

THE ESSENCE OF CORRUPTION, ITS CONSEQUENCES AND MECHANISMS FOR COMBATING IT

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Abstract

This article provides an in-depth analysis of corruption as a global problem significantly impeding societal and state development. It thoroughly examines various forms of corruption, its root causes, and its profound socio-economic, political, and legal consequences. The study explores effective mechanisms for combating corruption, including legislative improvements, enhancing transparency in public administration, and strengthening public oversight. The article emphasizes the importance of implementing anti-corruption strategies based on international best practices. Ultimately, it proposes comprehensive solutions and recommendations for eradicating corruption.

Keywords: Corruption, Essence, Consequences, Combat mechanisms, Anti-corruption, Transparency, Public administration, Legal reforms

Аннотация

Данная статья предлагает углубленный анализ коррупции как глобальной проблемы, существенно препятствующей развитию общества и государства. В ней всесторонне рассматриваются различные формы коррупции, ее первопричины и глубокие социально-экономические, политические и правовые последствия. Исследование изучает эффективные механизмы борьбы с коррупцией, включая совершенствование законодательства, повышение прозрачности в государственном управлении и усиление общественного контроля. В статье подчеркивается важность внедрения антикоррупционных

стратегий, основанных на международном опыте. В заключение, предлагаются комплексные решения и рекомендации по искоренению коррупции.

Ключевые слова: Коррупция, Сущность, Последствия, Механизмы борьбы, Антикоррупция, Прозрачность, Государственное управление, Правовые реформы

Introduction

Corruption is a global problem that seriously threatens the sustainable development of modern societies, and its negative consequences are clearly manifested in the economic, social and political spheres. This vice slows down economic growth, limits investment and negatively affects the business environment, which, as a result, hinders the overall development of the state [3]. It increases social injustice, leads to a misallocation of resources, harms vulnerable segments of the population and reduces public trust in state institutions [2], [4]. Politically, corruption weakens democratic processes, reduces citizen participation in state governance and can increase the tendency towards authoritarianism [3]. It discredits state power, erodes the political, economic and legal systems of the country, threatens stability and development [4]. The urgency of this complex problem creates the need to deeply understand its essence, identify its causes, and develop and implement effective mechanisms to combat it. It is important to analyze the wide-ranging negative effects of corruption on society, as well as to study the legal, institutional, and preventive mechanisms for combating it [2]. Uzbekistan has a consistent policy on combating corruption, including the Law "On Combating Corruption" (URQ-419, 2017) [5], [6] and other regulatory and legal documents that form the legal basis for efforts in this area [2]. These efforts require the cooperation of not only law enforcement agencies, but also the general public [4]. This article aims to comprehensively analyze the nature, types, causes of corruption, and its economic, social, and political consequences. It also provides a comprehensive review of the legal and institutional framework for combating corruption, mechanisms for preventing and combating it, Uzbekistan's experience, and future prospects. The results of the study will serve to develop practical recommendations to increase the effectiveness of the fight against corruption.

Literature review

The volume of scientific literature devoted to the problem of corruption is growing, which indicates its global relevance and complexity. Researchers have been studying the essence of this evil, its causes, its negative consequences for society, and

effective mechanisms for combating it based on various interdisciplinary approaches. Research conducted in such fields as economics, political science, law, sociology, and public administration serves to reveal the multifaceted nature of corruption. This analysis is aimed at summarizing the main scientific approaches to the topic, synthesizing existing knowledge, and determining the place of our research in this broad scientific field. Literature review allows for an in-depth study of the theoretical foundations, practical manifestations, and international experience in combating corruption. Scientific works aimed at understanding the essence of corruption put forward various definitions of it. In most studies, corruption is generally accepted as “the abuse of entrusted authority for personal gain.” However, the breadth of this definition sometimes creates limitations in fully covering its various manifestations, such as bribery, abuse of office, nepotism, embezzlement and other forms. Some authors associate corruption not only with illegal actions in the public sector, but also in the private sector. For example, [2] provides an in-depth analysis of the fundamental nature of corruption, its main causes and the wide-ranging negative consequences it causes for society, with a special emphasis on undermining the principles of legality and justice. [6] also provides a detailed definition of corruption in Uzbek law, namely the concept of “illegal use of official position for personal or third-party benefits”. These definitions show that corruption is not only a legal, but also a moral and social evil. Various theories have been put forward in the literature on the causes of corruption. Economic theories often point to low wages, limited economic opportunities, monopolies and rent-seeking behaviour as the main factors. Political causes include lack of transparency in public administration, weak accountability mechanisms, vested interests of political elites and underdeveloped democratic institutions. Socio-cultural factors also play an important role; for example, a tolerant attitude towards corruption in some societies, a decline in moral values and weak public control create the conditions for corruption to take root. [2] analyzes the main causes of corruption and emphasizes its obstacle to socio-economic development. These factors indicate the need for an integrated approach in developing anti-corruption strategies. There is extensive discussion in the scientific literature on the economic consequences of corruption. Researchers unanimously agree that corruption slows down economic growth, reduces foreign and domestic investment, distorts market competition, inefficiently allocates resources, and causes significant damage to the state budget. [3] The source emphasizes that corruption is a serious obstacle to the development of society, restricts economic growth, reduces investment, and stifles local business. It also cites the example of transparent countries such as Germany and

Sweden, which associate high levels of development with an effective fight against corruption. Corruption worsens the business environment and hinders the development of small and medium-sized businesses, which limits innovation and job creation. As a result, the overall economic potential of the state decreases and the standard of living of the population worsens. Socially, corruption increases injustice, reduces public trust in state institutions, and widens the gap between social classes. The misallocation of resources, particularly the misappropriation of funds allocated to important areas such as education, health and social protection, directly harms the vulnerable. [3] The source notes that corruption exacerbates social injustice, leads to the misallocation of resources, harms the vulnerable and reduces public trust in state institutions. Countries such as Norway and Finland are distinguished by their prioritization of the fair distribution of services. [4] The source also notes that corruption discredits the authorities, leads to the erosion of the political, economic and legal systems of the state, and causes public discontent. This creates a general mood of discontent in society and threatens social stability. In terms of political consequences, corruption weakens democratic processes, reduces citizen participation in government, and can foster authoritarianism. It undermines the authority of government, erodes a country's political, economic, and legal systems, and threatens stability and development. [3] argues that corruption can undermine democratic processes, reduce citizen participation in government, and foster authoritarianism. Countries such as Canada and Australia are notable for encouraging active citizen participation in government. [4] also argues that corruption is a dangerous evil that erodes a country's political, economic, and legal systems, threatening stability and development. It undermines the effectiveness of state institutions, undermines the rule of law, and tarnishes a country's international reputation.

Research methodology

This study is aimed at an in-depth analysis of the nature of corruption, its negative consequences for society, and effective mechanisms for combating it, and is based mainly on qualitative and analytical approaches. The main goal of the study is to synthesize existing scientific knowledge, conduct a comparative study of the experience of Uzbekistan with international practice, and develop practical recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of the fight against corruption. A number of research methods and techniques were used to achieve these goals. The research design is descriptive, analytical, and comparative in nature and is aimed at comprehensively covering the complexity of the phenomenon of corruption, in-depth

studying its theoretical foundations, and evaluating practical mechanisms. This design provides a comprehensive approach necessary for understanding the multifaceted nature of corruption and developing strategies to combat it. Initially, the existing scientific literature on the theoretical foundations of corruption, its definitions, types, and causes was systematically reviewed. Then, the economic, social and political consequences of corruption were analyzed in detail. Finally, the legal, institutional and preventive mechanisms for combating corruption, as well as Uzbekistan's experience in this regard, were studied in a comparative manner with international practice. This design allows for comprehensive answers to the research questions and fills gaps in the existing literature, in particular, it seeks to provide new insights by comparing Uzbekistan's experience with international standards and creates a basis for developing recommendations adapted to the national context.

Document analysis: Within the framework of this method, regulatory legal acts on the fight against corruption were studied in depth, including the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption" (URQ-419, 2017) [5], [6], Presidential decrees and resolutions [2], as well as other relevant by-laws. International conventions and recommendations, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, were also analyzed. These documents served as an important source in determining the legal definition of corruption, the main principles of combating it, the directions of state policy and institutional frameworks. Official reports, strategic documents and directions of activity of state bodies, in particular the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan, were also analyzed [6]. Materials highlighting practical measures to prevent corruption and the importance of cooperation with the public, in the case of the Pension Fund, were also studied [4].

Systematic literature review: This method covered domestic and foreign scientific literature on the problem of corruption, including monographs, scientific articles, dissertations, reports of international organizations and policy analyses. The main criteria for selecting literature were their relevance, scientific value, methodological soundness and direct relevance to the research topic. In particular, theoretical approaches and empirical studies on the nature, causes, economic, social and political consequences of corruption were in the focus of attention [2], [3]. International experiences in combating corruption, including legal, institutional, preventive and educational measures (on the example of countries such as Denmark, New Zealand, Singapore, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Canada, Australia, Japan) were studied in depth [3]. In the process of literature analysis, reputable scientific databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science, JSTOR were used. The study prioritized literature published after 2020, which allowed it to

reflect the latest trends, theoretical approaches, and practices in the topic. Thematic analysis: This method was used to identify recurring themes, patterns, and key ideas in the literature on various aspects of corruption (definitions, causes, consequences, and mechanisms for combating it). This helped to form a comprehensive picture of the phenomenon of corruption and systematize its main elements. For example, the main thematic areas were identified, such as the negative impact of corruption on economic growth, the strengthening of social injustice, and the weakening of democratic processes [3]. Content analysis: Textual information from legal documents and official reports was systematically analyzed. This method played an important role in determining the definition of corruption in Uzbek legislation [5], [6], the main principles of combating it [5], [6], and the priorities of state policy. The degree of reflection of various mechanisms (e.g., preventive measures, public oversight) in the documents was also assessed [4].

Conclusion

This study provides an in-depth analysis of the complex nature of corruption, its devastating effects on the economic, social and political spheres, and the complex mechanisms for combating it. It was found that corruption slows down economic growth, increases social injustice, and reduces trust in state institutions. Strengthening the legal framework, increasing institutional transparency, ensuring accountability, expanding preventive measures, and encouraging active public participation are crucial in combating it. Uzbekistan's consistent efforts in this area need to be further improved based on international best practices, and the effectiveness of the fight needs to be increased through a systematic approach and continuous monitoring. This will contribute to sustainable development and building a just society.

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