

CORRUPTION IN UZBEKISTAN AND THE FIGHT AGAINST IT: CURRENT SITUATION, ANALYSIS AND PROSPECTS

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Abstract

The article analyzes the issue related to the emergence of corruption – a major social evil that negatively affects the life of the state and society. It is shown how the attitude towards it was evaluated by great figures of their time in different periods of human development, and the fight against it in today's Uzbekistan is presented.

Keywords

atmosphere of trust, corruption, personal gain, economic activity, injustice, human rights, threat, development.

Corruption is a vice associated with violating the law in all spheres of state institutions and society, and prioritizing personal gain over lawful activity. Since the period Uzbekistan gained independence, it has made the fight against corruption a priority task in state policy, and especially in the last decade, significant changes are being implemented in this direction. Undoubtedly, corruption negatively affects the life of the state and society: it slows down economic activity, strengthens injustice, and damages human rights. Our President Sh. Mirziyoyev, in a number of speeches and addresses, raises important issues and puts forward urgent initiatives. One of these pressing issues he has raised is the matter of completely eradicating corrupt practices. Bearing this in mind, the President of our country, Sh. Mirziyoyev, stated in his address to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan on December 26, 2025: "I repeat again and again. Corruption is the most serious threat that hinders the development of the state, undermines justice and the rule of law, and weakens the atmosphere of trust in society" [1]. Therefore, analyzing corruption in specific forms and developing comprehensive measures against it has always been important throughout all eras.

It has been known to humanity since ancient times that corruption is a social evil that erodes society, leads a person to moral crisis, and negatively impacts the economy of any state. Throughout history, many theoretical proposals on effective

methods and means of combating it have been put forward. For instance, Aristotle, one of the great philosophers of the ancient world, drew attention to this vice in his time and advanced the following idea: in any state system, the most important thing is to organize laws and regulations in such a way that officials cannot acquire wealth through dishonest means.

The great philosopher of the medieval Eastern world, the Second Teacher Abu Nasr Farabi, in his work "The Virtuous City," although he did not label the problems hindering the construction of a civil society with the term corruption, specifically emphasizes that social stability is strengthened based on the cooperation of a just ruler and honest people, and calls upon people to be honest and not betray another's rights. He considers justice to lie in the correct distribution of good things, i.e., material wealth, respect, honor, status, health, and others. It would be justice for each person to take what belongs to them from these. He also links justice with kindness, emphasizing that it must manifest in virtuous deeds and thoughts. For instance, contrasting the inhabitants of the virtuous city with the inhabitants of misguided, ignorant cities, he warned: "their souls will not have reached perfection, because they (instead of nurturing the soul) are only interested in material property, luxuries, and have not assimilated the truth about true happiness with the help of primary concepts. Because the material wealth and objects they believe in are not eternal, they are perishable, disappearing, some disappearing earlier, some later; although their fashion may not disappear, they may turn into other (useless) waste" [2].

The legal framework for combating corruption in Uzbekistan is constituted by the Law "On Combating Corruption." The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption," adopted on January 3, 2017, defined the concept of "corruption" as follows: "Corruption" means the unlawful use by a person of their official or service position for personal interests or the interests of other persons, with the aim of obtaining material or non-material gain, as well as the unlawful provision of such gain; also, a corruption-related offense means an act that has the characteristics of corruption, for the commission of which liability is provided for by legislation" [3]. At the same time, the country has acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and laws have also been adopted in Uzbekistan on crimes related to the legalization of proceeds from criminal activity.

At a meeting of the National Council for Combating Corruption, President Sh. Mirziyoyev emphasized the importance of transparency and public discussion, which serves to encourage the discussion of corruption in society.

Special authorized bodies for combating corruption have been established; they cooperate with mass media, regularly discuss the results obtained, and refer

them to public judgment. For instance, surveys conducted among the population regarding the prevalence of corruption indicate that in some regions of our republic, cases of corruption were encountered frequently (Samarkand, Fergana, Andijan, and Tashkent).

Increasing the legal awareness of our citizens at all levels regarding rights and corruption, and strengthening public oversight are considered important factors in the fight against corruption. Among the main causes of corruption, respondents pointed to: low legal knowledge of civil servants and citizens; insufficient public oversight; lack of transparency in tenders and public procurement.

It is clear that forms of corruption affect economic indicators, weaken the investment climate, and cause increased social inequality. Therefore, its prevention is also very important for the economic growth of the state. International organizations, including Transparency International, analyze and evaluate states' anti-corruption policies. When comparing Uzbekistan's results with regional countries, it is observed that in many cases certain indicators remain very close to each other or at a low level. The illegal networks and hidden forms of this social evil, and the insufficient disclosure of corruption cases related to high-ranking officials, require strengthening the fight against it with new and effective mechanisms.

Prospects require introducing automation into the field through electronic government services in the near future; strengthening counter-control systems through the use of information technologies; expanding public oversight and raising legal culture to the required level.

In conclusion, significant work is being carried out in Uzbekistan in the fight against corruption in the legal, institutional, and practical spheres. The fight against corruption is defined as a priority direction of state policy, and international rankings, agency activities, and new reforms confirm the efforts in this direction. Nevertheless, opportunities and proposed mechanisms for effectively combating various forms of corruption need to be further expanded.

According to many experts, the following 4 means of influence should be applied equally to combat corruption: First, an incentive that encourages honest work. This includes: decent salary, incentivizing persons who report corruption, applying the principle of appointing honest people to high positions.

Second, an influence that blocks the contributing factors to corruption. Here, important roles are played by reducing the human factor through the provision of public services via information and communication technologies, an electronic system for recording offenses, optimizing state control, conducting competitive

selection for appointing civil servants, eliminating bureaucratic barriers for entrepreneurial activity, preventing conflicts of interest, ensuring the independence of courts, and similar measures [4].

Third, an educational influence against corruption. It is expedient to form an intolerant attitude towards corruption in the individual, elevate the legal consciousness and culture of the population, and have our religious scholars conduct religious-educational advocacy against corruption.

Fourth, a system of oversight against corruption. This includes strong public oversight over state bodies and officials, transparency in the activities of state bodies, accountability of officials before the people, non-governmental non-profit organizations capable of conducting professional investigations to expose corruption, and "journalistic investigations"; preventing corruption cases from being overlooked or undiscovered; ensuring the inevitability of liability for corruption; and others. There is no doubt that at the beginning of the year, "Allowing corruption is treason to our reforms. We will declare a 'state of emergency' in 2026 regarding the fight against this vice" [5].

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