



RESEARCH PAPER

The Prevalence of Corruption in Pakistan's Judicial and Law Enforcement Sectors

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the prevalence of corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors. In Pakistan, corruption has been a pervasive issue for decades, with negative effects on the economy and society as a whole. Corruption in the judicial and law enforcement sectors is of particular concern as it has far-reaching consequences for the rule of law and public trust in the justice system. It uses a mixed-method approach. The research design includes surveys and interviews with relevant stakeholders, including judges, lawyers, police officers, and ordinary citizens. The sample size is determined using a stratified random sampling technique, and the data is analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The study's results provide a compelling case for urgent reforms to combat corruption in Pakistan's justice system. This paper suggests that accountability, transparency, and public awareness are imperative for promoting rule of law and social justice.

KEYWORDS Accountability, Corruption, Justice System, Pakistan, World

Introduction

Corruption in the judicial and law enforcement sectors is a matter of serious concern as it has wide-ranging upshots for the rule of law and also erodes public trust in the justice system (Cheema & Raza, 2012; Transparency International Pakistan, 2017).

The judicial sector in Pakistan is responsible for ensuring that the law is upheld, and justice is served. However, the sector has been plagued with allegations of corruption, resulting in an erosion of public trust in the justice system. The law enforcement sector, on the other hand, is responsible for maintaining law and order and ensuring public safety. Unfortunately, it too has been tainted by corruption, resulting in a lack of confidence in the ability of law enforcement agencies to protect citizens from criminal activities.

The consequences of corruption in these two sectors are severe, undermining the legitimacy of the rule of law and eroding public trust in the justice system. Corruption in the judicial and law enforcement sectors creates a culture of impunity, where the powerful can get away with criminal activities, while the weak suffer injustice. This culture of impunity results in a lack of public trust in the justice system, leading to an

erosion of social cohesion and a breakdown of the rule of law (Ali, 2016; Cheema & Raza, 2012).

Despite the negative consequences of corruption in the judicial and law enforcement sectors, little empirical research has been conducted to shed light on the extent and nature of the problem in Pakistan. Therefore, this research article aims to investigate the prevalence of corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors, including the forms of corruption, its causes, and its consequences.

This research is crucial as it will provide insights into the extent and nature of corruption in the two sectors, highlighting the need for measures to curb corruption in the judicial and law enforcement sectors. These measures could include enhancing transparency, accountability, and professionalism, which are crucial for restoring public trust in the justice system and upholding the rule of law (Cheema & Raza, 2012; Transparency International Pakistan, 2017).

Corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors has been well documented in the literature. Transparency International Pakistan (2017) reported that corruption in these sectors is pervasive and entrenched, and it affects the entire justice system, from the police to the courts. Corruption in the judicial sector takes various forms, including bribes to influence court decisions, nepotism in the hiring and promotion of judges, and political interference in the justice system. In the law enforcement sector, corruption takes the form of bribery, abuse of power, and political interference (Transparency International Pakistan, 2017).

A study by Cheema and Raza (2012) found that corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors has serious consequences for the rule of law and social cohesion. The study identified various forms of corruption in the two sectors, including the influence of politicians on the appointment of judges, the abuse of power by law enforcement officers, and the payment of bribes to influence court decisions. The study also found that corruption in the two sectors has led to a lack of public trust in the justice system, creating a culture of impunity and undermining the legitimacy of the state.

Ali (2016) further highlighted the negative consequences of corruption in the judicial and law enforcement sectors, noting that corruption in these sectors perpetuates social inequality by favoring the wealthy and powerful at the expense of the weak and marginalized. The result is a lack of public trust in the justice system, leading to a breakdown of social cohesion and a decline in the rule of law.

These studies demonstrate that corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors is a complex and multi-faceted problem that requires a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach to address. This includes not only improving transparency and accountability within these sectors but also addressing the underlying social, economic, and political factors that contribute to corruption. Efforts to combat corruption in these sectors must be accompanied by broader reforms to strengthen democratic institutions, promote the rule of law, and promote greater social and economic equality. Only through such comprehensive measures can Pakistan hope to effectively tackle the problem of corruption in its judicial and law enforcement sectors and build a more just and equitable society for all its citizens.

Literature Review

Corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors is a well-documented and widespread issue. The prevalence of corruption in these sectors not only affects the credibility of the justice system but also undermines the rule of law and the legitimacy of the state. This literature review aims to provide an in-depth analysis of existing research on corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors. The review will highlight the various forms of corruption, its consequences, and the measures taken to combat it.

Forms of Corruption in Pakistan's Judicial and Law Enforcement Sectors

The issue of corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors has been studied by several scholars. According to Transparency International Pakistan (2017), corruption in these sectors is widespread and deeply entrenched, affecting the entire justice system. The most common form of corruption in these sectors is bribery, which is used to influence court decisions, obtain favorable judgments, and avoid punishment.

In addition to bribery, nepotism is another form of corruption in these sectors. Cheema and Raza (2012) note that nepotism is prevalent in the hiring and promotion of judges and police officers. Political interference in the justice system is also a significant issue in Pakistan, as politicians often use their influence to manipulate the course of justice.

Consequences of Corruption in Pakistan's Judicial and Law Enforcement Sectors

The consequences of corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors are far-reaching and severe. Corruption undermines the rule of law by creating a perception of bias and unfairness in the justice system. It erodes public trust in the system, making it more challenging for citizens to seek justice and redress their grievances. Ali (2016) notes that corruption also promotes a culture of impunity, where powerful individuals can get away with criminal activities while the weak suffer injustice.

The lack of trust in the justice system and the prevalence of corruption contribute to social tensions and the breakdown of social cohesion. The consequences of corruption are also economic, as it discourages foreign investment and hinders economic growth. The corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors is, therefore, not just a legal issue but also a social and economic one.

Measures to Combat Corruption in Pakistan's Judicial and Law Enforcement Sectors

The Government of Pakistan has taken various measures to combat corruption in the judicial and law enforcement sectors. One of the most significant steps taken is the establishment of an independent accountability commission, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), in 1999. The NAB's mandate is to investigate and prosecute corruption cases against public officials, including those in the judiciary and law enforcement sectors.

Another measure taken to combat corruption is the implementation of the Right to Information Act (RTI) in 2017. The RTI Act aims to promote transparency and

accountability by allowing citizens to request information from public institutions, including the judiciary and law enforcement agencies.

The judiciary has also taken steps to combat corruption by establishing special courts to try corruption cases. In 2019, the Supreme Court of Pakistan established six special courts to expedite corruption cases against public officials, including those in the law enforcement and judiciary sectors.

The prevalence of corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors has far-reaching consequences for the rule of law, social cohesion, and economic growth. The forms of corruption, including bribery, nepotism, and political interference, are deeply and deeply rooted in Pakistan's justice system. The consequences of corruption, including a lack of trust in the justice system and a culture of impunity, are severe and require urgent attention.

The Government of Pakistan has taken several measures to combat corruption, including the establishment of an independent accountability commission and the implementation of the Right to Information Act. The judiciary has also established special courts to expedite corruption cases. However, it is crucial to continue efforts to combat.

Material and Methods

Corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors affects the nation's legal and political systems' effectiveness. Corruption undermines the rule of law, undermines public trust in the judiciary, and results in a culture of impunity, which enables crime to go unchecked. This study aims to investigate the prevalence of corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors using a mixed-method approach.

Research Design

The study used a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative research methods, to gather data on the prevalence of corruption in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors. The research design also included surveys and interviews with relevant stakeholders, including judges, lawyers, police officers, and ordinary citizens.

Sampling Technique

The sample size for the study was determined using a stratified random sampling technique. Participants were selected based on their occupation, location, and socio-economic status. Stratified random sampling is a sampling technique that ensures the sample was representative of the population by dividing the population into subgroups and then selecting participants from each group.

Data Collection

The survey questionnaire was consist of both open-ended and close-ended questions, covering topics such as the frequency and nature of corruption, the factors that contribute to corruption, and the consequences of corruption. The survey also administered electronically, and participants were given a link to the survey via email. The survey was pre-tested before being administered to the target population to ensure its validity and reliability.

The interview questions were semi-structured and designed to elicit in-depth responses from the participants. The interviewees were selected through purposive sampling, based on their relevance to the research topic. The interviews were conducted face-to-face, and they were audio-recorded to ensure the accuracy of the data.

Data Analysis

The data collected from the surveys and interviews was analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns in the data. The quantitative data was analyzed using statistical software such as SPSS to generate descriptive statistics and test hypotheses.

Ethical Considerations

The study complies with ethical guidelines, including obtaining informed consent from the participants, ensuring confidentiality, and avoiding any harm to the participants. The participants were informed about the purpose of the study, and they were free to participate or decline to participate without any negative consequences. The study also adhered to the ethical principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, respect for autonomy, and justice.

Results and Discussion

A recent study conducted in Pakistan aimed to investigate the prevalence of corruption in the country's judicial and law enforcement sectors. The results of the study were alarming, indicating that corruption was prevalent in these sectors, affecting the public's trust in the justice system and promoting a culture of impunity.

The study used a mixed-methods approach, combining a quantitative survey and qualitative interviews with stakeholders, to collect data on corruption in the justice system. The survey was distributed to 500 participants, including lawyers, judges, police officers, and ordinary citizens. The interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, such as representatives from civil society organizations, human rights activists, and government officials.

Table 1
Summary of the Survey Results on Corruption in the Pakistan's Judicial and Law Enforcement Sectors

Demographic Group	Percentage of Participants Who Believe Corruption is Prevalent	Percentage of Participants Who Reported Personally Experiencing Corruption
Lawyers	75%	55%
Judges	80%	60%
Police Officers	85%	70%
Ordinary Citizens	85%	75%

The present study surveyed 500 participants, including lawyers, judges, police officers, and ordinary citizens. The survey found that a staggering 80% of the participants believed that corruption was prevalent in the justice system. Additionally, 60% of respondents reported having personally experienced corruption in the sector. The table above shows the percentage of participants in each demographic group who

believe corruption is prevalent and who have personally experienced corruption. As the table shows, corruption is reported to be most common among police officers and ordinary citizens, with 85% of each group believing that corruption is prevalent, and 70% and 75% respectively, having personally experienced it.

The current study found that corruption in the judicial and law enforcement sectors had severe consequences. Participants reported that it eroded public trust in the justice system, undermined the rule of law, and promoted a culture of impunity. Corruption in these sectors also perpetuated social inequality by favoring the wealthy and powerful at the expense of the weak and marginalized.

The consequences of corruption in the justice system were further exemplified by the experiences of the study participants. Many of the survey respondents reported that they had to pay bribes to lawyers, judges, or police officers to expedite their cases or receive favorable verdicts. Some respondents shared their experiences of being falsely accused and prosecuted due to the corrupt practices of law enforcement officials.

The qualitative interviews provided additional insights into the nature and extent of corruption in the justice system. Many interviewees described how powerful individuals used their influence to manipulate court decisions or ensure favorable outcomes. Nepotism and favoritism were also common themes, with some interviewees reporting that their lack of connections or resources hindered their ability to access justice.

Table 2
Prevalence of Corruption in Pakistan's Justice System

Key Findings	Statistics
Percentage of participants who believe corruption is prevalent in the justice system	80%
Percentage of participants who reported personally experiencing corruption in the sector	60%
Types of corruption reported in the justice system	Bribery, Nepotism, Political interference
Consequences of corruption in the justice system	erosion of public trust, undermining of the rule of law, Perpetuation of social inequality
Recommendations to combat corruption in the justice system	Improving accountability and transparency, increasing salaries of judges and police officers, increasing public awareness of corruption
Importance of international cooperation in addressing corruption in the justice system	Providing technical assistance and sharing best practices, informing decisions to provide financial support for justice sector reforms

The study's findings underscore the urgent need for reform in Pakistan's justice system to combat corruption effectively. The study participants offered several recommendations to address this issue, including improving accountability and transparency, increasing the salaries of judges and police officers to reduce the incentive for bribery, and increasing public awareness of corruption in the justice system.

The study also highlights the importance of international cooperation in addressing corruption in the justice system. The international community can play a crucial role in providing technical assistance and sharing best practices to help combat corruption effectively. The study's findings can also inform international donors' decisions to provide financial support for justice sector reforms in Pakistan.

In conclusion, the study's results demonstrate that corruption is deep-rooted in Pakistan's judicial and law enforcement sectors, with severe consequences for the rule of law and social justice. The study's findings highlight the urgent need for reforms to combat corruption in the justice system and underscore the importance of international cooperation to achieve this goal. The study's results can inform policymakers, civil society organizations, and the international community's efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and the rule of law in Pakistan.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study conducted in Pakistan provides a sobering picture of corruption in the country's justice system. The results of the study indicate that corruption is prevalent in the judicial and law enforcement sectors, with alarming consequences for the rule of law, social justice, and public trust in the justice system.

The study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining a quantitative survey and qualitative interviews with stakeholders, to collect data on corruption in the justice system. The survey revealed that a significant majority of the participants believed that corruption was prevalent in the justice system, and a high percentage of the respondents reported experiencing corruption in the system. The qualitative interviews provided additional insights into the nature and extent of corruption in the justice system, highlighting various forms of corruption, including bribery, nepotism, and political interference.

The study's findings demonstrate that corruption in the justice system has severe consequences, including eroding public trust in the justice system, perpetuating social inequality, and promoting a culture of impunity. The experiences of the study participants further illustrate the impact of corruption on ordinary citizens, who often have to pay bribes to lawyers, judges, or police officers to expedite their cases or receive favorable verdicts. The study also reveals how law enforcement officials can abuse their power to falsely accuse and prosecute individuals, highlighting the need for accountability and transparency in the justice system.

The study's results provide valuable insights into the urgent need for reforms to combat corruption in the justice system effectively. The study participants offered several recommendations, including improving accountability and transparency, increasing the salaries of judges and police officers to reduce the incentive for bribery, and increasing public awareness of corruption in the justice system. These recommendations can inform policymakers, civil society organizations, and the international community's efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and the rule of law in Pakistan.

The study's findings also highlight the importance of international cooperation in addressing corruption in the justice system. The international community can play a crucial role in providing technical assistance and sharing best practices to help combat corruption effectively. The study's results can also inform international donors'

decisions to provide financial support for justice system reforms in Pakistan, emphasizing the importance of sustained investment in justice system reforms.

In conclusion, the study's results provide a compelling case for urgent reforms to combat corruption in Pakistan's justice system.

The study's findings underscore the importance of accountability, transparency, and public awareness in promoting the rule of law and social justice. The study's results can inform policymakers, civil society organizations, and the international community's efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and the rule of law in Pakistan, emphasizing the need for sustained investment in justice system reforms. The study's results serve as a reminder that effective reforms can promote a fair and just society and promote trust in the justice system.

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