

# **Reading Materials**

## **for BCS Written Candidates**

### **Corruption in Bangladesh & TIB Report**

Corruption is regarded as an inherent problem for human civilization because of its adverse impact on the progress of humankind. Although its definition, dimension and consequences are continuously changing over time, corruption has spread out deep root in the societies since the Stone Age. Sometimes, it is claimed that corruption is a curse for the society. If it is pervasive in any society then it becomes a disastrous virus to halt the normal functioning of that society in particular. In any case, growing public awareness and concern over corruption in last two decades have resulted in a significant upsurge in both theoretical and empirical researches to analyze economic consequence of corruption.

**In Bangladesh:** Corruption has always been a constant phenomenon in Bangladesh. But recent drives against corruption and a huge public conscience and consciousness against it have given it a new momentum. Bangladesh has been branded as the most corrupt country in the world for consecutive four years by Transparency International. So, both local and international pressure and call have created an urgency to fight and curb corruption in Bangladesh.

**Definition of Corruption:** Corruption can be defined in simple term as unethical and unfair practice or means to draw any profit or benefit that goes against law and harms others' interest. In broad terms, corruption includes abuse of power, distortion of standard practices and principles, bribery, favoritism, extortion. Fraudulence, deception and illegal

practices whereby a person or group draws personal benefit damaging others or country's interest.

**Causes of Corruption:** Corruption is a social evil. Moral degradation and ethical decadence is the main cause of corruption. People's unscrupulous activities, avarice and greed to amass wealth, materialistic attitude of life-all these breed corruption. Capitalistic economic system, in-equal distribution of wealth, excessive gap between wealth and poverty, economic insolvency, high living cost, unemployment etc. are the social and economic causes of corruption.

**Effects of Corruption in Bangladesh:** In a poor and underdeveloped country like Bangladesh the effects of corruption in economy and in politics are very devastating. If govt. officials are corrupt, people do not get good service from them. If politicians and policy-makers are corrupt, it affects and retards country's overall development.

**1. Corruption and economic growth:** Most of the studies that investigate the direct relationship between corruption and economic growth have found that pace of economic growth rate has slowed down due to corruption. It is claimed that economic growth rate is lower due to corruption.

**2. Corruption and investment:** Research shows that the investment is a robust determining factor of economic growth. In most of cases, economists have found negative relation between corruption and investment. Studies confirm that corruption has substantial negative effect on investment. Corruption acting as tax on return to private investment indirectly lowers both the quality and quantity of investment.

**3. Corruption and public sector:** In most cases, the relationship between public sector and corruption is investigated under empirical studies of economic development and corruption. An explicit research suggests that corruption provides opportunities to

increase the size of public investment at the cost of private investment. Again, corruption lessens the efficiency of government investment and of a country's infrastructure.

**4. Corruption and human development:** Research has not grown too much to explore. Corruptions also have some indirect negative impacts on human development through lowering economic growth. Corrupt countries tend to have less human development. Corruption shifts sway government investment from health and education to unproductive sectors.

**5. Gross direct foreign investment:** Corruption is also shown to exert a strong negative influence on levels of gross foreign investment. Foreign investment is different from domestic investment on the basis of at least two perspectives.

First, foreign investors are usually more sensitive to the institutional setting in the host countries. Second, since these investors are outsiders to the countries political processes, they are less familiar with the bureaucracy, and in many instances they are less welcome by local businesspeople and general population. As a result they are more likely to take their business elsewhere if the institutional environment is perceived as unfriendly and bureaucratic discretion is too high.

## **Shaping Legal Reforms Against Corruption:**

**Reform of anti-corruption act:** Throughout the year TIB continued its campaign against a set of amendments to the Anti-corruption Act which, if adopted, would significantly curtail the space for independent functioning of the Anti-corruption Commission

**Strengthening political and administrative control:** The authority has to strengthen political and administrative control upon corruption. Since the move was against a specific electoral commitment of the Government and conflicted with public expectations, as demonstrated

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by an opinion survey earlier, it was possible to engage with various stakeholders within and outside the government.

**Volunteer organization:** TIB and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are also working and pressing government in corruption issues in Bangladesh. They publish their annual report and conduct different programmes for public awareness.

**Other advocacy initiatives:** Other research-based advocacy initiatives during the year go on. Usually these NGOs or other organizations advocate how to stop or limit corruption and how to make aware of the deadly issues.

**Raising voices to ensure accountability:** TIB's social movement has continued to grow and become more diverse. More than 5,000 activists are now engaged in anti-corruption activities. Parallel with the two core groups of Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Youth Engagement and Citizens for Transparency and Support are emerged as the key voice of anti-corruption movement at the local level. Women's participation has also grown consistently.

They encourage to use social accountability tools such as *citizens report cards, advice and information desks, Face the Public, Open Budget* etc. which eventually lead to a higher level of participatory governance captured in the form of the Integrity Pledge.

**Reaching out:** TIB has succeeded in partnering with other NGOs at both national and sub-national levels in order to promote shared objectives. These include implementation of the Right to Information Act and other issue-based alliances that are still in place during the publishing of this report. They are also spreading our anti-corruption messages to an ever increasing number of people by various means of advocacy and campaigns such as-debate and cartoon competitions, investigative journalism awards and training programmes etc. Over 70 million people received the International Anti-corruption Day message.

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**Looking ahead:** Activities and campaigns involving all stakeholders starting from policy-makers to the general people of the root levels demonstrate to promote legal and institutional reform. Through research, advocacy and civic engagement programmes are aimed to create a massive social movement against corruption that will ensure greater transparency and The above report steps we have taken towards doing so in 2011.

**Corruption is a social process of Bangladesh:** Corruption is not just an economic exchange, generated by a monetary or 'economic' motive. Neither is corruption an exclusively political activity, motivated by a desire to attain or retain political power. Corruption is not only economic or political process but also a social process as well, rather, they exist side-by-side and sometimes, they are complementary to each other.

**The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of 2012:** The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of 2012 is published in May 2013. In this CPI Transparency International Bangladesh has shown the political party and Law enforcers as the most corrupt sectors in Bangladesh and then come the legal system and so on. On random basis TIB surveyed 1858 people, among whom 75.8% or 483 people percept that law enforcers are the most corrupt sectors in Bangladesh with political parties.

**Recent Status:** National and global level: Bangladesh this year has been ranked 13th from the bottom, three steps up position from last year, in the annual corruption perception index (CPI) of 2012 released by the Transparency International (TI). Bangladesh ranked 144 out of 176 countries. Bangladesh scored 26. Last year, Bangladesh was ranked 120th among 183 countries, sweeping 27 score.

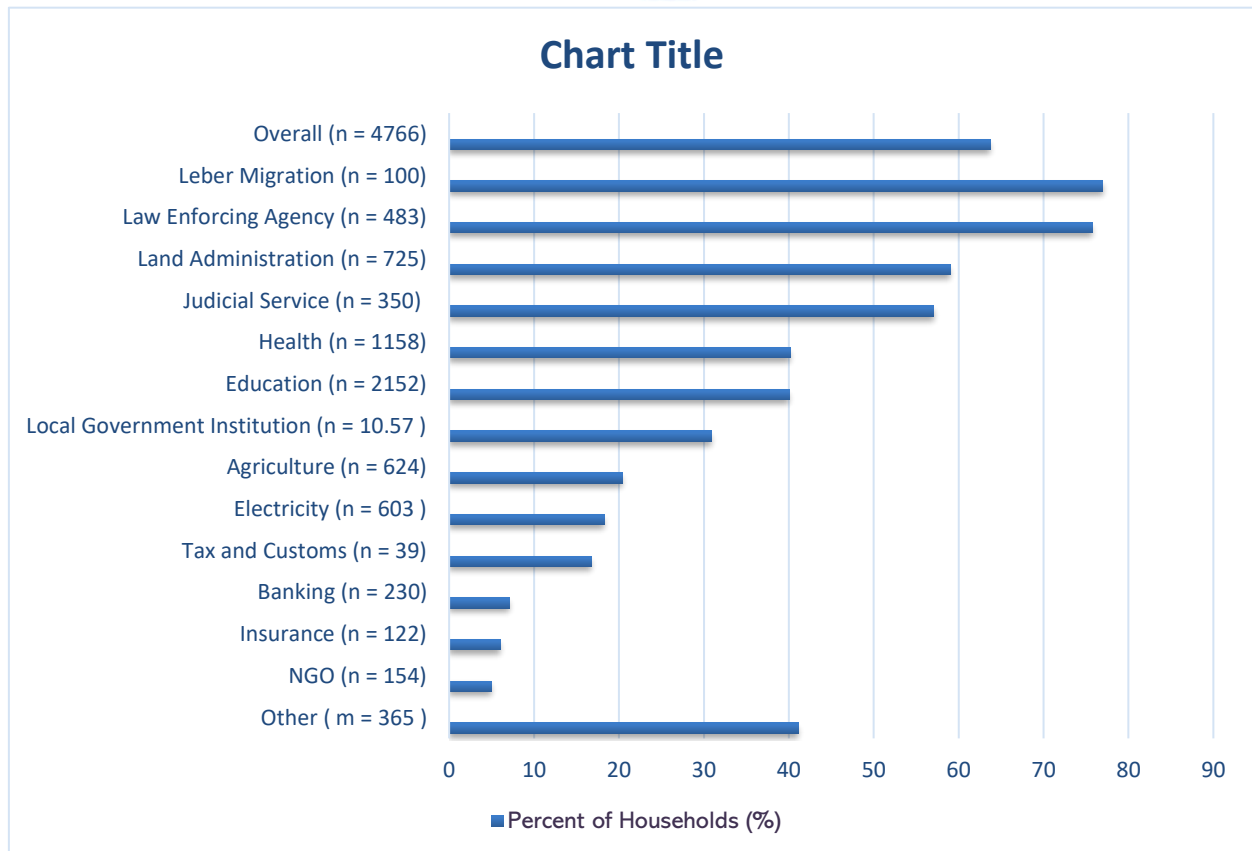
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## CPI 2012 - Results South Asia

Country	CPI 2012		CPI 2011		Change	
	Score	Rank/176	Score	Rank/183	Score	Rank
Bhutan	63	33	57	38	+6.00	+5
Sri Lanka	40	79	33	86	+7.00	+7
India	36	94	27	120	+5.00	1
Pakistan	27	139	25	134	+2.00	-5
Nepal	27	139	27	154	+5.00	15
Bangladesh	26	144	27	120	-1.00	-24
Afghanistan	8	174	15	180	-7.00	+6

### Percentage of clients who opined to pay money as corruption:



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**Controversy over the report:** This report roused a sensation in print and electronic media. It also drew the attention of the intellectuals and government and also concerned organization. The logic against the CPI report 2012 is stated below:

- a. Among almost 15 crore people, only 1822 persons have been taken as the sample which is too small to opine and its percentage of total population is .001059%.
- b. This is just a perception and basing on perception no prediction can be made.
- c. Many of them don't have any direct experience about the sectors and their service.
- d. Among them only few are educated and most of them are uneducated, such an uneducated man can't judge the sectors properly.
- e. TIB itself is suffering from no-confidence from public.

**Eliminating Corruption:** There is no society which is really corruption free. But the corruption can be kept in a tolerable condition.

The following steps can be the guideline:

- a. People's ethical sense should be strengthened.
- b. Ideal education system which stresses on creating morality is necessary.
- c. Creating consciousness about corruption and fighting against corruption is also necessary.
- d. Corrupt individuals should be severely punished.

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- e. We should have good and effective laws for preventing corruption.
- f. A just and equal social and judicial system is necessary to prevent corruption.
- g. Accountable, transparent and efficient administration is also necessary.
- h. We have to remove social injustice, social gap and wide gap between wealth and poverty.
- i. Besides, anti-corruption commission should be made effective and independent so that they can fight against corruption because it is a social malady. So it can be checked by social awareness and efforts.
- j. Awareness of the corruption to be made using the modern media.
- k. Electronic and print media can air different drama, micro-drama and play showing the bad side of corruptions.
- l. Sanitize the whole community about corruption.
- m. We can praise the honest and transparent people.
- n. Not to vote corrupt people.
- o. Organizing a movement against the corruption.
- p. Self demonstration is the best example.
- q. If we all follow it, we can be corrupt free nation.

## National Watchdog:

**Anti-Corruption Commission:** Without any doubt, the very beginning of Care taker Government was excellent and it seems that the

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government no longer wants Bangladesh to be identified as a corrupt country. To make this drive successful, the interim government reconstituted the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in February 2009.

**5 Years Vision Formulated:** The Commission has formulated some indicators of the vision so that every member of the society can easily recognize if this vision has been attained in the next five years. During Care-taker Government this commission has worked successfully.

**Conclusion:** Corruption is a matter of national disgrace. It is also a social vice. Due to corruption only a handful of people gain, but majority of the people suffer. It has now become a serious national problem. We must remove or curb corruption from the society in order to build a society based on equality, justice and fraternity.



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