

## **SOCIAL PREVENTION APPROACH FROM CORRUPTION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Accessing to information, public education and improving awareness level, media tooling and civil institutions and reporting are significant plans for social preventing from corruption. Informed people of governmental problems and decisions settle in a situation that supervise brokers of public section and foreclose the fields of corruption occurrence. In plan of public education and improving awareness level, information publishes actively. In this mode, individuals that don't follow information achieve minimum information and persons that follow information will achieve better sources. In the program of media tooling, we try to equip and enable related experts. In the program of civil institutions, the purpose is coordination of civil society and its active members with mechanisms for preventing from corruption.

**Keywords:** *corruption, social prevention, civil society, public education, accessing to information*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Nowadays, corruption converts to global difficult and achieves unprecedented level in developing countries in which there aren't powerful plans for it (1:9). In the view of transparency international organization, corruption is misuse of delegated power for personal benefits either in governmental or private sections (11:25). The purpose of social prevention is creation of environmental and personal changes that result to modification of person and society and prevent crime commission largely, stably and continuously (10:85). This writing considers and discusses tools and approaches for social preventing from corruption.

### **ACCESSING TO INFORMATION**

This matter can improve transparency of behavior and decisions of public brokers and aware people from effective problems and affairs on their future. This matter increases people supervisions about decision and behavior of brokers of public sector. As a result, it limits the possibility of corruption commission.

In fact, here user requests information achievement and system of governmental institution force to respond. To achieve effective and regular mechanism in this area, it should be assured that process of work regulated based on request of users about needed information.

In addition, related governmental officers should not have the arbitrary and uncommon prevention from accessing to necessary and needed information in this area (302:16).

According to importance and effect of mechanism for accessing to information in prevention from corruption, United Nations Convention against Corruption emphasizes support of such mechanism in its paragraphs B and D of paragraph 1 of article 13.

In the paragraph 1 of this article, it is requested from member states to perform appropriate acts for providing the field for improvement of active coordination of members of civil society in preventing and fighting with corruption.

This coordination should be improved by acts like assurance of effective accessibility of people to information and appreciation, improvement and support of freedom for finding, receiving, publishing and distributing related information of corruption.

Drawing this mechanism needs transparent and coherent regulations. These regulations should have following factors:

1. obligation of governmental institutions for presentation of information: these regulations should compel governmental institutions to present and publish needed information about their activities. The main purpose of this obligation is informing people of society of performance of governmental institutions as finally lead to improvement of transparency level in executive structure of governmental institution.

This information relate to description of legal duties of governmental institutions, budget problems and financial performance of institutions, annual and regular reporting and the way of activity of regulatory and attendant institutions to complaints (9:29).

2. recognizing the right of accessing to information: this matter is important because the society always hypothesizes the right of accessing to information as a legal right and the right of protest to prohibition of accessing to information (14:12).
3. mechanism of independent consideration: these regulations should fix independent mechanism for consideration of this problem that does requested information include regulations of accessing to information or not? This mechanism should be out of institution that information is requested. Otherwise, mentioned institution can elude presentation of information by different excuses (303:16).
4. determination of time limit: enough and certain time framework should be determined for governmental institutions and the independent consideration source. The purpose is that mentioned institutions have enough opportunity for searching, collecting and considering requested information (9:31).

Of course, this point should be noted that in the process of revealing information private information of individuals protects from accessing of public because we cannot access privacy of people because of fighting with information and revealing of them. Nowadays, the probability of misusing them is very high especially in competitive society of modern world (regarding their high value information) (12:32).

Accessing to information also encounter with challenges. Maybe the first executive challenge in the field of accessing to information is fear and reluctance of governments of such matter. Since public accessing to information about the amount of corruption in governments can insecure their politic place and remove their current condition, they will disaccord with establishment of such system or limit its performance.

Another challenge is the reasons that governmental institutions limit accessing of people to the category of information based on them. Encountering with such exceptions has two important points: first, the requested source responsible for the matter of proving confidentiality of information (by any reason), second related reasons about confidentiality of information should be determined previously in order to governmental institutions cannot avoid revealing of necessary information by presenting different reasons (12:36).

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND IMPROVING AWARENESS LEVEL**

In order to people can encounter with corruption and refuse it themselves, education and awareness are necessary. Training of governmental staff in the field of encounter with corruption and expressing the ways of reporting and informing citizens about the nature of corruption and its intense consequences and encouraging them to relate with officials of fighting with corruption without any medium also are necessary (8:23).

Regarding effect and efficiency of program of public training in the field of encountering with corruption and prevention from it, Merida convention emphasizes such program in its several paragraphs of second chapter (with title of preventive acts) from member states. For example, paragraph A of article 13 (with title of society coordination) of this convention request from member states to improve public awareness about existence, reasons and intense of corruption threat in order to prevent from corruption and encounter with that. Paragraph C of this article requests performance of related activities about public informing that help to intolerance of corruption and also public educational programs like curriculum of schools and universities in order to improving public coordination.

These curriculums should include exact information about nature of corruption, expenses of corruption and the way of occurrence and reporting of them and mechanisms and encounter regulations and transnational experiences.

Related information about the nature of corruption and the way of its occurrence about brokers of public section has reduplicate importance because they are in the subject of corruption because of their nature of activity in public section. Therefore, they should reach clear understanding of this problem by a regular training program (18:69).

Poverty, poor health, low level of life expectancy, unequal distribution of income and wealth, low level of growth and even negative in some countries and failure of their development programs are part of undesirable consequences of corruption (5:72).

To attract public support, it is better to prove this matter for people of civil society that corruption is undesirable and harmful subject, especially in the areas that people has more interaction with government the importance of their familiarity with losses of corruption is very important.

Also, people should be aware always about the way of executing fighting programs with corruption. The possibility of coordination and support of people in preventive and suppressive programs in facing with corruption can be provided by this awareness. Special information should be prepared about the way and approach of coordination with specific institutions of fighting with corruption for people and governmental staff. For example, address and phone number of references that should be informed in the case of corruption is special instance (18:72).

Awareness from criminal laws of encountering with corruption also includes in this factor. Principally, publication of criminal laws can have preventive commands for potential guilty and this point reminds them about high expense of corruption commission and encourages honesty.

Regarding this fact that financial corruption is universal dilemma and different countries of the world experience that, we can reach new approaches in the field of fighting with corruption by expressing and publishing successful experiences of other countries (18:76-77).

This matter can improve self-confidence of people and especially brokers of public section in facing with corruption dilemma. This training should be performed by using powerful and effective communicative tools.

Mass media are the first and most important choice for transferring anti corruption messages because of extensive group of contact and high speed of news and information transfer. Reporting corruption in media prevents influence of individuals for unrevealing of corruption behavior and loss of prevention from corruption and this disclosure of corruption in media inevitably increase political and social expenses of corruption for their perpetrators (3:26).

For some contacts and certain people, meeting, conference and workshop have more benefit. From benefits of application of such tools is bi-directional communication between officers of fighting with corruption (especially in the area of public training) with contact (14:22). This bi-directional communication causes that by knowing opinion of contacts and asking them about approaches of fighting with corruption, the possibility of modification of fighting approaches with corruption and more efficiency of them is prepared properly.

Internet can be used for publication of messages and related news about encountering with corruption and reporting of corruption by people. The possibility of bi-directional, economic and fast communication among institutions of fighting with corruption and their contacts are valuable features of this communicative tool. Governments should create special sites for fighting with corruption and publish news and information about corruption in them regularly and update. Also, news about the way of performance and results of anti corruption plans should be published in order to people aware of them and effective supervision on them (16:307).

Regarding this fact that responsible institutions for training in modern society are different and variable, creation of coordination among them is difficult work and needs much time. And if this coordination doesn't execute suitably, the possibility of rework and wastage of financial resources in this field will be probable. Modification and improvement of level of public awareness about the dilemma of corruption and fighting with it is difficult, time-consuming and costly matter and we cannot reach high success in this field by some permanent programs. To success in this program, attention to time factor and continuity of training process is necessary and required matter (9:57).

## **MEDIA TOOLING**

The role of group media in creating and protecting the situation in routine life in which the possibility of financial corruption is banned are very important and vital. Newspapers, radio and Television play significant supervisory role continuously by applying private and general latitude.

Media remind governments to act according to common good by pressuring on them. Independent and free mass media are considered as powerful barrier against corruption of politicians because they criticize the performance of government without any fear (7:142).

Therefore, media tooling by technical and specific training of them and giving the feeling of media freedom is considered very important. Only informed and equipped media can be effective in increase of public awareness and people training and finally establish public support from anti corruption plans.

Attention to media tooling program as powerful plan in improving coordination in anti corruption programs can be justified based on general obligations of first paragraph of article 5 of United Nations Convention for fighting with corruption. This paragraph invites member states to perform effective and coordinated policies against corruption that improve society coordination and reflect the principles of law domination, proper management of public affairs and governmental properties, integration, transparency and responsibility. Below paragraph D of first paragraph of article 13 as coordination, it is requested from member states to support freedom for receiving, publishing and distributing information about corruption.

The following cases are the subjects that if they are considered properly, the possibility of creating a powerful and efficient media system against corruption phenomenon will be provided:

**Media freedom:** the independence of media in critical consideration of government behaviors and its different parts is necessary. To protect public trust to reports and news of mass media, the professional independence of media should be protected against political and governmental offensives. Defending independence and freedom of mass media is effective approach in supervising government and its politicians (7:4).

From most important protection approach of independence and neutrality of media that can consider properly is privatization of media and separation of them from government or political parties (16:310).

In this condition, synchronous with regular movements of different groups in revealing lawbreaking of officers of government, people can uncover illegal support and expediency samples in all parts of society (7:35).

**Specialism:** in order to media can evaluate the approaches of fighting with corruption with fair, correct and independent criticism and in the case of any problem want to remove or suggest them, they should have proper specialty. Media can achieve specific information in the field of fighting with corruption in two ways: first by continuous training of staff and providing necessary specific information for them, they try to increase knowledge and awareness of staff. Second, counsel with special sources in this field and institutions for fighting with corruption and also active academics (9:68).

**Availability:** media can affect contact if they are always available for people. Continuous and frequent relation of media with society can provide public trust to public news and requested information from media and finally emphasize public decision for fighting with corruption. If coverage of some parts of society needs use of governmental sources, it should be endeavored that government cannot limit in presenting news and information that is not advantageous by reliance on this solution (311:16).

**Media training:** media should always inform about the nature of corruption, the reasons of its occurrence and expenses of it. They should inform about the kinds and types of occurred corruptions and the amount of their commission. Preventive and anti corruption acts of governments should be trained to media and their staff continuously and they can evaluate and criticize these acts. By expressing their weak points, media provide the field of modification and conditioning of them fairly (16:51).

About current challenges in this area, it should be said that financial and budget limitations in executing curriculum for media staff and generally media tooling that is performed to increase specialty of them is the first operational challenge in executing such program. Another challenge is existence of some unreasonable limitations in accessing to information for media. In fact, if effective and on-time access to information is not assured for media, positive and active effect of them on the process of plans for fighting with corruption won't predict. Therefore, approval of clear and regular laws that recognize public accessibility to information is necessary precondition in executing this program (9:71).

## **CIVIL INSTITUTIONS**

The role of civil institutions and their coordination in forming mechanisms of social control is valuable and unmatched role that is performed to prevent corruption and confront with it.

These institutions, by their supervision on performance of governmental public organizations and institutions, try to put their activities in the view and judgment of society with transparency and so-called glass room (6:32).

Voluntary presence and activity in these institutions and much commitment of their members to job principles cause valuable transient impact of social institutions. Civil institutions out of area of governmental education can train different groups of people in different fields by their innovations and extensive people facilities and increase the level of awareness and public culture of society. Also, these institutions can motivate attention and sensitivity of people to solution of problems and crisis effectively and efficiently. They can help preparedness of people facilities considerably in different fields like confronting with corruption (2:134).

In articles 6 and 36 of United Nations Convention against corruption, the importance of institution and special sources of fighting with corruption is emphasized. Also, effort for improving coordination of society in prevention from corruption and fighting with it is established in some articles of convention.

First paragraph of article 13 of this convention (with title of society coordination) requests specially from member states of convention to improve voluntary participation of individuals and groups out of governmental section like civil society, nongovernmental institutions and community organizations for preventing from occurrence of corruption and fighting with it. This special emphasis of convention is on using potential abilities of civil institutions in preventing from corruption and fighting with it (17:56). From acts of these institutions for fighting with corruption and providing health public system, we can mention following cases:

Helping process of public training: lack of people awareness about corruption and the way of occurrence and fighting is the most important social reason for creating corruption that attention to training and informing can be helpful for this problem. Civil institutions are widely trustworthy of society because they work out of governmental education part. Because of this reason, they can be successful in informing and advertising of society about corruption and the way of preventing and fighting with it. Civil institutions can present their messages by mass media and specially newspapers and different sectional training courses for different social groups of people like brokers of public section, students and masters of university (9:84).

Establishing rule of law culture and avoiding corruption: corruption commission in some cultural collections shows lack of social indecency and sagacity and perspicacity of individuals. In fact, wrong originated thoughts and illegal about corruption in some societies is one of most important challenges for anti corruption programs. Civil institutions can move properly in establishing rule of law culture and preventing from corruption because of their presence in society context and informing of the way of thought of its members and also using public trust origin and provide the field of modification of wrong beliefs of society about corruption (13:25).

Helping mechanism of reporting: we can claim that in success or failure of mechanism of reporting corruption to research sources, it is the most important determinant factor of coordination of civil society members with them. Civil institutions and their active members can help properly this mechanism by announcing the cases of corruption occurrence to this mechanism and by following received reports motivate more effort of research sources and stand against any ignorance or lack of investigation to reports. Also, these institutions can encourage people to coordinate with research sources and convince them that there isn't any threat in this coordination and cause improvement of people coordination level (13:30).

Researches and expressing modification views: in this section, civil institutions can help government by performing fundamental researches about problems and difficulties of the society and presentation of their results to adopt big and suitable programs. In this area, the results of research of civil institutions also can improve transparency of performance of governments and increase their accountability ability; the affairs that will reduce the possibility of corruption if they establish (86:9).

Regarding positive and suitable role of civil institutions in preventing and fighting with corruption, filling the distance between government and society and communication among public institutions and civil society, we can dedicate more important and effective role to civil institutions. If governments conquer their singular pessimism about origin and approach of activity of civil societies and want more coordination of them in society management, then establishing organizational and administrative connection between civil and governmental institutions will be materialized (15:32).

In the first form of this connection, we can imagine establishment of special institutions and sources with the aim of prevention and fighting with corruption that is created by coordinating between government and civil institutions. In fact, establishment of institutions with governmental and civil nature must be considered. Regarding importance of creating institution in prevention and fighting with corruption, by establishing such institutions, in addition to using financial sources of governmental section that have desirable form generally and people support of civil institutions, we can predict success of suggested programs from such sources and assure their result.

Another way of connection establishment between governmental and civil institutions is use of active counselors in collection of civil institutions. We can employ persons of different active trades in civil society like journalists and academics in commissions for fighting with corruption (314-315:12).

To assure desirable and proper effectiveness of institutions that are created from connection among civil and governmental collections, attention to following factors is necessary:

**Specialism:** according to complexity of corruption and necessity of formulating strategy of society in all political, economic and social sections and to fight with corruption we must pay close attention to choose active members in these institutions. The combination of members of these institutions must include a domain of necessary and related specialties to corruption problem. Of course, enough update information should be prepared for them in order to improve and protect abilities of members continuously.

**Collectivity:** in combination of members of compound institutions (civil and governmental), we should try to choose individuals of different active groups of people as much as possible in the field of civil society. This subject causes that governmental officers convince to hear view of most of members of civil society about the way of performing anti corruption acts by their representatives, and then try their best to realize requests of them.

**Tooling and empowerment:** connected institutions (civil and governmental) need tooling and investment to perform their duties in this area. Necessary budget for establishing such resources should be provided by governmental section and the empowerment of these institutions is emphasized especially by training (9:90).

The first challenge for activity of civil institutions is limitations that governments create them probably for anxiety about supervision in the path of these activities or make costly organization for them.

To remove such difficulty, governments should be convinced that although activities of civil institutions may create some problems for government, generally and finally activity of these institutions will consolidate bases of government by improving public trust feeling to government and filling space between dominant category and society (9:91).

Another challenge is disability of interfering representatives of all social concerned groups in fighting with corruption and management of such collections. It may be possible that owners of profits that do not allowed to participate in such institutions insist on opposition with anti corruption programs and acts.

The presence of this assurance that in such institutions, the decisions are made by interfering of all concerned groups will give double value to acts of these institutions (12:318).

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