

Ethics as Solution to Corruption



**"Ethics is
knowing the
difference
between
what you
have a right
to do and
what is right
to do."**

-Potter Stewart



CORRUPTION



- **Abuse of entrusted power for private gain**
- **Dishonest or illegal behaviour**
- *People in authority*



CORRUPTION



- Many **shapes** and **forms**
- *When **country** corrupt*
- ***Society** corrupt*



CORRUPTION



- Reflection of **legal, economic, cultural** and **political** institutions
- **Opportunity** and **inclination**
- Individuals engage in corruption as “**everyone**” corrupt



ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES



- Rely on legal and financial institutions — **judiciary, police** and **financial auditors**
- Enforce and strengthen **accountability** in public sector



ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES



- **Reactionary** rather than **preventive**
- To ensure corrupt practices **do not happen** in the first place
- Require more than **rules and regulations**



ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

- **Assumption:** *More and better enforcement of rules and regulations reduce corruption*
- In many countries legal and financial institutions **weak**
- Often **corrupt** in themselves



ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES



- Devoting **additional resources** to existing legal and financial government monitoring institutions does not reduce corruption
- **Alternative approaches** to fighting corruption needed
- **Ethical decisions** at individual level



ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES



- Require **conscious decision** by players not to engage in corruption
- Comes **from the inside**
- Not **externally imposed** by prescribed codes and rules
- **Personal** decision



ETHICS

- **Right or wrong**
- **Personal customs, character, and way of being and acting**
- **Decide how we should act**



ETHICS

- **How** we should live
- True to idea of **who we are** and **what we stand for**
- Developing *well-informed* **conscience**



IMPROVE ETHICS



- **3 levels**
 - 1. Individual**
 - 2. Professional**
 - 3. Societal**



INDIVIDUAL LEVEL



- **Discipline** especially among the youth
- **Teachability**
- Change of **attitude**



INDIVIDUAL LEVEL



- **Personality and socialization**
- **Behavioural choices made**



INDIVIDUAL LEVEL



Pertinent issues	Manifestation
Integrity	Commitment, loyalty, lack of honesty, breach of trust, fraud
Character	Personal character, arrogance, moral character, personal gain, firmness, prudence, lack of discipline
Personal values	Lack of personal morals, family upbringing
Societal influence	Corruption, greed, peer pressure, upbringing, amassing wealth, bribery, quick money, culture



PROFESSIONAL LEVEL



- Pay **fair wages**
- **Training** on ethics
- **Role modelling** by older professionals
- Creating **atmosphere of trust**



PROFESSIONAL LEVEL



- **Revise** professional codes of ethics
- Stated **more positively**
- Not just list of **prohibitions**



PROFESSIONAL LEVEL



- System of **behavioural norms**
- **Relationship** between experts and lay persons
- **Code of ethics**
- **Ethical standards and integrity**



SOCIETAL LEVEL

- Improve **economic situation** of workers
- Change of **societal attitude**
- Instilling **values in youth** especially from family



ROOTING OUT CORRUPTION



- **Punitive measures** help
- People see need to **act upright**
- **Sensitize** people on meaning of happiness, human flourishing
- Not necessarily fulfilled by **money** alone



ROOTING OUT CORRUPTION



- Employers **paid well**
- Cultivate **virtue** and **personal ethics**



MORAL OBLIGATIONS

- Starts in **interiority** of individual
- Secondarily feature as requirement of **social norms** or **social feeling**



ADDRESSING CORRUPTION



- **Deeper** than prescribed systems and policies
- Whole **change in outlook**: *how people do things and why*
- **Starting point** with individual



ADDRESSING CORRUPTION



- **Not easy one** to solve
- **System overhaul**
- **Long process beyond stringent rules!**



The time is always right to do what
is right.

— *Martin Luther King* —

AZ QUOTES