
Influence of Corruption in Public and Political Life of Russia

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Abstract:

The article is devoted to the relevant problem of corruption in Russia. The authors have described the main forms and spheres of corruption`s manifestation in modern Russian society. Many researchers pay attention to the ways of counteraction to this phenomenon, however do not disclose an essence of the problem.

At the same time, examination of social prerequisites of corruption and the analysis of its most influenced activity spheres will promote more careful analysis of possible solutions, directed to improve a legislative base, which is regulating responsibility for corruption.

In this regard we believe that such look will be interesting to experts both in the field of law, and in the field of sociology.

In the article it is shown on what spheres of social activity corruption has the greatest impact, corruption`s forms of manifestation are consistently analyzed.

Keywords: *Corruption, spheres of corruption, state corruption, corruption forms, use of official power.*

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1. Introduction

For improvement of bans, restrictions and requirements directed to anti-corruption system the National plan of anti-corruption approved by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation for 2018-2020, recommended to the high government officials (the heads of the supreme executive bodies) of territorial subjects to provide annual sociological researches for corruption level assessment in territorial subjects of the Russian Federation. Certainly, the sociological conditionality of illegal phenomena is relevant as knowledge received as a result of this sort of researches allows to form work on improvement of the legislation providing responsibility for such activity and also promotes formation of competent prevention of corruption in our country. In the work we have set the object to consider the most influenced by corruption spheres of activity and also to analyze corruption manifestation forms.

Corruption is often shown in fields monopolized by government where it has opportunity to carry out special powers (the legislation, executive power at the federal and local levels, support of public order, judicial system, control over natural monopolies, etc.).

Power and an opportunity for free implementation of it forms prerequisites for corruption. At the international corruption level is recognized as bribery and other behavior in relation to the persons, having powers in private or public sector, breaking the duties following from this status. The corresponding actions are directed to obtaining irrelevant advantages to the guilty person or other subjects. Improvement of the bans, restrictions and requirements system, established for anti-corruption, includes ensuring uniform application of the anti-corruption legislation for efficiency increase of mechanisms of this negative social phenomenon's prevention.

2. Theoretical, informational, empirical and methodological grounds

Corruption prospers when institutes are weak, and action of the free market competition is limited. The simplest model describing the factors influencing the amount of corruption can be presented as follows:

$$C(\text{corruption}) = M(\text{monopoly power}) + B(\text{opportunity to make a personal decision}) - O(\text{responsibility})$$

Corruption scales in this sphere are correlated to exclusive power (control over certain resources), an opportunity for decision-making at own discretion and responsibility for the made decisions and actions. Corruption could be found in all spheres of public life. It is complex phenomenon caused by specifics socially - cultural history of society, its economic and political development, bureaucratic traditions and management practices.

Manifestation of corruption behavior has its own specific, depending on a certain area in which it is implemented. From this point of view, there are several main spheres of corruption practices manifestation:

1. Corruption in the sphere of public administration (the government, the state departments, local authorities, etc.).
2. Political corruption (parliament, political parties).
3. Corruption in judicial system and law enforcement agencies (court, prosecutor's office, Investigative Committee, police).
4. Corruption in the sphere of public services (health care, education, the social help, etc.).
5. Corruption in the private sector (the multinational companies, the local business organizations, media, etc.).
6. Corruption in "the civil sector" (civil associations, non-governmental organizations, etc.) (Zelenov, 2011).

First of all, corruption characterizes public sector. Institutes and structures performing the main functions of the state are the biggest targets of corruption. The most serious prerequisite for corruption in the public sphere is the interlacing of private and state interests. Within the limits of power given and an the opportunity to dispose such power, employees can initiate the mechanisms leading to illegal use of powers for personal or group enrichment. When legal mechanisms in public sector are not operating effectively, corruption becomes preferable, and sometimes the only alternative for citizens. Each successful act of corruption increases confidence that it is a "normal" way for achievement of personal goals. Among the most corrupted zones in the sphere of public administration are:

- state procurement;
- delivery of permissions and licenses;
- privatization;
- taxation and fees;
- local authorities;
- appointment to the state and senior positions and many other things.

It is possible to mark out four main categories of the corrupted actions:

First, corruption, for ensuring access to limited resources and/or obtaining benefit (or reduction of costs of their receiving). Secondly, corruption on obtaining benefit (or reduction of expenses) which is not limited, but access to which is controlled by the person, making decisions on a personal discretion. Thirdly, corruption when rendering service connected with obtaining a certain benefit (or to avoid expenses), for example, providing internal (office) information or acceleration of process of decision-making. Fourthly, corruption to prevent use of certain resources or obtaining benefit from other interested parties (or imposing of additional expenses).

Corruption in the environment of public administration is connected with use of the imperious resources provided to society of public servants for satisfaction of personal or group interests. Being a part of governmental system is perceived as an opportunity to satisfy personal, family, common, party interests. Government institutions sell and purchase goods, render services, allocate subsidies, carry out privatization transactions, provide privileges and many other things. Public servants often have exclusive access to valuable information, functions of administrative bodies and control. All this creates prerequisites for corruption. The most common forms of administrative corruption is the following:

- When public institutions purchase or the use services. Through the bribery of government officials a company can be included in a number of chosen suppliers; conditions of a governmental contract are intentionally made for a certain firm supplier can be set; favorable conditions for implementation of the transaction and many other things can be created.
- When government institutions is a seller. Sale of goods or services is lower than market price. Payment of a bribe in this case can provide access to such profitable offers.
- Government institutions for privatization transactions. Privatization is a typical form of collision of public and personal interests; it represents the main channel for corruption in the countries where there is a high amount of transformations from state ownership to private.
- When government institutions control financial institutions. Bribery can provide the credit or exclusive conditions for the repayment. Bribery is also possible in monetary operations, for example, when it is necessary to apply a favorable exchange rate.
- When the state distributes limited subsidies or makes social payments. Bribery can "help" such subsidies or grants when the official may choose who has the right for their receiving, to define priority recipients or to allow access to them on compliance of requirements to recipients (for example, the social worker who is carrying out assessment of the gained income and a property fortune of the person interested to come into the social help).
- When government officials possess important office information.

Individuals and the companies can pay for such information (conditions of holding auctions, current state about privatized enterprises, the forthcoming price changes and many other things.), to be ahead of the competitors.

- When there are permissions and the license modes for commission of a certain activity. Practice shows that such modes promote corruption behavior to a large extent. The reason may be in indistinct legal interpretation of conditions for obtaining permission or the license, and in dishonesty from officials. Existence of the allowing modes demands the organization of a certain control and punishment of violators that can also lead to corruption.
- When officials have the right to punish for violations or to perform control functions. By means of bribes, it is possible to avoid, reduce, postpone or cancel expenses on payment of sanctions, to achieve imposing of sanctions on competitor

companies, to be warned about sudden check and many other things. Black business experiences the strongest corruption pressure for commission of the corrupted actions by the state officials, it is also exposed to blackmail to continue existence.

- Tax, customs duties and fees collecting. These payments always represent additional expenses for the companies and individuals. Having paid bribes, it becomes possible to avoid or reduce the amount of such payments. Customs, for example, is perceived by public opinion as one of the main centers of corruption.
- Bureaucratized, sluggish and inefficient government. The companies and citizens through bribes can try to accelerate actions of public servants (issue of documents, making payments, implementation of administrative services, etc.).
- Appointment for work in public service. Position of the government official can be an important resource, especially, when it gives the chance of receiving additional income in the form of bribes, commission charges, payments for consulting services and many other things, or in the form of gifts and services.

Corruption is a result of a certain pattern in the field of social and political life, when imperious resources, which belong to the whole society, are implemented by a certain group. Having used delegation of the right of management of this public resource, the operating elite can use it at own discretion. Specifics of political corruption in comparison with corruption in public administration both in the subject, and in the use of the advantages and consequences. The benefit not always has a money equivalent, and often business reaches withdrawal from separate elements of democratic political process (therefore, accountability, transparency, equality before the law). Abuse in this case is treated as redirection of resources in favor of any party or social group. Prerequisites of it are in the control exercised by political elite over the legislation and political process. Some of the most common forms of political corruption are listed below:

- Illegal financing of political parties. It is connected with independent sponsorship for activity of political parties that, as a rule, is followed by obligations from the political subject in favor of "benefactors".
- Illegitimate lobbyism. Protection from parliamentarians or influential politicians' private (most often economic) interests for remuneration beyond the scope of the established norms and rules for implementation of lobbyism.
- Political patronage. Distribution to members of the same party, political adherents, relatives, friends and other "faithful people" of positions and posts in the public service at the federal and local level. This process leads to creation of influential social networks, which can turn corruption in steady and the institutionalized process.
- Influence on other power structures. Representatives of political elite on exchange of political patronage exceed the authority and exert impact on other structures of public administration, judicial system, business of community, mass media, public associations, etc.
- "Purchase" political and electoral influence. It can be expressed both directly, and indirectly through "purchase" of voices at elections, and ensuring political support

from other political subjects (parties and the coalitions), when conducting a certain policy or adopting a certain statute.

- Ensuring privileges or preferential advantage. Granting privileges and preferences of certain groups of people or the organizations, is the tool for ensuring political loyalty and support.

Social consequences of political corruption are especially notable as they influence the big mass of people and lead to restructuring of a legitimate socio-political order. Besides, precedents for unpunished abuse of imperious resources of political elite are created, and this practice is transferred to lower level of social hierarchy. Most quickly, "corruption infection" is transferred in the public service but also extends among other public spheres .

Corruption, first of all, forms where there is an interaction between the state and private sectors. There are numerous reasons for emergence and functioning of corruption mechanisms. All activity of the private sector is under strong influence of the state institutes. A private interest depends on government officials as it is necessary to get permission to conduct private business activity. Subsequently private economic subjects have been forced to be integrated into the relevant market structures to win certain niches of sale, to combat the competitors. These processes could be more effective with the support from public sector (for example, by performance of government contracts, successful participation in privatization, receiving more favorable conditions for conducting the activity, etc.). Effective reproduction of any economic entity is influenced by both tax, and customs systems, which also function on public servants. Therefore, in many cases of interaction with officials there are strong incentives for corruption (Melekaev, 2011).

In the economic sphere of the country during a transition period to market economy corruption arises in privatization process, restoration of the property rights to farmlands, a real estate restitution, post-privatization transactions with the real estate and many other things. The lack of publicity and transparency leads to corruption between authorities and private subjects.

In smaller corruption is even represented in the private sector. In the private sector corruption actions are found at two levels: interaction of separate firms among themselves, contacts between firms and certain citizens. Example of such corrupted practice is obtaining internal economic information, granting a credit on profitable terms, favorable commercial transactions, implementation of investment projects and many other things. Corruption in the economic sphere is shown not only on national, but also at the international level. Multinational corporations also resort to the corrupted actions according to the economic interests.

The system of law enforcement and law enforcement agencies owing to the specific functions also becomes a generator of corruption. The monopoly on judicial authority and maintenance of public order is the most important prerequisite for this

purpose. Opportunities for abuse of power and corruption in law enforcement and judicial authorities (police, the investigation, prosecutor's office, court) can arise at:

- detection and registration of the committed violation or a crime;
- drawing up acts, imposing of penalties and other types of punishment;
- appointment or change of a measure about suicide;
- criminal prosecution;
- refusal of formation of preliminary production;
- termination of preliminary investigation or return to additional investigation;
- extraction of the foreign citizens who have committed crimes or condemned and many other things.

Opportunities for corruption arise also at execution of the imposed punishments - adjournment of enforcement of sentences, change of the mode of serving sentence, use of procedural opportunities for early release / a delay, a break performed by punishment and many other things. Corruption practices exist also in connection with providing a patronage (or non-interference) at implementation of illegal activity (sale of drugs, prostitution, the forbidden gambling, etc.).

Corruption in the police and judicial system is considered as one of the most important factors promoting growth of corruption in all public sector. It generates feeling of impunity of corrupted officials and mistrust of ordinary citizens. Corruption in the sphere of public services (health care, education, the social help and other) also has wide circulation. Data of the conducted sociological researches shows that corruption becomes a normal rule for medical institutions in the Russian Federation.

The main forms of corruption are a payment for free medical services directly to the doctor, the medic or the corresponding intermediary. Usually the patient arriving on treatment is told the "tariff" . Opportunities for corruption exist also at decision of VTEK or the military-medical commission (for example, release from military service). Corruption actions can accompany both signing of the contracts on supply of drugs and the equipment, renovations in healthcare institutions and many other things.

Extent of corruption depends on a type of medical institution. Elite and specialized clinics in which expensive researches and treatment are conducted (the scanner, CKT/MPT, gynecologic researches, difficult operations and others) are noted as institutions with the high level of corruption of the treating personnel. The number needing specialized researches and treatment in these institutions is big, and their opportunities are quite limited.

Corruption actions, but in more limited range, take place in policlinics and public health departments. The most frequent reason for bribery here is obtaining the sick-

list, the direction to narrow experts and medical experts, the direction to certain types of researches. etc.

Corruption is also widespread in education, and especially in the system of the higher education. Corruption cases during examinations are the most noticeable, when obtaining preliminary information on the examination subjects, ensuring inclusion in prestigious educational institutions and many other things. The direction of school students and entrants to visit private lessons of certain teachers is perceived as a latent form of corruption. Opportunities for corruption exist also among fuel supply contracts, performance of construction and repair work, leasing of rooms for business and many other things.

3. Conclusion

Corruption phenomenon represented in all spheres of life of society: in public administration, policy, judicial system, police, public services, the private sector and the civil sector. Generally, corruption is a characteristic of a public sector, especially in the case of private public interests. State employees is perceived as an opportunity to direct potential to the corresponding position for satisfaction of personal, family, common, party, corporate and other private interests. The social effect of political corruption is especially strong as influences many people and influences a lawful socio-political order.

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