

Youths Fight Against Corruption

Corruption is an act of dishonesty or unethical conduct by an individual entrusted with a position of power. In many countries, the gap between the high and low class is so huge that it becomes a clear example of corruption where one section of society acquires richness and wealth and on the other hand the majority of the masses remain below the poverty line. This is the reason why the economy of certain nations is facing a decline.

We as responsible citizens of our country, we should understand that this corruption is eating into our nation's economic growth like a termite and is giving rise to crime in our society. If the majority section of our society will continue to live in deprivation and poverty and will not find any employment opportunity, the crime rate will never come down, poverty will destroy people's ethics and morals and would result in an increase in hatred amongst the people. It is high time for us to address this issue and fight it in order to pave the way for the holistic growth of our country.

If one were to think and evaluate the causes behind corruption, then it could be countless. However, the most glaring reason responsible for the vicious spread of corruption, I believe is the people's non-serious attitude towards the governmental rules and laws and the sheer inertia of government towards those who spread evil in society. It appears that the ones who are employed to put an end to corruption have themselves become complicit in the crime and are encouraging it. Though there are various strict laws like the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act(Nigeria), The Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) Act(Nigeria), Prevention of Money Laundering Act; Indian Penal Code of 1860(India) and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988(India); to name a few, but there is no serious implementation of these laws, the parliament should pass strict laws against the anti-social elements of our society, regardless of the fact that whether such people are within the political system of our country or outside it. There should be equal treatment for all.

The Role of Youths in the Fight Against Corruption

Young people are excellent spokespersons on anti-corruption issues as we are usually not cynical and led by our ideals. We tend to be more open to wide socio-political transformation and have less vested interests in maintaining the status quo. On the other hand, we also tend to be more exposed to bribery and are therefore particularly vulnerable to corruption. According to Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer 2013, 27% of people under the age of 30 paid a bribe in the preceding 12 months worldwide. The European Commission's "Eurobarometer" (2014) similarly indicates that 29% of 15-24 year-olds think that money, gifts, and favours are acceptable if they want to get something from the public. The percentage is higher in youths than in other age classes. Furthermore, the E&Y Fraud Survey 2017 shows that respondents from 25 to 34 year olds in Europe, Middle East, India and Africa are more likely than any other age group to justify unethical behaviour to help a

business survive, to meet financial targets and for their own career progression: 73% of youths feel unethical action can be justified to help a business survive, while 1 in 4 could justify offering cash payments to win or retain business, compared to 1 in 10 aged over 45, these factors should not be ignored. We youths need to protect our future by not engaging in corrupt acts but instead be an agent of change that the country needs, we need to be involved in actions and programs that help kick corruption out, examples of youth involvement can be found in many areas, I would highlight four areas in which youth action could have the most of impact: politics, education, ICT and social media, and sport.

Politics

A way to bring young people closer to politics is hands-on practical experience. Some anti-corruption organizations collaborate with schools or universities to engage students in simulations of election situations and organize debates/discussions on the topic of corruption and ethics in political life. A further idea would be to introduce a requirement for training and anti-corruption certification for young politicians and persons engaged in public service, notably young public officers at local, regional/state and national levels. This instrument could be very helpful for those at the beginning of their mandates, to learn how to recognize and stop various nuances of corruption. This is sometimes not so easy and non-expert people can fall in a corruption scandal without having full awareness of what really happened. Such a Nation-wide Anti-Corruption Certificate could be worked out in cooperation with the academic, state and autonomous anti-corruption institutions, civil society organizations and monitoring centres.

Education

Education is a powerful tool to fight corruption, but corruption is within the education system too. Corrupt education systems can prevent young people from achieving their potential by depriving them of adequate learning conditions and educational opportunities. Moreover, a corrupt education sector serves as a breeding ground for corruption itself by teaching the younger generation that corrupt behaviour is acceptable. Therefore, an education sector free of corruption is imperative to the promotion of a culture of Examples of (systemic or ad hoc) corruption in education range from the embezzlement of funds intended for school buildings to plagiarism and “essay mills” in universities and the selling of diplomas. Children from certain communities might be favoured for school admission while others are subject to extra payments at the institutional level, there may be opaque and inaccessible recruitment procedures or nepotism at the highest level, national budgets may be distributed unfairly, favouring certain higher education institutions. Some of the trends are growing, but there is little statistical information available to assess the real state of the problem.

ICT

Using ICT and social media has the potential to reach large numbers of young people, easily and at very low cost. Many youth organization communicates with their members and others through social media while many young anti-corruption activists have started their projects through their Facebook pages or blogs.

Sport

Many young people across the world are involved in sports activities and are not immune to corruptive practices such as bribery, doping, match-fixing, etc. Several NGOs have increasingly started partnerships with sports associations to educate young people on ethical values, democracy, and solidarity. Transparency International Italy has used sports clubs to inform youth about the importance to resist corruption through the values of sports and fair play. The group is currently developing an innovative and creative anti-corruption application “Dislike” for mobile phones and tablets.

Youth-led anti-corruption movements

Engaging youth in the fight against corruption can also take the form of youth own-led initiatives and movements. Especially informal youth groups can find it easier to act at the local, grass-roots level, outside the rigid association structures, even if the latter can add significant catalyzing value by providing platforms, resources, knowledge, visibility, etc.

Anti-corruption youth movements

Many anti-corruption youth movements have started from spontaneous initiatives. The Anti-Corruption Youth Greece was set up in 2013 by some students following a lecture course on the UN Convention against Corruption inspired by their Professor Dr Dimitris Ziouvas, they started street campaigns, holding public debates with high-level speakers from the Hellenic Parliament, and training school children on the importance of accountability, integrity and transparency – the pillars of anti-corruption.

The situation has become very tense and unless the general public takes proactive measures and becomes vigilant, the corruption cannot be uprooted from our society. So come let's join hands and fight against corruption.

The Fight Starts with Me

Every stolen dollar, euro, peso, yuan, rupee, or ruble, robs the poor of an equal opportunity in life and prevents governments from investing in their human capital.

That is why I have decided that,

I will not dress up the truth or colour it what you want,

For a clean brown envelope of dirty green notes,

The truth needs no covering. Nakedness is her dress.

I will not look between your groins, talkless of visiting them,

In exchange for a twisted version of my opinion defiled by your moans.

I will not dance to the disjointed tunes you play,

Your flute is broken.

Keep your promotion, I will not change the figures,

I will not add a zero or square the two's

Or invent one more name on the list

To inflate your bottomless pocket or

deepen the colour of your faint lies.

Keep your bags of coin, you can feed your greed-smitten soul with them,

This cake will go round the nation, your mouth is not wider than others.

I don't need your boxes of empty promises, take them with you,

Your supporters have need of them,

Your little guns don't scare me, I'm casting my ballot in a box of my

choice.

You ask me for extra-office duties or you'll give my seat to another?

You can have your office Sir, I'm keeping my privacy private.

I will keep my name, you can smoke the paycheck.

I may be ignored but I am alive

And my voice still speaks

In the words of the few who love me.

My roads are seldom-travelled but my praise is unrestrained,

Like wildfire, you cannot love me, yet you cannot stop me.

I am integrity to A, justice to B, honesty to C.

Call me what you please,

I am Mr. unpopular but I am the standard.

It all begins only when we've made up our minds... And speaks our hearts

We can, only by doing it right!

Let's end the corruption which has eaten deep into our system.

Like a cankerworm!

Like an infectious termite!!