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SOCIETAL ISSUES

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# SOCIETAL ISSUES

## Chapter (6) Anti-Corruption





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## **Introduction:**

Corruption is a widespread phenomenon in all countries; large and small, rich or poor. However, its impacts in the developing world are more influential. It has a wide range of harmful effects on societies; it leads to human rights abuse, market distortion, and deterioration in the quality of life. It also allows organized crime and terrorism to thrive, along with other threats that are considered an obstacle to the flourishing of human security.

## **I. Definition of corruption:**

According to Lisan al-Arab and Kitab al-Ayn, corruption is the opposite of righteousness, it is corrosive of interest, and it is the opposite of rectification.

International Transparency Organization defined corruption as “every act that involves misuse of public office to achieve a person's interest for himself or for his group.”

Corruption, from an ethical point of view, expresses the absence of moral values and the lack of foundations and regulations that govern human behavior. Moral corruption is also a disgraceful description of improper behavior resulting from the unraveling of social values system. Corruption's practice is due to the lack of integrity of the individual who is engaged in it; because it is a violation of the values of society.

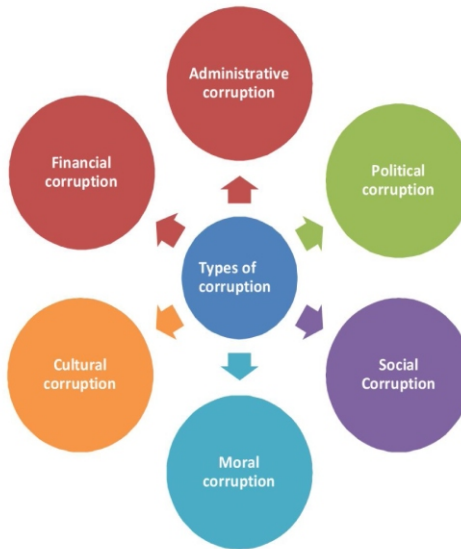
According to the law, corruption is a complex concept with multiple dimensions, and its definitions vary according to the angle from which it is viewed. Among the forms of corruption is any behavior that violates the rules and regulations imposed by the system, as well as any behavior that threatens the public interest by betraying it, and not adhering to it by giving priority to the private interest



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over the public interest, along with any misuse of the public office to achieve private gains.

## II. Types of corruption:



There are many types of corruption according to the nature of the corrupt act. In terms of the nature of the corrupt act, corruption can be administrative, political, financial, moral or cultural.

- *Administrative corruption*: Corruption is administrative if it relates to the abuse of power by executive authority employees.
- *Political corruption*: Corruption is political if it relates to the abuse of power and deviant practices issued by the political elite (such as senior government officials, ministers, leaders of political parties and senior legislative and judicial officials). Sometimes it is difficult to accurately differentiate between some forms of administrative and political corruption because of the overlapped reasons and the interaction between these two types that can be inseparable.



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- *Social Corruption*: Corruption is social if it is related to glitch in social values.
- *Moral corruption*: Corruption is moral if it relates to moral deviations and the individual's undisciplined behavior that is regulated by religion, traditions or acceptable social custom. Moral corruption is a form of social corruption as well.
- *Cultural corruption*: Corruption is cultural when any cultural group deviates from the general constants and seeks to dismantle its identity and characteristics, and compromises the positions of purgatory and chastity in its culture.
- *Financial corruption*: Corruption is financial if it relates to financial deviations and violation of the provisions and rules adopted in the state's organizations and institutions, with violation of the regulations and instructions of financial control. It is also a violation of the law by adopting illegal ways to achieve financial gains. The kinds of violations the employee commits in relation to financial aspects are as follows:
  - a) Violation of the financial rules and provisions stipulated in the applicable law and regulations.
  - b) Violation of the provisions of tenders, auctions, stores and purchases.
  - c) Negligence or failure that results in the loss or possible loss of a financial right of the state.
  - d) Every intentional act that results in the disbursement of an amount of state funds or the loss of its rights.
  - e) Failure to provide the Central Auditing Organization with copies of contracts, agreements, tenders, accounts and documents on time, or delay in responding to their contradictions.



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The focus will be on that kind of financial corruption and ways to combat it.

### **III. Types of financial corruption:**

Financial corruption has different types that can be classified according to the criteria used as a basis for differentiation, since there are four criteria:

*First:* In terms of the party practicing it, as it is possible for a person to do it individually, or for a group of people to practice it in an organized manner.

*Second:* In terms of the size of the proceeds from the crime of corruption and the job rank of the person carrying it out.

*Third:* In terms of the degree of spread or the nature of the sector in which corruption occurs.

*Fourth:* In terms of intent, as it is divided into intentional corruption and unintentional corruption, and the following explains that:

A. In terms of the nature of those who practice it:

Corruption is divided according to the nature of the party that practices it into:

*1- Individual corruption:* It is practiced by the individual on his own initiative and without coordination with other individuals or entities.

*2- Collective corruption:* It is practiced by a group in an organized and coordinated manner. This type constitutes the most dangerous type of corruption as it permeates the entire structure of society.

B. In terms of level:

Corruption is divided in terms of the size of the proceeds from the crime of corruption and the job rank of the person who carries it out into:

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1- *Small-level corruption*: It is the corruption of lower job ranks, and it spreads among junior officials by receiving bribes from others and the proceeds are often little. It may be in itself a reason for complicating the procedures, as the employee intends to put obstacles in front of the citizens by creating routine constraints to induce the provision of bribes.



2- *Corruption on a large level*: It is the corruption of senior job ranks, which is carried out by senior officials and employees to achieve great material or social interests. These other aspects of corruption are the most important, dangerous, and comprehensive; because it costs the state huge sums of money, as the volume of proceeds from it is often large. It is characterized by being organized and usually spread in developing and less developed countries, which suffer from the absence of rules and regulations that govern its work.

C. In terms of spread:



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Corruption is divided in terms of the degree of prevalence or the nature of the sector in which corruption occurs into:

- 1- *Local corruption*: It is the one that spreads within one country in its economic establishments and within small positions and among those who have no connection outside the borders, that is, they have no connection with major or global companies or entities.
- 2- *International corruption*: This type of corruption takes a wide global scope, as it crosses the borders of countries and even continents within the framework of globalization; where the economic institutions of the state inside and outside the country are linked to the political entity or its leadership to pass utilitarian economic benefits that is difficult to separate. That is why this corruption is an octopus that surrounds entities and economies on a large scale, and is considered the most dangerous type. This type of corruption is related to issues greater than just daily transactions, and aims to achieve greater gains than just a small bribe.

D. From the point of view of the intent:

Corruption is divided in terms of intent into:

- 1- *Deliberate corruption*: resulting from bad faith and premeditation.
- 2- *Unintentional corruption*: resulting from incompetence and the like.

#### **IV. The causes of financial corruption:**

Financial corruption is a phenomenon that has many overlapping and simultaneous causes. There are social, economic, political, and administrative reasons.



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## CAUSES OF CORRUPTION

- ❑ Diminishing values in the society.
- ❑ Diminishing patriotism.
- ❑ Lack of awareness.
- ❑ Low literacy rate.
- ❑ Lack of effective management.
- ❑ Lack of economic stability.
- ❑ Lack of effective political leadership.



## CAUSES OF CORRUPTION

1. Personal greed
2. Decline of personal ethical sensitivity
3. No sense of service when working in public or private institutions.
4. Low awareness or lack of courage to denounce corrupt behaviour
5. Lack of effective management and organization of administrative mechanism



### 1- Social reasons :

The social reasons leading to the spread of the phenomenon of financial corruption in contemporary Egyptian society are represented in several points, namely:

- a) The low level of religious culture, represented in the strong religious impulse.
- b) The lack of awareness of individuals of their rights and duties and the prevalence of traditional values and ties based on lineage, kinship and tribalism.
- c) Weak societal oversight and the minimal role of civil society and private institutions in monitoring government performance, or their lack of impartiality in their work.
- d) The boundaries between right and wrong have disappeared, especially in the work cycle stages to obtain the service, so that much of what is considered a sin and has no legitimacy has



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become legalized and permissible. Bribery has become a tip or a transfer fee, and brokerage has been counted as a consulting fees.

## **2- Economic reasons:**

The economic reasons leading to the spread of the phenomenon of financial corruption in contemporary Egyptian society are represented in several forms, namely:

- 1- Low levels of wages in the government sector compared to the private sector; then employees accept bribes to balance private spending, especially when the probability of falling into the hands of justice is low.
- 2- Low salaries for workers and a high standard of living, which constitutes a suitable environment for some workers to search for other financial sources, even if that is through bribery.
- 3- Weak level of transparency in offering public businesses and tenders.
- 4- Government members and employees, of its various agencies and institutions, use state revenues and national income flows to increase their private wealth.
- 5- The great disparity in the income levels of individuals in society.

## **3- Political reasons:**

The political reasons leading to the spread of financial corruption in contemporary Egyptian society are represented in several points, namely:

- a) Absence or lack of legislation and regulations that combat corruption and impose penalties on its perpetrators.



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- b) The tyranny of the executive authority over the powers of the legislature, which leads to a breach of the principle of mutual control.
- c) The weakness and ineffectiveness of the criminal justice agencies (the police, the prosecution, the judiciary) and the absence of their independence and impartiality.
- d) The lack of the leadership's willingness to combat corruption; by not taking any serious preventive or punitive measures against the elements of corruption.
- e) Weakness of the oversight bodies in the state and their lack of independence.
- f) The absence of freedom of the media and not allowing the specialists to access information and public records, which prevents them from exercising their supervisory role over the work of ministries and public institutions.
- g) Officials enjoy discretion and immunity from prosecution, as corruption increases with the concentration of decision-making power in the hands of an individual or an institution (i.e., the existence of a monopoly power), with the one who monopolizes decision-making possessing the discretionary power. He can interpret regulations and laws according to his own interests with little or no accountability from other authorities.

#### **4- *Administrative reasons:***

The administrative reasons leading to the spread of financial corruption in contemporary Egyptian society are represented in several points, namely:

- 1- Inflation of the administrative apparatus, meaning that the size of the public sector exceeds its needs and this would complicate



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administrative procedures, weakening communication with citizens, in addition to being a waste of state resources.

- 2- Weak accountability mechanisms within the state's agencies by leniency and condoning the mistakes of public officials, and the failure to take the necessary legal measures in the event of a violation.
- 3- Some state employees enjoy great powers without effective oversight over them, which make it easier for them to exploit their authority to obtain bribes and commissions.
- 4- Existence of commercial interests and relations with external producers or partners from other countries, and the use of illegal means by foreign companies to obtain privileges and monopolies within the country, or his disposal of corrupt goods.

## **V. The effects of financial corruption:**

Corruption plays an influential role in thwarting the dream of developing countries, including Egypt, for development and prosperity. It negatively affects the overall social, economic and political conditions in these countries. Financial corruption is one of the main obstacles that impede efforts to achieve comprehensive development, because of its negative effects and consequences on all aspects of economic, social and political life. Corruption hinders the development process in general in terms of financing, management, production and distribution of revenue.

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The most important results and effects can be summarized as follows:

## ***1- Economic Effects:***

On the economic side, corruption led to an increase in the deficit in the general budget of countries. It costs countries billions of dollars annually and leads to an increase in the cost of services that citizens need, in addition to impeding economic development, reducing opportunities for local and foreign investment, wasting public money and increasing expenditures at the expense of revenues, which in turn leads to a negative reputation of the country and creates a state of tension.

Financial corruption has also led to many negative consequences for the country's economic growth, as it works to sabotage the production sector and dissipate the economic surplus. According to the traditional economic theory, corruption impedes economic growth through the extraction of royalty “that is, expropriation of the economic surplus”; which negatively affects this growth, whether for local or foreign entrepreneurs. Financial corruption has disrupted the opportunities for productive investment accumulation in human and material assets and strengthens the values and



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behavior of quick profit by employing royalty instead of productive work for the public interest. Corruption also constitutes waste resources, especially those that are scarce in developing countries.



The negative effects of financial corruption are counting, not only the previously mentioned, but it has also destabilized the economy; as the spread of corruption leads to an increase in the cost of work or commercial product through an increase in illegal payments, and an increase in administrative expenses resulting from negotiating with officials. It also causes a weakening of the capabilities and efficiency of capital; as anyone can obtain public contracts in return for paying a bribe without having the appropriate financial or investment capacity. Additionally, the flight of local investors to invest abroad and the reluctance of foreign investment to do business inside the country, due to the high costs as a result of paying bribes as an extra tax. The citizens rely on the local leaders to meet their requirements and facilitating their businesses, instead of depending on the corrupt government.

Financial corruption also causes discrepancy in attracting foreign investments and the flight of local capital; as there is an inverse relationship between corruption and investment. Corruption is incompatible with the existence of a free competitive environment,



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which constitutes a prerequisite for attracting both local and foreign investments. This, in turn, leads to a general weakness in the provision of job opportunities and expands the phenomenon of unemployment, poverty and waste of resources. Furthermore, corruption leads to limiting legitimate competition between people, whether they are natural or legal persons, such as companies. As it gives preference to those who deal with spoilers without real competition or under sham competition, and also to disrupt the foundations of a free economy based on competition in providing the best services, offers and prices. Besides, corruption causes an increase in the unemployment rate due to the weak economic cycle and national production. It also triggers brains and energies drain that refuse to participate in corruption operations, as a result of their fight against the corrupt classes and the corruptors.

## ***2- Effects on the level of poverty and income distribution:***

Corruption affects the poor directly because it increases the cost of public services and lowers their quality and level, and reduces the poor's ability to access water, education and health care. Besides, it affects them indirectly because it impedes economic growth, perpetuates inequality, and harms the distribution of public spending through many other channels, which stands as an obstacle to poverty alleviation.

Corruption has increased the incidence of poverty and the lack of social solidarity as a result of the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the minority group that owns money and power at the expense of the majority, who are the general poor. This impoverishment results in many circumstances that may lead these downtrodden groups to hatred against other classes and fuel the state of tension and social deviation. Consequently this leads to the disruption of an effective force in society that could have been more beneficial if it were properly dealt with. Corruption also weakens



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motivations and honest competition at work, as it discourages producers and serious workers, in addition to making most administrations sluggish and less effective in granting incentives, resulting from corruption penetration, which eliminates the seriousness of work. Corruption has also led to the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few people in the society and deprives the rest of the groups of benefiting from the country's financial resources and deprives them of their share in the support granted by the state to the poor, diminishing the existence of the middle class.

On the other hand, corruption affected the poor through reduction of public resources, which is practiced by corrupt local officials, keeping the poor countries poor. Thus corruption causes an increase in poverty and inequality in the distribution of income by strengthening the disparity between incomes, as financial corruption leads to widening the gap between the rich and the poor. Helping the poor requires transforming public resources into activities that fall within the framework of growth, such as compulsory primary education and primary health care, but this does not suit those looking for corruption funds. They are unable to raise huge funds except from high levels of spending that allow greater opportunities for corruption, such as arms purchases and major reconstruction projects. Therefore, spending in favor of the poor is only the lowest in the priorities of corrupted countries.

### ***3- Social effects:***

From a social point of view, financial corruption has led to an imbalance in the social system and shaken the cohesion of society in all its classes, where morality declines, negativity abounds, and negligence of public affairs becomes the norm. Crime increases and hatred prevail among the classes of society, especially the poor, which is the dominant percentage in society, so the poor becomes poorer and the rich multiply their wealth. These factors push the





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poor classes to immigration, legally or illegally, in search of a decent life in another land.

Corruption has negative moral effects in society; especially when corruption or some of its practices become an acceptable or legitimate social behavior, considering it “savvy.” Such concepts threaten the values and moral cohesion of society and causing a state of fluctuation in the norms of social behavior that control it and inducing the loss of its source of internal solidarity.

On the social level, financial corruption is considered an impediment to participation and paves the way for the false social rise of some forces without real additions to production. It also escorts the disruption of moral values, frustration and increased feelings of indifference and negativity between individuals and society. It kills motivation and desire to achieve and perform duty, increases selfishness among individuals, and causes the emergence of intolerance and extremism in opinions. It also paved the way to the spread of crime as a reaction to the collapse of the moral values system and prevalence of unequal opportunities. Corruption and crime are two interrelated and intertwined phenomena, with a reciprocal relationship, where corruption provides an appropriate environment for crime, and crime uses corruption as a main tool, method and means to achieve its goals, and they, both solely and collectively, constitute a major threat to national stability and social development. Corruption distorts social structures and the social fabric through the rise of the minority at the expense of the majority. The unequal distribution of income leads to rapid and sudden changes in the social structure, as well as the decline of social justice as a result of the concentration of powers and wealth with the minority and the low standard of living for the majority of society members, which pushes some of them to commit crimes.



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Corruption has also caused the reduction of positive values, such as the values of public interest, participation and belonging, and new values and norms replace them. Those newly created values are controlled and managed by the market mentality and private benefits and subject to the criteria of gain, greed and avarice. Corruption leads to unprofessionalism, loss of work value, psychological acceptance of the idea of neglecting the standards of performing job and supervisory duties, declining interest in the public right, and a feeling of injustice among the majority, which leads to social tension and the spread of hatred among the segments of society.

Besides, the consolidation of negative concepts, such as selfishness and self-interest, as well as limiting the individual's activity and effort when he realizes that they are not the way to achieve the goals in the presence of crooked ways. The inequality between citizens, because some of them will receive special treatment and certain facilities because of their personal relationships or their partisan, sectarian or national ties and others, or for their ability to pay a bribe, is a violation of human rights.

Corruption also set a limitation in the provision of services and an increase in the burdens of providing a small amount of public services, or at least the unfair distribution of them, the deterioration of their quality, or the difficulty of obtaining them without bribery or mediation, which reduces societal efficiency and disrupts development opportunities.





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The economic decisions taken increase the social gap between the social classes in society, for example, opening the way for the private sector to govern instead of working and making decisions to support the higher classes at the expense of other social classes. Some examples of these economic decisions are: distributing state lands and giving facilities to build housing requirements for these higher classes, whether in the form of summer or winter resorts, at the expense of building economic housing for low-income people, especially young people.

Corruption also weakens the results achieved by education, health care, public investment, and income equality. It undermines the pillars of development by entrenching the interests of powerful groups, weakening the tax base, wasting public resources, beside misdistribution of skills and public investment. Corruption constitutes a heavy tax on investors.

#### ***4- Effects on the value system:***

Financial corruption has contributed to creating a value system that is reflected by a group of corrupt elements, which has led to the consolidation of a set of negative behaviors. Thus corruption changes behavioral incentives and motives so that a type of non-productive activities seeking to make a quick profit prevail, in addition to wasting a part of potential production energies into efforts of corruption prosecution and follow-up, which accounts for a large part of the resources. It also has a strong effect on the elimination of the spirit of initiative and innovation, and weakens efforts to establish new investment projects.

One of the most dangerous consequences of corruption and its practices is the serious imbalance that has affected work ethics and the values of society, which leads to the prevalence of a state of mind among individuals that justifies corruption and finds excuses

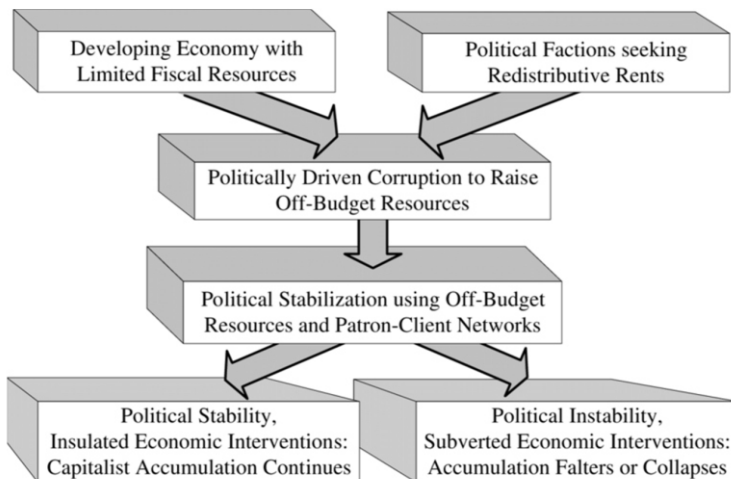


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for it to justify its continuation, and helps in the widening of its effect. So bribery, commission, brokerage and favoritism gradually take over the elements of the new incentive system in daily transactions that no other system can match. The individual has lost confidence in the value and feasibility of his original work, and thus psychologically accepts the idea of gradual abandonment of the criteria for performing the job duties.

## ***5- Political effects:***

The spread of corruption strengthened the foundations of bad governance through the establishment of a pernicious marriage between political power and wealth. So, the goal of the system of government becomes to secure the interests of the dominant few on the levers of power and wealth and not the public good, which leads to the marginalization or exclusion of the majority and deprivation of freedom in its comprehensive sense, generating the elimination of all forms of derogation from human dignity, and reducing the possibility of the common people's enjoyment of freedom and justice. Consequently, corruption becomes a strong subversive of national awareness and a contributor to political alienation.





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Financial corruption has also left negative effects on the entire political system, whether in terms of its legitimacy, stability, or reputation. It affected the extent to which the system enjoyed democracy and its ability to respect the basic rights of citizens, foremost of which is the right to equality, equal opportunities, freedom of access to information and freedom of media. It also limits the transparency and openness of the system. It also worked to undermine confidence in the government and its credibility and undermine democracy, as well as manipulation and transgression of legal principles in the completion of transactions. It also led to the creation of an atmosphere of political hypocrisy as a result of buying political loyalties and to the weakness of public institutions and civil society institutions, and it strengthened the role of traditional institutions, which prevents the existence of a democratic life. All these factors may affect the sovereignty of the state for granting its aid, and weaken political participation as a result of the lack of confidence in public institutions and oversight and accountability bodies, and transforming elections into a means for the corrupt to reach positions of power in order to ensure the protection of their corrupt actions and increase their illegal income and wealth. Corruption violates human rights, as it has worked to deprive the poor of access to public services and prevent them from exercising their political rights. It also led to the erosion of society and the state as a result of internal divisions and the elimination of national unity and disintegration.

## ***6- Effects on the tax sector:***

Financial corruption has had serious effects in the tax sector. When there is corruption in the tax sector, this prompts some people to submit tax returns that show an unreal tax base for these individuals, which enable them, in a false way, to show a low financial ability compared to their real one, while the trusted financiers cannot do it



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the same way. If both of them are treated equally when submitting false tax returns, that do not reflect their true financial ability to pay similar taxes, this means the corruption breaches the principle of horizontal justice that is based on similar tax treatment of individuals with equal financial ability. On the other hand, this is a violation of the principle of vertical justice, which requires different tax treatment for individuals with different financial ability, which ultimately results in a violation of the principle of social justice in the distribution of public burdens.

Corrupt practices in the tax sector have also resulted in a false financial ability of the individuals involved in the widespread corrupt practices, leading to a false decrease in the tax capacity of society as a whole. Accordingly, the economic policy makers who are planning government expenditure based on a false taxable capacity, will not be able to achieve the various goals aspired by society, whether they are related to achieving economic growth, financing public spending, financing public social services, or those other goals which have not been satisfied to the socially desirable extent, and the state finds itself forced to abandon some of the promised goals to society. Corruption usually results in higher cases of tax evasion and then a decrease in tax collection and public revenues, which is reflected in the weak ability of the state to spend, especially on the social aspect; health and education, which is closely related to growth.

## **VI. The reality of corruption in the Egyptian society:**

The National Anti-Corruption Strategy affirmed that despite the efforts made in Egypt to combat corruption, it still suffers from corruption and is not immune from it. The Egyptian society in general suffers from the spread of some negative values such as favoritism and imbalance in the work ethics system. It has been confirmed at the present time that it is difficult for many individuals



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to accomplish their work without using one of the forms of corruption such as bribery. It is natural for the matter to develop after that so that the process is not limited to just obtaining some simple privileges, even at the expense of others or at the expense of society, so that the corrupt act turns into a natural process in the lives of individuals, or what we can define as the culture of corruption and it has names such as gift and so on, and others of the nomenclature.

Corruption has become internal and has its rules, leaders, internal and local infrastructure, and its channels and mechanisms, which are intertwined with external and international forces and centers of influence that provide it with protection and propaganda by virtue of mutual interests and benefits. Even worse, many of the agencies that were and are still relied upon to fight corruption have corrupted themselves, and some practitioners of corruption activities have led campaigns called fighting corruption and the corrupt. Those people have become the most enthusiastic in chanting slogans condemning corruption, in a pursuit to cover up their dirty deeds and protect themselves and those helping them from prosecution and accountability.

Corruption has affected civil society institutions in the broad sense that includes civil and political organizations. The contradiction appears clear between the desired role of civil society organizations, if they are genuinely leading political reform and enforcing the process of human development, and the reality of civil society in Arab countries, including Egypt at the present time. This calls many analysts to question the possibility of relying on the current civil society to lead reform in the Arab world, just as the family sector is not free from corruption, including tax evasion, and what is sometimes called petty corruption, which is based on tribalism, intermediation and bribery to fulfill interests.



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Unfortunately that new culture has recently emerged in Egypt, showing corruption as a socially acceptable means of obtaining rights and not as an outcast. Corruption has taken other names such as: tip, tea and transportation, and therefore it is not seen as a disgraceful act, which helped entrench corruption in government institutions.



The study conducted by the Unique Contract Center, at the Information and Decision Support Center, on corruption in government services confirmed this matter. As it concluded that the degree of corruption's acceptance in the Egyptian society has reached 92% of the respondents, as they believe that corruption has become a part of our lives and we cannot deny its existence; the degree of agreement among the respondents goes as follows: 39% agree very much with this statement, and 43% agree. In addition, the results of this study showed that 55%, about half of the respondents, agree that corruption is part of our lives and cannot be combated, while 30% reject this statement and believe in the possibility of combating corruption. Moreover, this desperation in combating corruption has fueled its social acceptance. This study claims that this social acceptance of corruption in Egypt is for petty corruption, while major corruption is rejected by all, and this acceptance of petty corruption is not based on conviction or





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satisfaction, but rather it is a forced acceptance. When the legitimate doors are blocked for a person to fulfill his interests, he resorts to corruption, especially since corruption has become systematic and is practiced openly under the sight and hearing of the authorities, and even with the encouragement and practice of the authorities in many cases. The study also assured that when public institutions and their employees are committed to law and close the doors of corruption, the societal culture will be a contributor to the fight against corruption and not an advocate for it.

The Corruption Perceptions Index announced by Transparency International in its annual report for 2019, indicates that Egypt is ranking better every year in fighting corruption, as it ranked 106/180 in 2019, proving that Egypt has declined in the ranking, where it ranked 105/180 in the 2018 report, and also its ranking has regressed from 2017, where it got in that year the rank of 117 / 180. But despite the progress of Egypt's performance in combating corruption, according to estimates of the organization, it did not obtain the minimum global average to reach the stage of reasonable transparency and integrity, as Egypt faces serious corruption cases. This confirmed that despite the efforts made by the state to combat corruption, the report issued annually by Transparency International revealed that Egypt has fallen several degrees from previous years among other countries in the list of the most corrupt countries, and its rank globally on the Corruption Perceptions Index has significantly and continuously deteriorated.

Egypt is considered one of the countries where there are many executive bodies charged with combating corruption, whether in the units of the state's administrative apparatus, local administration units, public bodies of both types; service and economic, and public institutions and public business sector companies and their affiliates, managed by the knowledge of those bodies or by a decision issued



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by the Chairman of the Board Ministers. Most of these bodies are stipulated by the law establishing them, given that their funds are public funds.

The following table shows Egypt's global ranking on the Corruption Perceptions Index for several consecutive years:

Rank	Score	Year
175/94	100/37	2014
168/88	100/36	2015
176/108	100/34	2016
180/117	100/32	2017
180/105	100/35	2018
180/106	100/36	2019

If we look at the previous table, it turns out that Egypt's ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index is declining continuously, as Egypt scored 37/100 in 2014, in 2015 a score of 36/100, then declined in 2016 where it scored 34/100 and also declined in 2017, scoring 32/100, which indicates that Egypt's ranking in the corruption index is in constant decline. In 2018, there was an improvement in Egypt's ranking, where it scored 35/100, with an increase of three points from 2017, and then returned to decline again in 2019, where it got a score of 36/100, knowing that the closer the index score is to zero, the more indicating that the country is more corrupt, and the closer it is to 100, the more it reflects the increase in its integrity.

This is also confirmed by what the Egyptian judiciary attests of the inflated volume of lawsuits brought related to corruption, such as bribery at the level of junior officials in the state, as well as senior

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officials, beside cases of robbery of state lands by twisted methods, and cases of tax evasion and the aggravation of the phenomenon of robbery of public money under various names without observing the rules and laws. Additionally, the aggravation of the phenomenon of financial extortion, due to the need of some citizens, such as exploiting citizens' need for employment or joining jobs in exchange for money, as well as increasing complaints of looting of public money.

## VI. Manifestations of Corruption in Contemporary Egyptian Society:



### 1- *The phenomenon of beggary:*

Beggary can be defined as asking for charity from individuals on the roads, public places, or even in homes, and this is a behavior based on begging others through the use of different means of influence. The most important thing that distinguishes it is the urgency in the request to obtain help and assistance and the use of various methods of influence to reach the purpose by obtaining money or in-kind purposes without taking into account the social and religious norms, customs and traditions prevailing in society. The Egyptian society in



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recent years has witnessed a steady increase in the number of beggars on the one hand and the change in its forms and methods on the other hand, with the entry of new social groups into the circle of its activity. It has been shown, by the data of the General Administration of Juvenile Welfare Investigations, with regard to the size of the problem of children beggars in the streets in Egypt, that it is statistically high. There are increasing rates of beggary, vagrancy and delinquency cases recorded for children in the age group from seven years to younger than eighteen years; the total number of registered beggary cases reached 12,845 beggary cases.

Beggary/Panhandling has a number of negative effects on the individual and society; they are as follows:

- Degrading human dignity by resorting to means insulting that dignity, while the Almighty God has said in the Quraan, “We have honored the children of Adam” and Allah wrote for the human being the means of a decent life without humiliation or insult.
- Children, girls and women are exposed to manifestations of exploitation, especially sexual and material exploitation.
- Wasting of money and misplacing it because if this money that is given to beggars was put in productive projects or in institutions concerned with poor and needy families, it would have been better.
- Distorting the shape of many public parks and gardens because of beggars and their habit of sleeping in the streets and in public places.
- Beggars acquire unsatisfactory behaviors and practices such as addiction and smoking. Begging is a fertile and suitable environment for graduating outcast groups with behaviors that contradict religion and lead to the deterioration of society.



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## ***2- Money laundering:***

Money laundering means carrying out transfers, or deposits of funds obtained from an illegal activity with the intention of concealing the truth of these funds. Money laundering operations aim to hide the sources of criminals' money and converting them to appear as legal and legitimate investments. This means that, money laundering is a process aimed at legitimizing funds obtained from an illegal source and involves concealing the source of money obtained from criminal activities and making it appear legitimate.

Money laundering has resulted in many negative effects, as money laundering operations take place within the economy without being subject to any economic theory, and thus constitute a serious economic and financial crime that negatively affects the economy, as it poses a real danger to the economies of countries in general and developing countries in particular. Therefore, it affected saving and investment in several ways; when money transfers abroad, the domestic product and local investments are greatly affected, and it becomes more difficult for developing countries, where they already suffer from poor financial resources. Money laundering leads to the existence of investments that are not economically viable or with low economic efficiency, which weakens the ability of countries to rise and achieve growth, the inability to carry out economic and social spending, which affects the performance of the various basic sectors within society, consequently affecting the government budget deficit, such as education, health and housing.

## ***3- Misappropriation of public money:***

Public money is what was owned by the state, including the funds of public legal persons, whether they were regional units of provincial councils and city councils, or was public interest facilities such as bodies, organizations or establishments that are subject to state



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control. The public employee is the state representative, on its behalf, in managing facilities and providing public services; such as education, health, etc. It is also a representative of the state in its multiple relations with other countries or the government in general.

The misappropriation of public money is represented in violating the financial laws and regulations that govern the workflow in state institutions, where the public employee exploits his public position to achieve personal interests, which includes obtaining state funds and disposing them unlawfully under different forms.

The current Egyptian situation indicated the spread of forms of assault on public money; this is due to a number of reasons, including weak faith values, lack of commitment to honesty and integrity, self-love, weak spirit of brotherhood, lack of good role models, rampant nepotism and personal courtesies. Keeping Islamic law away from application and contentment with man-made laws that do not suit the Muslim community is also one of the important factors.

There are many forms of abuse of public money by the employee in the Egyptian society; as it is extended to include the following:

- Excessive use of public money.
- Bribery.
- Extortion.
- Theft of public money, including embezzlement of public money, appropriation of public money, profiting off a job, tax evasion, and customs evasion.

## **VIII. Fight against corruption:**

Egypt is one of the countries in which there are many executive bodies charged with combating corruption, whether in the units of

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the state's administrative apparatus, local administration units, public bodies of both service and economic, and public institutions, in addition to public business sector companies and their affiliates that are managed by those authorities or by a decision issued by the Prime Minister. Most of these bodies are stipulated by the law establishing them, given that their funds are public funds.



## ***Combating corruption through national oversight bodies:***

The Egyptian Parliament has some bodies that aim to assist it in monitoring the work of the government, including, for example, the Central Auditing Organization. There are many oversight bodies that fight corruption in Egypt. According to the Ministry of State for Administrative Development, these bodies are:

- 1- Central Auditing Organization.
- 2- Public Prosecution (Public Funds Prosecution).
- 3- Graft device.
- 4- Administrative Control Authority.
- 5- Public Funds Investigations.



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- 6- Money laundering unit.
- 7- The Administrative Prosecution Authority.
- 8- Government Services Authority.
- 9- Financial and administrative inspection.
- 10- Ministry of Finance.
- 11- The National Council for Human Rights.
- 12- Consumer's Protection Agency.
- 13- Competition Protection Authority.
- 14- Communications Regulatory Authority.
- 15- Electricity Regulatory Authority.
- 16 - Mechanisms of the Ministry of Health.
- 17- Mechanisms of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
- 18- The mechanisms of the Ministry of Housing.
- 19 - Mechanisms of the Ministry of Investment.
- 20- The Central Bank.
- 21- Specialized Police Sector.
- 22- General Intelligence.

Parliament has approved the final amendments to the Anti-Corruption Administrative Control Authority Law in implementation of the constitution to meet the desire of public opinion, and to achieve the political will to confront rampant corruption among the corridors of the state's administrative apparatus.

***Anti-corruption agreements and laws :***



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## **International Day Against Corruption**



**December 9**

**UNITED  
AGAINST  
CORRUPTION**



### **• United Nations Convention against Corruption:**

The Convention against Corruption was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on October 31, 2003.

### **• African Union Convention to Prevent and Combat Corruption:**

The Convention to Prevent and Combat Corruption was approved in 2002, and was enforced in 2003. The agreement is located in 28 articles that include definitions and objectives, and a delegation defined anti-corruption as “the actions and practices, including related offenses prohibited by the Convention.”

### **• The Arab Anti-Corruption Convention:**

The Arab world has taken a similar step to adopt the Arab Anti-Corruption Agreement for the year 2010; an agreement of special importance as it represents progress towards the right direction in



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confronting the phenomenon of corruption, which is now taking different forms and varying situations, especially institutional corruption.

- **The Penal Code promulgated by Law No. 58 of 1937 and its amendments:** The draft singles out the 1st and 2nd chapters of the second book of the law for felonies and misdemeanors that harm the security of the country from outside and inside, and the 3rd for bribery crimes, and the 4th for embezzlement crimes, and the 5th for forgery crimes.
- **The Criminal Procedures Law promulgated by Law No. 150 of 1950 and its amendments.**
- **Law No. 117 of 1958 for the Reorganization of Administrative Prosecution and Disciplinary Courts and its amendments.**
- **Law No. 54 of 1964 for the Reorganization of the Administrative Control Authority and Disciplinary Courts and its amendments.**
- **Law of the Central Agency for Organization and Administration No. 118 of 1964 and its amendments.**
- **Illicit Profit Law No. 11 of 1968, as amended by Law No. 62 of 1975:**

It is the law concerned with the concept of illicit enrichment, its adaptation and the penalties prescribed for it and the sects subject to its provisions. Among its most prominent amendments is the addition of articles concerned with reconciliation with the accused, management of seized funds, and travel bans.



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- **Police Authority Law No. 109 of 1971 and its amendments:**

It is concerned with collecting evidence regarding crimes of forgery, forgery, bribery crimes, abuse of influence, illegitimate gain, embezzlement and other crimes of aggression against public money, cash crimes, smuggling, money investment and money laundering.

- **Judicial Authority Law No. 46 of 1972 and its amendments:**

It is the law concerned with the organization and organization of courts, the appointment, promotion, transfer, assignment, secondment, duties and disciplinary accountability of judges and members of the Public Prosecution Office, as well as the appointment, promotion and discipline of employees in the various courts.



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