



RESEARCH PAPER

Role of NAB in Eliminating Corruption from Pakistan: A Critical Analysis

¹Dr. Muhammad Imran ²Dr. Ghulam Murtiza* ³Muhammad Sulyman Akbar

1. Assistant Professor, College of Law, Government College University Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan
2. Associate Professor / Chairperson College of Law, Government College University Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan
3. Lecturer, College of Law, Government College University Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan

***Corresponding Author** ghulammurtiza@gcuf.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

Government and good governance are essential for social and economic progress. Nonetheless, Pakistan's poor reputation in international relations makes these characteristics outdated in Pakistan. In most cases, corruption is a likely result of circumstances such as desire and materialistic greed, higher degrees of governmental and market monopolization, low levels of democracy, poor civic engagement, and opaque political processes. The acceptance of corruption has grown through time even though it is pervasive in the nation. The goal of this study is to examine corruption in Pakistan, concentrating on the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the primary anti-corruption agency in the country. The study examines various causes for the prevalence of corruption in Pakistan and strategies to reduce it. The study uses doctrinal qualitative analysis to situate the research within the ethical, legal and social parameters. The research methodology adopted is evaluative, interpretive and analytical. The study finds that NAB remained ineffective to curb the prevailing corruption in Pakistan. This study recommends that corruption in Pakistan would be reduced by exposing corrupt practices, maintaining an honest and responsible public sector, aiding in the cessation of unethical behavior, and ensuring that public sector employees act in the public interest.

Keywords: Anti-corruption, Corruption, NAB, Pakistan, Strategies

Introduction

Every region feels the effects of corruption differently, yet it is a worldwide epidemic nonetheless. The anti-corruption organization Transparency International (TI) identifies corruption as one of the most significant challenges facing the modern world. While corruption is a global problem affecting all nations, it has particularly devastating consequences for underdeveloped countries. According to Ibodullaevich and Kizi (2021) the costs of corruption may be broken down into four categories: political, economic, social, and environmental. The political costs of corruption include damage to democracy and the rule of law; economic costs include the loss of national wealth; social costs include the erosion of public faith in the political process and its leaders; and environmental costs include the destruction of the environment. Corruption has far-reaching effects on a nation's governance, development, and economy because it weakens institutions, undermines the state's legitimacy, and dismantles the rule of law. Additionally, because corruption results in substantial losses to the national exchequer, it hinders the government's capacity to fund essential services like law enforcement, water, sanitation, and healthcare. To cover both continuing costs and public sector development goals, the government must rely heavily on public borrowing, leading to a massive increase in the national debt. It has an effect on the quality of government and ultimately slows economic progress.

In Pakistan, corruption has always been a source of strife. On 11th August 1947, in the monumental speech presented to the first Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam designated the maintenance of law and order as the top priority of his government (Shah et al., 2021). Then he exhorted to eliminate "bribery and corruption" with an iron fist. In recent years, aside from terrorism, debates over corruption and accountability have occupied Pakistanis more than any other possible national concern. Pakistan has been ranked as the 120th most corrupt nation out of a total of 180 countries in the Corruption Perception Index-2019, which Transparency International published. Pakistan perceives corruption as widespread because it consistently ranks highest among developing nations in rankings created by international organizations. Undoubtedly, the perception put forth by Transparency International can be disputed, but within Pakistan, the same has gained traction, strengthening the idea that Pakistan's public administration is filled with corruption. Although it is difficult to find concrete evidence of the prevalence of corruption, numerous reports, case analysis, and statistical analyses demonstrate that corruption permeates all sectors of Pakistani society (Khan, 2016). In Pakistan, corruption has been described as having "become a way of life", which has led to the country's institutions becoming exceedingly ineffective. This has caused a broad perception that corruption has become more prevalent over time and that there is less evidence that individuals feel bad about it.

According to Javid (2010), corruption exists in many fields, not just business and finance. Corruption is mostly based on self-interest, personal gain, bribery, extortion, fraud, embezzlement, theft, smuggling, kickbacks, deception, wasteful use of public funds, shady business deals, money laundering, favouritism, nepotism, cronyism, and using one's official or departmental status for financial gain. Corruption is a more general term that can be used to describe any action that hurts someone's honor or reputation. Another kind of corruption is acting in a wrong, rebellious, or immoral way. It's terrible that corruption has spread all over our society without being stopped. Sadly, there aren't any serious efforts at the policy level to set up institutions and processes to eliminate systemic corruption and get society out of its sad state. According to Ulain and Hussain (2020), "systemic corruption" is "an institutionalized, endemic manipulation of a system by the individual(s) or network(s) / organization(s), taking advantage of weaknesses in the processes and systems for illegal gains, where there are leadership flaws, collusion, and/or abuses of power." Financial institutions are not the only ones susceptible to corruption. In a dishonest culture, lying and cheating are the norm, not the exception. Corruption comes in various forms in Pakistan today, and the risk of systemic corruption has penetrated all levels of society and the state (Uroos et al., 2022).

Corrupt practices permeate all levels of society; Ehtisham's (2009) incisive comment that "from policeman on the beat to highest ranks, from legal clerks to judges, from lowly revenue employees to senior administrators, from storekeepers to high-ranking engineers, all government and private entities are implicated in corruption" captures the scope of the problem neatly. Hence, corruption is something that the average Pakistani citizen experiences whenever he interacts with bureaucracy, such as when making payments, registering births, reporting crimes, getting an electrical connection, enrolling children in school, or certifying the sale of a home. The widespread tolerance of corruption portends dire outcomes for the populace as a whole. Corruption and good governance are polar opposites in any country, wealthy or poor. Before implementing a strategically sound system of good governance, examining the definition and practices of corruption is essential. This paper intends to shed light on a complex issue in Pakistani society. The country's primary anti-corruption organization has failed to accomplish its objectives. Even while there is a clear need for improved governance mechanisms, none of those institutions have been implemented as of yet (Chattha, 2012). Despite laws like the "Pakistan Penal Code" (PPC), the "Prevention of Corruption Act" (PCA), and the "National Accountability Ordinance" (NAO), as well as institutional mechanisms like the statutory Auditor-General of Pakistan office

supported by the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly, the public procurement regulatory authority, the offices of the Federal and Provincial Ombudsmen, the "National Accountability Bureau" (NAB), and the "Federal Invest in Accountability" (FIA) Office, it is surprising that corruption persists in Pakistan (Shah et al., 2021)

Literature Review

Concepts and Definitions

It is commonly agreed that the concept of corruption is convoluted, complex, and difficult to grasp (Kurer, 2014). The fact that corruption can be understood in many different ways is to blame for this variation. Without a deeper understanding of the issue, researchers and policymakers find it difficult to provide concrete measures for its management. The difficulty in defining corruption is "like an elephant; it may be hard to identify, but it is usually not hard to notice when examined," (Ko & Weng, 2011). To yet, no one has established a clear definition of corruption, while there is consensus on a number of behaviors that seem to point to it. Several points of view on corruption can be gleaned from the following sets of assumptions and assumptions. One definition of corruption describes it as an arrangement whereby two parties knowingly and willingly agree to give and receive something of value in return (Rose, 2018). Corruption is defined as the wilful and deliberate violation of established norms. In other words, conduct falls short of acceptable moral and legal boundaries (Ibodullaevich & Kizi, 2021). Abusers of power are those who utilize their authority for selfish ends. Fourth, corrupt actors form tight-knit circles where they discuss and plan the illegal aims and rewards of their business relationship among themselves (Génaux, 2004). Corruption has many forms and dimensions, making it hard to define. Understanding corruption requires one to make a distinction between traditional and practical definitions. Nonetheless, conventional definitions are still used in some situations, even if functional ones can be used anywhere. Corruption, in an ideal society, would be characterized in both its traditional and its practical senses. Corruption is defined differently by different authors; McMullan (1996), for example, states that "a public official is corrupt if he accepts money or money's worth for doing something that he is under a duty to do anyway, that he is under a duty not to do, or to exercise a valid discretion for wrong motives" (Collins et al., 2016). According to Huberts et al. (2016), corruption is "the practice of public officials (politicians, civil workers, police officers) seeking private gain at the expense of the public they serve." A single word can summarise the abuse of power for private gain: corruption. This study uses as its working definition of corruption "activity on the part of office holders in the public and commercial sectors, in which they improperly and unlawfully benefit themselves and/or those close to them, or incite those to do so by misusing their position." The Pakistani government agency tasked with combating corruption offered the above definition. Corruption can be simply defined as the abuse of power for personal gain (Khan, 2016).

Factors that Enable Corruption

The following factors were shown to aid in corruption in a 2019 survey:

1. The state lacks much legitimacy, and the national leadership is not committed to enhancing the interests of the general public.
2. Second, the public sector is hampered by the absence, inefficiency, or improper application of laws and regulations (Liu, 2016).
3. Third, public sector positions are political and not based on merit, and there are deep racial divides and in-group favouritism.
4. Government accountability measures are still insufficient because of the persecution of whistle-blowers.

5. An obsession with unethical behavior and claims of injustice in the workplace (Owusu, 2019).
6. Sixthly, on rule-breaking by influential people.
7. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media, civil society, and the business sector cannot speak out and demand that the government be open and responsible.

Political Versus Bureaucratic Corruption

Political corruption, also called "big corruption," happens when the people in charge of making and carrying out a public policy do so for their own gain instead of the public good. This includes heads of state, ministers of state, and the most important envoys. When lawmakers and officials are corrupt, the people receive laws and policies that are drafted with their interests in mind (Christensen & Yesilkagit, 2019). On the other hand, corruption happens frequently in bureaucracies and a lot when laws are put into action. Citizens experience "small scale" or "street level" corruption daily when they deal with public officials or use public services like the health care system, the education system, the licensing authority, the police, the customs service, and the taxation service. Even though bureaucratic corruption usually involves less money than grand corruption, the term "grand corruption" is often used to describe it (Mungiu-Pippidi & Hartmann, 2019). Still, when money is stolen, the loss can sometimes be big.

Implications of Corruption

Corruption is known to decrease domestic and international investment, slow GDP growth, stop trade, change the amount and type of government spending, hurt financial institutions, and strengthen underground economies. Also, research has shown that corruption is a cause of both increasing poverty and income inequality (Riggs, 2019). When a small number of businesses and organizations, like the military establishment, control the rules of the game through large, illegal, and secretive operations, this is called "state capture," It can hurt a country's chances of economic growth in a terrible way. State capture and administrative malfeasance are both a part of the corruption nexus overall. In Pakistan, corruption is pervasive and affects every area, including the administration, judicial, military, healthcare establishment, and school organization. There has been no real improvement despite repeated cries for reform and several attempts to address the underlying issues.

Effects on Investment and Growth

Corruption is directly linked to increased company costs. When state capture is common, a few corporations that pay bribes to change the text of laws and legislation make substantial profits at the expense of altering the economic climate. As a result, corruption leads to less overall productivity (Uroos et al., 2022). Misallocation of scarce resources to powerful entities and wasteful spending are major problems. Inadequate use of public finances and resources for private gain retards economic development by making it appear as though a country is short on resources when, in reality, the ruling elite is merely appropriating more for itself. This view is supported by the World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Competitiveness Report, which names corruption as the most significant challenge to doing business in Pakistan.

Poverty

Corruption can be a cause of inadequate institutional capability and slow economic progress (Azam et al., 2019) When more funds are diverted from important services such as health and education in emerging nations, poverty will worsen. Despite this, avoiding corruption is crucial to realise the SDGs. Corruption undermines the ability of governments

to provide basic services to the poor and those who are socially excluded and marginalized but unable to improve their living conditions (Huberts et al., 2016). Corruption weakens the social safety net. Because they are unable to exercise their fundamental rights and entitlements, those living in extreme poverty are socialized to accept their lot in life as inevitable. Corruption and state capture enable concentrating benefits within a few beneficiaries by giving them legislative and regulatory control over resources (Ali, 2020). As a result, these advantages are kept out of reach to organizations that are not targeted group members. So, one of the things that encourage corruption is disparity.

Fiscal Implication

A fiscal impact analysis “[i]s an estimate of the direct, immediate, and public expenditures and revenues associated with residential or non-residential expansion to the local jurisdiction(s) in which the growth is taking place” (Buehn et al., 2013). There is frequently a connection between fiscal policy and corruption, which refers to the practice of businesspeople offering bribes to public servants in order to acquire private benefits, such as evading taxation and regulations or gaining access to public contracting opportunities (Stoilova & Patonov, 2020). First, bureaucratic corruption lowers the amount of individual tax revenue collected, which in turn lowers the amount of revenue available for government spending (Ali, 2020). Second, it raises the total amount of government spending that is not allocated to development. Third, it lowers the efficiency with which development spending is used. Corruption has a separate effect on the budget's income and spending sides because it shifts spending to things that could lead to higher spending and income to things that could lead to more "commissions." One example of administrative corruption is when tax and customs officials take bribes from businesses to lower their tax rates. This is a big reason why the government loses a lot of money because of bribes paid to government workers. Another way that corruption undermines fiscal prudence is by giving out subsidies where they are not necessary. By purchasing subpar goods and services and discouraging honest people from working for the public sector, corruption in procurement, for example, worsens the waste of public resources. Overall, fiscal flaws caused by administrative corruption and state capture explain inferior macroeconomic performance in developing countries (Uroos et al., 2022).

The Credibility of the State

Because of corruption, the public loses faith in government institutions, which makes it tougher for authorities to crack down on the practice. Leadership with questionable ethics is at the heart of broken political systems that breed administrative corruption and state control. An increase in criminal activity is an unstable outcome of the trust deficit (Van et al., 2020). When there is a higher perception of corruption in politics and administration, crime on the streets and in criminal groups thrives. The social and economic problems of rising nations are exacerbated and entrenched by state capture, which is linked to a decline in public confidence. There is a lack of transparency in recruitment, ambiguity in site selection, absenteeism, and bribery in many Pakistani development projects. The Baluchistan Primary Education Plan, for example, was scrapped or put on hold due to a lack of trust, which also affected other projects. International banking institutions postponed loan payments as mistakes were found. In many nations with centralized authority, political reformers who want to combat corruption face stiff resistance from entrenched forces and a sceptical citizenry.

Institutionalization of Corruption

In countries like Pakistan, where competing institutions often go beyond the bounds of the law in their pursuit of power, institutional conflict is a major contributor to the problem of corruption (Malik & Qureshi, 2021). The military and other anti-democratic groups take advantage of this situation to seize power in the government and push their own agendas. While external controls may have their uses, the long-term solution to corruption is

to build internal institutions (for instance, the Military under General Raheel Sharif restored law and order in the nation without being wholly obedient to the democratic government). If corruption isn't addressed, it will become the norm in institutions. Because of this, qualified and reliable people avoid government jobs, further reducing the efficiency and effectiveness of government agencies. Underpaying public servants, limiting their authority, and making political victims out of them are all institutional factors that contribute to the prevalence of corruption (Waseem, 2020). The "Demonstration Effect" occurs when public officials observe the high standard of life enjoyed by their peers who are employed in the private sector or who work abroad. That's why people occasionally resort to shady dealings: to increase their chances of getting what they want. Another reason public servants act unethically is that corrupt officials are given unofficial institutional praise for their ability to "get things done" and "be clever enough" to play an independent role outside formal power constraints. Corruption is a more serious risk when multiple institutions are in on it (Reayat et al., 2020). Examples of collusive bribery and abuse of power include a police officer taking money to drop charges against a suspect or to make an arrest at the instruction of a political party leader. While the party leader ordered the officer to detain a political opponent until the person quit criticizing him, the officer complied. Appointments, particularly in the police service, are often influenced by politics in countries like Pakistan. It's natural for a public figure to have conflicts of interest due to their personal loyalties and familial ties (Reayat et al., 2021). Hence, wealthy individuals and corporations continue to take advantage of the poor through extortion, fake penalties, and other forms of corruption with the assistance of the police.

Corruption Control Agency: NAB

The formation of anti-corruption institutions is a common response when societies are faced with the issue of corruption (Sadiq, 2020). The National Accountability Bureau, the anti-corruption agency in Pakistan, is the subject of this study, and the practices there are comparable to those in Hong Kong. NAB is regarded as Pakistan's premier institution for combating corruption and has consolidated all of the authority of the nation's earlier anti-corruption organizations (FIA) since independence (JAVED, 2021). Also, even if corruption is under investigation by another agency, NAB has the power to include it in its purview. Indeed, it is believed that corruption is bad for society as a whole. Yet, it worsens when the general public's opinions change and embrace this threat. The view is that corruption is becoming more widely accepted in Pakistan (Shah et al., 2021). Anti-corruption agencies in Pakistan are not frequently studied in this context. The purpose of the NAB case study was to find out from the organization and its officers whether or not the rise in corruption acceptance among the general public was reflected or translated in their organization. Moreover, it investigates what constitutes corruption and how the authorities deal with it.

National Accountability Bureau (NAB)

The Federal Investigation Bureau is Pakistan's top professional organization. It is in charge of eradicating corruption through prosecution, deterrence, and education (Shah et al., 2021). Its operations are governed by the National Accountability Ordinance of 1999. With its headquarters in Islamabad, it has seven regional offices: Sindh, Punjab, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Multan, and Sukkur. It looks into all violations of the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO). All of its efforts were devoted to identifying, pursuing, and punishing white-collar crime for the first three years. Investigations into major power abuses involving politicians, public servants, and others are ongoing. These abuses include stealing money from the country's public coffers and engaging in other types of corruption. The NAB began working on the National Anticorruption Strategy (NACS) project in February 2002 (Cheema et al., 2020). The NACS team conducted extensive public surveys, looked at anti-corruption agency models in other nations, and spoke with local stakeholders. Each of the pillars of the National Integrity System is carefully examined. National and comprehensive action plans

were developed after looking into the reasons for corruption in each pillar. In contrast to conventional police tactics, NACS has recommended a comprehensive approach to enforcement. By using "a holistic approach of awareness, prevention, and enforcement," the NAB is in charge of eradicating corruption (Gul et al., 2022). The NAB's original investigative mission was broadened in 2002 by the National Anti-Corruption Strategy to encompass a variety of actions aimed at "undertaking preventive and raising awareness," such as citizen surveys, local stakeholder participation exercises, and a number of other programs. Over time, the NAB intends to completely eliminate corruption as part of a "holistic, comprehensive, and progressive" anti-corruption effort. As of January 2015, the two largest provinces were split into two sub-provincial NABs in order to better handle the volume of complaints. A national Chairman of the NAB oversees everything, and regional heads in each of the four provinces. It's clear that the NAB's sway extends far and broad. When it receives complaints from citizens or government agencies, it can investigate the allegations and issue its own arrest warrants. In the alternative to a criminal trial, it may decide to initiate legal action, accept a plea bargain, or engage in "voluntary reparation," and then ask the courts to seize the accused person's property and assets (Hussain, 2019). The NAB can hire forensic accountants and other financial experts on a contract basis, despite the scarcity of such specialists in Pakistan. If the matter proceeds to trial, the prosecuting solicitor will be a member of the Prosecutor General-Accountability (PGA) appointed by the President of Pakistan. The term for the PGA is three years, and he or she can only be removed from office through impeachment, like a Supreme Court justice. Wage data for NAB officers is currently unavailable, although it is safe to assume that they do not make as much as certain other government employees in Pakistan. In 2012, for example, a BPS 1 worker in most Pakistani government departments was only eligible to make up to PKR 15,305 (US\$ 162) per month (including allowances). In contrast, his counterpart at the NAB was eligible to make up to PKR 18,408 (US\$ 195). In contrast, he would get a total of PKR 22,003 (about US\$ 233) from the FBR, PKR 29,000 (approximately US\$ 307) from the National Highway Authority, and PKR 32,686 (approximately US\$ 346) from the judicial service.

Corruption as White-collar Crime: Laws and Practice

Several authorities look into white-collar crimes and bring charges against those responsible. Most people assume that those convicted of white-collar crimes will be treated leniently. A peculiarity of white-collar crime is that suspects are often notified of investigation days, weeks, or even months before an arrest is made. A suspect's fear of the unknown is understandable, yet this situation also affords them an advantage over those held without probable cause. Suppose a person has a problem and hires a criminal defense solicitor right away. In that case, they may be able to significantly lessen their risk of being charged with a crime or even avoid criminal prosecution altogether (Sagar, 2019). A lawyer defending a client will not disrupt police work during an inquiry. Before initiating legal proceedings, many problems can be solved by conversation. A typical criminal trial will last two or three days. During that time, multiple witnesses and law enforcement officials will testify, physical evidence will be submitted, and the case will be resolved. Cases involving white-collar criminals, on the other hand, can drag on in court for weeks. The sheer volume of exhibits, including hundreds of pages of documents, emails, and other pieces of evidence, could be daunting to the court. However, the sheer magnitude and complexity of these cases can occasionally work in favor of defendants. The prosecution must prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt (Bhatti et al., 2021). So, government prosecutors overwhelm the jury with economic evidence to prove their case.

Prosecution and Punishment

Under Pakistan's centuries-old criminal law, white-collar criminals challenge the court's authority, constitutional protections, a fair trial, the presumption of innocence, and proof of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. This makes it nearly impossible to identify, investigate, prosecute, and punish the criminals. The defendant hired high-profile attorneys

to defend the defendant defend white-collar criminals (Butt, 2022). Sections 9 and 10 of the NAB Ordinance place the burden of proof on the person accused, while Section 14 appears to have done away with the presumption of innocence. In accordance with Section 14, a person may also be prohibited from serving on public bodies, statutory bodies, local authorities, or standing for office, being elected, selected, appointed, or nominated for those positions, as well as from working for Pakistan or a province.

Whether in the name of the accused or any of their dependents or benders, Section 10 imposes a severe term of up to 14 years in jail and a fine if a person's assets and financial resources are excessively high in comparison to their known sources of income. The agency appears to have the power to inquire into crimes committed against public officials or anybody else, according to Section 9 of the NAB Law. If the NAB Chairman is sure that there will be a case, they can send the case to court for punishment and prosecution. Section 16 grants the NAB Chairperson the ability to present a reference before any court that is located anywhere in Pakistan, depending on the circumstances and facts of the case. Similar to Section 16-A, the Chair may request that the case be tried following the NAB Ordinance if doing so will further the interests of justice and ensure the protection and safety of witnesses (Ibrar, 2020). The Chairman can also ask that the case be moved from one of these courts to the Pakistan's Supreme Court or the High Court of a certain province. According to Section 21, the NAB Chair or any other federal authority may request particular acts from a foreign state in accordance with the laws of that state. These actions include requesting the production of documents, other items, or evidence that has already been collected, obtaining and using issued warrants or other legal means, or approving a search for objects that are believed to be in Pakistan and are crucial to the investigation or processes there (Shah et al., 2021). Due to the federal government's appointment authority, a ruling by the Chair against a person holding a public office or who has a sizable stake in a public or private company becomes a source of concern for the current administration. As a result, the person in question is frequently not prosecuted or has their trial postponed under the NAB Ordinance (Ahmad, 2019). Since the Ordinance's passage, a person holding a government post or an executive with a significant financial stake in a business operating in either the public or private sector has hardly ever faced charges or punishment. Furthermore, offenses that Sutherland's definition of "white-collar crime" has not been added to the category, making it impossible to evaluate and, in the opinion of some sociologists, even excessively limiting (Ali, 2020). As a result, organized crime now includes white-collar crime as a subclass. One example is the US Justice Department's efforts to mandate that companies give up their privilege against self-incrimination as a condition of accepting a guilty plea in other countries. This new tendency is derived sociologically from Sutherland's theory that the same constitutional protections do not protect white-collar criminals as other defendants. Unexpectedly, the US Justice Department has requested that the sentencing commission restrict modifying sentence standards in cases involving "white-collar criminal defendants, who frequently have competent counsel." This request effectively fostered a class-based understanding of the law. The origins of the phrase "white-collar crime" can be traced to a socialist, anti-business viewpoint that defines the phrase in terms of the group of people it denigrates (Muhammad et al., 2022). Sutherland created the term and sparked a political movement among the legal community.

Conclusion

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) of Pakistan is the most knowledgeable and powerful ACA in the country, and the National Accountability Law protects it (Ali, 2020). While the NAB initially pursued corruption investigations against Pakistan's ruling political class members, these cases quickly stalled because of a lack of persistent political will at the top levels of Pakistan's government. As long as the political leaders of Pakistan reap advantages from corruption, no anti-corruption law will ever be able to achieve its goals. Some Pakistani presidents have previously attempted to nominate close supporters as the

chairman of the NAB to ensure that the organization's investigations do not jeopardize them and are headed in the "right" direction. When applied to the NAB's stated purpose, this is a recipe for disaster. The NAB believes it is a legally autonomous organization with wide-ranging powers to carry out its responsibilities (Khan, 2016). NAB is recommended to use its powers more effectively and comprehensively, but the results demonstrate that it is not doing so. Although NAB claims the government's budget is adequate, a larger allocation is recommended. The surplus funds could be invested in previously underserved areas, such as expanding public relations efforts or providing staff with more education and training to better handle outsourced recruitment processes. The fact that influential people are immune to punishment must be addressed. Possibly this is why many don't trust NAB's results (Mungiu-Pippidi & Hartmann, 2019). That can't be accomplished without widespread backing from the government and other stakeholders. The government also has to address the issue of public confidence and good governance by establishing robust oversight and accountability procedures. Immediate action is needed to establish a reliable and transparent system for monitoring and evaluation. NAB's efficiency and credibility issues will be fixed automatically if the measures above are taken. The NAB needs to use all of its power and improve its processes to successfully prosecute powerful people in the country and set a good example for the rest of the populace. NAB should also regularly conduct public perception polls to gain insight into its strengths and weaknesses. Unfortunately, none of the criteria for gauging political will to combat corruption that proposes to apply to Pakistan. Similarly, the government of Pakistan has not penalized the country's influential and prominent corrupt individuals. According to Kurer (2014) "the issue of corruption is the most fundamental cause by which the people develop the picture of a polluted Pakistani state or a besieged idea of impartiality and justice". Potentially, Pakistan's future is brighter than previously thought. Many individuals in Pakistan are hoping that the "growing sense of fury" among the country's educated youth will lead to a decline in corruption, but that has yet to be proven.

Recommendations

Designing interventions to stop corrupt behavior in its tracks is the process of preventing corruption. The setting, the presence of corruption proof, and the intention to prevent corruption all influence which precise steps should be implemented. Creating an ethical atmosphere to support creativity and entrepreneurship in the business community is one of the objectives of corruption prevention. Enhancing the standard of public services for society's poor and marginalized groups is another objective (JAVED, 2021). Both goals are crucial for a developing country like Pakistan. It wasn't until the 1960s that a dedicated anti-corruption agency, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), was founded. Regrettably, corruption spread throughout FIA in later years. In 1999, the military government established the National Accountability Bureau, focusing on accountability (NAB). Even if another agency is already investigating corruption, NAB can still do so. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) is designed to increase awareness of all types of corruption, including financial and cybercrimes, improve enforcement by enhancing the skills of investigators and prosecutors, and create prevention capability. In the context of Pakistan, fighting corruption is essential to safeguarding the nation's future (Quah, 2021). The country's most serious problem is poverty, and reducing it in rural areas depends on the success of development programs that risk being abandoned because of the evils of corruption. Terrorism, deteriorating economic conditions, the energy and gas problem, and other tough realities of this nation may all be resolved largely by combating the corruption threat. Hence, it is essential that all parties involved, including political parties, public officials, members of civil society, private businesses, donor organizations, and regular citizens, unite and acknowledge their particular responsibilities for preventing corruption (Ahmed & Abbas, 2022). Given that corruption in Pakistan is a complicated problem with many facets and manifestations, preventative strategies must integrate a variety of techniques in order to lessen the incentives and possibilities for corruption while encouraging public servants to act morally.

International Transparency Based on the findings of the NAB investigation, Pakistan makes various policy and procedural suggestions for improvement. We currently have two groups of proposals. These recommendations are divided into two groups: those made to the government and those made to NAB. These are some proposals for Pakistan's government to consider. The following NAO clauses should be changed. Article 6 of the NAO 1999 must be amended to allow for greater freedom in selecting the Chairperson of the NAB (Shah et al., 2021). To be functional, the Pakistani Constitution must be modified to allow the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and the Provincial High Courts to be nominated as members of the Conciliation Committee. According to Article 31-C of this Ordinance, no court established under this Ordinance may convict a bank or financial institution officer or employee for waiving, restructuring, or refinancing any financial facility, interest, or mark-up without the previous approval of the State Bank of Pakistan. An indictment could be issued if the State Bank agrees with the court. It promotes widespread corruption and must be repealed because it shields dishonest bank staff and businessmen. The Voluntary Return clause in this agreement should be eliminated. Only if the primary defendant can be prosecuted as a result of the approver(s)' confession in a corruption case can a plea bargain for the approver(s) be considered (s). It was suggested that the NAB organize an oversight group of five Supreme Court justices and thoroughly audit the entire system to increase the conviction rate even further. The Chief Justice should choose the Committee's chairman. Anti-corruption education should be included in all educational programs, from kindergarten to college. The following are NAB's recommendations: The NAB has been advised to engage more actively with the media to improve its reputation and encourage the public to report corruption. NAB prosecutors and investigators would benefit from education in government contracts, banking, discovering assets hidden by offshore businesses, and the stock market. NAB should maximize the use of social media as a tool for citizen participation. For anti-corruption efforts to work, the public's deep scepticism of these reformers must be overcome. There should be checks and balances between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches in a democratic society to prevent corruption. To prevent corruption and discourage dishonest behavior, institutions should implement incentives for dedicated workers who always do the right thing. Furthermore, it must ensure that all of its investigative methods adhere to the legal framework as well as the rights and protections given by Qanoon-e-Shahdat, Iran's Islamic Constitution. The Ehtsab Act of 1996 establishes a timetable for the investigation. The NAB must treat all accused and witnesses with dignity and respect. The organization should implement preventative measures to avoid becoming a haven for bribery and corruption (JAVED, 2021). Furthermore, the NAB must make sure that the reference presented and tested in the Accountability Courts is upheld in any High Court or Supreme Court review petitions that are filed later.

References

- Ahmad, S. S. (2019). THE ROLE OF JUDICIARY IN PAKISTAN: CASE OF NAB. *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs*, 2(2), 120-125.
- Ahmed, U., & Abbas, H. S. M. (2022). Institutional Corruption in the Health Sector and Role of Administration: A Case Study of Pakistan. *Annals of Social Sciences and Perspective*, 3(1), 219-234.
- Ali, Z. (2020). Pakistan's National Accountability Ordinance and the facilitation of corrupt practices. *Contemporary South Asia*, 28(1), 86-99.
- Azam, M., Nawaz, M. A., & Riaz, M. (2019). Does corruption and terrorism affect foreign direct investment inflows into Pakistan. *Journal of Managerial Sciences*, 13(2), 85-97.
- Bhatti, W. A., Wahaj, B., & Zeeshan, M. (2021). EXPLORING WHITE COLLAR CRIMINAL NATURE A CHALLENGES FOR PAKISTANI SOCIETY. *Jahan-e-Tahqeeq*, 4(3), 767-773.
- Buehn, A., Lessmann, C., & Markwardt, G. (2013). Decentralization and the shadow economy: Oates meets Allingham–Sandmo. *Applied Economics*, 45(18), 2567-2578.
- Butt, M. Z. (2022). White-Collar Crime in the Light of Theoretical Approach: Battling the Emerging threat and an Onerous challenge to Criminal Justice System in Pakistan. *Law and Policy Review*, 1(2), 12-30.
- Chattha, I. (2012). Competitions for resources: Partition's Evacuee Property and the Sustenance of Corruption in Pakistan. *Modern Asian Studies*, 46(5), 1182-1211.
- Cheema, A. M., Fatima, M., & Mahsud, M. I. (2020). Pakistan's Anti-Corruption Legal Regime: A Story of Political Rag Tag. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 12(1), 1-20.
- Christensen, J., & Yesilkagit, K. (2019). International public administrations: a critique. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 26(6), 946-961.
- Collins, J. D., McMullen, J. S., & Reutzell, C. R. (2016). Distributive justice, corruption, and entrepreneurial behavior. *Small Business Economics*, 47, 981-1006.
- Génaux, M. (2004). Social sciences and the evolving concept of corruption. *Crime, law and social change*, 42, 13-24.
- Gul, N., Khan, M. S., Farid, N., Shah, A. A., & Adeel, M. (2022). Analysis Of Effectiveness Of Anti-Corruption Laws Of Pakistan. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 6(8), 9954-9967.
- Huberts, L., Lasthuizen, K., & Peeters, C. (2016). Measuring corruption: Exploring the iceberg *Measuring corruption* (pp. 281-310): Routledge.
- Hussain, R. (2019). CORRUPTION HANDLING STRATEGIES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF VARIOUS CORRUPTION CONTROLLING MODELS. *Pakistan Journal of Society, Education and Language (PJSEL)*, 5(2), 49-61.
- Ibodullaevich, K. K., & Kizi, U. G. K. (2021). Types, forms of corruption, causes and consequences. *Scientific progress*, 1(4), 4-9.
- Ibrar, K. (2020). Impact of White-Collar Crimes and Blue-Collar Crimes on Society of Pakistan (Analytical Study). Available at SSRN 3954982.

- Javaid, U. (2010). Corruption and its deep impact on good governance in Pakistan. *Pakistan Economic and Social Review*, 123-134.
- JAVED, D. S. (2021). Assessment of anti-corruption agency of Pakistan. *Journal of Contemporary Issues in Business and Government/ Vol*, 27(3), 1399.
- Khan, F. (2016). Combating corruption in Pakistan. *Asian Education and Development Studies*, 5(2), 195-210.
- Ko, K., & Weng, C. (2011). Critical review of conceptual definitions of Chinese corruption: a formal–legal perspective. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 20(70), 359-378.
- Kurer, O. (2014). Definitions of corruption *Routledge handbook of political corruption* (pp. 30-41): Routledge.
- Liu, X. (2016). A literature review on the definition of corruption and factors affecting the risk of corruption. *Open Journal of Social Sciences*, 4(6), 171-177.
- Malik, N., & Qureshi, T. A. (2021). A study of economic, cultural, and political causes of police corruption in Pakistan. *Policing: A journal of policy and practice*, 15(2), 1446-1462.
- Muhammad, B., Ali, A., & Shehzad, F. (2022). Impacts of Corruption on Rural Uplift: An Illustrative Approach regarding Peshawar, Pakistan. *Pakistan Vision*, 23(1), 49-62.
- Mungiu-Pippidi, A., & Hartmann, T. (2019). Corruption and development: a reappraisal *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance*: Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Owusu, E. K., Chan, A. P., & Shan, M. (2019). Causal factors of corruption in construction project management: An overview. *Science and engineering ethics*, 25, 1-31.
- Quah, J. S. (2021). Breaking the cycle of failure in combating corruption in Asian countries. *Public Administration and Policy*, 24(2), 125-138.
- Reayat, N., Farid, N., Khan, M. K., & Shah, A. M. (2021). Judicial Activism and its Implications for Good Governance: A Case for Judicial Reforms in Pakistan. *Review of Applied Management and Social Sciences*, 4(1), 1-12.
- Reayat, N., Shah, A. U. M., Kaleem, M., & Shah, S. A. A. (2020). THE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION: THE CASE STUDY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION ORDINANCE. *International Journal of Management Research and Emerging Sciences*, 10(2), 129-139.
- Riggs, F. W. (2019). Bureaucratic links between administration and politics *Handbook of comparative and development public administration* (pp. 815-838): Routledge.
- Rose, J. (2018). The meaning of corruption: Testing the coherence and adequacy of corruption definitions. *Public Integrity*, 20(3), 220-233.
- Sadiq, E. (2020). Anti-corruption investigation agencies in Pakistan: an appraisal. *ISSRA Papers*, 12, 47-73.
- Sagar, A. (2019). The Concept of White-Collar Crime: Nature, Causes, Political and Legal Aspects in Accountability and Way Forward. *Journal of Political Studies*, 26(1), 149-156.

- Shah, S. F., Abbas, Z., & Qayyum, A. (2021). An Evaluation of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) as Anti-Graft Body in the Political Perspective of Accountability in Pakistan. *Public Integrity*, 18(1) 1-13.
- Stoilova, D., & Patonov, N. (2020). Fiscal policy and growth in a small emerging economy: The case of Bulgaria. *Society and Economy*, 42(4), 386-402.
- Ulain, N., & Hussain, F. (2020). Fighting governmental corruption in Pakistan: An evaluation of anti-corruption strategies. *Hrvatska i komparativna javna uprava: časopis za teoriju i praksu javne uprave*, 20(3), 439-468.
- Uroos, A., Shabbir, M. S., Zahid, M. U., Yahya, G., & Abbasi, B. A. (2022). Economic analysis of corruption: evidence from Pakistan. *Transnational Corporations Review*, 14(1), 46-61.
- Van, V. T. T., Ha, N. T. T., & Quyen, P. G. (2020). The relationship between public debt, budget deficit, and sustainable economic development in developing countries: The role of corruption control. *Jurnal Ekonomi & Studi Pembangunan*, 21(1), 84-104.
- Waseem, M. (2020). Political Parties in an "Establishmentarian Democracy". *Pakistan's Political Parties: Surviving between Dictatorship and Democracy*, 272.