

Corruption Prevention: A Comprehensive Strategy Towards Clean and Integrity-Based Governance

ABSTRACT

Corruption is a crime committed by individuals or groups that harms the state, hinders economic development, and erodes public trust. Although eradication efforts through prosecution have been intensively undertaken, a preventative approach is considered crucial to eradicating corruption as a whole. The purpose of this article is to identify and analyze a comprehensive corruption prevention strategy, encompassing legal, institutional, educational, and public participation aspects. By reviewing literature from various scientific journals and books, this article is expected to provide an in-depth understanding of the importance of corruption prevention as a key pillar in building clean and integrity-based governance.

Keyword: Corruption Prevention, Governance, Integrity, Community Participation, Anti-Corruption Education

INTRODUCTION

Corruption continues to be a major obstacle to sustainable development in Indonesia and many other countries. Its impacts are felt across both the public and private sectors, eroding public trust and widening disparities in access to education, health care, and public services. Corruption prevention efforts are more efficient and have a long-term impact than simply prosecuting corruption. Corruption, a widespread and organized crime, has become a global problem faced by many countries, including Indonesia (Riyanto and Handar, 2024). The impacts of corruption are complex, including state financial losses, ineffective public services, market disruptions, increased poverty, and political and social instability. Various efforts have been made to combat corruption, from the establishment of anti-corruption institutions, strict law enforcement, to bureaucratic reform. However, focusing on prosecution alone has proven insufficient to eradicate corruption at its roots (Jordan, 2024).

Corruption prevention is a series of proactive and systematic actions to minimize opportunities for corruption and create an environment that is not conducive to corrupt practices. This approach shifts from a reactive approach (acting after corruption occurs) to a proactive approach (preventing corruption before it occurs), with the hope of significantly reducing corruption rates and building a strong anti-corruption culture in society. Therefore, a preventative approach has become increasingly relevant and urgent (Sujadi et al., 2022).

RESEARCH METHODS

This study adopts a normative legal approach, rooted in the prevailing positive legal standards in Indonesia. This methodology is applied to examine various regulations and laws related to defamation, particularly those occurring in the social media realm. Therefore, this normative legal research seeks to outline the basic principles, legal doctrines, and relevant regulatory provisions to explain the basis for criminal liability for individuals who commit such acts.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The eight types of corruption according to criminology, or the study of crime, are:

1. Political bribery, which involves the abuse of power within the legislative branch as the law-making body. Politically, this body is controlled by vested interests because funds spent during elections are often linked to the activities of specific companies. Businesses hope that members of parliament will enact regulations that benefit them.
2. Political kickbacks, which involve activities related to the contractual system between executive officials and business owners, providing an opportunity to generate significant revenue for the parties involved.

3. Election fraud, which is corruption directly related to election fraud.
4. Corrupt campaign practices, which involve the use of state facilities or state funds by candidates currently in power.
5. Discretionary corruption, which involves corruption committed because of the freedom to determine policy.
6. Illegal corruption, which involves obfuscating legal language or legal interpretation. This type of corruption is vulnerable to law enforcement officers, including police, prosecutors, lawyers, and judges.
7. Ideological corruption is a combination of discretionary and illegal corruption carried out for group goals.
8. Mercenary corruption is the abuse of power solely for personal gain.

According to workers, there are several reasons why corruption is common in Indonesia: some people believe that acquiring wealth is the path to success, so people do whatever it takes to gain wealth, ultimately resulting in losses for the state and nation. Corruption can be caused by the following factors:

1. Personal Factors

Corruption is rooted in an uncontrollable desire for wealth. When society prioritizes material things and a consumptive lifestyle, and the political system is corrupt, many people, especially officials, will be tempted to engage in corruption. A lack of religious and moral values can also contribute to this problem.

2. Family and Community Factors

In addition to personal factors, the social environment also plays a significant role in encouraging someone to engage in corruption. The family, as the closest environment, often provides examples or pressure to engage in corrupt acts. Furthermore, corrupt societal culture and values can also justify corrupt acts. A society unaware of the harmful impacts of corruption also exacerbates this problem.

3. Economic and Political Factors

Social control is a collective effort to prevent corruption. State institutions and civil society organizations play a crucial role in carrying out this oversight function. When social control is weak, corrupt practices flourish.

4. Organizational Factors

An unhealthy work environment, especially one dominated by a culture of corruption, can lead members of an organization to engage in harmful acts. The absence of strong leadership and a lack of organizational accountability further exacerbate this problem.

Legal and Institutional Reform in Corruption Prevention

Legal and institutional reform are the main foundations of corruption prevention efforts. A clear, firm, and implementable legal framework is essential to close loopholes for corruption. Legal and institutional reforms include improving anti-corruption laws, regulations on government procurement of goods and services, laws on freedom of information, and protection for whistleblowers. Transparency in decision-making processes and budget allocations is also crucial (Jordan, 2024).

Furthermore, strengthening anti-corruption institutions, such as the Corruption Eradication Commission, audit institutions, and judicial institutions, must be carried out continuously. The independence, accountability, and human resource capacity of these institutions must be enhanced to ensure their effectiveness. The implementation of a strict accountability system, effective internal oversight, and the implementation of a code of ethics and conduct for state officials are also integral parts of institutional reform. Information technology can also be utilized to increase bureaucratic efficiency and transparency, thereby reducing face-to-face interactions that are vulnerable to corrupt practices (Mutia & Aldri, 2023).

Reform in this context refers to systemic and planned changes to improve or rebuild the legal system and institutional structures to be more effective in preventing and eradicating corruption. The importance of this reform is to create

a system that is intolerant of corruption by closing legal and bureaucratic loopholes that are vulnerable to corruption. Increasing transparency and accountability ensures that every decision-making process and the use of state resources can be monitored. Strengthening law enforcement provides a strong legal basis and institutions that are independent and profess integrity. Building an anti-corruption culture encourages public awareness and participation in corruption prevention.

Legal reform focuses on improving and developing a regulatory framework that supports corruption prevention efforts. Key aspects include:

- a. Updating and Clarifying Laws: Revising laws that contain legal loopholes and clarifying provisions related to corruption crimes, including obstruction of justice.
- b. Stricter Sanctions: Implementing severe penalties, such as large fines, asset confiscation, and maximum prison sentences to create a deterrent effect. The recovery of assets obtained from corruption is also a key focus.
- c. Example in Indonesia: Since Law No. 3 of 1971 was replaced by Law No. 31 of 1999 and then strengthened by Law No. 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Corruption, the legal framework has been continuously improved. Furthermore, Law No. 8 of 2010 concerning the Prevention and Eradication of Money Laundering has also become an important tool in tackling corruption.

Institutional reform focuses on improving the structure, function, and governance of institutions that play a role in preventing and eradicating corruption.

1. Establishment and Strengthening of Independent Anti-Corruption Agencies:
 - a. Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK): The establishment of the KPK in 2003 was an important milestone. The KPK has broad

authority to investigate, indict, and prosecute corruption cases, as well as to promote prevention efforts through system reviews and education.

- b. Institutional Independence: It is important to ensure that anti-corruption institutions are free from political interference and have adequate resources (human resources, budget, infrastructure) to operate professionally and effectively. (Gusti, 2022).

2. Bureaucratic Reform:

- a. Simplification of Procedures: Reducing complex bureaucracy and convoluted procedures that often create loopholes for corruption. By simplifying administration and increasing transparency, opportunities for corruption can be reduced.
- b. Implementation of E-Government: Using information and digital technology to increase transparency in the management of state finances and public services. This reduces direct interactions that are vulnerable to bribery.
- c. Improvement of the Recruitment and Human Resource Management System: Ensuring the integrity of public officials and civil servants from recruitment to promotion and sanctions.
- d. Strengthening Internal Oversight: Building a robust internal oversight system in every government institution (Nurhaliza, 2025).

3. Strengthening Other Law Enforcement Agencies:

- a. National Police and Prosecutor's Office: Strengthen the professionalism, integrity, and independence of the police and prosecutor's office to ensure they are free from oligarchic influence and internal corruption.

- b. Coordination and Synergy: Improve coordination between the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), the Prosecutor's Office, and the police in handling corruption cases.
4. Increasing Transparency and Accountability:
 - a. Encourage public information disclosure and accountability at all levels of government. Involving the public in the legislative and oversight processes can increase accountability. (Angelica, 2024).

The Role of Education and Instilling Integrity Values

Anti-corruption education plays a crucial role in shaping character and an anti-corruption mentality from an early age. This is not just about knowledge about corruption, but rather about instilling fundamental values such as honesty, responsibility, fairness, and integrity. Anti-corruption education can be integrated into the formal education curriculum at various levels, from elementary school to higher education. Furthermore, ongoing public campaigns and outreach programs are needed to raise public awareness of the dangers of corruption and the importance of their participation in eradicating it (Septinus et al., 2024).

Instilling integrity values should not stop at school; it must also become part of the organizational culture in government agencies and the private sector. Implementing these values through ethics training, internalizing a code of ethics, and setting a good example from leaders will be highly effective in building a corruption-free work environment (Munawir et al., 2024). Personal and professional integrity are strong moral bulwarks in preventing individuals from falling prey to corrupt practices.

The Importance of Education and Instilling Integrity Values:

- a. Building a Moral Foundation: Education is an effective means of instilling moral and ethical values from an early age, fostering strong character.

- b. Creating Early Awareness: Building awareness of the dangers of corruption and the importance of integrity before individuals are exposed to corrupt practices.
- c. Establishing an Anti-Corruption Culture: If integrity values are instilled widely, society will develop collective immunity to corruption, not only due to fear of the law, but also due to awareness of its wrongdoing.
- d. Increasing Community Participation: Individuals with integrity tend to be more proactive in reporting or preventing corrupt practices.
- e. Supporting Law Enforcement: A society with integrity will support and strengthen law enforcement efforts to eradicate corruption (Zulqarnain et al., 2022).

Anti-corruption values must be included in the PAK material. The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) has established these values: honesty, hard work, independence, discipline, self-reliance, responsibility, justice, courage, and simplicity.

1. Honesty

To avoid corruption, the first step is to be honest. Honesty advises students to avoid corrupt practices because they fear disappointing others.

2. Caring

Caring can be applied to our environment, such as family, school, and community. It means paying attention, paying attention, or ignoring something.

3. Independence

Independence is defined as the ability to stand alone without relying on others for certain matters. You can demonstrate independence by taking exams independently and shouldering all responsibilities yourself, without the help of others.

4. Discipline

Discipline originates from the Latin word "disciplina," which means training or education to develop polite character. Discipline can be described as good time management, adhering to all rules and regulations, completing tasks on time, and always focusing on work.

5. Responsibility

Sugono states that responsibility means being obliged to take responsibility for everything (a person can be sued, questioned, and prosecuted if something happens). Depending on a person's circumstances in a relationship, responsibility can be divided into five categories: responsibility to oneself, family, society, country, and God.

6. Hard Work

Working to completion and stopping is not interpreted as hard work; it means working to achieve a greater goal for the good of humanity and the surrounding environment. Rather, hard work refers to continuous effort to complete the assigned task.

7. Simplicity

It is important to adopt a lifestyle when interacting with others. A simple lifestyle teaches one not to overestimate one's capabilities. A simple lifestyle also teaches one to prioritize needs over desires.

8. Courage

Courage is crucial to achieving success, and it can be demonstrated by having the courage to speak up and participate in the truth, taking responsibility, daring to admit mistakes, and so on. Courage is also crucial to achieving success, and strong convictions are accompanied by courage.

9. Justice

Justice means giving everyone equal rights, not cheating, such as taking advantage of others, doing work assigned to them before they receive their due, making decisions impartially, or engaging in actions involving nepotism (Luckyto, 2021).

Education plays an active role in instilling the value of integrity through various levels and approaches:

1. Formal Education (Schools and Universities):
 - a. Curriculum Integration: Incorporating material on corruption and integrity values into relevant subjects, such as Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn), religion, or special anti-corruption courses.
 - b. Project-Based Learning: Encouraging students to engage in projects that promote honesty, responsibility, and justice.
 - c. Teacher/Lecturer Behavioral Examples: Teachers and lecturers serve as role models in demonstrating behavior with integrity, both in the teaching and learning process and in daily life.
 - d. Extracurricular Activities: Develop extracurricular activities that promote positive values, such as honesty clubs or anti-corruption campaigns.
2. Informal Education (Family):
 - a. Role of Parents: The family is the first environment for instilling values. Parents must teach honesty, responsibility, empathy, and ethics from an early age through role models and practice.
 - b. Open Communication: Encourage open communication within the family to discuss values and their impact.
3. Non-Formal Education (Society and Community):
 - a. Public Campaigns: Conduct awareness campaigns through mass media, social media, and public events to educate the public about the dangers of corruption and the importance of integrity.
 - b. Role of Community Leaders: Religious leaders, traditional leaders, and community leaders serve as agents of change in spreading the values of integrity.
 - c. Community Programs: Hold workshops, seminars, or discussions at the community level to increase understanding and commitment to anti-corruption.

- d. Social Movements: Encouraging community participation in social movements that demand transparency and accountability (Fahrizal & Andi, 2024).

4. The Role of Students as Agents of Change in Combating Corruption

- a. Agents of Change: Students play a role in society as agents of change. Students act as community mobilizers to bring about positive change by utilizing their knowledge, ideas, and insights. Students as a group must be at the forefront of change, as the revival of the nation and state rests on their shoulders.
- b. Guardians of Value: Students act as guardians of values, meaning they are the guardians of values in society. As guardians of values, students not only play a role in preserving these values but also act as carriers and disseminators.
- c. Iron Stock: Students play the role of Iron Stock, as students are the nation's future generation. It is undeniable that all existing organizations will be flexible, especially with the transition of power from older to younger generations.
- d. Moral Force: Students act as a moral force in society. As academics, a student's intellectual level will be in line with their moral level. Students are considered to have the highest level of education and, as learners, are therefore expected to possess good morals.
- e. Social Control: Students' role as social control means they are expected to be able to control social life in society by providing suggestions, criticism, and solutions to social and national problems. As individuals with high intellectual capacity and a critical attitude, students can serve as a bridge for society to combat corruption, which is prevalent in the bureaucracy, for the sake of creating better national development.

Public Participation and Public Oversight

The public plays a crucial role as agents of change and oversight in corruption prevention efforts. Active public participation can take various forms, from reporting suspected corruption, monitoring public policies and government projects, to advocating for anti-corruption reforms. The government must facilitate and protect this participation by providing safe and accessible reporting channels and ensuring protection for whistleblowers (Satria, 2021).

Civil society organizations (CSOs), the media, and academics also play a crucial role in raising public awareness, conducting independent investigations, and exerting pressure on the government to take decisive action against corruption. The media, in particular, can be an effective watchdog in exposing corruption cases and educating the public. Collaboration between the government, the private sector, and civil society in creating a robust anti-corruption ecosystem is key to the success of comprehensive corruption prevention (Emmilia & Nurul, 2020).

The Importance of Public Participation and Public Oversight:

1. The Last Bastion of Prevention: While internal systems and law enforcement may have limitations, the public serves as the eyes and ears that can detect corrupt practices.
2. Increasing Transparency and Accountability: Public involvement requires the government to be more open and accountable for every decision and action.
3. Reducing Corruption Loopholes: Oversight from various parties, including the public, can close loopholes vulnerable to corruption.
4. Encouraging Bureaucratic Reform: Public pressure can encourage internal reform in government institutions.
5. Creating an Anti-Corruption Culture: Active participation fosters collective awareness and commitment to fighting corruption.
6. Policy Legitimacy: Policies that involve public participation tend to be more accepted and effective because they align with the needs of the community (Jarwandi & Heldy, 2022).

Public participation in corruption prevention can be realized in various forms, including:

1. Reporting Alleged Corruption (Whistleblowing): The public can report suspected corruption to law enforcement officials (the Corruption Eradication Commission, the National Police, the Prosecutor's Office) or internal oversight bodies. The courage of the whistleblower is crucial, so legal protection and guarantees of identity confidentiality are crucial.
2. Participation in Planning and Budgeting: The public can participate in development planning forums (musrenbang) at the village and national levels, providing input on development priorities and budget allocations. This involvement aims to ensure that the budget is used according to real needs and is transparent.
3. Supervision of Program and Project Implementation: The public directly monitors the implementation of government programs and projects in the field, ensuring there is no misappropriation of funds, price markups, or substandard quality. This is an example of this through village fund monitoring.
4. Anti-Corruption Advocacy and Campaigns: Civil society organizations (CSOs), students, and individuals conduct campaigns, petitions, or demonstrations to voice anti-corruption demands and urge government action.
5. Exercise of the Right to Public Information: The public uses the Public Information Disclosure Law (UU KIP) to access government data and documents, such as financial reports, procurement contracts, or audit results. Information transparency is the foundation of effective oversight.
6. Formation of Anti-Corruption Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): The public forms formal or informal organizations focused on corruption issues, conducting research, advocacy, education, and oversight.

7. Participation in E-Government and Online Complaint Services: Using government digital platforms to provide input, complaints, or report irregularities, such as LAPOR! or other complaint systems provided by local governments or institutions.

Public oversight mechanisms can be formal or informal:

1. Oversight by Formal Institutions (External):
 - a. The Supreme Audit Agency (BPK): Conducts audits of state finances. The public can access audit reports.
 - b. Ombudsman of the Republic of Indonesia (ORI): Receives public complaints regarding maladministration of public services. Maladministration is often a gateway to corruption.
 - c. Public Information Commission (KIP): Guarantees the public's right to obtain public information and resolves information disputes.
2. Oversight by the Mass Media: The press plays a role as the fourth pillar of democracy, conducting investigations, covering corruption cases, and shaping public opinion.
3. Oversight by Academics and Researchers: Academic research can uncover patterns of corruption, evaluate the effectiveness of anti-corruption policies, and provide data-based recommendations.
4. Social Audit: A monitoring mechanism carried out directly by the community on certain public projects or services, often with the support of NGOs or independent experts (Rizky, 2020).

CONCLUSION

Corruption prevention is a crucial long-term investment for a country's development. A comprehensive approach, involving legal and institutional reform, anti-corruption education and the instilling of integrity values, and active public participation, is key to creating clean and integrated governance. While the

challenges in implementation are significant, with strong political commitment, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and collective awareness, the goal of creating a corruption-free society is achievable. Prevention efforts must be continuously strengthened and adapted to the dynamics of corruption developments, thus becoming a solid defense against this extraordinary crime.

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