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# **RISING CORRUPTION AND ITS IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Corruption is a major issue not just in India but all over the world. It obstructs the socio-economic development and progress of a nation. Corruption encourages inequality, social distrust, inefficiency in government, corrupt system, corrupt practices and many other evils. Also it hugely impacts the status of human rights in countless ways. Anti-corruption and human right issues are also among the universal goals of the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development for a better future. In this paper the author aims to highlight the causes of rising corruption in India and how it impacts the realization of human rights. A brief overview of all the current anti-corruption laws in India is given and also the measures India needs to make concrete progress in the battle against corruption are also discussed.

## Introduction

Corruption appears to be quite similar to the monstrous Covid-19 pandemic that the world is facing even today. And India has been severely hit by this pandemic of corruption economically, politically and socially over the years. The phenomenon of corruption has become so prominently common in India that the issue of corruption automatically crops up with India being talked about on the world platform. Corruption is not merely a plain simple crime against an individual or a society but it is a crime against our country and its interests. Freedom from corruption in all its forms is in itself an inherent human right<sup>1</sup> that every countryman deserves.

If we talk about the relationship of Corruption and human rights, these concepts are interdependent as a corruption free system is elemental for the realization and enjoyment of human rights in any country. Even the international forums as well have acknowledged both as important concerns of the modern world.

Talking about human rights, these are “*the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution, or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by Courts in India.*”<sup>2</sup> These rights are innate to all individuals irrespective of their caste, faith, creed or gender, without which life cannot be at its best<sup>3</sup>. No doubt the effective functioning of these human rights will depend on a favourable and enabling environment with suitable legal frameworks and establishments backing it. And corruption is a major violator of these human rights, as it not only destabilizes development of the country but its massive scale inhibits efforts of poverty eradication, development initiatives, economy, healthcare services, imparting justice, educational initiatives etc meant for the upliftment of citizens in a country. And the sad reality of India is that the Indian public continues to be dependent on politicians or government and its powers, which are deeply marred by corruption. It is like looking for help from people who are the real cause of this corruption menace.

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) published by the renowned international organization Transparency International<sup>4</sup>, which is based on combination of various surveys and

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<sup>1</sup> Andrew Spalding, “Corruption, Corporations and the New Human Right” 91(6) *Washington University Law Review* 1396(2014).

<sup>2</sup> The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, s 2(d).

<sup>3</sup> Suresh Kumar Soni (ed.), *Human Rights* 14-15(Regal Publications, New Delhi 2007).

<sup>4</sup> Transparency International is an international organisation working against corruption.

assessments on corruption, has recently positioned India at 85<sup>th</sup> spot out of 180 countries in Corruption Perceptions Index 2022<sup>5</sup> same as ranking in the index of 2021. Also in the previous indexes India had not performed that well which points at India in not being that successful in containing corruption in the country.

India's Rank in Corruption Perceptions Index in the last 4 years				
YEAR	2019	2020	2021	2022
RANK	80 <sup>th</sup> /180	86 <sup>th</sup> /180	85 <sup>th</sup> /180	85 <sup>th</sup> /180

Source: Transparency International

Lately Transparency International India and Local Circles, a social media firm conducted the 'India Corruption Survey 2019' which revealed that departments of property registration and land issues, followed by police, municipal corporation, electricity board, transport office, tax, and water department to be the most corrupt in India and also about 51% of citizens accepted to have paid bribes.<sup>6</sup> This exposes the sad truth of the system and its functioning in India. Every part of our system is infested with the virus of corruption.

### **Nexus between Corruption and Human Rights**

Human rights are the basic rights of a human and corruption is the hurdle in realization of these rights. Corruption hampers the delivery and access of fundamental rights to citizens. The right to a society free of corruption is inherently a basic human right because the right to life, dignity, equality, other basic human rights and values depend significantly on this right<sup>7</sup>. Human rights are the birth rights of people and they should not be compromised at any cost.<sup>8</sup> Corruption affects these human rights in countless ways, like the rights to food, water, education, health,

<sup>5</sup> Transparency International, *Corruption Perceptions Index, 2022*, available at: <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022/index/ind> (last accessed on March 25, 2023).

<sup>6</sup> Transparency International India, *India Corruption Survey 2019*, available at: <https://transparencyindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/India-Corruption-Survey-2019.pdf> (last visited on March 29, 2023).

<sup>7</sup> C. Raj Kumar, "Corruption and human rights" *Frontline* June 5, 2020, available at: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/static/html/fl1919/19190780.htm> (last visited on March 29, 2023).

<sup>8</sup> Justice Palok Basu, *Law relating to protection of Human Rights* 5 (Modern law publications, 2002).

and seeking justice can be violated if a bribe is required to access these basic rights. If dishonesty and corruption is favoured by the government of a nation then that society is bound to be corrupt and such corruption will surely seep into the lives of its citizens. People in a country are not immune from the bearings that various institutions put on them and indirectly mould their future growth. Hence corrupt administration ultimately leads to erosion of the society.<sup>9</sup> And undeniably corruption is a major roadblock in enjoyment and implementation of human rights framework in a country. Preferential treatment, inefficiency, personal convenience, lack of knowledge, negligence of duty, gratification through sexual indulgence, and sometimes satisfaction of ego encourage corruption in the society<sup>10</sup>. Corruption directly or indirectly impact the enjoyment of human rights, like an example of a direct violation would be paying bribe to a judge to win a case as it would violate right to justice and fair trial of other party. An example of indirect violation is bribing a government official to avoid certain regulations like health or safety regulations; here this corrupt payment indirectly causes violation of right to health of the public.<sup>11</sup> Hence the exclusion of corruption from a nation is essential in strengthening the enforcement of human rights infrastructure.<sup>12</sup>

### Causes of Corruption in India

Corruption is not a new age occurrence but is there since centuries; the only difference is its enormity in the contemporaneous world which raises an alarm. It has spread its roots to every sphere of our lives and is one of the biggest roadblocks in progress of our nation. Every field you think of is corrupted and full of malpractices, be it **Politics, Administration, Police, Healthcare, Media, Education, Sports sector, Corporate and so forth**. Ackerman had rightly pointed out in her book that Corruption is an indicator of mismanaged and maladministered state<sup>13</sup> and if we deep dive into the reasons behind corruption boom in India, the causes are many. Though corruption is flourishing world over but future prospects for developing country like India gets highly affected. Following are some major causes of

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<sup>9</sup> Upendra Thakur, *Corruption in Ancient India* 3 (Abhinav Publications, New Delhi 1979).

<sup>10</sup>*Id.* at 6.

<sup>11</sup>David Hess “Business, Corruption, and Human Rights: Towards a New Responsibility for Corporations to Combat Corruption” 2017(4) *Wisconsin law review* 662(2017).

<sup>12</sup> C. Raj Kumar, *Corruption and Human rights in India -Comparative Perspectives on Transparency and Good Governance* 28 (Oxford University Press, 2011).

<sup>13</sup> Susan Rose Ackerman, *Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform* 9 (Cambridge University Press, 1999).

corruption prevailing in India<sup>14</sup>:

- i. Red tape and administrative delays
- ii. Unnecessary regulations
- iii. Lack of Political Willpower
- iv. Scarcity of Goods and Services
- v. Scope of Personal discretion
- vi. Lack of transparency **in dealings and our system**
- vii. Acceptance and tolerance towards corruption
- viii. **Lack of accountability**
- ix. Lack of speedy Punishments
- x. Degrading value system
- xi. Incessant greed and materialistic approach
- xii. Unnecessary protection to Government official

### **Legislative Measures against Corruption in India**

There are enough laws and regulation against corruption in India. But corruption still remains an area of great concern in our country because of inadequate and ineffective execution of these laws. In order to guarantee human rights to all citizens establishment of effective mechanisms to eradicate corrupt practices is the prime requirement. Following are major anti corruption laws of India.

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<sup>14</sup> See M A Shewan and Udai Veer. (eds), *Corruption, Money laundering and Law*, 168-169 (Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 2011) ;N.Vittal and S. Mahalingam *Fighting Corruption And Restructuring Government* 238-239(Manas Publications, 2004); Chitra Lele ,*Corruption in India Causes, Effects and Reforms* 9-11(Atlantic publishers, 2015).

### **The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**

The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988<sup>15</sup> prevents corruption in government departments and provides for prosecution and punishment of public servants connected with corrupt practices with imprisonment up to maximum 7 years and fine. Also it punishes the act of 'bribe giving' to public servants after the 2018 amendments. The act also mandates proof of demand by the public servant as a mandatory prerequisite before any conviction under the act. Many other amendments have also been introduced in the act through Amendment Act 2018 to bring the PC Act in tune with United Nations Convention against Corruption 2005, which was ratified by India in 2011.

### **Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988**

Originally the Benami Transactions Act, 1988 now renamed as Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988<sup>16</sup> by the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016. The act prohibits all benami transactions, and also deals with money laundering and black money. It defined a 'benami transaction' as *“any transaction in which property is transferred to one person or is held by a person, for a consideration paid or provided by another person”*. The Act empowers the competent authorities to attach and confiscate benami properties if needed and prohibits retransferring or recovering back any benami properties. Further act provided for establishment of adjudicating authorities, appellate tribunal and prescribed the penalties for furnishing of false information and non compliance with notices under the act. Now persons involved in benami transactions will have to face up to 7 years of imprisonment and fine of up to 25% of the fair market value of that benami property.

### **The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002**

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002<sup>17</sup> (PMLA) criminalises money laundering and provide for seizure of properties acquired from money-laundering. Money laundering means *“directly or indirectly attempting to indulge in or be involved in any activities connected with the proceeds of crime which includes their concealment, possession, acquisition or use and in claiming or projecting that tainted property is untainted.”* 'Proceeds of crime' refers to any

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<sup>15</sup> The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (Act No. 49 of 1988).

<sup>16</sup> The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988(Act 45 of 1988)

<sup>17</sup> The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (Act 15 of 2003).

*property derived as an outcome of certain identified crimes that are considered predicate offences under the PMLA act.* The PMLA provides imprisonment for up to maximum 7 years with fine for the offence of money-laundering and if narcotic offences are involved then the imprisonment may **extend to maximum 10 years**. Banking companies, financial institutions and intermediaries are under the obligation to keep track of all transactions, client's details, verify them and to report suspicious transactions and transactions above a specified value to authorities. The Central Government amended the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 through Finance Act, 2019 to clear ambiguities and make the laws stricter for fighting money laundering in India. After the 2019 amendment scope of “*proceeds of crime*” has been expanded, more power has been given to enforcement directorate regarding search and seizure and many other relevant changes have been made in the existing laws to tighten the noose on laundering of money.

### **The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act 2013**

The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act 2013<sup>18</sup> provide for the establishment of Lokpal at center and Lokayukta at State level to inquire allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries. Recently in 2019 the former Supreme Court judge Justice **Pinaki Chandra Ghose** was appointed as the country's first ever Lokpal. Lokpal can inquire complaints related to Prime Minister, cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, officers defined under the Prevention of Corruption Act, but leave out matters relating to the Prime Minister concerning atomic energy, space, international relations, security and public order.

### **Whistleblower Protection Act, 2014**

The Whistleblowers Protection Act 2014<sup>19</sup> protects the interest of whistleblowers. It provides mechanism to safeguard persons reporting corruption or abuse of power by a public authority. Whistleblower is the person who exposes any person or organisation involved in any illegal or corrupt activity. As provided by the act identity of the complainant/whistleblower must be mandatorily protected subject to certain exceptions and any disclosure violating any provision of the act is punishable with imprisonment and fine. Also anonymous complaints are not allowed under the act. But sadly the act is not operationalised yet because of certain amendments proposed in this act through Whistle Blowers Protective (Amendment) Bill,

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<sup>18</sup> The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013(No. 1 of 2014).

<sup>19</sup> The Whistleblower Protection Act, 2014 (No.17 of 2014).

2015 are pending and are being criticised for diluting the very purpose of the act i.e. protection to people exposing any wrong.

### **The Right to Information Act, 2005**

Right to Information Act 2005<sup>20</sup> aims to increase the transparency, expose corruption and make government more accountable. The RTI Act gives citizens the statutory right of right to access information, which may include records, documents, data material held in any electronic form from the public authorities and it also includes information relating to any private organization which can be accessed by a public authority. Act was further amended in 2019 by the RTI Amendment Act 2019, which empowered government to decide regarding tenure, salaries and service terms of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners at state levels, which was widely criticised for weakening the autonomy and independence of Information Commissioners. Indubitably RTI is a very important tool in the anti corruption crusade and it must be further strengthened.

### **Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act 2015**

Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015<sup>21</sup> penalises the undisclosed foreign income, undisclosed assets and tax evasions. Act provides for the imposition of tax and punishment on such income and assets deposited offshore. It prescribes strict penalties for any contraventions of the provisions under the act.

### **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010**

The Foreign Contribution Regulations Act<sup>22</sup> was originally passed in 1976 and later modified in 2010. It controls and regulates receiving of foreign contributions or foreign hospitality or any aids from outside India particularly monetary donations to certain associations, NGOs and others within India. Act ensures that any foreign aid is not misused against national interest. It forbids certain individuals, associations and companies from receiving foreign contribution and any breach or violation under the act is punishable with up to five years imprisonment or fine, or both. It also mandates a 'FCRA account' as necessary for receiving any foreign contribution for all aspiring recipients. The act also prohibits member of a Legislature, political parties,

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<sup>20</sup>The Right to Information Act, 2005 (No. 22 of 2005).

<sup>21</sup>Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 (No. 22 of 2015).

<sup>22</sup> The Foreign Contribution (Regulations) Act, 2010 (Act 42 of 2010).

Judges and government officials from accepting foreign hospitality without prior permission of government.

### **The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018**

The Act<sup>23</sup> confiscates assets of economic offenders evading laws and avoiding prosecution by running away from country. Economic offences of more than Rs 100 crores come under the purview of this law. Only Special Court constituted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 is empowered to proclaim a person as a Fugitive Economic. The act will deter big economic offenders like Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya, Mehul Choksi etc from running away to other countries and evading laws.

### **Companies act 2013**

The Companies act 2013<sup>24</sup> has few provisions to limit corruption in the corporate sector like provisions for reporting obligations, vigil mechanism, establishment of Serious Fraud Investigation Office to investigate into frauds concerning companies etc.

### **Anti-Corruption Authorities in India**

Apart from the laws other main agencies working against corruption in our country are Central Vigilance Commission, Central Bureau of Investigation, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, Comptroller and Auditor General and Lokpal. These authorities work for enforcement of anti-corruption laws, investigates and prosecutes corruption cases and take all necessary measures to contain corruption in India.

### **Corruption impacting Human Rights in India**

The state of human rights in a society speaks a lot about the country. And it has been rightly pointed out that in countries with high levels of corruption, lesser degree of human rights protection is expected.<sup>25</sup> Corruption have negative imprints on basic rights required to live a dignified life; like the rights to health, education, access to justice, right to fair trial, right to equality, right to clean environment and various other rights. The problem is that it's not just

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<sup>23</sup> The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

<sup>24</sup> The Companies act 2013,(Act No. 18 of 2013).

<sup>25</sup> Joel M. Ngugi, "Making the Link between Corruption and Human Rights: Promises and Perils" 104 *Proceedings of the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting* 243(2010).

the citizenry who suffers alone but also the nation in terms of growth faces major setbacks on various fronts, which is not good news for a country still in developing phase like India. Corruption by top government officials who gobble up millions of the country's wealth prevents the government from fulfilling its duty to ensure and protect these basic rights of the people.<sup>26</sup> There are many ways corrupt malpractices comes in the way of realization of these human rights, like for example where the public funds meant for child immunisation from preventable diseases goes in the pockets of corrupt officials, children will obviously die or where money to build schools is swallowed by corruption children's right to education will be violated.<sup>27</sup> Right to a clean environment gets affected when factories are polluting rivers or environment but no action against such violators is initiated because they bribed the authorities for inaction<sup>28</sup>. Right to equality is violated when someone pay bribe for an early access to any public service or any appointments etc<sup>29</sup>. Judiciary and investigation procedures falling prey to corruption may also jeopardize rights of innocent litigant and deny them justice,<sup>30</sup> fair trial and equal treatment before the law. Right to health is violated when bribe is required for accessing healthcare services, medicines or treatments and also corruption in environmental safety standards and projects not only impacts right to clean environment but indirectly also impact health of people, as unhealthy and toxic environment is not good for health<sup>31</sup>. So this way corruption also comes in the way of enjoyment of these basic rights directly or indirectly. Corruption involves losses to the nation by way of lost taxes, inefficient functioning, reduced investments, economic failures and various other ways, which eventually have impact on citizens, as their rights and quality of life gets affected by the consequences of a corrupt system. So, the rise of corruption is not only detrimental for the image of the country but also for the state of human rights in a nation.<sup>32</sup>

Poverty, exploitation, injustice, lack of employment, poor education system, inefficient health care are the biggest impediments in attainment of harmonious human growth, and factors like

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<sup>26</sup> James Thuo Gathii, "Defining the Relationship between Human Rights and Corruption" 31 *U. PA. J. INT'L L.* 126 (2009).

<sup>27</sup> Angela Barkhouse, Hugo Hoyland and Marc Limon, "Corruption: a human rights impact assessment" Universal Rights Group and Kroll Policy Brief 2(2018).

<sup>28</sup> United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime, *Corruption and Human Rights* (10), available at: [https://grace.unodc.org/grace/uploads/documents/academics/Anti-Corruption\\_Module\\_7\\_Corruption\\_and\\_Human\\_Rights.pdf](https://grace.unodc.org/grace/uploads/documents/academics/Anti-Corruption_Module_7_Corruption_and_Human_Rights.pdf)(last visited on March 29, 2023).

<sup>29</sup> *Id.* at 15.

<sup>30</sup> Corruption & human rights in India, available at: <http://lawtimesjournal.in/corruption-human-rights-in-india/> (last visited on March 30, 2023).

<sup>31</sup> *Supra* note 28 at 17.

<sup>32</sup> *Supra* note 30.

corruption and corrupt administration slows down the pace and course of the nation-building programmes and processes.<sup>33</sup> Corruption can silence critics questioning the wrongdoings of government, overshadow justice delivery, infringe fundamental rights and let the human rights abuses go without punishment.<sup>34</sup> It impacts the poor more than others as they are unable to pay bribes and grease palms of the corrupt. Corruption also leads to poor governance and it negatively impacts our civil, political, economic and social rights. It deflects the money from state budgets meant for advancement of human rights and undermines the ability of the State to execute its human rights obligations like delivering essential services, functioning of law enforcement, healthcare, judiciary, education, social services, security etc.<sup>35</sup> No doubt the depressing impact on nation's economic, social and political growth hinders the proper attainment of human rights. Regulations and laws are there but they will be meaningful only if implemented effectively for corruption free governance. Eliminating the nuisance of corruption has become our dire need if we want to see our country as a superpower and among the developed nations of the world.

### The Way Forward

Indubitably all forms of corruption directly or indirectly violate human rights, and where human rights are not safeguarded, corruption is likely to prosper. Just having a vision of a corruption free India is not enough but strong steps and focused approach will be needed to produce tangible progress<sup>36</sup>. Human rights based approach to anti corruption on the principles of transparency, accountability and equality is needed to firm up our anti-corruption efforts. Prime Minister Modi had once termed corruption as a termite, which is slowly taking over our country and vowed to uproot it from our system and make India a corruption free country.<sup>37</sup> India needs to be aggressive and consistent in its fight against corruption to counter the fierce

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<sup>33</sup> N.N Vohra, "Crime, Corruption and Development", in D. Narasimha Reddy (ed.), *Crime Corruption and Development* 2-5 (Deep & Deep Publications Pvt. Ltd 2008).

<sup>34</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *The impact of corruption on the human rights based approach to development* (2004), available at:

[http://www.albacharia.ma/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/30538/0284The\\_Impact\\_of\\_Corruption\\_on\\_the\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Based\\_Approach\\_to\\_Development\(2005\)r.pdf?sequence=1](http://www.albacharia.ma/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/30538/0284The_Impact_of_Corruption_on_the_Human_Rights_Based_Approach_to_Development(2005)r.pdf?sequence=1) (last visited on April 2, 2023).

<sup>35</sup> The Negative Impact of Corruption on the Enjoyment of Human Rights, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/AdvisoryCom/Corruption/OHCHR.pdf> (last visited on April 2, 2023).

<sup>36</sup> N. Vittal and S. Mahalingam, *Fighting Corruption and Restructuring Government* 309 (Manas Publications, 2004).

<sup>37</sup> Highlights of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's I-Day speech August 15, 2015, available at: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/highlights-of-prime-minister-narendra-modis-speech-on-69th-independence-day/article10314774.ece> (last visited on April 2, 2023).

consequences on different aspects of growth of our nation and on enjoyment of human rights. As mode and manner of corrupt practices keep amending to new hurdles with time, need for a tailored and updated anti-corruption approach<sup>38</sup> is necessary. Everyone will have to come together and contribute, however small that is, to make things better.

Unquestionably Political determination is the utmost crucial factor in the fight against corruption in any country or else the anti corruption efforts of any nation will be unsuccessful if the political leadership of the country does not support it. India has miles to go before ensuring all the citizens are literate, employed, provided with the basic amenities and a secured life. For the sustained socio economic development of the country it is necessary to have a committed political leadership at all levels totally devoted to securing growth through honest and effective execution of all schemes and programmes. It must walk the path of fair and just administration to wash off inefficiency, corruption and unaccountability from our political system and governance. The bitter truth is crime and corruption can never be completely eliminated, but can certainly be contained with the efforts of those governing the nation work with the sole mission of securing the best for our people in an accountable manner. Such goals are achievable only if political parties keep the politics strictly where it belongs and protect the functioning of public institutions from interference and politicisation. It should not allow any kind of compromise in ensuring quick and strict punishment for corrupt actions irrespective of status or influence of the culprit, only then we can look forward to eradicating the evils of poverty, injustice, discrimination, exploitation and achieve the vision for a progressive and developed country.

Also the need is there to bring about a change in our value system, which must start from an early age in schools and homes. It is a long process but much needed one. Basic values like integrity, truthfulness and honesty should be instilled in our education system like olden times<sup>39</sup>. Young generation of our country must be nurtured in a way that the foundation of an honest and corruption free India is secured. Fighting corruption is not just a duty but also our social responsibility. Sacrificing your personal interest and adopting an honest approach will

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<sup>38</sup> World Health Organization, "Integrating a focus on anti-corruption, transparency and accountability in health systems assessments" 2(2018), available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/310991/9789241515177-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> (last visited on April 3, 2023).

<sup>39</sup> *Supra* note 36 at 236.

help rooting out corruption.<sup>40</sup>

There are no magic laws or practices that can wipe out corruption entirely<sup>41</sup>, so having laws and regulations are not enough in our war against corruption but simplified procedures, more accountability, more transparency, restructured laws and policies<sup>42</sup> increased vigilance, sensitizing public, systematic strategies, restricting discretionary powers of politicians, government functionaries and bureaucrats, public participation are also required for addressing corruption and human right violations.. It is important to mention that judiciary has the central role in countering corruption and ensuring human rights. It should make sure that there is proper enforcement of laws, no misuse of power, stern punishment for the violations and proper check on executive and legislative functioning. Also Media<sup>43</sup> plays a very significant role in terms of exposing the corrupt and corrupt activities, educating society about the deadly effects of corruption on them and nation. So media must live up to its responsibility and work truthfully. It must work impartially and free from external influences. Tackling corruption and realization of human rights is going to be a long battle for India, so teamwork among human rights organizations, judiciary, media, political leadership, anti corruption institutions and citizenry is the way to success for a corruption free India<sup>44</sup>.

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<sup>40</sup> *Supra* note 9 at 6.

<sup>41</sup> Rajkumar Singh, "Judging Judicial corruption in India" 13(1) *South Asia Politics* 43 (2014).

<sup>42</sup> Matthew Murray and Andrew Spalding, "*Freedom from Official Corruption as a Human Right*" *Brookings Institution* 7(2015).

<sup>43</sup>Wasil Schauseil, Media and corruption, *available at*: <https://www.u4.no/publications/media-and-corruption.pdf> (last visited on April 4, 2023).

<sup>44</sup> *Supra* note 12 at 10.