

INDIA CORRUPTION STUDY- 2005

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE

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Common citizens of the country pay bribes totalling Rs.21,068 crores while availing of one or more of eleven public services annually, according to an "India Corruption Study -2005", just released. As many as 62% of all citizens think that corruption is real and they have infact have had first hand experience of paying a bribe or "using acontact" to get a job done in a public office.

The study was undertaken in alliance with Centre for Media Studies (CMS) Delhi by Transparency International India (TI-India) and was designed and conducted by the CMS Delhi. It indicates that a third to a half of the factors causing corruption can be addressed and removed with simple initiatives, including use of technology. Computerised Railway reservations provide a good illustration.

India Corruption Study - 2005 is the largest corruption study ever undertaken in the country with a sample of 14,405 respondents spread across 20 States. More than 525 respondents were interviewed in each state. Designed and conducted by CMS, the study covered 151 cities and 306 villages. It was based on a combination of research methodologies, including exit polls at the public offices covered and household studies.

The eleven public services covered are: Police (Crime/Traffic),Subordinate Judiciary, Land Administration, Municipal Services, Government Hospitals, Electricity (Consumers), PDS (RationCard/Supplies), Income Tax (Individual Assesses), Water Supply, Education (up to the 12th standard), and RFI (farm micro-credit)

According to the study, the Police ranks highest in the corruption index. The Judiciary (lower Courts) and Land Administration are rated next. Corruption in Government Hospitals is mostly to do with the non-availability of medicines, securing admissions, consultations with doctors and availing of diagnostic services. Despite reforms,electricity services also figure high on the corruption index. PDS figures lower because the problem of the common man is more to do with leakages in the system rather than direct monetary corruption on the part of service providers.

Kerala stands out as the least corrupt State in India. Bihar, on the other hand, is the most corrupt State overall as well as the worst in each of the 11 sectors studied. Jammu & Kashmir ranks next to Bihar.

The study takes into account both perceptions as well actual experience of paying bribes.

An over whelming majority of citizens are vocal about the absence of transparency and accountability in the delivery of these services.They are both anguished and angered by this state of affairs.

The annual CMS studies on corruption in India find that the use of technology at the front-end of offices is likely to bring down corruption while enhancing transparency.

One-third of all citizens think that corruption is “an obvious fact” where both the giver and taker are familiar with the modalities. These cannot be addressed only by reforms and improved adopting technologies, although they are the first order of initiatives to be taken. Deterrent punishment is necessary.

Three-fourths among all citizens believe that the level of corruption in public services has increased in the last one year (2004-2005). Only ten percent think that such corruption is on the decline. There are no significant differences between the States in perceptions about the extent of corruption or in their experience with such corruption.

A third of all citizens are of the view that both the officials concerned and users of these eleven services know how much extra has to be paid to get a job done.

The Study brings out the fact that corruption in public services affecting the day to day needs of citizens is far more serious than is commonly realized. Tackling this evil calls for concerted efforts by Governments as well as civil society.

The study is based on rigorous and comprehensive methodologies developed by CMS through various experiments and validations it has undertaken over the last four years while undertaking similar large scale studies in India. The study has also benefited from consultation with leading experts in the field who have themselves been in the forefront of reforms and analyzed one or more aspects of corruption over the years.

CMS is a premier national research organisation, specialising in research based advocacy and advisory services.

Transparency International is a worldwide movement against Corruption. Founded in 1993 it is presently active in 92 countries. TI-India was registered under the Societies Act in India in March 1997. Together with its ten chapters in different states, TI-India has undertaken many projects. This Corruption study is the second of its kind after 2002.

TI-India does not name individuals or organisations. Its endeavours are confined to studying and disseminating facts related to corruption and assisting the administration and organisations with systems like citizens charters designed to counter these.

In this project TI India acknowledges the contribution of Concern Worldwide Ireland as a partner.

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