CORRUPTION CAUSES AND PREVENTIVE STEPS

by GMS. Sastry, Manager (ACB)

DEFINITIONS OF CORRUPTION:

Dictionary definitions:

- 1. Dishonest or fraudulent conduct
- 2. Improper and unlawful conduct intended to secure a benefit for oneself or another
- 3. Corruption in legal context refers to a wrongful design to acquire or cause some pecuniary or other advantage

Definition as per Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988:

"Whoever, being, or expecting to be a public servant, accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain from any person, for himself or for any other person, any gratification whatever, other than legal remuneration, as a motive or reward for doing or forbearing to do any official act or for showing or for showing or forbearing to show, in the exercise of his official functions, favours or disfavours to any person or for rendering or attempting to render any service or disservice to any person....."

Definition of corruption in other enactments:

Corruption is defined as the misuse of power by someone to whom it has been entrusted, for his own private gain. The most common form of corruption is bribery, which is the giving or receiving money, a gift or other advantage as an inducement to do something that is dishonest, illegal or a breach of trust in the course of doing business. The anti-corruption laws prohibit an offer, payment, promise to pay or authorization of payment of any money, gift, or anything of value to any government official for purposes of: - influencing any act or decision of the government official, - inducing him or her to do any act in violation of his or her lawful duties, - securing an improper advantage, or - inducing him or her to use his or her influence with a governmental agency, in order to assist in obtaining or retaining business or to direct business to anyone. The "obtaining or retaining business" element is interpreted broadly to include business advantages, such as obtaining a permit or a tax break.

CORRUPTION IN RELIGION:

- Let us all realize that the earning of money unlawfully will not cause any benefit to the self, to the family and children. It is the matter of time to receive the reaction.
- Corruption in bygone era is interwoven with gold/silver/animals for sacrifice. In Old testament there is a mention that one should not go to the Man of God (Priest) empty handed.
- o In Hinduism too we do not go to priests/men of wisdom and to temples with empty hands

- The bible has over 80 references to corruption. It says "it is the deceitful lust that causes corruption
- `` (2 peter 1-4, Ephesians 4-22 and peter 1-18)
- o We cannot forget, for that matter, that there was an offer of cash at the heart of one of the central episodes of all Christian history, the corruption of Judas Iscariot, the man who held the disciples' money and who sold his master, Jesus, to the Romans for thirty pieces of silver— a betrayal so rife with consequences that for Judas, in the Christian tradition, there is no redemption.

- The Quran makes it clear that Islam does not encourage corruption in any form. The lust for plenty kept you in the dark till you reach your grave" (At1 Takasur:1-2) And the Almighty warns such men of painful torment:
- 2-14-3 in Rigveda calls corruption a nine headed demon that enters our body through 99 sources. Sama veda(913&179) terms corruption as disease.
- What Mahatma Gandhi said way back in 1948 "corruption will go when the large number of persons given unworthily to it realize that the nation does not exist for them to exploit but that they exist to serve the nation.
- If we are not living up to our ethical standards what will happen to our children/younger generation.
- They will observe us and follow. The children will learn by observing elders-brothers- parents- teachers
- If you burn a paper the reaction is immediate you will see the light, smoke, ash.
- If you plant a seed, it will take years to grow and give fruit. But you can not get a mango to neem seed.

FORMS OF CORRUPTION:

- Bribery: Taking gratification other than legal remuneration in any form.
- Lobbying : Seek or influence an official or decision taking authority on an issue
- Extortion: obtaining any valuable thing or service by force and under threat
- Cronyism : Appointing friends or associates without proper regard to their qualification
- Parochialism: Limiting or demarking areas or boundaries to have full control for corrupt motive
- Patronage: Supporting a corrupt person in his design to extract bribes or his misdeeds
- Influence: To have an effect on character, development or behavior
- Graft : Obtaining pecuniary advantage for himself or other for showing favour or disfavor
- Embezzlement: Misappropriation of funds placed in one's trust for gain for himself or for others.

IMPLICATIONS OF CORRUPTION:

General implication: Corruption erodes the trust people have in the organizations/institutions. It also wastes our taxes or rates that have been earmarked for important community projects.

We will miss the good quality services and infrastructure.

Economic implications:

- Low labour output
- Reduced investment
- Shoddier growth
- Slows down business opportunities for individuals/ Foreign Direct Investment

ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT:

- Financial loss
- Damage to employee morale
- Damage to organizations reputation
- Increased scrutiny and regulations

Individual impact:

- Will affect relationships with family, friends and colleagues
- Disciplinary action
- Criminal charges
- Termination of employment

Community Impact:

- Wastes tax payers funds
- Substandard services/goods
- Lowers societies' confidence in institutions/organizations
- Disadvantage to honest employees

ARE YOU VULNERABEL TO CORRUPTION:

- There are some common warning signs that have to be identified
- Learn about corruption risks, impact and take preventive steps
- Inform yourself and other colleagues as to what is corruption, impact and as to how to prevent such practices.
- Ways and means to report corruption.

- "Everyone else is doing it."
- This rationalization can manifest itself in different situations. First, unethical behaviour should not be normalized, Second, the rationale that everyone else is doing it justifies the corrupt conduct.
- "You don't understand how business is done here" or "If we don't do it, someone else will".
- (When individuals perceive that their competitors are engaging in corrupt practices, they can justify undertaking comparable actions with the rationale of securing their personal well-being, while still feeling that they are a "good" person. This rationalization is also referred to as a "collective action problem".
- "It's not my responsibility."
- This statement reflects a denial of responsibility. Individuals rationalize engagement in corruption as being beyond their control. Typically cited reasons for employees trying to deny responsibility are: "I didn't know that was corruption"; "I didn't do it for me; I did it for my organization"; "I don't know how to respond to corruption"

REPORTING CORRUPTION:

- Information provided helps the Anti-Corruption agencies/ internal vigilance officers, to identify broader trends and patterns of corruption issues and risks
- The Anti-corruption agencies will analyze the information provided and alert the Departments on potential vulnerability in their operating systems and environment
- It is hard to speak up and report on corrupt practices, but the Anti-Corruption agencies will treat the information carefully and in accordance with the legal systems.

REPORTING CORRUPT PRACRTICES HELPS TO

- Expose corrupt activities and risks
- Helps Keep the honesty levels pertaining to Government departments/institutions
- Helps maintain transparency and accountability of the various community programs
- Helps stop dishonest practices
- When reporting corrupt or dubious practices, the protections are available to the person reporting under the P.C.Act, 1988 and other enactments.
- We have an obligation to report corrupt practices to meet the standards of the society set for us.
- By reporting corruption, you can help identify and remove or mitigate the risks in your work area or organizational environment.

THANK YOU