CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS
REVISTA DO PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM EDUCAÇÃO
URI FREDERICO WESTPHALEN
ISSN 1981-9250
PPGEDU

# CORRUPTION

## CORRUPÇÃO

## CORRUPCIÓN

***Sir Shamsul Hassan Syed Azeemi*[1]**

**Resumen**
Los humanos forman comunidades sociales y estas comunidades sociales o "sociedades políticas" en una etapa posterior de los gobiernos y el objetivo fundamental de cualquier gobierno debe ser prevenir la injusticia. Esta injusticia puede ser de cualquier tipo, es decir, política, económica, religiosa, etc. Con el avance de la sociedad, la cohesión social disminuye y con el paso del tiempo ese gobierno en particular se vuelve descuidado y al explotar a sus propios ciudadanos o la "solidaridad de grupo" se concentra. En sus propias ventajas, creando así la injusticia. Esta injusticia hace que otras sociedades políticas emerjan y ocupen el lugar del régimen decadente. Sorprendentemente, cualquiera sea la forma que tome este gobierno, contiene las semillas de su propia destrucción. Más poderes gana, menos se preocupa por sus ciudadanos. Eventualmente, la misma institución (gobierno) que se formó para prevenir la injusticia ahora está cometiendo injusticia.
**Palabras clave:** Sociedades políticas. La corrupción. La injusticia.

**Resumo**
Os humanos formam comunidades sociais e essas comunidades sociais ou “sociedades políticas” em estágio posterior formam governos e o objetivo fundamental de qualquer governo deve ser evitar a injustiça. Esta injustiça pode ser de qualquer tipo, isto é, política, econômica, religiosa, etc. Com o avanço da sociedade, a coesão social diminui e com o passar do tempo aquele governo particular se torna descuidado e explorando seus próprios cidadãos ou a “solidariedade grupal” em suas próprias vantagens, criando injustiça. Essa injustiça faz com que outras sociedades políticas surjam e preencham o lugar do regime decadente. Surpreendentemente, qualquer que seja a forma que este governo possa tomar, ele contém as sementes de sua própria destruição. Mais poderes ganha, menos se importa com seus cidadãos. Eventualmente, a mesma instituição (governo) que foi formada para evitar a injustiça está agora cometendo injustiça.
**Palavras-chave:** Sociedades políticas. Corrupção. Injustiça.

**Abstract**
The humans form social communities and these social communities or “political societies” in later stage form governments and the fundamental aim of any government should be to prevent injustice. This injustice may of any sort i.e. political, economic, religious etc. With the advancement of the society, the social cohesion decreases and with the passage of time that particular government becomes careless and by exploiting its own citizens or the “group solidarity” it concentrates on its own advantages, thus creating injustice. This injustice causes other political societies to emerge and fill in the place of the decadent regime. Surprisingly, whatever form this government may take, it contains the seeds of its own destruction. More powers it gains, less it cares about its citizens. Eventually, the same institution (government) which was formed to prevent injustice is now committing injustice.

[1] rector@pass.university

CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS
REVISTA DO PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM EDUCAÇÃO
URI FREDERICO WESTPHALEN
ISSN 1981-9250
PPGEDU

**Keywords: P**olitical societies. Corruption. Injustice.

How rightly Ibne Khaldun brought out in 14th century that

***"Government prevents injustice, other than such as it commits itself"***

His concept of "Asabiyyah" interpreted as "community spirit", "group solidarity" or "tribalism" was the foundation of any government. As he described, the humans form social communities and these social communities or "political societies" in later stage form governments and the fundamental aim of any government should be to prevent injustice. This injustice may of any sort i.e. political, economic, religious etc. With the advancement of the society, the social cohesion decreases and with the passage of time that particular government becomes careless and by exploiting its own citizens or the "group solidarity" it concentrates on its own advantages, thus creating injustice. This injustice causes other political societies to emerge and fill in the place of the decadent regime. Surprisingly, whatever form this government may take, it contains the seeds of its own destruction. More powers it gains, less it cares about its citizens. Eventually, the same institution (government) which was formed to prevent injustice is now committing injustice.

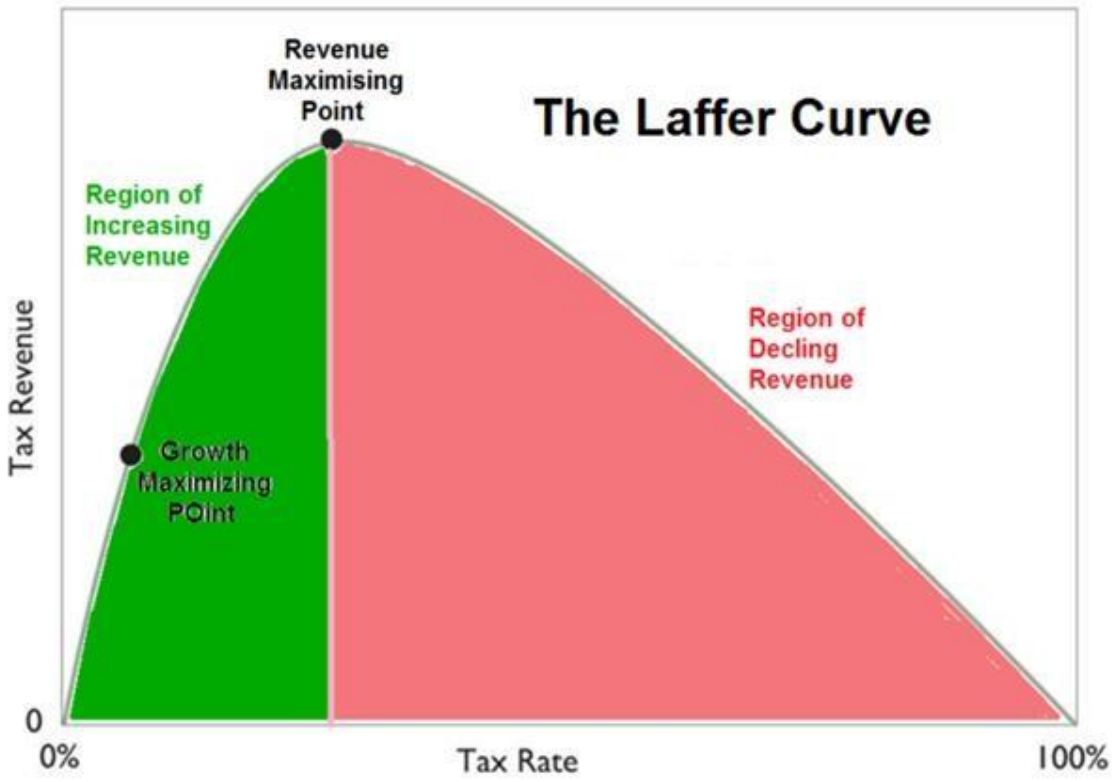
## ***CORRUPTION LEADS DECLINE***

Government applies taxes to generate revenue and that revenue is meant for the necessities of "maintenance" of that political society, but, as it becomes more orderly or civilised, more taxes are imposed to "maintain" their own luxurious life style. Apart from that it is injustice, it threatens the integrity of the state and also makes it counterproductive. Higher the taxes, lower the production and this will decrease the revenues. Ibne Khaldun's this idea was thoroughly studied, accepted and applied by the US economist Arthur Laffer famously known as "Laffer Curve". Iben Khaldun described

CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS
REVISTA DO PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM EDUCAÇÃO
URI FREDERICO WESTPHALEN
ISSN 1981-9250
PPGEDU

the government as "necessary evil" but its powers should be kept to minimum as it implies an inherent injustice of control of men by other men.

## THE LAFFER CURVE




It was in 1974 when Arthur Betz Laffer (born August 14, 1940) an American economist, was talking to the senior staff members of the US president Gerald Ford about worsening economic malaise that was hovering over the country. The first diagram was made by Laffer on a napkin. Opposing the contemporary economists, Laffer espoused that the problem isn't too little demand. Rather, it was the burden of heavy taxes and regulations that created impediments to production, which impacts government revenue.

(Ref: https://www.investopedia.com)

CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS
REVISTA DO PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM EDUCAÇÃO
URI FREDERICO WESTPHALEN
ISSN 1981-9250
PPGEDU

## *CONCEPT OF CORRUPTION*

The word "CORRUPCIO" is from Middle English originated in 1300-1350 AD. It refers to something tainted, decayed or putrid. A person can be corrupt if he is dishonest, debased or lacking in character. A person who is entrusted with the powers to deliver as public office bearer when abuses, misuses, impairs his moral principles, virtues and/or values he is committing an act of "corruption" that is illegal and criminal in nature.

When the corrupt officials go all out for their personal or private benefits, they disturb the equilibrium of the society. This damage to the system entails in causing harm to people's freedom, health, money and even lives.

Institutions and offices lose their credibility and legitimacy when they are misused or abused for personal gains. The only way to counter such abuse of powers is to strengthen the anticorruption system in the country and that can only be done if there is an accountable political leadership in the government.

Corruption can be divided into 4 categories:

1. Scales
2. Forms (Political, Economic (dams, refineries vs school, hospitals), Social, Environmental)
3. Methods
4. Causes

CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS
REVISTA DO PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM EDUCAÇÃO
URI FREDERICO WESTPHALEN
ISSN 1981-9250
PPGEDU

***SCALES OF CORRUPTION***

**Petty Corruption**: It is the lowest level of corruption where it seems more an annoyance than any other scale of corruption. It happens at the junction between the public and public officials who are supposed to serve or deliver their services to the masses. Accepting gifts to give favours, using position or personal connections to influence or manipulate the government procedures by low level or entry level to mid-level public officials is common at this scale of corruption. Sometimes it is called "Survival Corruption" because it is the only way of survival of underpaid public office bearers to maintain their lives. This generally occurs at registration offices, hospitals, educational institutions, police stations, licencing branches and similar public offices. In fact this is the nursery phase of learning corruption that later on reaches to the larger scales.

1. **Grand Corruption**: Contrary to the petty corruption, this is the highest scale of corruption where the responsible position holders are capable of controlling legal, economic and political systems. Though it is generally said that it normally occurs in the countries with authoritarian or dictatorial governments, I am of the opinion that it can happen even in the most advanced and developed countries with democratic governments, too. More than a particular form of government, it is the strong anticorruption system with an "accountable leadership" that can create a sense of responsibility and moral values in all institutions of the government. A balance between all organs of the state i.e. Executive, Legislature and Judiciary, each having oversight of the other, can help minimising corruption especially at grand and endemic scales. This abuse of power benefits a few at the cost of many harming individuals and society.

   It is also interesting to quote the legal definition established by transparency international. It says: *"The Grand Corruption occurs what a public official or other person deprives a particular social group or substantial part of the population of a State of a fundamental right; or causes the State or any of its*

*people a loss greater than 100 times the annual minimum subsistence income of its people; as a result of bribery, embezzlement or other corruption offence*". (Transparency International, 19th of August 2016).

Grand Corruption harms the human lives, too, and therefore, deserves severe punishment accordingly. The officials steal the public exchequer and underfund the projects of national infrastructure like hospitals, bridges, schools, roads etc. Due to the underfunding, the standard of such labour result in the poor construction and collapse of the buildings causing deaths of the innocent people. It is a great obstacle to the achievement of the sustainable development of a country because it undermines and distorts sound financial practice and clean business thus deepens poverty and inequality in a country.

2. **Systematic Corruption**: Systematic corruption can also be named as Endemic Corruption and occurs when an entity, organisation or process weakens. Members of the system (or an organisation) i.e. officials or agents make the process corrupt. There are some factors that bolster the endemic corruption. Let's have a look upon them:

Conflict of Interests (COI): *"A conflict of interest is a set of* circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgement or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary

***interest."*** (Thompson 1993, Lo and Field, 2009). It occurs when the members of an organisation involve in the financial, professional or personal benefits. They give preference to the above mentioned interests rather than focussing on the ***Primary Interest*** of that organisation. For example, the Primary interest of the health department is to look after the health issues of the public. If the officials of the department overlook the primary interest of the organisation and promote their relatives and friends

CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS
REVISTA DO PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM EDUCAÇÃO
URI FREDERICO WESTPHALEN
ISSN 1981-9250
PPGEDU

for money or as favour, buy substandard machinery and instruments from unauthorised suppliers and get kickbacks or give preference in medical treatment to their family and friends over general public etc. are a few examples of ***Secondary Interests.*** This is called a Conflict of Interest. The main element of the conflict of interest is the *weak environment or circumstance that creates the risk of undue influence by a decision maker.* If the policies and procedures are flawless, the steps taken towards the second interests are defused and discouraged by the system itself. We can summarise the types or forms of the Conflict of Interest as follows:

**(1). Self-Dealing:** *"In self-dealing, an officeholder's official role allows her to affect one or more of her own personal interests."* (Stark, Andrew (2003). "Conflict of Interest in American Public Life" Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press. p. 41.).

An official, in self-dealing, takes advantage of his position keeping his personal benefits ahead of the real beneficiaries of that organisation. An official working for the government takes advantage of his position for getting a contract for his private company he owns or he works for, or getting jobs for his family members or friends are the simple examples of this type of COIs.

**(2). Outside Employment:** It is a professional activity, generally remunerated, that an official performs in another company, other than of his principal organisation, might be against the interests of the organisation he is working for.

**Pump and Dump:** When an official, inflates or deflates artificially, the cost of goods or services in his organisation, thru false statements or spreading rumours commits the activity of pumping an dumping.

CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS
REVISTA DO PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM EDUCAÇÃO
URI FREDERICO WESTPHALEN
ISSN 1981-9250
PPGEDU

**Favouritism:** In this form of COI, an official employs his **relatives** or close friends in his organisation, or buys goods or services from them.

**(1). Acceptance of gifts:** By giving favour to a particular person or a company that is not from his organisation an official accepts the gifts. These gifts may be in non-tangible form as lodging and transportation. The conflict of interest is also termed as "Competition of Interests" highlighting natural implication between valid interests rather than traditional definition of conflict.

**Discretional Powers**: *"It is the Art of suiting action to particular circumstances"* (Leslie George Scarman, Baron Scarman OBE PC QC, a barrister and English Judge, 29 July 1911 – 8 December 2004). Discretion is acting on one's own authority or judgement and it exists at all levels of law enforcement and in many front line or street level bureaucrats. The decision makers exercise their discretionary powers in a responsible way or not are always debatable and taken as negative or positive depending upon the side a person is sitting. A school of thought says that exercising the discretional powers will weaken the rule of law but there are arguments, too, that laws cannot be written without discretion and therefore *"the rule of law serves to guide discretion towards societal expectations, norms and, at least in part, public interest"* (*Shane, Peter M (Winter 2013). "The Rule Of Law And The Inevitability Of Discretion)".*

Keeping in view the above mentioned arguments, if the responsible official of a particular organisation if uses his discretionary powers negatively for personal benefits will pay towards the endemic corruption. For example, an official has the discretion of choosing from three equal bidders for the supply of goods or services. As all three companies are bidding at the same rates, he should have chosen the one with strong professional reputation and proven track, but, for his personal benefits he nominates one with the poor track record. In this way he has used his discretionary powers negatively.

CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS
REVISTA DO PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM EDUCAÇÃO
URI FREDERICO WESTPHALEN
ISSN 1981-9250
PPGEDU

(This article is a part of my coming book about Policing system in Pakistan).