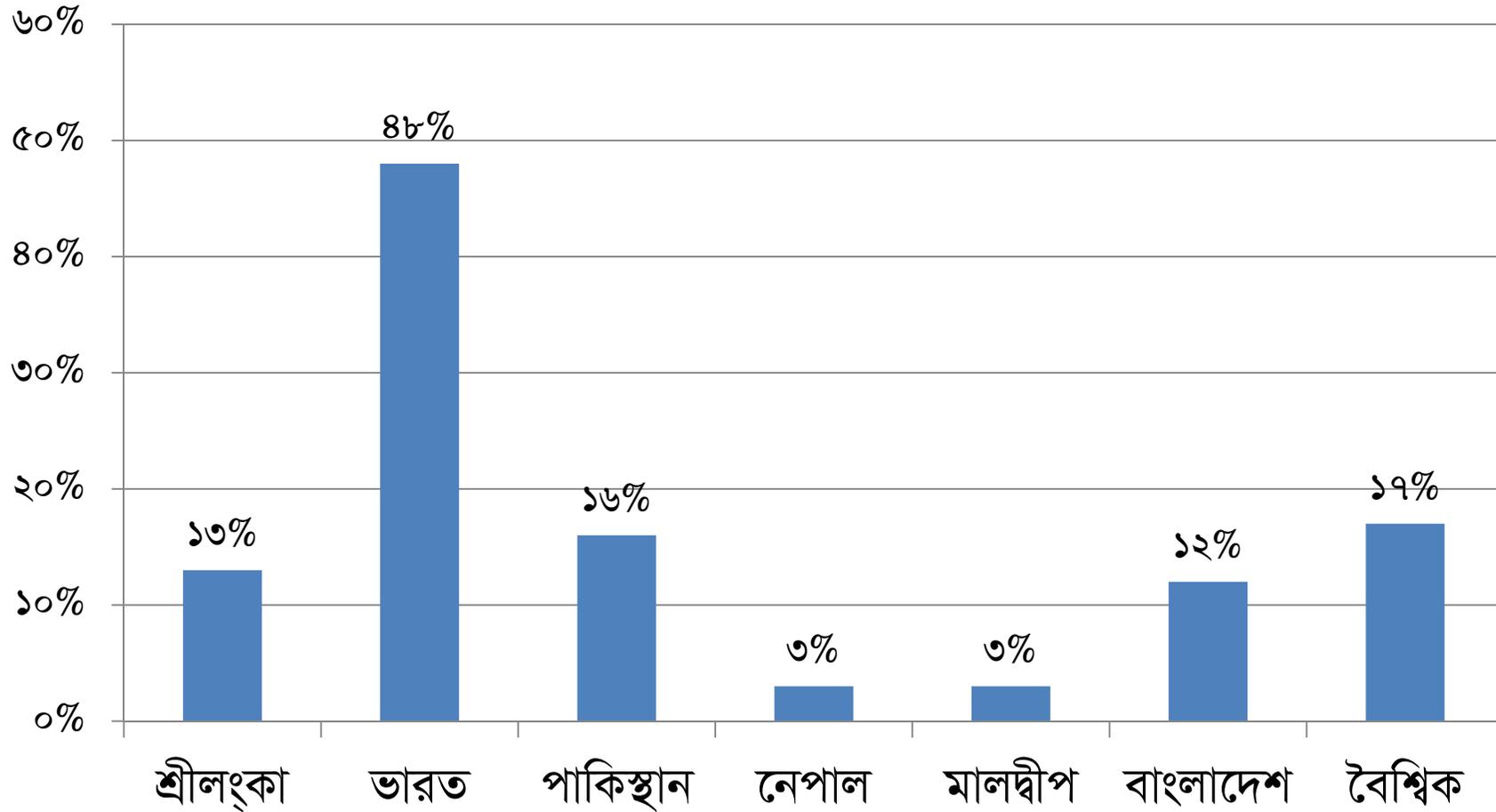 - Bangladesh Tk 70.3 crore ($9m) in education - for petty corruption

Percentage of people who paid a bribe in education **(Global comparison)**

Global : 17%,, Bangladesh: 12%
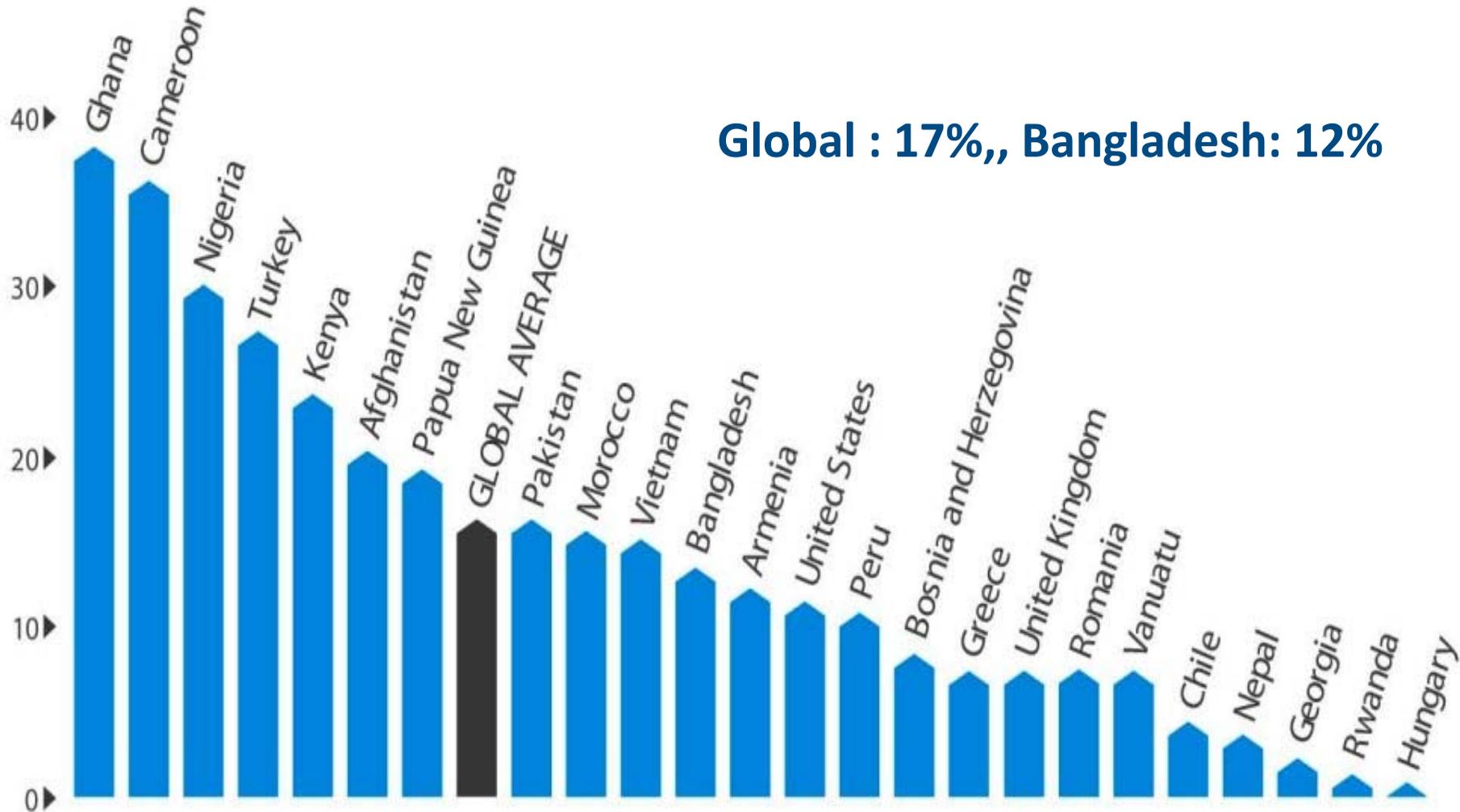
Perceptions of corruption in education   **Source: Global Corruption Barometer 2012**

Corruption in higher education

- **Global enrolment increased from 32 million in 1970 to 159 million in 2008**
- **No longer a reserve of the elite**
- **Public resources unable to cope with the transition – higher demand than supply**
- **Absence or low oversight responsible for corruption – undermines the whole education system**
  - **Germany - high-profile allegations of plagiarism are common**
  - **professors in a Greek university imprisoned for the embezzlement of €8 million**

Costs of corruption in education

- Enormous societal cost

- The young are the first victims - affecting integrity & dignity for life, and society at large

- The social investment in future citizens fails when individuals can succeed dishonestly and without merit

- Can lead to incompetent future leaders and professionals

- Human life can be endangered by fake or untrained doctors, judges or engineers, or by bogus scientific research by corrupt academics

Cost of corruption in education

- **Affects the poor and disadvantaged the most, particularly women and minorities, who are unable to bear the hidden cost of access and success**

- **The young, especially the vulnerable members of society deprived of access to education and lose the opportunity to realise full potential**

- **Maintains and aggravates social inequality**

Cost of corruption in education

- **Particularly harmful - breeds a social acceptance of corruption at an early age**

- **Young people rarely have the ability to question the rules of the classroom**

- **They can internalise corrupt behaviour and carry these forward into society**

- **Corrupt practices can transmit into generations**

Nature of corruption in education

- In procurement, construction and other infrastructure development
- "Shadow schools" (e.g., 8,000 in Pakistan), "Ghost teachers"
- Diversion of resources intended for textbooks and supplies
- Bribery in access to education and the buying of grades
- Nepotism in teacher appointments
- Fake certificates
- Misuse of school grants for private gain
- Absenteeism, and private tutoring in place of formal teaching (South Korean households $17 billion, or 80 per cent of total government expenditure on education in 2009
- Such other practices as sexual exploitation in the classroom and other forms of abuse of power

Nature of corruption in education

- **Illicit payments in recruitment and admissions**
- **Nepotism in tenure postings, bribery in on-campus accommodation and grading**
- **Undue political and corporate influence in education and research**
- **Plagiarism, 'ghost authorship' and editorial misconduct in academic journals**
- **Online diploma and accreditation manipulation**
- **Corruption in degree recognition in cross-border education (3.7 million+ foreign students at risk worldwide)**

Recommendations - overall

- **Rule of law**
- **Effective service codes and strong accountability mechanisms must be in place**
- **Independent media and an active civil society**
- **Preventative measures such as effective procurement guidelines, audits, monitoring**
- **Anti-corruption efforts must be integral to the goals of improvement of access and quality – not to be lost among other competing agendas**
- **National curriculum should be enriched by effective ethics and human rights education for students and teachers**

Recommendations – overall

- **Education must be an essential tool in itself in the fight against corruption**
- **The social role and value of the school and the teacher must be placed at the forefront of education policy and anti-corruption efforts**
- **Teachers must not be undervalued in the society**
- **Salaries of teachers and other educational staff must be consistent with cost of living, must be regularly paid**
- **Policies and actions must be taken to establish teacher as a role model and the school as a microcosm of society**
- **Teachers must be trained to teach by example**

Leadership & political will

- Leadership quality and political will - corruption in education an obstacle to realising the human right to education

- Tone to be set at the top - honest leaders can be a powerful force

- A zero-tolerance approach to corruption indispensable for strengthening access to and the quality of education

- A rights-based approach, consistent with international and regional human rights law, should frame all policies and actions to combat corruption in education

- International organisations like UNESCO should assist governments in tackling corruption in education

- Anti-corruption and governance indicators must be integrated into the post-2015 MDG strategy

Transparency, Openness, Accountability

- **Robust transparency & accountability frameworks must be in place**

- **Access to information laws should cover public education data, and proactive disclosure of information in the public interest must be made mandatory**

- **Training should be extended to district- and local-level administrators, school management committees and parent-teacher associations on how to access this information in order to track expenditure**

Transparency, Openness, Accountability

- **Educational institutions should have simple, clear and accessible education guidelines in place to allow students and other stakeholders to monitor systems**

- **Governance & transparency rankings should be introduced for higher education institutions**

- **Systems of accountability in educational institutions should clearly state the relevant rules and procedures, provide a mechanism for monitoring compliance**

Transparency, Openness, Accountability

- **Consequences for non-compliance must be specified and enforced**

- **Codes of conduct in schools and universities should be drafted in consultation with all stakeholders**

- **Educators must know what behaviours might be constituted as corrupt practices**

- **In cases of alleged breaches, codes should also provide for accessible and timely remedial action.**

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Oversight & People's engagement

- Powers of the parliamentary committee should be enhanced and effectively enforced in ensuring preventive as well as control measures to address corruption in education

- Introduce and enforce Right to Information law and whistleblower protection law engaging stakeholders

- School management committees, civil society groups and others should utilise cooperative agreements, such as '*integrity pledges*' to incentivise anti-corruption practices

- Civil society should engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms as an additional avenue of accountability

Oversight & People's engagement

- Citizens must have the opportunity to create the demand their right to corruption-free education.

- Parental participation and oversight should be promoted as the first step to fighting school corruption, with special attention to constraints faced particularly by the poor.

- Training and awareness raising should be built into the effectiveness of school management committees

- Youth should be given a central role in fighting corruption, bringing innovative new tools and approaches creating effective demand

- Networking of youth groups for shared learning and participation should be promoted

Oversight & People's engagement

- **New forms of integrity assessments and impact evaluations need to be used more widely to test assumptions about what works and what doesn't**

- **Research on corruption in education should focus on the causes of corruption and on or successful interventions.**

- **Pursuant to UNCAC (art 13c) public education on non-tolerance of corruption including school and university curricula**

TIB tool as a good practice:
Integrity Pledge

- **Voluntary engagement of officials and school authority with service recipients and other citizens to promote transparency and accountability at the level of delivery of services**

- **A written but legally non-binding social contract**

What is Integrity Pledge

A commitment by stakeholders to work together to:

- Eliminate unauthorized payments, including bribery for services rendered

- Ensure and promote participation of service recipients in decisions that affect the content and quality of education

- Ensure openness, transparency and accountability in the services provided by the selected institution

Result indicators

- **Unauthorized payments stopped**
- **Scholarship & book delivery fair & transparent**
- **SMC reformed and activated, teachers, officials, parents engaged**
- **Teachers' performance improved - exploitative private tuition controlled**
- **Extra-curricular activities strengthened**
- **Drop-out reduced, improved results in exams - Grading improved to A**
- **Replication request by the local education authority**

The Integrity Pledge: Challenges

- The level of the given resources and capacities. Higher levels of success will depend on the necessary policy, institutional and resource support
- Any shortfall in ensuring participation, especially of the service recipients, mainly poor and disadvantaged, will damaging
- Erosion of volunteerism will jeopardize the prospect of success
- Being a legally non-binding instrument with no scope of legal redress in case of violation, commitment and ownership of all stakeholders is the key
- Favourable political will and administrative support are crucial

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Conclusion

- **No quick or single formula – not one size for all – must be adapted to national context**

- **GCR serves as a source of adaptable solutions and tools to reclaim education from the scourge of corruption**

Future generations deserve no less

Thank you