



## TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH

### Corruption in Bangladesh: A Household Survey

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#### Summary Findings

#### **Background:**

This is the third such nation-wide household survey conducted by TIB on corruption in Bangladesh. The earlier surveys were conducted in 1997 and 2002.

#### **Highlights:**

The estimated annual burden on households in Bangladesh because of corruption in 9 selected sectors is Taka 6,796 crore. Incidence of corruption is highest in land administration, police and lower judiciary. Other sectors where corruption is high include health. Education, power supply, taxation, Shalish (mediation), distribution of relief and collection of pension.

Effective and independent Anti-corruption Commission, genuine political will of the Government and political leaders at all levels, effective reforms for good governance, especially independence of the administration, law enforcing agencies and the judiciary and public awareness and participation in a social movement against corruption at national and local levels would help improve the situation.

#### **Objectives of the survey:**

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

#### **Sectors covered:**

9 sectors: Education, Health, Land Administration, Police, Judiciary, Electricity, Taxation, Local Government - Shalish and Relief, and Pension

#### **Methodology:**

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

#### **Key Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents:**

- Sex ratio: 67.3% Male, 32.7% Female
- Monthly average income: 2560 Taka
- Professional distribution: farmers, labour, business, service holder and housewives
- Religion: 87.7% Muslim, 11.2% Hindu and 1.1% Christian and Buddhist

#### **Corruption in Education sector**

- 40% students at the primary level had to pay admission fees at an average rate of Tk. 209 whereas it is supposed to be free.
- 21.7% students engaged private tutors from the same institution where they were enrolled.

- ❑ 32.4% primary school students who were entitled for Government stipend had to pay Tk. 40 on an average for enrolment to receive the stipend.
- ❑ In case of girl students at the secondary level 22% had to make similar payments at an average rate of Taka 45.
- ❑ In addition, 5% primary school students and 38% female secondary school students informed that at the time of payment a portion was deducted by the authority.
- ❑ A primary school student had to pay 58 taka as annual fee whereas it is supposed to be free.

#### **Corruption in Health sector**

- ❑ 26.4% outdoor patients had to pay bribes to doctors for receiving medical treatment at the public hospital at an average rate of 60 taka per visit.
- ❑ 20% indoor patients had to pay bribes for the same purpose at a much higher rate of Taka 478 on an average.
- ❑ 37.5% patients who had to undergo surgery in public hospital had to pay bribes at an average rate of 1420 taka.
- ❑ 57% patients who had an X-ray done from public hospital had to pay Taka 516 on an average 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 had to pay an average amount of 3764 taka as bribes for land registration.
- ❑ 88% households who mutation of their land ownership had to pay 2047 taka as bribes on an average for land mutation.
- ❑ 85% households who collected land related documents had to pay an average amount of 961 taka as bribes.
- ❑ 83% households had to pay Taka 2370 taka on an average as bribes for land survey.
- ❑ 40% households who received Khas land had to pay Taka 9575 on an average as bribes.

#### **Corruption in Police department**

- ❑ 92% households who lodged FIR to the police station had to pay an average of 2430 taka as bribes.
- ❑ 91% households who registered GD to the police station had to pay 939 taka on an average as bribes.
- ❑ 80% household who needed clearance certificate from police had to pay an average amount of 881 taka as bribe.
- ❑ 71% of the accused had to pay bribes at the rate of 5718 taka.

#### **Corruption in Lower Judiciary**

- ❑ 66% plaintiff had to pay 6135 taka on an average as bribes
- ❑ 64.58% accused had to pay an average amount of 7728 taka as bribes

#### **Corruption in the Banks**

- ❑ The households who took loan from public bank had to wait on an average for 108 days while in the private bank the average waiting time was 30 days.
- ❑ 58% household who took loan had to pay an average amount of 1975 taka as bribes.
- ❑ 61% households who took loans from public bank and 15% households went to private banks for loans had to pay bribes.

#### **Corruption in Taxation**

- ❑ 49% households who paid income tax had to pay bribes at the rate of 7487 taka.
- ❑ 14% households who paid transport tax had to pay 3166 taka on an average as bribes.
- ❑ 9% households who paid holding tax had to pay an average amount of 1538 taka as bribes.

**Corruption in Service for electric supply**

- 10.4% household who have electricity connection are using electricity with illegal connection for 35 months
- 70% household who took electricity connection during the last year had to pay 1174 taka on an average as bribes
- 4.3% households having electricity connection paid an average amount of 1445 taka to temper with meter reading to avoid paying the due amount.

**Corruption in Local Government**

- 26% households who needed *shalish* (mediation) by elected local government representatives had to pay 4035 taka on average as bribes.
- 3% households who were enrolled for relief had to pay bribes at an average rate of 56 taka.
- 39% households who received relief complained that they were given less than the allocated amount.

**Corruption in Pension**

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

**Cost of Corruption – bribes paid by households for 25 services received in the 9 sectors covered by the survey:**

- The estimated annual cost of receiving 25 category of services from the selected 9 sectors is Taka 6,796 crore.
- It has also been estimated that an average Bangladeshi paid Taka 485 taka per year as bribes.

**Recommendations**

- Genuine political will of the Government and the political leaders at all levels is the sine qua non in curbing corruption.
- The opportunity created by the setting up of the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) must be seized by allowing it to function independently and effectively.
- A separate judicial bench is necessary for conducting cases of corruption.
- The Official Secrets Act 1923 must be abolished to ensure transparency and free flow of information.
- Appointment of sector-wise Ombudsmen as per Article 77 of the Constitution.
- Effective policy reforms and institutional infrastructure are vital to making the public service, law enforcing agencies and judiciary independent and free from political influence.
- Greater awareness and participation of the citizens at large is crucial to strengthen a social movement against corruption nationally as well as local levels.
- The media – both print and electronic – should be allowed to function freely and independently as a vital means of increasing awareness and mobilization of public opinion against corruption.
- Incorporation of vices of corruption as an impediment to good governance in the school curriculum so as to sensitize the future generation.

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