Global Corruption Report: Education

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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
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%

Source: Global Corruption Barometer 2012
South Asia: Victims of bribery

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.
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 for 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.
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