Fighting Corruption in Developing Countries: Strategies and Analysis

Bertram I. Spector, editor
Kumarian Press, 2005

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—in *Labour, Capital and Society*, Volume 42 Number 1&2 (2009)—

The introductory chapter by Spector succinctly sets out the purpose and direction of the book. Simply put, the aim of the book is to provide policymakers with more reliable insight into which strategies are effective and which are not. The book takes as its starting point that corruption is the misuse of public authority for personal gain (Klitgaard, Maclean-Abaroa, and Parris 2000). It is a definition which the contributors adopt as a whole. The focus is on the public rather than the private sector.

Spector argues that as corruption manifests in diverse ways it requires targeted anti-corruption strategies. The problem is one of scope. The book follows from Kaufmann's findings (2003) that, in general, anti-corruption strategies which focused on the development of appropriate laws, strengthened law enforcement agencies, and established government institutions, had no appreciable effect after a decade of implementation (p6).

The book, thus, advocates a sectoral or decentralized approach to combating corruption as opposed to a centralized or generalized one. It argues that a sectoral approach offers one of the best ways of understanding corruption and developing an anti-corruption strategy. The notion of a sector used in this book, may be, but is generally not commensurate with an industry. It is rather an area of activity where public power is exercised or, as in the case of political parties, obtained and influenced.

The first part of the book covers the analysis of corruption in a number of vulnerable sectors. Consequently, part I is comprised of chapters on the justice system, political parties, public health care, public education, public finance, environment and natural resources, energy supply, agriculture, and the private sector. Each chapter discusses and analyses the cause and manifestation of corruption in a specific sector. Common causes are societies predicated on patronage as opposed meritocracy, poor levels of remuneration and training, and societal tolerance of corruption. The contributors then discuss international experience in dealing with corruption in the given sector. Finally, practical anti-corruption strategies are set out. The strategies are a combination of hard and soft law options. Emphasis is placed, correctly, on the fact that legal strategies and ordinary law enforcement methods are by themselves insufficient. Thus, the contributors prescribe formal and informal methods for providing and enhancing transparency and accountability, such as, the publication of laws, regulations and judicial decisions; formal audits; subscription to codes of ethics; open deliberation and dealing; and the creation of public awareness through education.

Emphasis is placed on unofficial strategies which seek to place political pressure on public officials by the media, foreign aid agencies, and community watchdog organizations. Taken separately, each chapter provides a thorough and insightful analysis of corruption in a particular sector. When seen cumulatively, however, the findings on the causes, manifestations, and consequences of corruption become monotonous. This is also reflected in the repetition of anticorruption strategies. These similarities demonstrate that corruption, irrespective of the sector in which it manifests, arises from the same causes and has the same consequences.

Consequently, the sectoral studies are followed by a chapter which syntheses the lessons drawn by those studies. A notable omission from the work is a sectoral study of the police and military, given their pivotal influence on the political governance of developing countries. A further lacuna is a discussion on the impact the migration of skilled personnel from these countries has on the incidence of and struggle against corruption.

The book, in Part I, reads like an easy guide to the nature and causes of corruption and the strategies against it. Each chapter contains useful tables of statistics. They are also supplemented by textboxes which provide illustrations, examples, checklists and summaries of the causes and strategies against corruption. The textboxes succeed in not burdening the principal text with unnecessary detail and technicality. Part II gives applied analyses of corruption in the health and educations sectors, trends and anti-corruption strategies, and the risks of re-corruption. Part II is more empirical and academic in nature in that it discusses and evaluates case studies and learned literature on the issues covered. The book contains a lengthy and comprehensive bibliography. There is also a biography of each contributor that gives the reader a sense of a contributor's expertise. The overall impression left by the sectoral studies is that in addition to the integrity and political will of leaders to implement anti-corruption measures, a developing country's success in the fight against corruption is dependent on its commitment to democracy and the rule of law. This book serves the purpose of providing a useful guide for policymakers wishing to research and develop suitable strategies to combat corruption in developing nations.
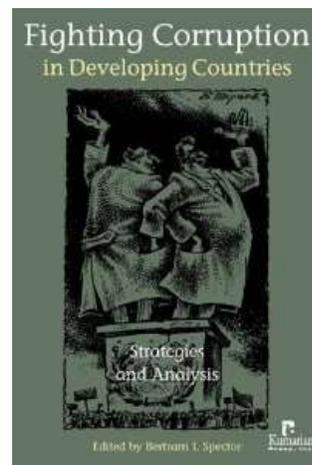
Although, there are many types of corruption in developing countries, it is vital to create the necessary governance capacities to identify and limit the most destructive types of cor-ruption. Therefore, there is a framework for identifying various types of corruption, in order to set priorities for institutional reform and successful anti-corruption poli-cies. This paper is based on descriptive and analytical methods and all data were col-lected in the form of documentary studies. 41. Public Administration Issues. 2019. Special Issue II. Keywords: Good governance; corruption; developing count... Dr. Spector has authored Negotiating Peace and Confronting Corruption: Challenges for Post-Conflict Societies, (United States Institute of Peace Press 2011) and edited Fighting Corruption in Developing Countries: Strategies and Analysis, (Kumarian Press 2005) and Getting It Done: Post-Agreement Negotiations and International Regimes, (with I. William Zartman, United States Institute of Peace Press 2003). A scientific approach to the analysis of corruption is a necessary requirement in the fight against any social ill. Corruption is no exception. Systemic corruption deals with the use of public office for private benefit that is entrenched in such a way that, without it, an organization or institution cannot function as a supplier of a good or service. Â In theory, most developing countries possess a criminal code punishing corrupt practices and external auditing systems within the courts for monitoring case and cash flows. Even if they function properly, however, those two mechanisms would not be enough to counter the presence of systemic corruption in the application of the law.

Bureaucratic Corruption in the ASEAN Countries: A Comparative Analysis of Their Anti-Corruption Strategies. Donor countries and the United Nations bodies working in developing countries are well aware that one of the most serious problems hampering development is corruption; so are the recipient countries. Research conducted on bureaucratic corruption in Africa include: Galied, Ali Khalif, "Bureaucratic Corruption in Developing Countries; A Comparative Analysis and Conceptual Inquiry" (D.P.A. dissertation, Syracuse University, 1972); Le Vine, Victor T., Political Corruption: The Ghana Case (Stanford, 1975); and Werlin, Herbert H., "The Consequences of Corruption: The Ghanaian Experience", Political Science Quarterly LXXXVIII, 1 (March 1973). Fighting corruption has long been a high priority for Norwegian and international development cooperation. This work includes efforts directed at reducing corruption in the delivery of aid, at country level, and at the international policy level. Most of the current anti-corruption strategies, on the contrary, focus on increasing legal constraints, which often fail because most interventions are localized in societies that lack the rule of law. Successful countries followed paths of their own. Fight-ing corruption in societies where particularism is the norm is similar to inducing a regime change: this requires a broad basis of participation to succeed and it is highly unrealistic to expect this to happen in such a short interval of time and with non-political instruments. Corruption in developing countries. Benjamin A. Olken. Rohini Pande. on corruption in developing countries in light of these recent advances, focusing on three questions: how much corruption is there, what are the efficiency consequences of corruption, and what determines. the level of corruption. We find robust evidence that corruption responds to standard economic incentive. theory, but also that effects of anti-corruption policies often attenuate as officials find alternate strategies. to pursue rents. Benjamin A. Olken. Corruption in Developing Countries. Benjamin A. Olken, MIT Rohini Pande, Harvard University. February 2012. These initiatives reflect a growing academic and policy consensus that corruption is often high in low-income countries, and is costly. The growing policy activism that conditions international assistance on corruption outcome, in turn, reflects a belief that given the right incentives politicians, bureaucrats and civil society in these countries can reduce corruption. Evaluating these claims requires answers to three questions. The first and, arguably most basic, question which underlies policy design is: how prevalent is corruption?

Corruption in Developing Countries. Benjamin A. Olken, MIT Rohini Pande, Harvard University. February 2012. Â We find robust evidence that corruption responds to standard economic incentive theory, but also that effects of anti-corruption policies often attenuate as officials find alternate strategies to pursue rents. * This paper was originally written as part of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Labâ€™s Governance Initiative, which is funded by DFID, the Hewlett Foundation, and an anonymous donor. countries adopted national anti-corruption strategies. Several countries also developed action plans. Moving forward, it will be crucial to ensure that the strategies â€" and particularly the action plans â€" provide effective and concrete implementation measures. More efforts are needed to strengthen the analytical basis for anti-corruption work. This should include research and surveys about the extent and patterns of corruption in individual countries, sectors and institutions, collection and analysis of statistical data about anti-corruption law-enforcement activities. Efforts in the area of p Source for information on Corruption in Developed and Developing Countries: New Dictionary of the History of Ideas dictionary. Â While corruption, in one form or another, has perverted virtually all human societies throughout history, it has not had uniform impact on any one of them. Scholars who study corruption in an effort to find ways to minimize it have had to deal with the fact that it is difficult to define and measure, making empirical testing very difficult. Defining Corruption. Modern social science defines corruption in terms of three basic models: First, corruption is related to the performance of the duties of a public office. United Nations Development Programme. Fighting Corruption in the Education Sector Methods, Tools and Good Practices. Copyright Â© October 2011. Â This UNDP-sponsored study presents methods, tools and good practices to map corruption risks, develop strategies and sustain partnerships to address challenges and tackle corruption in the education sector. It complements UNDPâ€™s MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF), which has been endorsed by the UN Development Group and enables governments and development partners, within established national processes, to identify and systematically prioritize the bottlenecks to progress toward achieving the MDGs, and then devise ways to overcome them. The fight against corruption is not the monopoly of the industrialised countries. Nor can recipes that have worked in OECD countries necessarily be applied to developing ones. Â Nonetheless, it remains unclear how and why in developing countries corruption persists in spite of reengineered business processes and digitalization. Â Our analysis reveals a complex network of cross-cutting interactions, actors and interests underpinning corruption, as well as the creation of new corruption opportunities where digitalization had disrupted old ones. We discuss the implications of our findings and derive explanatory propositions to guide further research.