

Corruption In Higher Education

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Abstract

Corruption in education is a worldwide phenomenon. Corruption in admissions to universities is traditionally considered as one of the most corrupt areas of the education sector. Recent attempts in some countries, such as Russia and Ukraine, to curb corruption in admissions through the abolition of university entrance examinations and introduction of standardized computer-graded tests have largely failed. Vouchers for university entrants have never materialized. The cost of corruption is in that it impedes sustainable economic growth. Endemic corruption in educational institutions leads to the formation of sustainable corrupt hierarchies. While higher education in Russia is distinct with widespread bribery, corruption in the US and the UK features a significant amount of fraud. The US is distinct with grey areas and institutional corruption in the higher education sector. Authoritarian regimes, including those in the former Soviet republics, encourage educational corruption and control universities, especially during the election campaigns. This is typical for Russia, Ukraine, and Central Asian regimes, among others.

Keywords: Corruption, Education

Introduction

The general public is well aware of the high level of corruption in colleges and universities, including thanks to the media. Doctoral education is no exception, with dissertations and doctoral degrees available for sale, including for politicians. Russian Parliament is notorious for "highly educated" MPs. High levels of corruption are a result of universities not being able to break away from their Stalinist past, over bureaucratization, and a clear lack of university autonomy. Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies are employed to study education corruption, but the topic remains largely unattended by the scholars. In many societies and international organizations, education corruption remains a taboo. In some countries, such as certain eastern European countries, some Balkan countries and certain Asian countries, corruption occurs frequently in universities. This can include bribes to bypass bureaucratic procedures and bribing faculty for a grade. The willingness to engage in corruption such as accepting bribe money in exchange for grades decreases if individuals perceive such behavior as

very objectionable, i.e. a violation of social norms and if they fear sanctions regarding the severity and probability of sanctions.

Corruption in higher education deserves attention for many reasons but in particular because of the negative impact it has on society. Corruption can be defined as “the behavior of persons entrusted with public or private responsibilities, who neglect their duties to achieve unjustified benefits”. Measures to prevent corruption in the field of education are geared in particular to enhancing the quantity, quality and efficiency of the education system, and of course access to education. Education is a fundamental human right and a driver of personal, social and economic development. Corruption in higher education may take multiple forms and permeate all areas of the system. Corruption can be found at macro, meso and micro level in the education sector. So-called "grand corruption" involving large sums is found essentially in the field of procurement (school buildings, textbook production, etc.), while "petty corruption" is found in the other areas. Grand corruption involves administration at the highest level. Examples include: businesses, individuals or organized crime buying and or exerting influence to shape the state's policies and laws in their narrow interests; channeling public funds into personal or party accounts; and political parties in power rewarding apparatchiks with public positions, irrespective of relevant qualifications or experience (patronage).

The world today is faced with a large number of problems that threaten our survival on this planet. Not all parts of the world, however, are equally hit by problems that rank among the most serious threats to the human race: high rates of unemployment, poverty, low level of education, poor technological development level, gender discrimination, ethnic and religious inequality and high-level corruption. It is difficult to introduce people to the issue of corruption and the need to fight it, if the immediate environment in which they are educating is itself corrupt. In educational system it is hard to gauge which corrupt practices have the greatest impact-grand corruption within the scope of infrastructure measures (construction of new school buildings) or petty corruption, where the sums involved in each individual instance are small. Adequate measures for combating corruption need to be taken implicitly, because corrupt practices shatter confidence in the quality of the education system. In addition, lack of financial resources, heavy insolvency of a large number of economies, lack of natural resources, environmental pollution, and political instability in many parts of the world pose more than enough threats to make us

tackle these issues seriously. It is difficult to state which of the mentioned problems is most important and endangers the global world most seriously, due to their being interrelated and interdependent. These issues are mostly related to the countries in transition and the developing parts of the world. However, in many developed countries, corruption is also endemic within education. Namely, corruption entered this area and seriously endangers schools and universities. Corruption in the education sector can be defined as “the systematic use of public office for private benefit, whose impact is significant on the availability and quality of educational goods and services, and, has impact on access, quality or equity in education. Unfortunately, very little research has been carried out to compare the costs of corruption in the education sector. More than ever before educational institutions have become profit-oriented in their struggle to survive, neglecting their basic function – to train quality and adequate personnel, capable of coping with the crisis the modern world is faced with nowadays.

India is a country where education is considered as sacred. It is in India where all religion has its own belief in education. Formal education was not only started so that the world stays united but also people become knowledgeable. Formal education helped India to progress as it enlightened the people and improve the standard of living. It also helped in invention of new things and made life much easier. Formal education rises not only in cities but also in villages. Education is free of cost up to a certain grade for girls as girls help their families grow which will lead to a successful and bright future. Many schools, colleges, universities, etc have been started so that no one is deprived of education. Formal education has become a must. Although the quality of education has increased, the system has started getting bad. Indian religion has always considered education as sacred, but does the sacredness still exist? Does India treats all students equal and gives them equal education? Is the Indian education system corrupted? Let's find the answer to these questions. MBBS seats sold for between Rs 12 lakh and Rs 40 lakh by two private colleges in Chennai barely exposes the tip of the iceberg. The scam gets bigger, more brazen as medical graduates embark on specializations that are necessary for a successful career. Marks, grades, percentages hardly matters to these institutions. Is this the sacredness these medical colleges are showing. Other educational institutions like schools and colleges also have started taking bribes on the name of donation which costs up to 10 to 15 lakhs.

The education system is not directly depriving the child from taking education but indirectly it is saying that marks and intelligence have no value in front of money today. There is no need of Entrance Test in India. But this is another way of getting money. Just pay Lakhs and crores of rupees for the entrance exam in different fields like science, MBA, and many other major degrees is a must. Some private educational companies in India has started a business of entrance exams. Not only these companies but also the educational institutes earns crores of hard money. Educational institutes enjoy the money which they have earned on the name of entrance exams. Major problem in Indian education system is the marks allocation system. Who will study when students can get 60% marks through copy paste? Some institutes have started to give 60% marks for internal assessment. Internal assessment are easy but are made more easy by these institution by just letting the students to copy paste the stuffs from various sources especially internet. No need to be awake nights and days for the remaining 40% marks when you are getting 60% marks. This system has also been introduce by these institutions as it not only lessen the work but also becomes a medium of earning. Students bribe the teachers and other authority but giving big fat donations and get the degree from these corrupted educational institutes. Indian education system is also in corruption because of high rate of teacher absenteeism in the country was a key factor in education system in India according to the new global study. The study also says – Teacher absenteeism does not just affect quality of education it is also a huge drain on resources resulting in the wastage of 22.5% of education funds in India. Teachers also believe highly in private tutoring a practice identified by UNESCO as unethical. It does not complement learning at school and leads to corruption the report said. The teachers starts taking big sum of money for their private coaching's and pays less attention to schooling. They avoid teaching in schools with good explanations and start giving more attention to students who take private tuitions. Another major problem of Indian education was the view of students towards the activity of copying in exams. Students say that copying and cheating in exam is their traditional right. In many Indian universities, institutes and colleges cheating is now well established. The report also said that – The fees for manipulating entrance tests ranges between \$ 80 to \$ 20,000 for popular programmes such as computer science, medicine and engineering. Some of the Educational Institutes have allowed students to give the certificates to other on the rent like any other products. You can easily obtain a certificate after paying Rs.25000 fees and giving exams. After this you can also give it to others on the rent of Rs. 3000 per month, just like giving any other

property on the rent. There are also many others small corruption taking place within the education system of India. These corruption are not only polluting the Indian education system but also killing our generation and the future of India.

Hence, we witness that educational institutions emerge uncontrollably, offering the same or similar curricula in order to attract as large a number of students as possible, rather than curricula that are geared to the structure and needs of the labour market, both at the national and regional levels and at the global level as well. For example, in most Sub-Saharan African countries, enrolment in higher education has grown faster than financing capabilities, reaching a critical stage where the lack of resources has led to a severe decline in the quality of instruction and in the capacity to reorient focus and to innovate. In other words, in Africa's universities, quantity threatens quality. In addition, there are many fake universities, some of which advertise in the international press, circulate information by sending spam and rank high on the hit lists of search engines. We can also see that bachelor, master and doctoral theses can be bought at rather low prices via the Internet, which entirely degrades the importance and sense of education. Accordingly, diplomas are degraded due to their hyperproduction and insufficient knowledge and competence achieved through education to support them. Clearly, this hyperproduction of diplomas cannot solve the problem of insufficient education level of population in many parts of the world, nor can it artificially raise the quota of the literacy level of a nation. Given that education is the basis of the development of a nation and the survival of the global economy, it is necessary that this negative tendency should be curbed as soon as possible. Nothing can ruin a country more than its poor and corrupt education system. Hence, this issue not only calls for a special attention of the scientific public, but largely touches the domain of international criminal law. Consequently, it is necessary that a massive campaign should be launched to close quasi-educational institutions that produce "intellectual cripples". Education should be given back its original role, however, with a new prefix, that of creating education geared to the students' needs and new knowledge that will be synergic with the demand on the local, regional and global labour markets.

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