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Information &
Public Opinion
Solutions

Pervasive Corruption in Iran
Public Perceptions and Institutional Assessments

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Introduction

Iran is among the countries which, at least in their modern history, have grappled with relatively intransigent corruption. In recent years, formally declared levels of corruption have stunned experts and disturbed ordinary people. These days, discussion of corruption statistics has gone beyond the sphere of private conversation, now taking the form of jokes, cartoons, heated arguments in the media, and public debates and exchanges on social media. Thus it seems that Iranian society has, more than at any time in the past, become sensitive to corruption, keeping up with relevant news and discussion across various spheres (even though it might seem at times that repeated headlines have dulled people's sensitivity, with some daily papers printing corruption news in the same section as weather forecasts).

Definition of Corruption

In this survey, "corruption" was an expression taken to mean any use of a state or official position or situation for private gain, either directly or indirectly, financially or otherwise.

Opposing this fairly clear definition, "corruption" has a multifarious meaning in day-to-day Persian exchange. For many people, "financial" and "official" corruption as they are mentioned in formal and official contexts are not customary referents of the term. "Corruption" is for them synonymous with illicit sexual relations, the use of narcotics or alcoholic drinks, and so on. However, things stand, this type of corruption regards an individual's personal affairs, not the public affairs entailed in its technical definition. In order to avoid issues arising from the common sense of the word, the concept of corruption was associated with referents like embezzlement, bribery, favoritism, and so on in the course of conducting the survey to create an understanding similar to the advanced definition.

Research Objective

- Public understanding of the nature and quantity of corruption in Iran

- The Iranian people's assessment of institutions affected by corruption and anti-corruption efforts

Methodology

- Results are based on telephone interviews (cellphone and landline) conducted on September 26, 2015 to October 08, 2015, with a random sample of 1548 Iranian adults aged 18 and older who are currently residing in Iran.

- The iPOS proportional two-stage sample includes respondents from every province. Provinces have been categorized into three groups based on their human development index (HDI).

- Based on the sample, it can be stated with 95% confidence that the margin of sampling error is between ± 2.49 and ± 3.47 percentage points, depending on the number of respondents for each question

- Native Farsi speakers conducted the interviews during daylight hours in Iran. Interviewers were trained prior to conducting the poll.

- Rates of respondent candor and reliability were appraised by experienced interviewers. 48 persons found to be lacking in these areas were removed from the sample.

- Nine demographic variables including gender, age, province of residence, location (urban or rural), education, language, ethnicity, religion, and residential situation have been considered in this poll. Results are weighted by gender, age and location (urban vs. rural areas) based on the Iranian national census of 2011.

- Aside from demographic variables, two ground variables (communication variables) were used to gauge respondents' level of awareness concerning the matter of corruption:

  - The first: to what extent did they keep up with news pertaining to official and economic corruption (i.e. embezzlement, favoritism, and the like?)
  - The second: What media channels did they use to acquire such information?

Key Findings

- Generally speaking, Iranians do not follow news regarding corruption (68% of respondents said that they either don't at all follow corruption-related news, or follow it little). Only, 14% say that they follow such news "a lot." This result is consonant with the findings of other IPOS polls which have, in the past, gauged general trends in Iranian's keeping up with news and current affairs.

- A factor that might explain this known lack of sensitivity is the routinization and everydayness of corruption news. This hypothesis is borne out by 71% of respondents who think that corruption is epidemic in Iran. assessed on a hundred-point scale, average appraisals of corruption in the country come in at 60. Iran is ranked by Iranians on average as the 80th most corrupt country of 150 – meaning in the most corrupted half of nations in the world.

- Iran's National Radio & TV, is the primary source for corruption news among people who follow it (35%.)

- Assessments from respondents on the issue of past and future corruption trends took various forms. Even if they believed pessimistically that the corruption situation had worsened in the past five years, were less pessimistic when it came to the coming five years. Around 67% hold that corruption has increased or increased greatly in the last five years. However, 35% percent of respondents expect that corruption will become worse or much worse in the next five years; 33% express optimism for the future, believing that corruption will decrease or decrease greatly.

- The same relatively optimistic outlook was discovered for the issue of the nuclear deal between Iran and the Western powers and its effect on official attention to combatting corruption. On average, 54% of respondents believe that, following the deal, officials will pay greater attention to the anti-corruption fight, though 26% registered the opposite opinion.

- The most important issue identified by a large majority of respondents (nearly 85%) was economic problems and people were not greatly optimistic concerning their resolution (55%). It seems to respondents, however, that the nuclear agreement might occasion an improvement. Almost 50% of the respondents believe that the economic situation will improve after the nuclear deal, while 30% have the opposite view. This difference might be attributed to the positive influence on communication that the nuclear deal has engendered in society. In other words, when people look at the economy from a general perspective, they tend not to see hope on the horizon, though when mention is made of the effect of something new happening (i.e. the nuclear deal,) they tend to consider the positive space and oversight which will likely open up in society, and become more optimistic about economic circumstances.

- The aggregate result of people's evaluation of corruption rates across various institutions shows that, in general, banks are viewed as having the highest levels (77%.) whereas department of environmental is judged to be the least tainted (22%.) Municipal government (63%), the judiciary (63%) and, police (55%) come in behind the banks. The existence of the judiciary – the very institution presumably to be charged with investigating corruption – and police among the ranks of the bodies judged most corrupt indicates a key feature of the impression which exists in Iranian society.

- More generally, people appraised corruption rates in supervisory institutions (police, the judiciary and traffic police) and hard service organizations (organization for registration and properties banks, municipal administration, and hospitals) in similar ways. Respondents' assessments of corruption in revolutionary and post-revolutionary institutions (the Bonyad-e Mosazafan, the Komiteh-e Emdad, City/village councils and the Revolutionary Guard,) was fairly similar. However, for these organizations, the number of respondents who reported that they had no opinion or were not informed are high. The same similarity can be seen in assessments of the third group of institutions, "soft service" organizations such as universities, educational system, and the environmental department.

- Respondents believe that strict or more appropriate punishments for corruption would, more than any other measure, have a mitigating role in decreasing corruption (96%). Ethics (91%,) and enforcement of regulations (90%) take their place behind punishment. By contrast, respondents held that lessening government intervention would not have a greatly decisive role in decreasing corruption (with only 32% agreement.)

Awareness of Corruption - Rates of Following Corruption News

Majority of respondents (68%) said that they either don't at all follow corruption-related news, or follow it little.

Q.6: These days we often read or hear about misconduct; for example, that there has been embezzlement somewhere, or someone was able to take out a loan, or get hired for a job because of favoritism, or be accepted to a university without a qualifying exam, and so on. In general, how much do you follow this sort of news? To what extent are you aware of it?

Degree of Following Corruption News	%	
A Great Deal	3.6	14
A Lot	10.1	
Somewhat	18.1	
Little	14.1	68
Very Little	16.3	
Never at All	37.8	

The results show that, in spite of relatively loud media buzz surrounding corruption, people generally do not follow news regarding it with great diligence. Only, 14% say that they follow such news "a lot." This result is consonant with the findings of other IPOS polls which have, in the past, gauged general trends in Iranian's keeping up with news and current affairs.

Respondents' answers varied meaningfully according to gender, education level, location (urban or rural) and place of residence (human development index of provinces).

- Men were more likely than women to express that they keep up with news regarding corruption.
- Those who have university education are more likely to say they follow corruption news than those who do not have university education
- Respondents residing in provinces with a higher HDI are more likely follow corruption news
- Respondents in urban areas are more likely than those who are living in rural area to express that they keep up with news regarding corruption

Awareness of Corruption – News Sources and Corruption News

Iran's National Radio & TV, is the primary source for corruption news among people who follow it (35%.)

Q.7: What sources do you chiefly use to keep up with this sort of news? For example: newspapers, radio, television, satellite or word of mouth? (This question was posed to individuals who, in the previous question, had not said that they don't at all follow news regarding corruption)

News Source & Corruption News	%
National TV & Radio	35.3
Word Of Mouth	26.9
Internet	19.3
Newspapers	12.1
Satellite	6.4

48

Every respondent was able to designate up to two modes

Iran's National Radio & TV, is the primary source for corruption news among people who follow it (35%.) Informal word-of-mouth networks come in afterwards at 27%, the internet at 19%, print journalism at 12%, and satellite networks at 6% (This question was posed to individuals who, in the previous question, had said that they don't at all follow news regarding corruption).

Marked differences are apparent across age cohorts, with younger Iranians aged 45 and less more likely to use of internet and satellite to follow corruption-related news, more than any other age groups. Moreover, those who are aged 45 to 59 years use print media for this purpose, more than any other groups.

Assessment of Corruption: Pervasive Corruption in Society

A considerable majority of respondents (71%) believe that corruption has become definitive in the country. Only 15% think that corruption has not become epidemic.

Q.11: Another one of the issues which people everywhere speak of are things like bribery, embezzlement, or abuse of public or government assets for personal gain on the part of an official – or, for example nepotism. You're well aware that these issues are referred to as "corruption". The meaning is of course administrative and financial. If we understand corruption in this sense, how do you regard corruption in our society? Some say this corruption is pervasive; some say it's not. Do you think corruption is generally common in our society or not?

Pervasive Corruption	%
Yes, Common	50.9
Somewhat Common	20.3
No, Not Common	15.1
I Don't Know	13.2
Others	0.5

If those who either reported that they had no opinion and were not informed or have otherwise vague responses are set aside, 82.5% of respondents with definite opinions on the matter believe that corruption has become epidemic. 17.5% of this subset think that corruption is not pervasive in Iran.

Pervasive Corruption	%
Common / Somewhat Common	82.5
No, Not Common	17.5

Analysis of responses based on demographic variables demonstrates that the City dwellers are in a meaningful way more likely to believe in the pervasiveness of corruption; those in rural areas are conversely less likely to believe that it's epidemic. Moreover, Respondents who express a great deal or a lot keeping up with news regarding corruption, more likely to believe in pervasive corruption than those who say that they either don't at all follow corruption-related news, or follow it little.

Pervasive Corruption by Location

City dwellers are in a meaningful way more likely to believe in the pervasiveness of corruption; those in rural areas are conversely less likely to believe that it's epidemic.

Pervasive Corruption by Location

	Urban	Rural
Not Common	16%	22%
Common / Somewhat Common	84%	78%

Legend: ■ Common / Somewhat Common   ■ Not Common
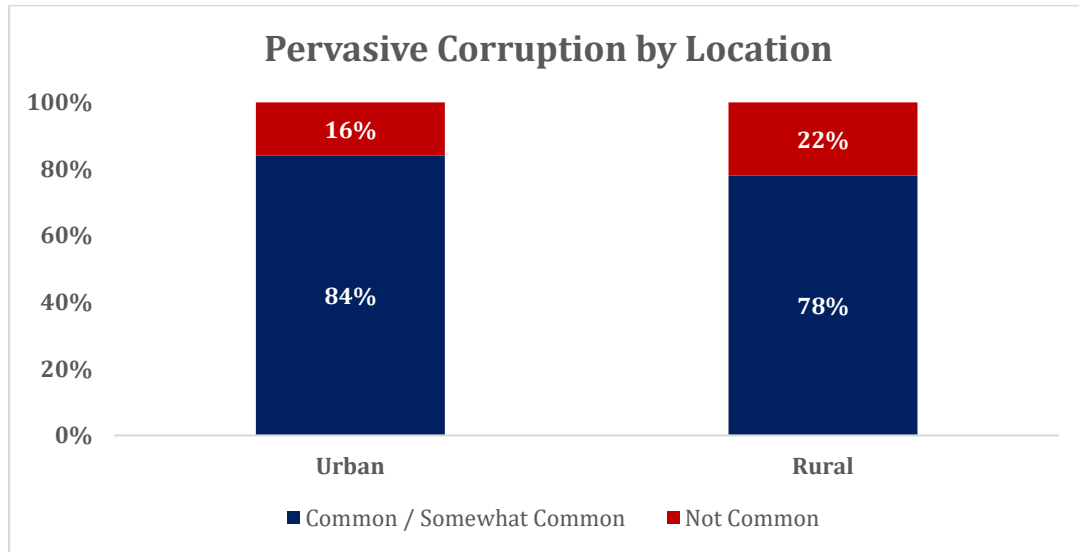
Pervasive Corruption by Rate of Keeping Up with News

Respondents who express a great deal or a lot keeping up with news regarding corruption, more likely to believe in pervasive corruption than those who say that they either don't at all follow corruption-related news, or follow it little.

Pervasive Corruption by Following Corruption News

Category	Common / Somewhat Common	Not Common
A lot, Great Deal	89%	11%
Somewhat	85%	15%
Never at Al, Little, A Little	80%	20%

■ Common / Somewhat Common ■ Not Common
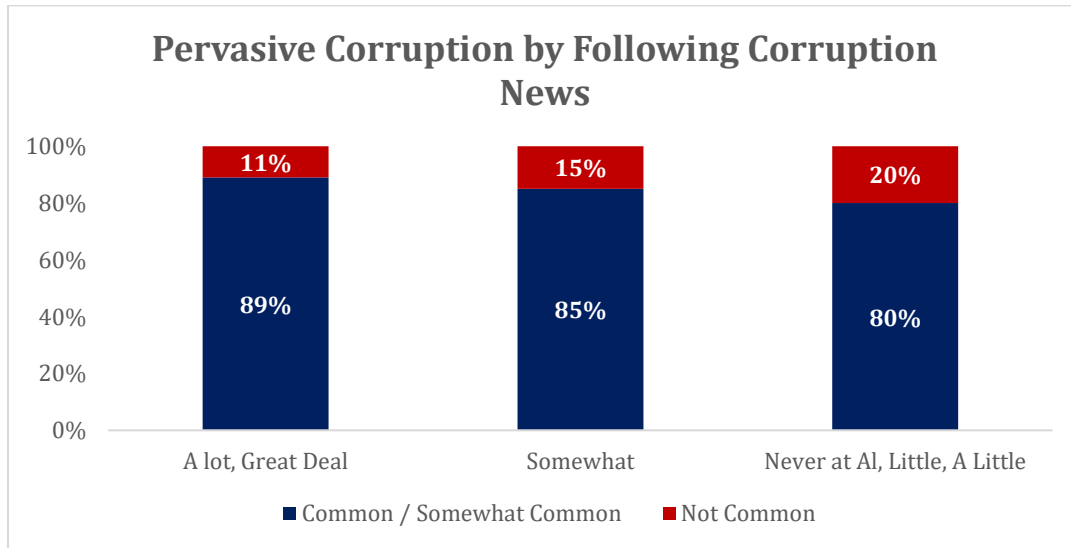
Assessment of Corruption: Rate of Corruption

Assessed on a hundred-point scale, average appraisals of corruption in the country come in at 60.

Q.12: Let me ask the question a different way: For example, suppose the maximum amount of corruption in a country is represented by 100 and its minimum by 0. What's the level of corruption in our society on this scale? (Meaning, scale of 0-100.)

Corruption Score (Ordinal)	Score
1 to 25	9.6
25 to 50	37
50 to 75	24.6
75 to 100	28.8

Central Tendency	
Mean	59.78
Median	60
Mode	50

Respondents were asked to score the level of corruption in society on a scale of 1 to 100. Average appraisals of corruption in the country come in at 60 (mean). The median score is also 60, meaning that half of the respondents give a score more than 60 for the level of corruption in the country and the other half give scores less than 60. The mode (most frequent number) is 50.

According to the table above, almost 30% of the respondents gave scores between 75 and 100 for the level of corruption. Just 10 gave a score less than 25.

Rate of the Corruption by Demographic Characteristics

Average rates of assessing corruption vary meaningfully according to gender, educational level, place of residence (urban vs. rural,) and level of human development of place of residence.

Corruption Score by Demographic Characteristics		Central Tendency	
		Mean	Median
Gender	*Female*	61.8	60
	Male	58.1	55
Age	*18 to 29*	60	60
	30 to 44	57.7	52
	45 to 59	61.6	55
	60+	64.8	70
Education	*No University Edu.*	60.9	60
	University Edu.	57.6	60
Location	*Urban*	60.7	60
	Rural	56.9	50
HDI	*High*	63	65
	Medium	58.7	60
	Low	56.7	55
Ethnicity	Fars	61.5	60
	Non Fars	62.1	60
Religion	Shia	61.7	60
	Non Shia	56.9	50

Rate of Corruption by Communication Variables

Average rates of assessing corruption vary meaningfully according to rates of keeping up with corruption-related news. This is to say that the more a given individual keeps up with corruption-related news, the higher their likely appraisal of rates of corruption will become.

Mean rates of corruption assessed by respondents also varies meaningfully according to media channels used to keep up with relevant news. Those who follow corruption-related news by word of mouth believe in lower rates of corruption in society. The same goes for those who mentioned the "Iran National Radio & TV" as their chief outlet for corruption-related news. This is opposite the mean appraisals of those who use the internet, print media, or satellite networks, which are higher than those of the other two groups.

Corruption Score by Communication Variables		Central Tendency	
		Mean	Median
Following Corruption News	Never, Very Little, Little	58.3	57
	Somewhat	59.3	60
	A lot, Great Deal	66.3	70
News Source	National TV & Radio	59.4	60
	Newspapers	62.9	63
	Internet	63.5	65
	Satellite	61.7	51
	Word of Mouth	58.1	60

Comparing Rate of Corruption to Other Countries

Iran is ranked on average by Iranians as the 80th most corrupt country of 150 – meaning in the most corrupted half of nations in the world.

Q.13: It's come up in the news that a study rated Denmark, or perhaps Iceland or somewhere else, as the top country in terms of being free of corruption. Where do you suppose Iran would fit in with 150 other countries in the world in terms of corruption, approximately? (The first being the least corrupt, the 150th being the most corrupt.)

Comparative Corruption Rank (vis-à-vis Other Countries)	Score
1 to 10	12.8
11 to 50	21.1
51 to 100	36.2
101 to 140	16.7
141 to 150	13.2

Central Tendency	
Mean	80
Median	75
Mode	100

On a scale of 1 to 150, respondents were asked to rank Iran in terms of corruption among the world's 150 other countries. According to the average appraisal, Iran ranked the 80th most corrupt country of 150. The median score is 75, meaning that half of the respondents gave a rank of more than 75 and the other half gave a rank of less than 75. The mode (most frequent number) is 100. Fourteen percent of respondents ranked Iran as a 100th most corrupt country in the word

In the most recent report of the International Transparency Organization (2014,) Iran was awarded a score equivalent to 27 (on a scale of 100) with regard to corruption; it was also ranked the 136th worst among the world's countries.

Comparing Rate of Corruption to Other Countries by Demographic Characteristics

Respondent's evaluation of Iran's corruption ranks meaningfully varied according to education level, place of residence (urban vs. rural,) and level of human development of place of residence.

Comparative Corruption Rank by Demographic Characteristics		Central Tendency	
		Mean	Median
Gender	Female	77	75
	Male	83	81
Age	18 to 29	80	80
	30 to 44	80	75
	45 to 59	76	75
	60+	89	100
Education	No University Edu.	77	75
	University Edu.	86	90
Location	Urban	84	85
	Rural	67	65
HDI	High	86	100
	Medium	79	75
	Low	67	62
Ethnicity	Fars	84	89
	Non Fars	82	90
Religion	Shia	84	85
	Non Shia	68	58

Here the first rank is taken to mean the least amount of corruption and 150 the worst, as was related to respondents.

Comparing Rate of Corruption to Other Countries by Communication Variables

Average corruption rankings compared with other societies in the world varied according to rates of keeping up with corruption-related news.

Comparative Corruption Rank by Communication Variables		Central Tendency	
		Mean	Median
Following Corruption News	*Never, Very Little, Little*	76	75
	Somewhat	80	79
	A lot, Great Deal	93	100
News Source	*National TV & Radio*	78	75
	Newspapers	78	75
	Internet	85	75
	Satellite	92	79
	Word of Mouth	82	90

Here the first rank is taken to mean the least amount of corruption and 150 the worst, as was related to respondents.

Assessment of Corruption: Corruption Trends in the Past

Pessimistic respondents outnumbered optimists bear nearly four to one.

Q.14: Referring to the past, do you think corruption has gotten worse or better in our society in the last five years?

Corruption Trends - Last Five Years	%
Much Worse	10.9
Worse, Somewhat Worse	56.8
Remained the Same	7.1
Better, Somewhat Better	16.1
Much Better	1.3
I Don't Know	6.9
Others	0.9

If we consider only the evaluations of the last five years of corruption rates from those groups who gave distinct responses (omitting those without opinions, and who gave other answers,) 73.5% are convinced that corruption has increased in the last five years, and around 19% think that it has decreased. In other words, among the respondents, those pessimistic in their assessment outnumbered optimists bear nearly four to one.

Corruption Trends - Last Five Years	%
Worse, Much Worse	73.5
Remained the Same	7.6
Better, Much Better	18.9

Corruption Trends in the Past by Gender

women are meaningfully more likely than men to believe that trends in corruption have gotten worse in the last five years.

Corruption Trends - Last 5 Years by Gender

	Male	Female
Worse, Much Worse	68%	80%
Remained the Same	9%	6%
Better, Much Better	23%	14%

Legend: ■ Better, Much Better   ■ Remained the Same   ■ Worse, Much Worse
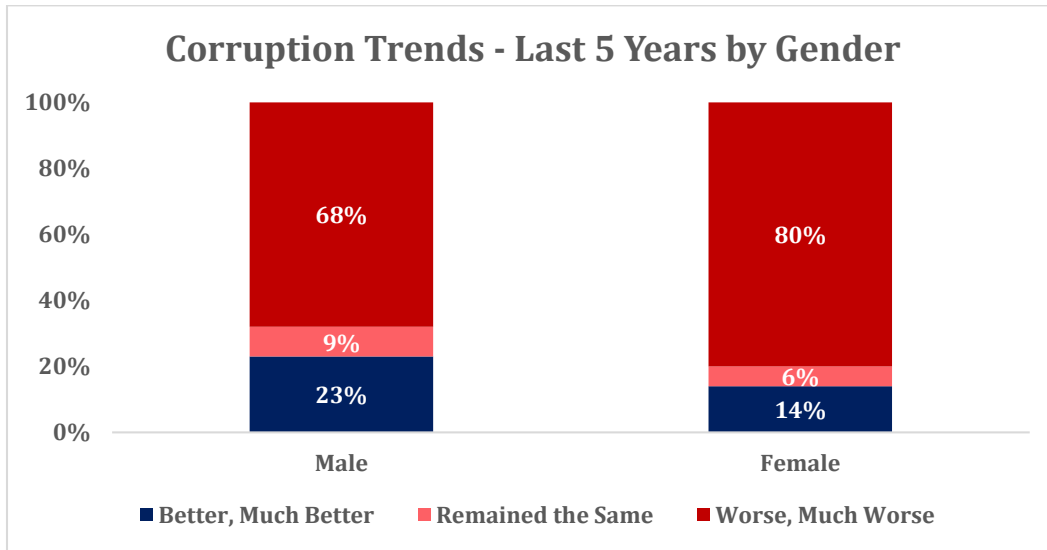
Corruption Trends in the Past by Education

Those without university education tended more to be of the opinion that the corruption situation has worsened in the last five years.

Corruption Trends - Last 5 Years by Education

	No University Edu.	University Edu.
Worse, Much Worse	76%	69%
Remained the Same	5%	12%
Better, Much Better	19%	19%

Legend: ■ Better, Much Better ■ Remained the Same ■ Worse, Much Worse
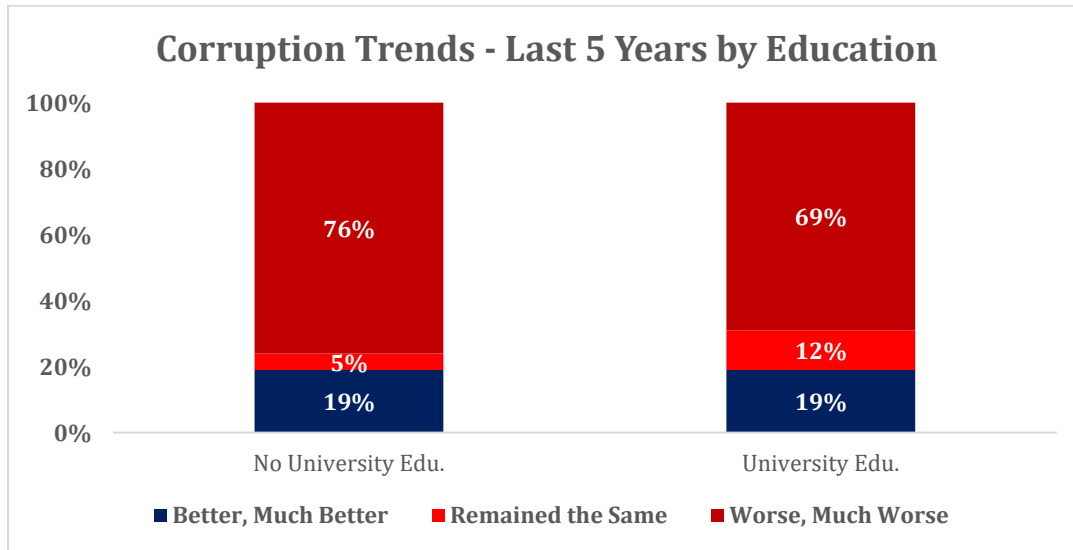
Assessment of Corruption: Corruption Trends in the Future

When the question is posed regarding the increase or lesson the corruption over the next five years, gap between optimists and pessimists, narrows.

Q.15: What do you think will become of it going forward? In the next five years, will corruption get better or worse?

Corruption Trends - Next Five Years	%
Much Worse	4.9
Worse, Somewhat Worse	30
Remained the Same	4.9
Better, Somewhat Better	30.3
Much Better	2.3
I Don't Know	17.2
Others	10.2

If we consider only the evaluations of the future five years of corruption rates from those groups who gave distinct responses (omitting those without opinions, and who gave other answers,) 48% think that corruption will increase in the next five years relative to the past, whereas 45% think that it will decrease in this period. In other words, the gap between optimistic and pessimistic respondents in their assessment of the coming five years will be greatly narrowed.

Corruption Trends - Next Five Years	%
Worse, Much Worse	48.2
Remain the Same	6.8
Better, Much Better	45

Corruption Trend in the Future by Age

Individuals below 45 years of age and those 45 and above differently evaluate future rates of corruption. The younger cohort tends to pessimism, believing that corruption will worsen in the next five years, whereas those greater than 45-year age are more optimistic, believing that the rate of corruption is on its way to improvement.

Corruption Trend - Next 5 Years by Age
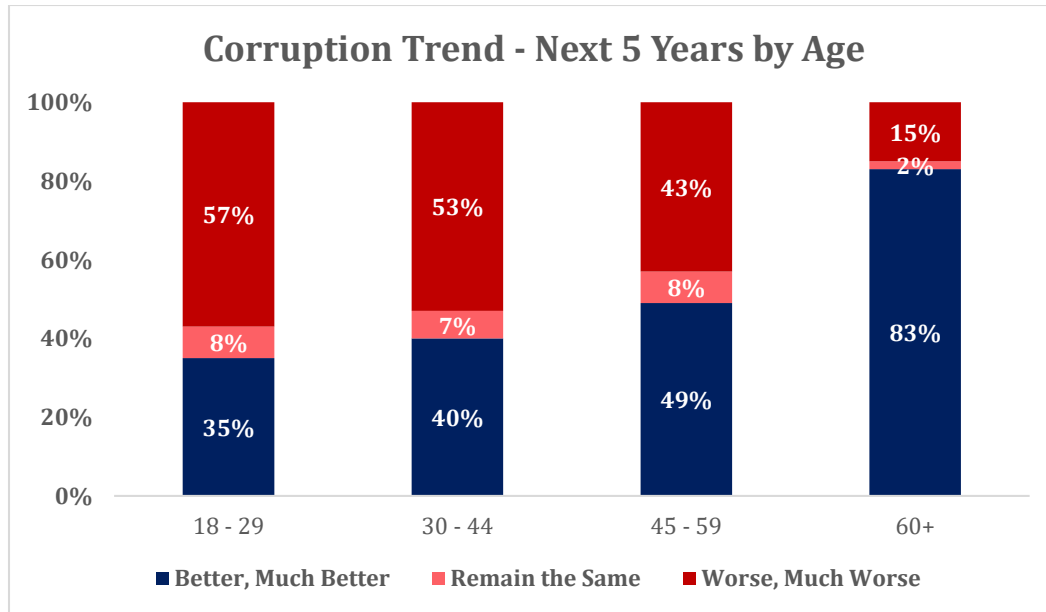
Corruption Trend in the Future by Education

Those without university education are chiefly of the opinion that the corruption rate is bound to get worse; meanwhile those with such education believe that the corruption situation will not change greatly in this span of time.

Corruption Trend - Next 5 Years by Education

No University Edu.: Better, Much Better 45%, Remain the Same 5%, Worse, Much Worse 50%

University Edu.: Better, Much Better 45%, Remain the Same 11%, Worse, Much Worse 44%

Legend: ■ Better, Much Better   ■ Remain the Same   ■ Worse, Much Worse
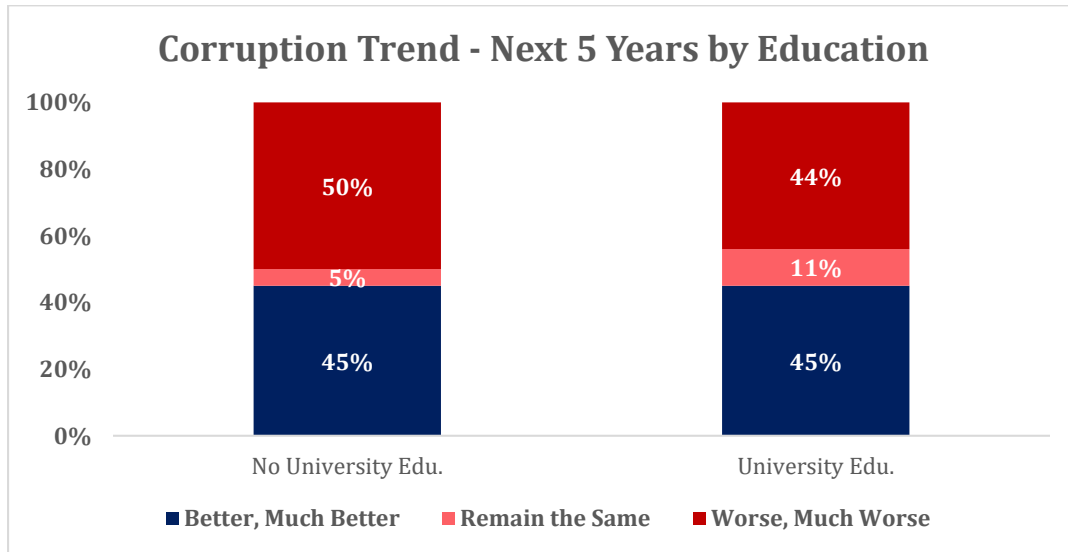
Corruption Trend in the Future by Location

Individuals residing in cities also evaluate future corruption trends in a meaningfully different way than those in non-urban areas. City-dwellers believe that such trends will not change greatly in the next five years; those living in non-urban locales believe that trends will improve.

Corruption Trend - Next 5 Years by Location

	Urban	Rural
Worse, Much Worse	49%	45%
Remain the Same	9%	3%
Better, Much Better	42%	52%

Legend: ■ Better, Much Better ■ Remain the Same ■ Worse, Much Worse
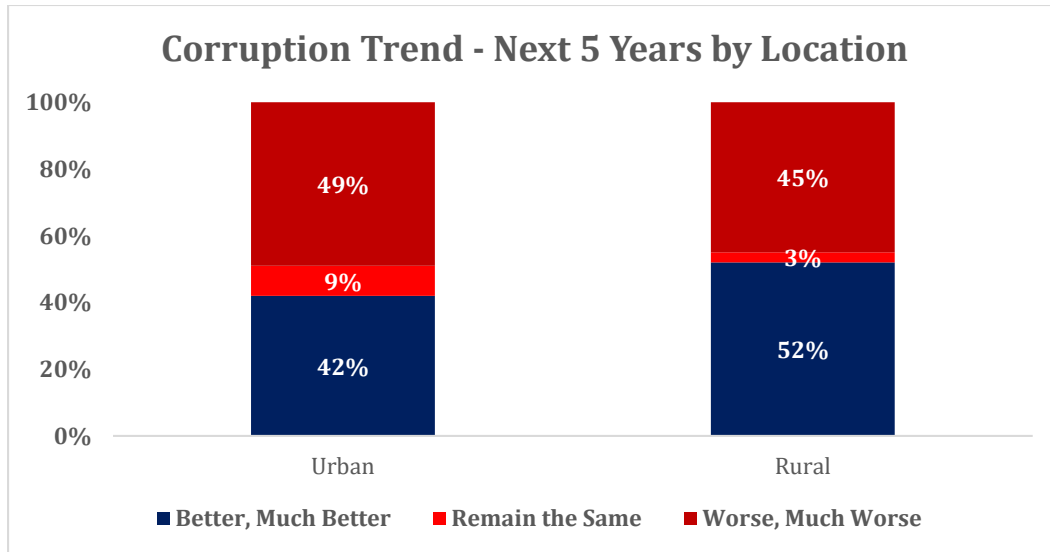
Corruption Trend in the Future by News Source

A Meaningful relationship has been established between media channels used for pursuing information regarding corruption and respondents' appraisal of corruption trends for the next five years. Thus respondents who obtain such news through the internet, satellite networks, and word of mouth believe that the corruption situation will get worse in the coming five years.

Those who follow news on "Iran Nation Radio & TV" and the users of print media are convinced that the corruption situation will either improve or at least not change in the coming five years.

Corruption News - Next 5 Years by News Source

News Source	Better, Much Better	Remained the Same	Worse, Much Worse
National Radio & TV	49%	8%	43%
Word of Mouth	36%	6%	58%
Internet	38%	6%	56%
Newspaper	60%	8%	32%
Satellite	43%	4%	53%
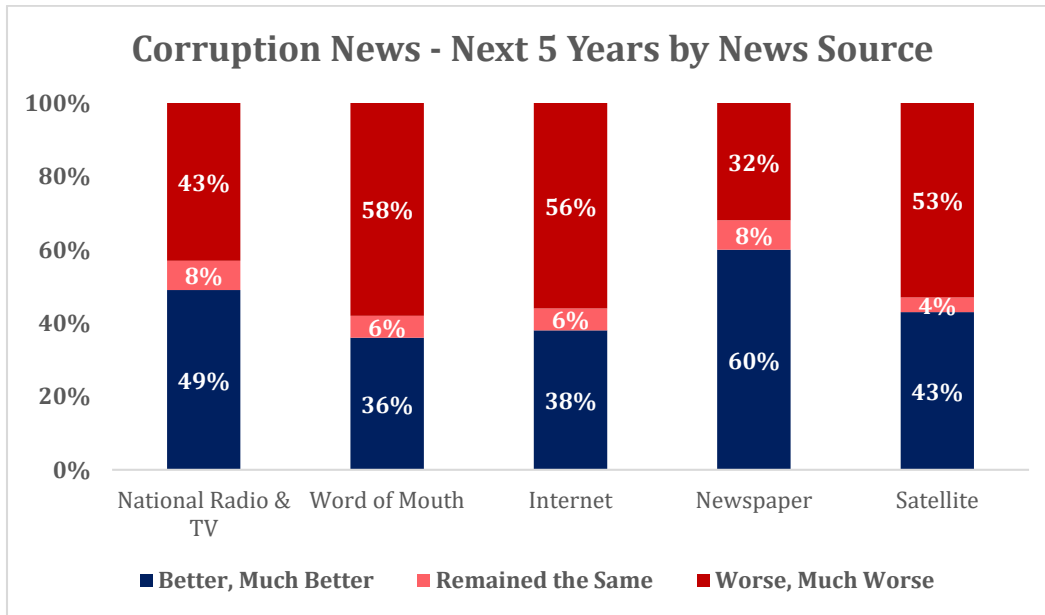
Corruption Trend Past vs. Future

Generally speaking, there is a trend toward optimism among participants.

Corruption Trends – Attitudes Toward Past and Future	Past (%)	Future (%)
Optimism	13.5	24.8
Pessimism	52.7	26.5
Optimism - Pessimism	[39.2]	[1.7]

If we take the word "optimist" as descriptive of those who believe that corruption has decreased or decreased greatly in the past five years, or that it will decrease or decrease greatly in the future, and "pessimist" to mean the group who thinks it's gotten worse in the past five years or will in the future, it becomes clear that there's a gap between optimists and pessimists in their evaluation of past corruption rates – a gap which lessens when focus is shifted to the future. Thus we remark that, commensurate with a near doubling of hopeful optimism for decreased corruption in the future, pessimistic despair is halved.

Influence of the Nuclear Agreement on Attention to Anti-Corruption Efforts

In light of nuclear agreement between Iran and the West, people believe that officials will pay greater attention to combatting corruption

Q.16: Now that Iran and the West have reached an agreement on nuclear issues, do you think that from now on government officials will turn more attention toward anti-corruption fight or not?

Official Anti-Corruption Efforts After the Nuclear Deal	%
Yes	54.4
No	25.8
I Don't Know	16.8
Others	2.9

The same optimistic appraisal of the future can also be seen in response to another prompt concerning the effect of the nuclear agreement on attention to anti-corruption efforts. 54% believe that, following the agreement, authorities will pay greater attention to the fight against corruption. 26% nonetheless have an opposite viewpoint.

If we consider only the anti-corruption efforts after nuclear deal from those groups who gave distinct responses (omitting those without opinions, and who gave other vague answers,) about 68% believe that, following the agreement, authorities will pay greater attention to the fight against corruption. 32% nonetheless have an opposite viewpoint.

Official Anti-Corruption Efforts After the Nuclear Deal	%
Yes	67.8
No	32.2

Institutions Affected by Corruption

Q.26: For the last question, I'll now read a list of few institutions. Please tell me to what extent you believe these institutions are corrupt, very little, a little, a lot or great deal (List of Institutions: 1- Local Governing Councils, 2- Educational System and Schools, 3- Banks, 4- Universities, 5- Health Service and Hospitals, 6- Organization for Registration of Deeds and Properties, 7- City Council / Village Council, 8- Traffic Police, 9- Department of Environment, 10- Courts and Justice Department, 11- Charitable Association (Komiteh-e Emdada), 12- Charitable Association (Bonyed-e Mostazafan), 13- Police, 14- Revolutionary Guard
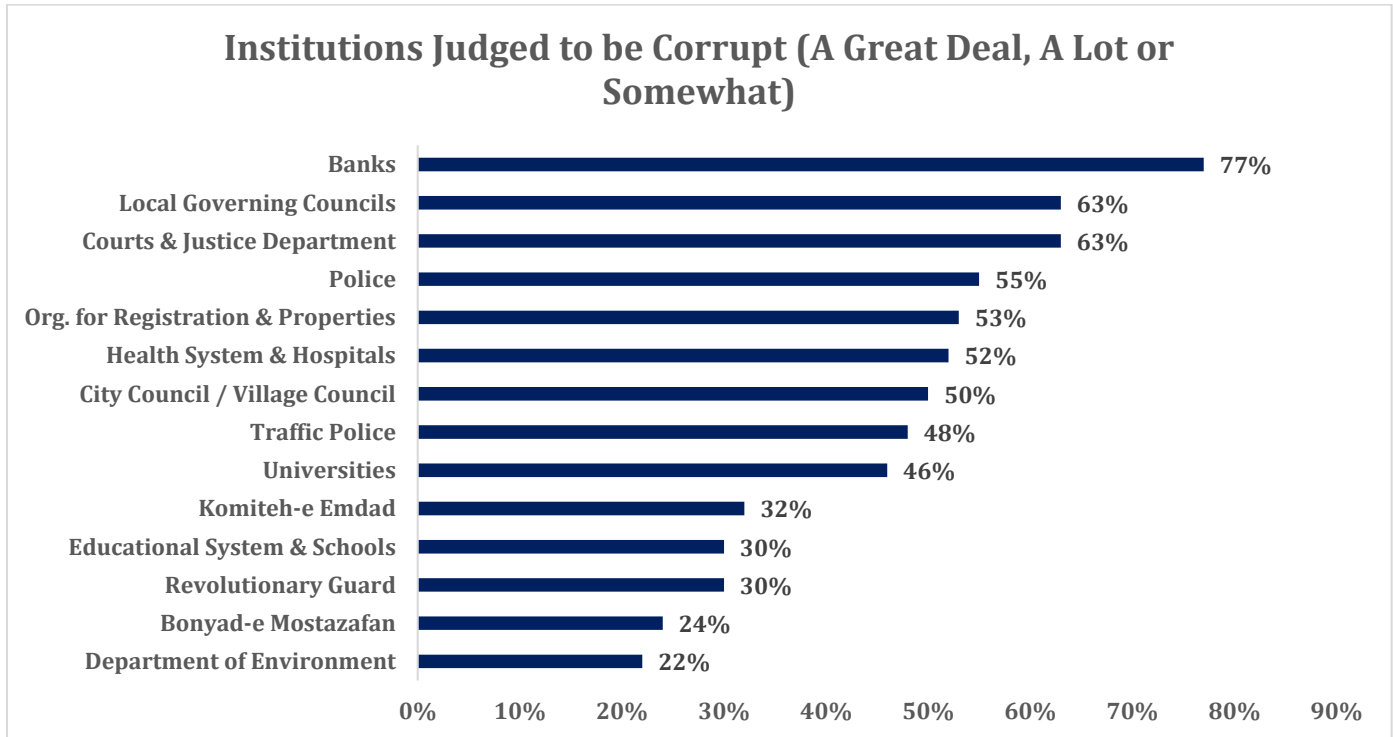
Institutions Affected by Corruption in Varying Degrees (%)	A Great Deal	A Lot	Somewhat	A Little	Very Little, Not at All	I Don't Know
Local Governing Councils	**24%**	**26%**	**13%**	18%	6%	13%
Educational System & Schools	4%	10%	16%	33%	29%	8%
Banks	**27%**	**30%**	**20%**	9%	6%	8%
Universities	8%	18%	20%	22%	14%	18%
Health System & Hospitals	11%	19%	21%	27%	18%	4%
Org. for Registration & Properties	15%	24%	15%	15%	10%	21%
City Council / Village Council	13%	23%	14%	17%	12%	21%
Traffic Police	12%	19%	17%	26%	18%	8%
Department of Environment	4%	8%	11%	30%	24%	23%
Courts & Justice Department	**26%**	**24%**	**13%**	16%	11%	10%
Komiteh-e Emdad	9%	11%	12%	24%	25%	19%
Bonyad-e Mostazafan	5%	7%	11%	23%	21%	33%
Police	13%	21%	20%	19%	18%	9%
Revolutionary Guard	9%	10%	11%	20%	26%	24%

As the results demonstrate, people have distinct views regarding the health services and institutes related to them more than any other institution: only around 4% said here that they were not informed or had no opinion. Considering the involvement of common people with issues of hygiene and treatment, this issue is not surprising. From this perspective, traffic police, educational system, banks, and police occupy subsequent spots.

Oppositely, it was in the case of the charitable Bonyad-e Mostazafun that people were most without definite opinions or information. Behind this, the Revolutionary Guard, the department of environment, and organization for registration and properties take position. Of possibility can't be ruled out that, out of prudence, people avoided expressing opinions on the rate of corruption in the Revolutionary Guard.

Ranking of Institutions Affected by Corruption

Banks, Local Governing Councils, Courts and Justice Department and Police are the most corrupt institutions

Institutions Judged to be Corrupt (A Great Deal, A Lot or Somewhat)

Institution	Percentage
Banks	77%
Local Governing Councils	63%
Courts & Justice Department	63%
Police	55%
Org. for Registration & Properties	53%
Health System & Hospitals	52%
City Council / Village Council	50%
Traffic Police	48%
Universities	46%
Komiteh-e Emdad	32%
Educational System & Schools	30%
Revolutionary Guard	30%
Bonyad-e Mostazafan	24%
Department of Environment	22%

people's evaluation of corruption rates in various institutions show that people generally deem banks to be the most corrupt and the environmental organizations to be the least tainted. After banks, in descending order, come municipalities, the judiciary system and police. The existence of the judiciary – the very institution presumably to be charged with investigating corruption – and police among the ranks of the bodies judged most corrupt indicates a key feature of the impression which exists in Iranian society.

Institutions Affected by Corruption – Aggregated Results

In order to better determine and sort individuals' judgment of rates of corruption in the various organizations, those without an opinion and those who assess only minor corruption in the institutions are temporarily laid aside. Furthermore, the response sets "little / very little" and "much / very much" have been combined between themselves.

Rank	Institutions Affected by Corruption - Ranked (%)	A Great Deal, A Lot	Very Little, Little, Not at All	Difference (ABS)
1	Banks	78.9	21.1	57.8
2	Local Governing Councils	67.5	32.5	35
3	Courts & Justice Department	65.2	34.8	30.4
4	Org. for Registration & Properties	60.3	39.7	20.6
5	City Council / Village Council	55.4	44.6	10.8
6	Police	48.4	51.6	3.2
7	Traffic Police	41.3	58.7	17.4
8	Universities	41.1	58.9	17.8
9	Health System & Hospitals	40.8	59.2	18.4
10	Revolutionary Guard	29.3	70.7	41.4
11	Komiteh-e Emdad	29.2	70.8	41.6
12	Bonyad-e Mostazafan	21.5	78.5	57
13	Educational System & Schools	18.4	81.6	63.2
14	Department of Environment	17.7	82.3	64.6

The absolute amount of difference in respondents' assessments of various bodies demonstrates that the greatest concurrence of opinion concerns, in order, the relative low rates in the department of environment and educational system and the relative high rates among banks.

Factors Mitigation Corruption

In order to understand people's assessments of the role of mitigating corruption, eight different components were posed to respondents. It was then requested of them to express the level of their agreement with whether or not each component might have a corruption-mitigating role.

Q.18: If life weren't so hard and a person couldn't make ends meet without cheating, corruption would be lessened

Q.19: If people were properly religious, faithful, and had respectable ethics, corruption would occur less

Q.20: If the very (same) rules and regulations which exist were correctly enforced, corruption would be lessened

Q.21: If new, correct rules and regulations were instituted, corruption would be lessened

Q.22: If the government didn't intervene in everything, corruption would be lessened

Q.23: If those who are corrupt in administrative and financial affairs were penalized properly and exactingly, corruption would be lessened

Q.24: If all this money weren't in the government's hands for them to give out, corruption would be lessened

Q.25: If every time it occurred corruption was announced by newspaper, radio, and television, corruption would be lessened

Factors Mitigation Corruption

Respondents believe appropriate or harsh punishments more than any other component would have a mitigating effect, tending to decrease corruption. Government non-intervention would not tend to curtail corruption

Factors Mitigating Corruption (%)	Completely Agree	Agree	No Difference	Disagree	Completely Disagree	I Don't Know
Economic Well-Being	24%	62%	1%	8%	3%	2%
Ethics, Religion and Morals	38%	52%	1%	7%	1%	1%
Enforcement of Regulations	31%	59%	1%	5%	2%	2%
Appropriate Regulations	17%	65%	2%	9%	3%	4%
State Non-Intervention	6%	23%	2%	**44%**	**18%**	7%
Appropriate / Harsh Punishments	**41%**	**52%**	2%	3%	1%	1%
Financial Decentralization	12%	41%	3%	29%	8%	7%
Media Surveillance	21%	50%	5%	15%	6%	3%

Factors Mitigating Corruption
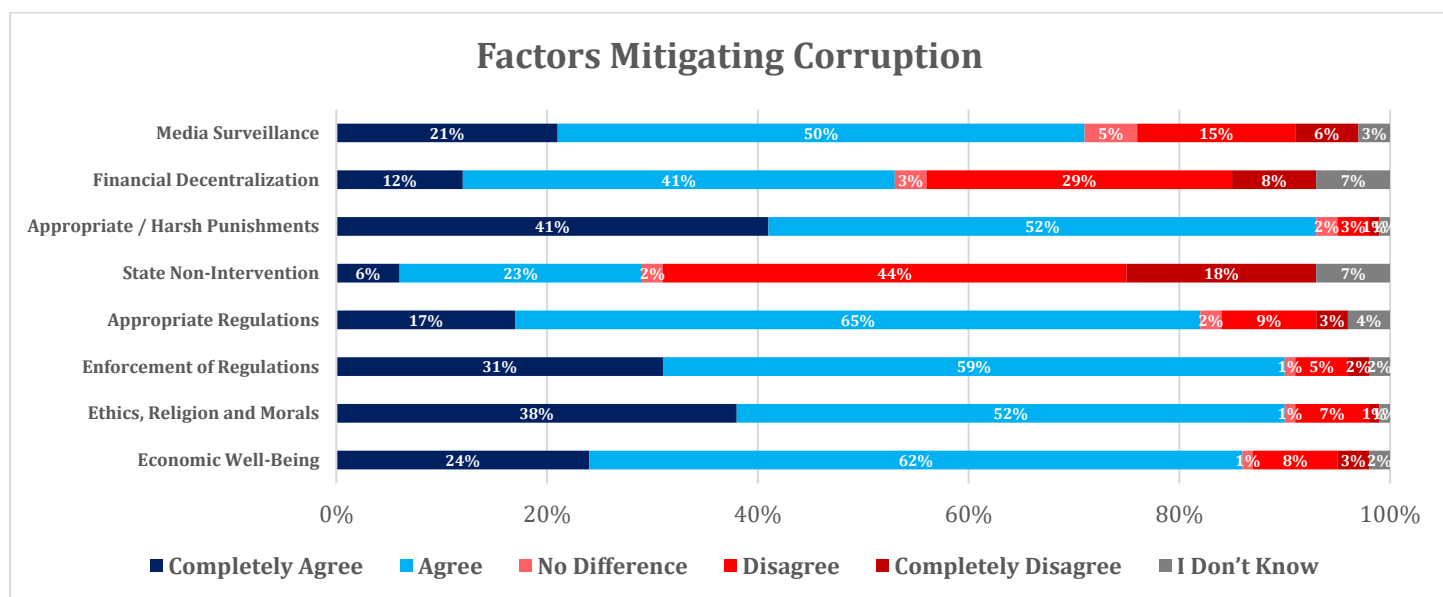
In light of resultant findings, we can say that respondents were generally able to register agreement or disagreement for the bulk of options, in such a way that even in the worst case only 7% said that they had no opinion (in the case of state non-intervention and financial decentralization.) If we thus take into consideration only those respondents who expressed definite opinions of agreement or disagreement, we end up with a set of findings more suited to comparison. The grid below glosses these levels of agreement and disagreement:

Rank	Factors Mitigating Corruption - Ranked (%)	Completely Agree / Agree	Completely Disagree / Disagree	Difference (ABS)
1	Appropriate / Harsh Punishments	96%	4%	92%
2	Ethics, Religion and Moral	91%	9%	82%
3	Enforcement of Regulations	90%	10%	80%
4	Appropriate Regulations	89%	11%	78%
5	Economic Well-Being	89%	11%	78%
6	Media Surveillance	79%	21%	58%
7	Financial Decentralization	57%	43%	14%
8	State Non-Intervention	32%	68%	36%

Factor Mitigating Corruption - Ranked

Factor	Completely Agree / Agree	Completely Disagree / Disagree
Appropriate / Harsh Punishments	96%	4%
Ethics, Religion and Morals	91%	9%
Enforcement of Regulations	90%	10%
Appropriate Regulations	89%	11%
Economic Well-Being	89%	11%
Media Surveillance	79%	21%
Financial Decentralization	57%	43%
State Non-Intervention	32%	68%

■ Completely Agree / Agree   ■ Completely Disagree / Disagree
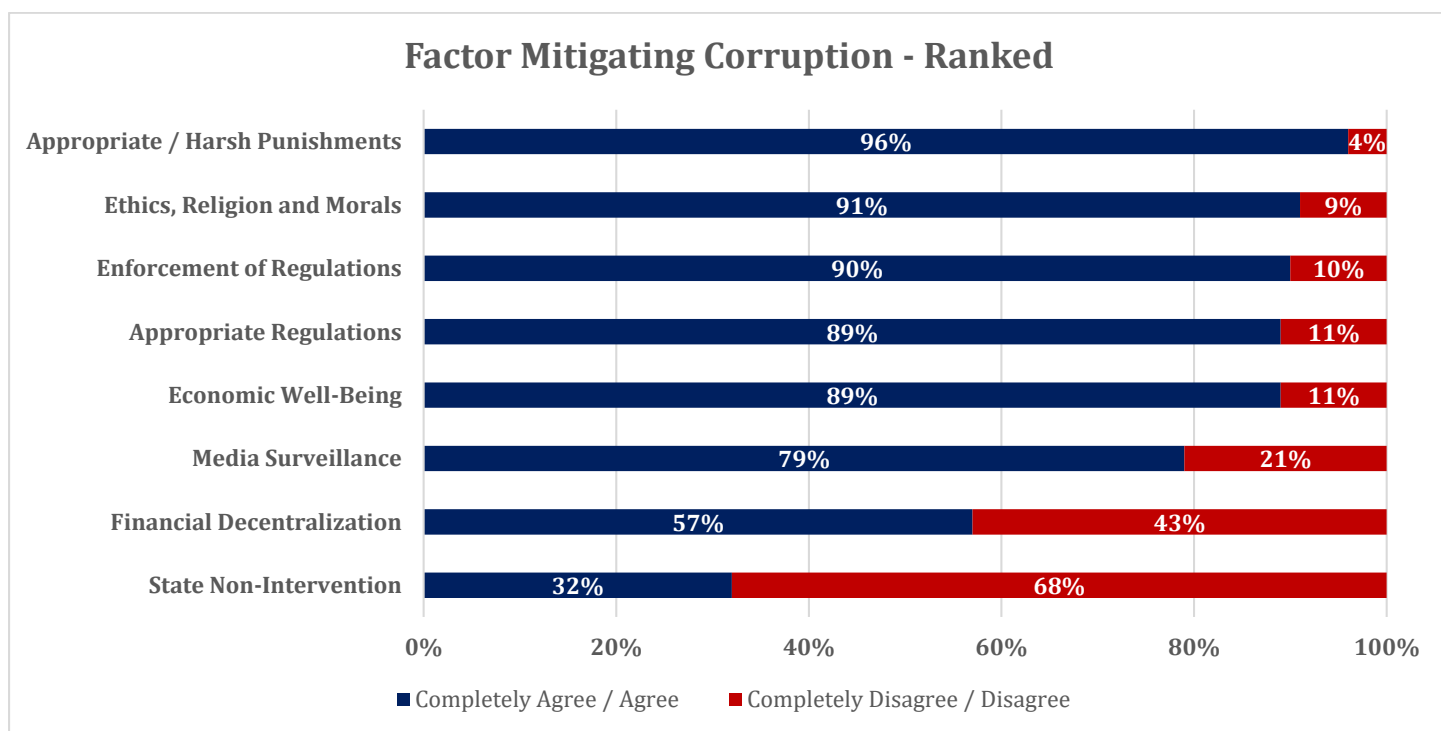
Noting the findings, it will be observed that respondents believe that appropriate or harsh punishments (96%) more than any other component would have a mitigating effect, tending to decrease corruption. Ethics and the enforcement of regulations assume respective positions behind punishment.

Contrarily, respondents believe that state non-intervention would not tend to curtail corruption (at 32% agreement.) State financial decentralization (meaning not escalating all income into the state's pockets) and media surveillance occupy the following ranks.

According to the absolute amount of difference in respondents' assessments, it is clear that the greatest consensus exists for appropriate and harsh punishment (the difference between opinions of agreement and disagreement equaling 92%.) Meanwhile, the greatest disagreement over mitigating components is over the role of government first in regards to decentralization, and afterwards over non-intervention of the state.

Most Important Problems Facing the Country

In the view of the decisive majority of Iranians, economic problems (such as inflation and unemployment) are the most significant issue facing the country

Q.8: Every time we contact people to ask their opinion, they usually speak of a range of problems. In your opinion, what is the most important problem presently facing our people?

Rank	Most Important Problems Facing the Country	%
1	Economy	**84.6**
2	Housing	4.1
3	Corruption	3
4	Marriage	2
5	Educational	1.5
6	Administrative	1
7	Environment	0.7
8	Health	0.6
9	Human Rights	0.4
10	I Don't Know	0.5
11	Others	6.2

Every respondent was able to designate up to two modes

Respondents were asked what, in their opinion, constituted the most important problem facing the Iranian people in the present moment. The responses sorted in grid number one demonstrate that, in the view of the decisive majority, economic problems (such as inflation and unemployment) are most significant.

Second to economic issues respondents mentioned housing problems, which themselves have a chiefly economic form. It's curious here that issues pertaining to corruption are mentioned immediately after problems with the state of the economy, even if they comprise only three percent of responses. Concerns such as marriage and educational problems, occupy the following positions. Human rights issues were referred to less than any other.

Likelihood of Problems Lessening in Light of Official Efforts

Responses are not optimistic about the likelihood of the lessening of the problems facing the country.

Q.9: To what extent do you think it is probable that the steps being taken by authorities will lessen this problem (In place of "this issue," repeat the specific issue which the respondent has named) in coming years?

Likelihood of Problems Lessening in Light of Official Efforts	%
Very Much So	2
A Lot	11.1
Won't Change	27.8
A Little	11.5
Very Little	15.5
I Don't Know	25.3
Others	6.9

27% of respondents thought the likelihood of resolution small or very small, opposing the only 13% who thought that the problems were likely to lessen. 28% were moreover convinced that conditions wouldn't change much in the coming years. If we reckon this portion as pessimists, adding them together with those previously of a negative outlook regarding prospect for improvement of the issue they mentioned, we'll see in fact that 80% of respondents have no hope for improved conditions in the future (Those without opinions, or gave other answers has been omitted).

Likelihood of Problems Lessening in Light of Official Efforts	%
Pessimistic	80
Optimistic	20

Likelihood of Improving Economic Situation After the Nuclear Deal

Against the general pessimism regarding the likelihood of lessening most important facing the country, a particular kind of optimism exists regarding the situation after the nuclear deal.

Q.10: People often talk and complain about economic issues. Some say now that the nuclear issues have been agreed upon, the economic situation will improve. Do you agree with this point of view or not?

Likelihood improving the economic situation after the Nuclear Deal	%
Strongly Agree	4
Agree	33
Somewhat Agree	12.7
Neutral	5.1
Somewhat Disagree	4
Disagree	18.8
Strongly Disagree	6.6
I Don't Know	13.9
Others	2

If those who either reported that they had no opinion and were not informed or gave other vague answers are set aside, 63% of respondents have an optimistic view regarding the likelihood of lessening the problems facing the country and improving economic situation after nuclear deal. 37% still have a pessimistic opinion.

Likelihood of improving the economic situation after the Nuclear Deal	%
Pessimistic	37
Optimistic	63

Women are more likely than men to be hopeful about the effect of resolving the nuclear issue. Similarly, respondents over 45 years of age judged the effect of the deal more positively than those under 45. Residents of urban areas were more pessimistic in their assessment of the nuclear resolution on economic improvement.

Demographics

Age (Weighted)	Number
18 - 29	566
30 - 44	502
45 - 59	295
60+	185

Residential Situation	Number
Owned	519
Rental	305
Others	15

Location (Weighted)	Number
Urban	1122
Rural	426

Education	Number
Academic	430
Non Academic	1114

Language	Number
Fars	557
Turk	106
Others	189

Ethnicity	Number
Fars	481
Turk	142
Others	208

Religion	Number
Shia	728
Others	55

Gender (Weighted)	Number
Male	777
Female	771

Variables

Concept	Main Var.	Sub-Var.	Operational Var. (Question)-Field
Issues Facing the Country	Ranking the Problems	Most Important Problems	8
	Problems in the Future	Lessening of Problems by Authorities	9
		Lessen of Problems after the Nuclear Deal	10
Awareness of Corruption	Awareness of Corruption News	Measure of keeping up with corruption news	6
		Sources for keeping up with corruption news	7
Analysis of Corruption	Rate of corruption	Regularity of corruption	11
		Rate of corruption in Iran	12
		Rate of corruption compared with other countries	13
	Corruption trends	Past five years	14
		Next five years	15
		Corruption after the Nuclear Deal	16
	Institutions affected by corruption	Hard Service Inst.	26- Local Governing Councils
			28- Banks
			31- Org. for Registration & Prop.
		Soft Service Inst.	27- Educational System & Schools
			29- Universities
			30- Health & Hospitals
			34- Dep. Of Environment
		Elected Inst.	32- City (Village) Councils
		Supervisory Inst.	38- Police
			33- Traffic Police
			35- Courts & Judiciary System
		Post-Revolutionary Institutions	37- Bonyad-e Mostazafan
			36- Komiteh-e Emdad
			39- Revolutionary Guard
	Factors Mitigating Corruption	Appropriate Regulations	21
		Enforcement of Regulations	20
		Economic Well-Being	18
		Ethics, Religion and Morals	19
		State Non-Intervention	22
		Appropriate and Harsh Punishments	23
		Financial Decentralization	24
		Media Surveillance	25