
Issue Brief

(GA2)

Corruption and Bribery

The issue of corruption and bribery has been a persistent one for time immemorial, particularly in nations lacking a strong, effective judicial system. Corruption is a malpractice that attacks the core of democratic institutions and destroys them completely, right from within. In today's Global scenario, corruption is largely inevitable, reasons of which may be several- ranging from lack of a proper check on Institutions and their working, greed in minds of officials, desire for power and of course, low salaries and living conditions. The widespread effects of corruption include distortion of electoral processes, embezzlement and fraud in institutional schemes and the creation of bureaucratic hazards and loopholes. While widespread corruption is generally attributed to the LEDCs, it is an undeniable fact that MEDCs too have their share of corruption related hurdles and barriers.

The United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime(UNODC) has played a major role in analysing, interpreting and employing measures in checking corruption globally, out of which the United Nations Convention against Corruption is noteworthy to mention. This convention is a legally binding document, that has helped to provide a comprehensive and collective response to the global problem of Corruption. The UNODC provides support to States (parties to the convention) in terms of prevention, awareness and education, asset recovery and integrity in the criminal justice system of the nation concerned. These measures have helped reduce the problem to some extent, and provide a collective, stronger response to the hurdle of corruption.

But there is still a long way to go. Stronger international cooperation and better strategic planning are two key areas of focus that need to be considered to tackle the problem in the most effective way possible. Controlling inflation, increasing salaries, introducing effective legislation and execution of strict laws on corruption, keeping a check on media and utilising it for eradication of corruption, and strengthening national judicial systems can be some of the measures to solve the issue with relevant guidelines in mind which may vary from State to State. In a nutshell, Corruption and associated bribery needs to be eradicated through international cooperation and dialogue so as to increase the efficiency with which this evil can be eradicated from all governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations.

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