



A STUDY ON CORRUPTION IN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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ABSTRACT

Corruption is the dishonest and illegal behaviour of the people who are in the positions of power and authority. Corruption by the administrators/bureaucrats in the administrative process is called administrative corruption. Corruption undermines democratic institutions and affects the economy in numerous ways. The commonly known corruption is bribery, nepotism, embezzlement etc. In the modern world, corruption not only affects the nation's development but also affects the lives of the common people. In this empirical study conducted with 200 respondents from different walks of life, their views were elicited with regard to the nature of administrative services, the type of corruption prevalent among the administrative services, the reasons or causes of corruption that affects the country, the level of corruption one experiences in the country, and how it affects the people, the economy etc. The main reason for corruption is said to be the greediness of the officers and lack of moral value and commitment by the majority of the respondents. The study also deals with measures that would mitigate corruption in administrative services. It is found that the main effects of corruption are found to be loss of faith in administration and government. The important measures to reduce corruption in administrative services is said to be the creation of an equitable society and an effective and upright leadership. It is concluded that corruption cannot be ended in a day and as of now, the most efficient way to reduce corruption is by increasing e-government services and deterrent anti-corruption measures.

Keywords: corruption, administrative services, government, anti-corruption, public

INTRODUCTION

According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries. Corruption undermines democratic institutions, slows economic development and contributes to governmental instability. Corruption is the dishonest and illegal behaviour by people with power. The commonly known corruption is bribery, nepotism, embezzlement, extortion, etc. Corruption can be found in any sector or area that has an upper hand in people's lives. Even health sectors are found to be corrupted in certain areas and instances. Corruption generally involves a giver, an acceptor, and a gratification. Generally, the one who accepts is punished as that person is found to have an upper hand in controlling the situation. This is because can be a normal civilian who has no other way other than to bribe the one with power to get his work done. There is also petty corruption that occurs at the lowest levels



like registration processes, cutting the line, etc. Then there are higher levels of corruption that involve a lot of money and power that have a greater potential to affect the whole society. These corruptions do not generally revolve around just bribery, embezzlement, etc., but on nepotism and favouritism, etc. Even crony capitalism is a type of corrupted situation that affects the society at a whole new level.

Administrative services, otherwise known as public administration or civil services or government servants, refers to executive officers in government departments. Civil servants or public servants are also known as administrators or bureaucrats. They are government employees who are vested with duties, powers and immunities. They deal with different types of administrative work. Corruption in the administrative process is administrative corruption. Corrupted officials or corrupted government servants create a lot of difficulties and problems in a nation in different aspects. According to the 2022 World Population Review, South Sudan ranks first in the most corrupt countries along with Somalia, Syria and Venezuela. The top top least corrupt countries include New Zealand, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and Singapore. From this data we can see that the countries with high corruption are least-developed, low-income or developing countries and thus, corruption plays a major role in the development of a nation. At times, the actors of different types of corruption may even be connected to each other. In today's world, corruption not only affects the nation's development, but also affects the life of the general public.

The **aim** of the study is to analyse people's perceptions and attitudes towards corruption in administrative services.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine people's view on corruption in administrative services in their country.
- To analyse the causes and consequences for corruption according to the respondents.
- To analyse whether corrupt politicians and corrupt administrative services have any connection between them.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Faseke (2006) has discussed corruption and the image of the Nigerian civil service through a historical discourse. The author has traced corruption and image crisis in the civil services to the British colonial legacy inherited by Nigeria and the transformation of the reasons for corruption over this span of time. The author found that despite many reforms and changes in the civil service, the sector has not improved. The author concluded that there is a need for a complete re-orientation of the civil services sector.

Kimemia (2013) has examined the perception of public corruption in Kenya and why it didn't change in the Kibaki administration. The author has used secondary data from sources like Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) and did a conceptual analysis and contextual analysis and how the perception of public corruption has not changed in the Kibaki administration which came into power in 2003, over the



years (till 2012) and studied the reasons behind it. The author concluded that though legislations and anti-corruption measures have taken place, the public's perceptions have not changed and pessimism over the corruption trends have only increased and that political commitment, integrity, and charging of public officials for their crimes and retrieval of stolen funds need to be done in order to win the trust of the public.

Ani Casimir et al (2014) have examined the requisite good ethical conduct in the conduct of government businesses in Nigeria through an ethical and institutional framework of analysis. They have studied corruption in Nigeria and made a situational and institutional analysis on Nigeria's public sector, public administration and government and recommended for waging a successful fight against corruption in an African view and ethical integration. They found how the personal values of members of the institutions haven't been altered by the institutions and concluded that the personal values of members alter the values of institutions and hence, there is a need to bring good ethical code of conduct through an African approach to justice and theism to put check on unethical practices in Nigeria.

Cărăușan (2014) has discussed the old and new approaches to the prevention of corruption in public administration. The author discussed how local interventions, education, communications, work as the new prevention tools while identity and image act as deterring factors. The author further discussed the new uses of communication techniques for preventing corruption like audit and NGOs for interventions. The author concluded that the communication anti-corruption strategy, with especially education as the inner actor of change, will be effective in combating corruption in public administration.

Kehinde et al (2015) have analysed corruption in the Nigerian public sector that poses an impediment to good governance and sustainable development. They have followed a qualitative approach using secondary data and found that Nigeria has several dilemmas which attribute to corruption by explaining the history of corruption in Nigeria public sector, the different types of corruption and the implications posed by corruption. They suggested that the National Assembly of Nigeria needs to review the Nigerian Constitution and legal order to empower anti-corruption agencies to work assiduously, without any interference from anyone. They concluded that allowing the citizens of respective constituencies to recall any corrupted elected official at any point will show some changes. Dec

Ouédraogo (2017) has discussed the relationship between governance, corruption and the size of the informal economy. The author used data from 23 Sub-Saharan countries and found that the major factors of informal economy are corruption, the quality of governance and institutional settings and the rate of unemployment and that the burden of corruption, governance and corruption lead entrepreneurs to enter into the informal economy. The author concluded that there is a need to implement economic policies after considering this result and suggested further study in the topic in relation to taxation and use of alternative data.

Ghaniy and Hastiadi (2017) have analysed the various political, social and economic determinants of corruption. They measured the determinants using development indices and other



indices to study the perceived level of corruption shown by corruption perception index in 92 observed countries for the year 2014 and found that the level of development, economic freedom and education, political stability, religion, income distribution and democracy, have significant impact on the perceived level of corruption, but there are differences in significant variables between the developed and developing countries. They concluded that each of the observed countries need to improve their economic development and that developing countries need to focus on economic development and degree of democracy while developed countries need to focus on economic freedom and degree of democracy.

Çetin et al (2017) have studied the phenomenon of corruption in public administration. They have discussed the bases of corruption in public administration, the causes, the challenges involved in combating corruption and its implications for service delivery. They studied the cognitive and historical framework of corruption, the causes and effects of corruption. They discussed the understanding of good governance in public administration as a way to fight corruption. They concluded that the shape of the relationships between the governing institutions and the society need to be restructured.

Graaf et al (2018) have analysed the integrity violations and corruption in Western Public Governance through empirical evidence and reflection from the Netherlands. They have collected data from 7315 Dutch civil servants who were surveyed on integrity violations in their work surroundings. They found that integrity violations in Western governance don't only involve corruption and fraud in the eyes of public sector employees and that moral quality of governance is also related to other values than incorruptibility and impartiality, which need to be looked over while debating on corruption and integrity of governance.

Bali (2018) has investigated communication tools to fight bureaucratic corruption in the Kurdistan region of Iraq through a case study. The author has adopted a mixed-method approach for data collection and found that communication tools significantly contribute to the administrative services and fight corruption though these techniques haven't been applied in Iraqi Kurdistan and that the majority of the respondents recommended the expansion of technological tools in all organisations. The author concluded that technology plays an important role in reducing bureaucratic corruption, particularly in developing countries.

Linhartová (2019) has analysed the utilisation of electronic public administration in curbing corruption in the public sector. The author studied the relationship between a country's corruption level and the degree of e-government in use in the country. The author used secondary data and found that use of e-government within public administration has a positive effect on a country's level of corruption but economic performance was found to be of the greatest influence on the corruption level in a particular time period in a given country. The author concluded that further research needs to be done on e-government's impact on corruption.

Albanese and Artello (2019) have analysed the behaviour of corruption in public corruption by objective and method. They have analysed 313 public corruption convictions occurring over a three-year period to develop a typology of categories of corruption behaviours. They found that



there are eight types of corrupt conduct following two objectives – theft and misuse of official authority. They concluded that the typology will help in the better understanding of the underlying behavioural aspects of corruption and further research may be done using this typology in future.

Wu et al (2020) have analysed whether e-government and innovation in the public sector are effective in curbing corruption in China and India, two large developing countries. They had in-depth interviews with 44 mid- and senior-level officials in the public sector in China and India. They found that officials from both the countries are positive about transparency and technology in reducing corruption, where Chinese officials are positive about transparency while Indian officials are positive about the role of technology. They concluded with the implications and future scope of the study.

Dragan et al (2020) have analysed the psychological aspects of corruption in public administration through a case study of Ukraine. They have used both primary and secondary data and found that the sense of impunity is the primary psychological impact factor that stimulates corruption among civil servants, followed by low self-esteem, ambitions to easy money and status, psychological dependencies and community-accepted image. They concluded that the psychological aspects of corruption in public administration are mostly related to personality and community vision of what corruption is rather than the standards of law enforcements and that further in-depth research is needed based on the gender differences of the psychological aspects.

Šumah et al (2020) have discussed administrative corruption and its effects. They have discussed how administrative corruption affects the economy and the levels, causes and forms of administrative corruption. They found how corruption is higher in poor countries than rich countries and how different levels of administrative corruption lead to different consequences with the corruption in the top of state administration found to lead to narrowing of the gap between administrative and political corruption. The author concluded with the main causes of corruption and recommended various measures to fight against corruption and that prevention and education needs to be given more importance to combat corruption.

Farzanegan and Hofmann (2021) have studied the effect of public corruption on the COVID-19 immunisation progress across different countries. They have used secondary data about more than 90 countries and found that countries with high levels of public corruption have been less successful in the vaccination process of their people and that corruption has a significant negative association with state capacity in making and implementing public policies and projects. They concluded that the level of economic development is important in the effective management of pandemics.

Němec et al (2022) have analysed the effects of corruption in public administration in relation to the size and structure of the shadow economy and determined the effect of the existence of corruption on the transition of country and society to Industry 4.0 (Fourth Industrial Revolution). They followed an extended DSGE (Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium) model and the data of Czech Republic and found that corruption has a destructive and long-term effect on capital accumulation. They concluded that corruption will become one of the biggest obstacles to the



transition to the Fourth Industrial Revolution and that public policies should, inter alia, ensure a transparent non-corrupted environment of public administration.

Sadik-Zada et al (2022) have studied the nexus between the development of electric-government and corruption in public sector services in developing and transition economies. They used the dataset of 121 countries covering between 2008 and 2018. They found that the adoption of e-government in the delivery of public sector services has centrally helped in reducing petty corruption in developing and transition economies. They concluded that since a lower level of socio-economic development shows a greater level of petty corruption, e-government gives better opportunities for socio-economic development and improves the effective and efficient public administration.

Harris et al (2022) have studied the varieties of connections and varieties of corruption through evidence from bureaucrats in five countries. They have collected data from 6400 bureaucrats from Asia and Africa and found that for political gain, the bureaucrats have political patrons who remain in power and those who do corruption for personal gain are those who use corruption to sustain their households. They also found that personal connections matter more than political connections. They concluded with the importance of studying the different types of corruption.

Ma et al (2022) have examined the relationship between the perceived official corruption and subjective wellbeing and whether the satisfaction with government performance has any mediating effect in this relationship through an empirical study from China. They have used data from the China General Social Survey taken from 3033 Chinese respondents and found that the perception of official corruption is negatively related to subjective well-being and satisfaction with government performance plays an intermediary between the perception of official corruption and subjective wellbeing. They concluded that there is a need for a service-oriented government to satisfy people's needs, increase income of officials moderately, expand media and citizens' channels to improve transparency in governance and develop national laws to curb corruption and confine power within laws and improve sanctions and preventions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current study is based on empirical research. The research involves mixed method where both primary and secondary data has been used. The primary data is collected through convenient sampling method through online questionnaire-survey. The sample size is 200. The secondary data includes the articles, journals, reports and newsletters. The analysis is carried out for demographic statistics (Country of residence, Age, Gender, Education, Occupation, Locality) and hypothesis testing graphs are used. The tools for analysis are area and stacked area graphs, clustered bar graph, descriptive statistics, customs tables, and ANOVA linear regression.

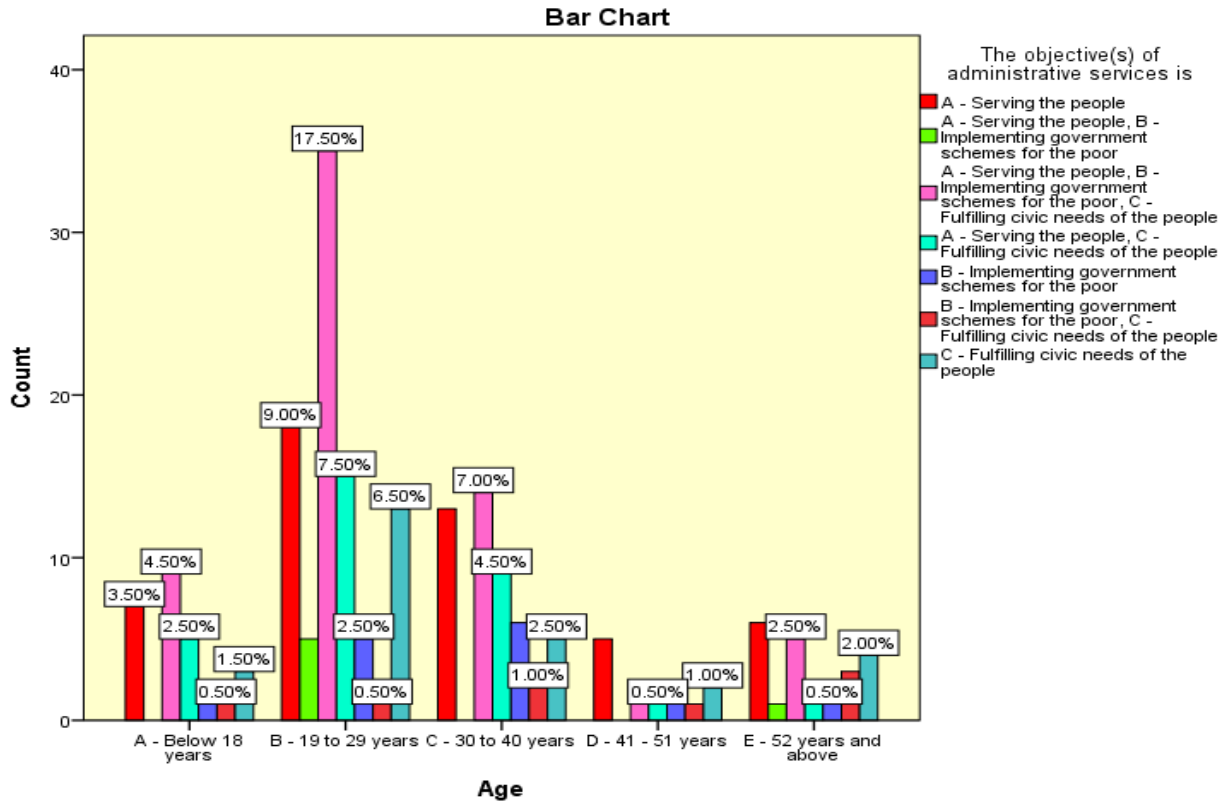
DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Demographic Statistics:



	N		Mean	Median	Mode	Std. Deviation	Variance
	Valid	Missing					
Country	200	0	13.73	7.00	7	8.648	74.783
Age	200	0	2.55	2.00	2	1.124	1.264
Gender	200	0	1.65	2.00	1	.928	.862
Educational qualification	200	0	3.93	4.00	4	.885	.783
Occupation	200	0	3.07	3.00	4	1.119	1.251
Locality	200	0	2.30	2.00	3	.743	.553

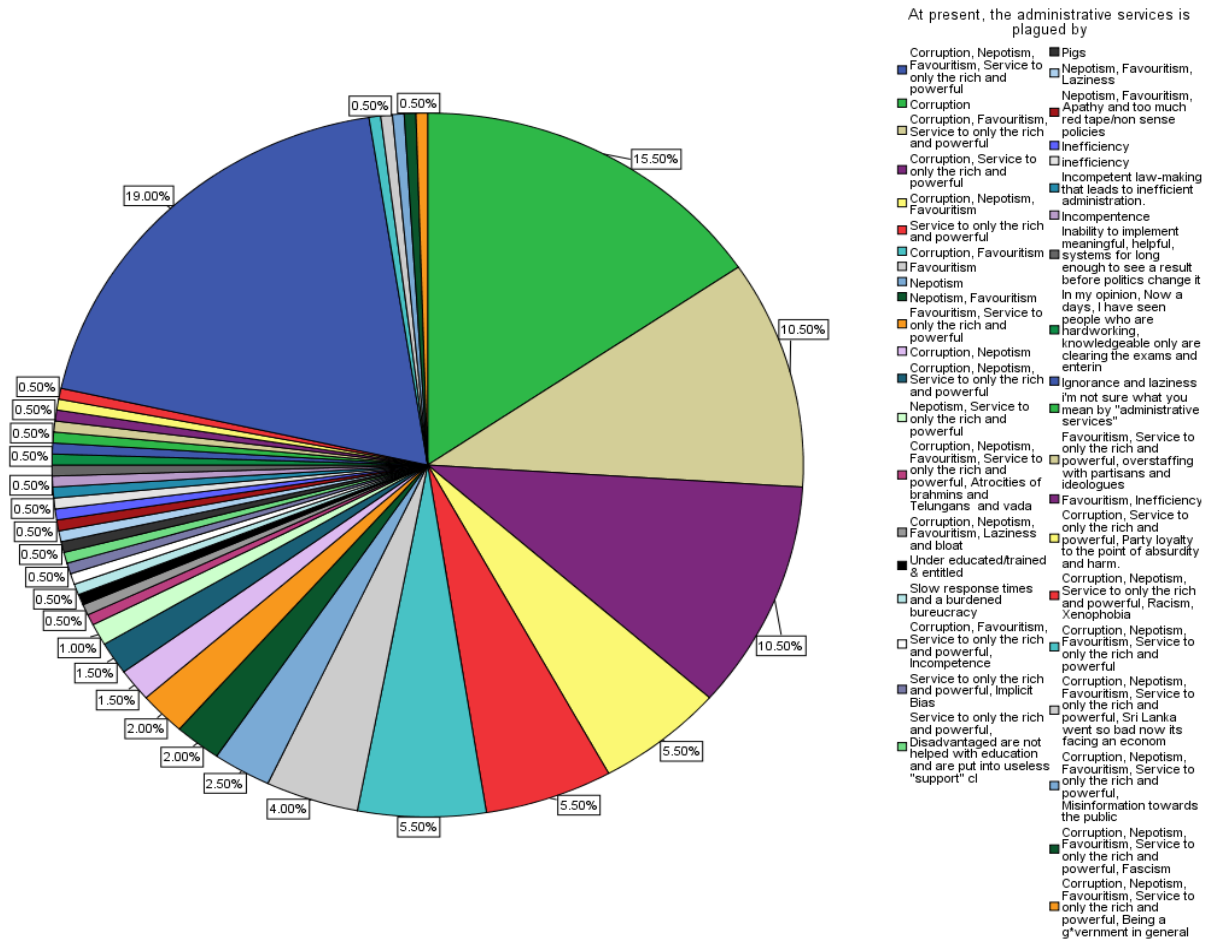
Figure 1:



Legend: Clustered bar graph showing the objective of administrative services according to the respondents based on their age groups.

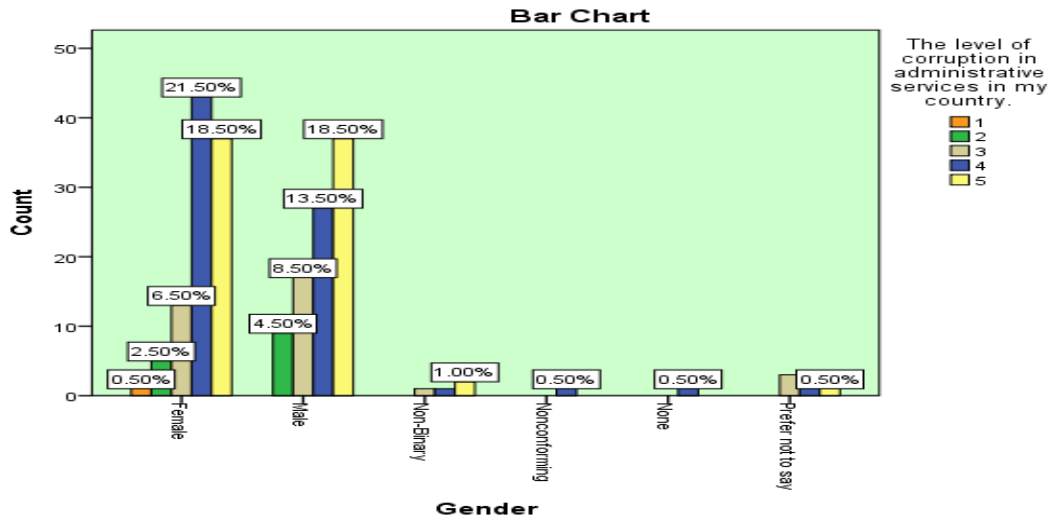


Figure 2:



Legend: Pie chart showing the present scenario of administrative services.

Figure 3:



Legend: Clustered bar graph showing the level of corruption in administrative services in one’s country based on their gender.

Table 1:

	Disparity in the society	Greediness of officers	Lack of moral values and commitment	Helplessness of people
N Valid	200	200	200	200
N Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean	3.99	4.20	4.08	3.70
Median	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Mode	4	5	5	4
Std. Deviation	.990	.965	.932	1.085
Variance	.980	.932	.868	1.178

Legend: Descriptive statistics showing the views of the respondents on the reasons for corruption in administrative services.

Table 2:

	The level of corruption in administrative services in my country.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
The present anti-corruption measures for mitigating	2	3	4	0	0
	0	5	8	5	4
	1	5	14	36	20
	0	2	10	27	19



corruption in administrative services in my country	5	0	2	2	6	34
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Legend: Customs table between the level of corruption in administrative services and efficiency of the corruption measures for mitigating corruption in administrative services in the country of the respondents.

Table 3:

	Politicians are responsible for corruption in administrative services.														
	2	3	4	5											
	Count	Count	Count	Count											
Corruption in administrative services is also responsible for corruption of politicians.	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	12	42	25	2	2	3	26	53

Legend: Customs table between the views of the respondents on politicians being responsible for corruption in administrative services and corruption in administrative services to be responsible for corruption of politicians.

Table 4:
ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	.741	1	.741	.887	.347 ^b
Residual	165.414	198	.835		
Total	166.155	199			

a. Dependent Variable: Corruption in administrative services is also responsible for corruption of politicians.

b. Predictors: (Constant), Age

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	4.047	.161		25.204	.000



Age	.054	.058	.067	.942	.347
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a. Dependent Variable: Corruption in administrative services is also responsible for corruption of politicians.

Legend: Linear regression ANOVA between the age of the respondents and their views on the relationship between corruption in administrative services and corruption of politicians.

Table 5:
ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	.510	1	.510	.565	.453 ^b
Residual	178.610	198	.902		
Total	179.120	199			

a. Dependent Variable: The present anti-corruption measures for mitigating corruption in administrative services in my country.

b. Predictors: (Constant), Country

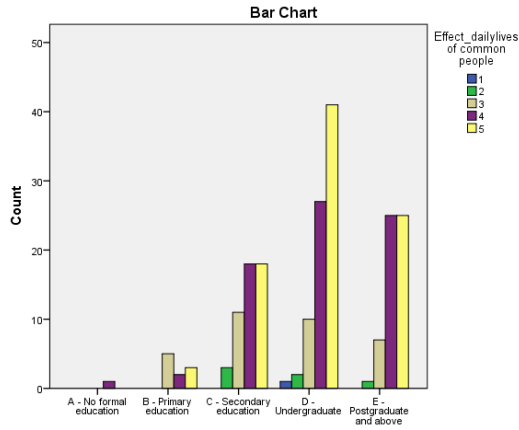
Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficient	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.540	.126		28.046	.000
	Country	.006	.008	.053	.752	.453

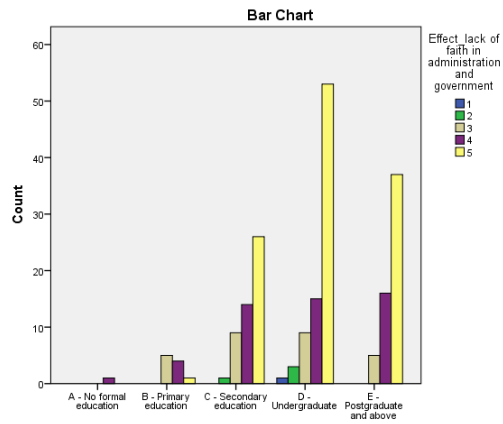
a. Dependent Variable: The present anti-corruption measures for mitigating corruption in administrative services in my country.

Legend: Linear regression ANOVA between the country of the respondents and their views on the efficiency of the anti-corruption measures in their country.

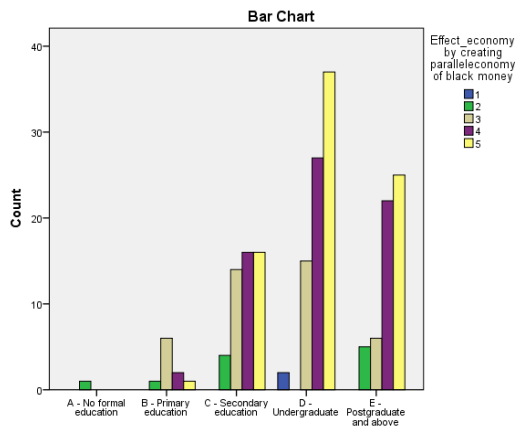
Table 6:



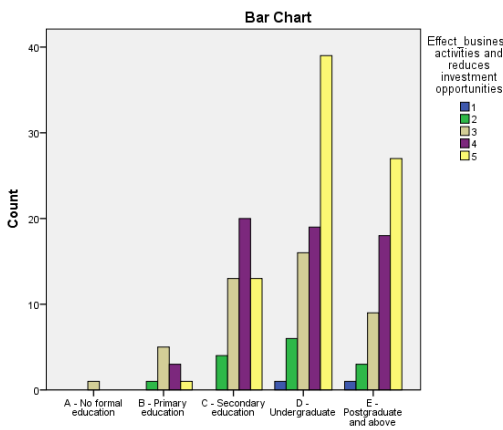
4. Highest educational qualification



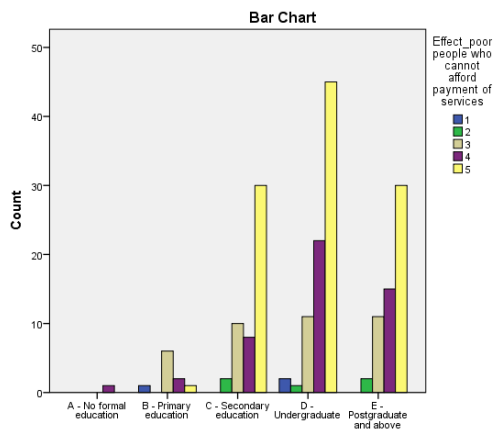
4. Highest educational qualification



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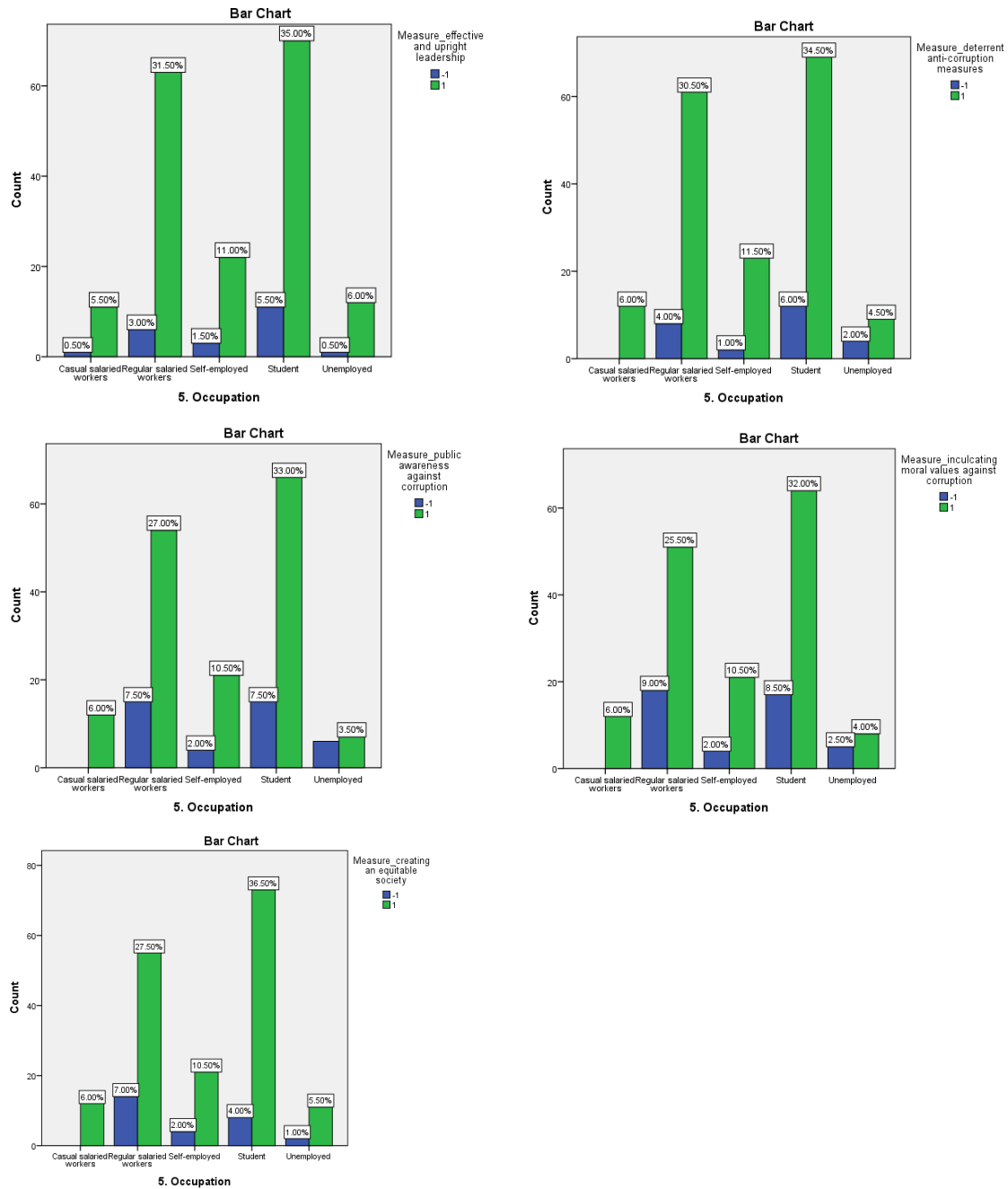


4. Highest educational qualification

Legend: Clustered bar graph showing the effects of corruption in administrative services according to the respondents, based on their educational qualifications.



Table 7:



Legend: Clustered bar graph showing the measures to reduce corruption, according to the respondents based on their occupation.

RESULTS



Figure 1 shows that the majority of the respondents between the age group 19 - 29 years state that the objective of administrative service is serving the people, implementing government schemes for the poor and fulfilling civic needs of the people (17.50 %). Some have also stated that it is for implementing government schemes for the poor and fulfilling civic needs of the people. The near majority have stated that the sole objective of administrative services is serving the people, according to the respondents from all the age groups.

Figure 2 shows that the majority of the respondents stated that corruption, nepotism, favouritism and service only to the rich and powerful people plague the administrative services (19%). Next it was said that corruption plagues administrative services (15.5%). Around 10.5 % of the respondents chose corruption, service only to rich and powerful; and around 10.5 % of the respondents chose that corruption, favouritism and service only to the rich and powerful as the real bane of the administrative services.

Figure 3 shows that among the respondents, females have stated that the level of corruption in administrative services in their country is “moderate” (21.5 %); whereas men state that corruption in administrative services is “very severe” (18.5 %).

Table 1 shows that the majority of the respondents strongly agree that the greediness of the officers, lack of moral values and commitment are the main reasons for corruption in administrative services, as the mode is 5, and the mean is 4.2 & 4.08, respectively. Majority have chosen to agree that disparity in the society and helplessness of the people are also reasons for corruption in administrative services, as the mode is 4 and mean is 3.99 & 3.7 respectively.

Table 2 shows that the majority of those who state that the level of corruption in their country is moderate also state that the efficiency of the anti-corruption measures for administrative corruption in their country is fair (36).

Table 3 shows that the majority of the respondents “strongly agree” for the proposition that corruption in administrative services is because of politicians and these respondents also “strongly agree” that corruption in administrative services is responsible for corruption of the politicians (53). It is also found that 42 respondents agree to both the given statements.

Table 4 shows that there is a significant relationship between the independent variable, the age of the respondents and the dependent variable, their views on corruption in administrative services leading to corruption among politicians, as the t-value (25.204) is more than 2 and it is also more than the table value, i.e., 1.05.

Table 5 shows that there is a significant relationship between the country of the respondents and their views on the efficiency of the anti-corruption measures in their country, as the t-value (28.046) is more than 2 and the t-value is also more than table value (6.90).

Table 6 shows that the majority of the respondents strongly agree that corruption in administrative services affects the daily life of common people, lack of faith in administration and government, the economy by creating a parallel economy of black money, the business activities and reduces investment opportunities, and the poor people who cannot afford any payment for the services. Of



this, the majority are the undergraduates, by 20.5%, 26.5%, 18.5%, 19.5%, and 22.5%, respectively. Majority of the respondents also agree on this statement on the whole. Few stay neutral to the given statements and very few show disagreements and strong disagreements.

Table 7 shows that the majority of the respondents feel that effective and upright leadership, deterrent anti-corruption measures, public awareness against corruption, inculcating moral values against corruption, and creating an equitable society would reduce corruption in administrative services. Of this, the majority are students, by 35%, 34.5%, 33%, 32%, 36.5%, respectively. Next comes the regular salaried workers, by 31.5%, 30.5%, 27%, 25.5%, 27.5%, respectively. There are respondents who majorly feel that inculcating moral values against corruption and public awareness against corruption would not reduce corruption in administrative services.

DISCUSSION

We can infer that the main objective of administrative services is to do government duties. It is understood that people see civil services as having high value in society (**Figure 1**). It is that there are many evil practices going on in administrative services in various countries, and most importantly, the people are also aware of it. Hence, it is questionable that these evil practices still exist in the administrative services even though they happen in the public light. Also, it happens in a sector that is highly valued by the people (**Figure 2**). It may be inferred that the majority of the respondents feel that there is moderate to high level of corruption in administrative services in their countries. This shows that in many countries, corruption is rampant in many countries according to the respondents. However, there are also respondents who have stated that there is very mild to no corruption in their countries. It may be noted that each respondent may have their own yardstick to measure corruption in administrative services in their country (**Figure 3**).

It may be inferred that the majority of the people consider greediness of the officers and the lack of moral values and commitment are the reasons for corruption in administrative services. But it is to be noted that there are also other reasons like disparity in the society and helplessness of the people that also are main reasons for corruption in administrative services. These two have a very indirect impact on corruption and often go unnoticed (**Table 1**). It may be inferred that though the majority of the people understand the scenario of corruption in administrative services, yet there are people who state that the level of corruption in their country is very high and also that anti-corruption measures in their country are very poor. This shows that the corruption in administrative services is quite high in many areas and though steps are taken to curb it, they are not that effective. It is to be noted that in many other countries, corruption in administrative services is under control with stringent anti-corruption measures (**Table 2**). It may be inferred that the majority of the respondents feel that corruption among politicians and corruption in administrative services are inter-connected, and that one feeds the other to the detriment of the common people. This also shows that the executive and legislature have connections to the corruption that prevails in both the organs, though one often talks about them by differentiating them (**Table 3**). Age has an influence on one's understanding of corruption and its inter-connection. It is not known to many on how the corrupt administrators often are responsible for corruption of politicians as the other side gets shadowed by the corruption of politicians that is often under the public's eye. In countries like India, corruption in administrative services involves not only



petty corruption and bribery, but also nepotism and favouritism (**Table 4**). It may be inferred that each country has its own anti-corruption measures and its efficiency is based on other factors also. It should also be noted that the implementation of anti-corruption measures differs from country to country. For example, underdeveloped countries that are found to have very high corruption would not be able to implement anti-corruption measures when those who implement them have higher chances of being corrupted themselves. Hence, corruption and anti-corruption measures and their efficiency differs by country, their status in development, etc. (**Table 5**). It is evident that the main effect of corruption is found to be the lack of faith in administration and government that is the result of corruption in administrative services, according to the undergraduates. The least effect seen by undergraduates/who have completed undergraduate degree are the effect of corruption in the economy by creating black economy and the disruption of business activities. One should note that the creation of black economy has high potential in disturbing a country's economy and as a result, economic policies get affected. This could disturb the economic and business activities in the country. This result is often overlooked by many as in this case. Hence, we can conclude that corruption in administrative services affects the society in all aspects (**Table 6**). The majority of the students find the creation of an equitable society to be the best of all the rest of the measures proposed to them in the study. However, the regular salaried workers, the next majority of the sample, feel that effective and upright leadership is the best measure of the rest of the measures proposed to them in the study. Though creation of an equitable society is the most important aspect that needs to be looked over, for that, one needs a guiding light or to say, an effective and upright leadership, that could help in reducing corruption through different means and also create an equitable society in the meanwhile. Hence, the students, though they see the bigger picture of the problem, the regular salaried workers are able to approach the problem in a better way (**Table 7**).

We find that people from around the world have different views on corruption and corruption in administrative services. Some stated how money and greediness is the main cause of corruption, along with capitalism (USA) and another even stated that where there is greed, there will be corruption and hence, it is inherent to humanity (France). One of them stated that corruption is so rampant that nothing much can be done about it (USA) and it affects only the average working person (USA), the normal citizens (Myanmar) and those who really need help (USA). Some feel that it is a systematic violence (USA), immoral (USA), vicious cycle (India) and that it cannot be eliminated (India) and has been throughout history (UK) but strict rules try to control it with strict measures (USA). Some have contended that corruption is not taken seriously by people and is going unnoticed and COVID-19 pandemic saw so much corruption in many countries (Canada). One person contended how governments keep supporting large corporations and leaving out the public (Canada) while another has stated how capitalism aids in corruption (USA). One of them contended that it is difficult to remove corruption in their country as it is rooted in many places (Spain). One person stated that corruption happens as the side effect of government failures (USA). One respondent from Romania contended that corruption is not the only problem, but also lack of accountability, efficiency and also laziness. One respondent from USA stated how more a thing is done (corruption), the more common it becomes and then is accepted. Some state that corruption in politics is more than corruption in administrative services in their country (Germany). Some respondents stated how corruption has affected their lives since their childhood (USA). One respondent from Sri Lanka contended how corruption in administrative services has led to the present scenario in the country and that world



needs to understand the consequences of corruption. One of them suggested administrative services should be unremunerative in order to fight the corruption (India). Some suggested honest, transparent and accountable government (India)(USA)(Australia). Some say political propagandists in administrative services need to be punished in order to remove corruption (India). Some suggest young, passionate, eligible and determinant people to be placed in administrative positions (India). One of them suggested constant monitoring of those in power (USA). Some suggest strict separation of powers and ability to enforce strict rules (USA). One of them suggested vigorous prosecution of the offenders as people do not care about the problems that happen due to corruption in administrative services (India). Some say unless those in the positions change, nothing can be done (Japan). Some have stated how e-government services has reduced corruption quite well (India). Yet, there are some who still support corruption too.

We can now conclude that corruption in administrative services is a very serious problem that needs to be addressed right now in order to make people's lives better. So many problems are found to be due to corruption and when the legal maxim, "salus populi suprema lex", say that the welfare of the people is the supreme law, it is high time those in power bring welfare to the public, the commoners, the people who make up this world.

LIMITATION

The sample frame is the major limitation. Some samples were collected through online platforms like sending links via WhatsApp, Reddit, etc., and some by interview schedule. This is also a limitation. The area of sample size is yet another drawback of the research. Collection of data via online platforms is limiting the researcher to collect data from the field. Since the data is collected on an online platform wherein the respondent is unknown, the reliability of the respondent's opinion isn't present and this research could only come to an approximate conclusion.

SUGGESTIONS

There is no gainsaying of the fact that corruption affects the well-being of the society, and that it also affects the economy to a great extent. This is more so when corruption is rampant among the people who wield power in the administrative services. Corruption affects the moral-fibre of the society. As it is like a contagion, if it is not mitigated, it spreads like wild fire and becomes a drag on the society and the economy. For example, most of the African countries still reel under poverty and lack of development, because of rampant corruption in those countries. Corruption can be mitigated if there is upright and effective leadership in the society, especially when political power is wielded by upright people, there would be less corruption in all spheres of administration. There must be public awareness against corruption which would desist the people become party to corruption in any way. The moral values of honesty, integrity and a sense of service should permeate the society, which should be inculcated from the days of schooling and other educational processes. There must be deterrent anti-corruption measures implemented by the government, which would go a long way in making the people non-corrupt in their services. Above all, an equitable society should be created, so that people would not have the inclination to be corrupt.



There must be equal opportunities for all in the society, which would make the people less corrupt in their services.

CONCLUSION

Corruption is a plague to society. Through the study conducted with 200 respondents, it is found that administrative services, though considered of high value in the society, are plagued by corruption, nepotism, favouritism, and service to only the rich and the powerful. The main reasons for corruption in administrative services is said to be the greediness of the officers and lack of moral value and commitment. The majority of the respondents feel that the level of the corruption in administrative services in their countries is also based on the efficiency of the anti-corruption measures. We also find that there is some connection between corrupt officials and corrupt politicians according to the respondents. Corruption cannot be done away that easily and involves a lot of factors. Corruption affects the countries economically, socially and politically. Therefore, in order to curb corruption, there is a need to increase e-government services and while doing so, there is also a need to take care of the accessibility of e-government services. A country needs a transparent government and allows people from all areas into the administration in order to combat the menaces of favouritism, nepotism and service to only the rich and powerful. Economic development and social development also play an important role in reducing corruption and keeping it under for a longer term. While corruption per se is ubiquitous in the society in one form or other throughout centuries, with the modern idea of welfare state, equality, equal opportunity for all, and with massive economic development and the increased role of administrative services in the society, corruption should be mitigated so that there would be greater development and happiness for all.

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