

Ways To Transform Corrupt Relations Using Ethical Mechanisms

Shakarov Oybek Xudoyberdi o'g'li
Independent researcher at Samarkand
State Institute of Foreign Languages

Annotation: This article analyzes the issue of addressing corruption through ethical principles. It explores strategies for reducing corruption through ethical mechanisms, highlighting the social, economic, and cultural aspects of this process. Additionally, the article discusses the role of education and upbringing, the significance of moral values, and the philosophical foundations of reducing corruption. The article includes practical recommendations for effectively implementing ethical mechanisms in the fight against corruption.

Keywords: corruption, ethical mechanisms, principles, transformation, education, values, spirituality, society, strategies, social justice.

Corruption poses a serious threat to any society. This phenomenon not only causes economic harm but also undermines the principles of social justice. It reduces people's trust in state institutions. Therefore, in the fight against corruption, not only legal measures but also ethical mechanisms play a crucial role. The issue of transforming corruption through ethical principles is currently at the center of philosophical and social discussions.

Corruption essentially means the abuse of power or authority for personal gain. This process is often linked with ethical violations. For instance, in places where values such as responsibility, honesty, and justice are violated, a corrupt environment flourishes. As stated in Aristotle's ethical philosophy, the principles of justice in society should serve as the foundation for each individual's moral development.[1] Corruption, on the other hand, rejects these principles and places personal interest above social responsibility.

Ethical mechanisms are a system of principles and values that determine human behavior. This system plays a vital role in improving the ethical environment in society and combating negative phenomena like corruption. Ethical mechanisms aim to instill values such as honesty, justice, responsibility, and humanity in people's consciousness to ensure stability within society. These mechanisms are implemented through several key directions.

Firstly, education and upbringing play a central role in shaping ethical principles. Instilling virtues such as honesty, responsibility, and humanity in the younger generation not only benefits individuals but also contributes to improving the overall ethical environment of society. Introducing special programs aimed at fighting corruption in educational institutions and nurturing students with ethical awareness and a sense of responsible citizenship is an essential step. For instance, organizing lectures on ethics and moral values in schools and universities, along with practical training, teaches young people to be resolute against corruption.

Secondly, increasing the importance of cultural values ensures the effective functioning of ethical mechanisms. By promoting national and universal values, a society can form an uncompromising stance against corruption. Culture defines the spiritual foundation of society, and the values formed within it directly influence human behavior. Moreover, promoting values like honesty and justice through cultural events and mass media, and clearly showing the harm corruption brings to society, can help improve the ethical environment in society.

Thirdly, public oversight plays a crucial role in the fight against corruption. To ensure that all layers of society act together against corruption, the activities of civil society institutions, non-governmental organizations, and mass media are essential. Public oversight helps identify corrupt practices, ensure legal measures are taken against them, and foster an uncompromising attitude toward corrupt relations. In this regard, it is necessary to explain the importance of the fight against corruption to the public, encourage their participation, and ensure the transparency of actions. In the process of deepening democratic reforms in our country, the opinion of the people holds significant weight. As emphasized by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in the previous chapter: "The role of a strong and effective public oversight is invaluable. To this end, the

launch of the 'Public Opinion' portal in 2019 has been marked, which will also serve as an effective tool in the fight against corruption".[2]

Fourthly, leadership by example plays a significant role in shaping ethical principles. The principle of personal responsibility and setting an example by leaders is an effective method for promoting honesty and justice in society. When leaders actively participate in the fight against corruption and demonstrate the necessity of adhering to ethical principles through their actions, it holds great significance. This is because society typically looks up to the behavior of individuals in high positions. Therefore, leaders must demonstrate transparency, accountability, and honesty in their actions. "Nepotism is an element of corruption and should be penalized. While corruption can be defined as the abuse of power by a public servant for personal gain, nepotism involves a public official consolidating their personal power by surrounding themselves with loyal, yet often unqualified, relatives, friends, or associates".[3]

In conclusion, ethical mechanisms play a crucial role in the fight against corruption. They encompass key areas such as education and upbringing, cultural values, public oversight, and leadership by example. These mechanisms help form an uncompromising stance toward corruption in society and strengthen the principles of honesty and justice.

To reduce corruption and mitigate its social-political consequences, ethical principles serve as an important strategic foundation. These principles are a system of values that ensure the steady development of human behavior. They can be effective in combating corruption not only through punishment or legal measures but also by implementing actions aimed at eliminating its roots. Below, the proposed directions to enhance the effectiveness of ethical principles in the fight against corruption are analyzed.

The education system holds a decisive role in the process of combating corruption. Education, as a crucial social institution, is where the ethical values of the new generation are shaped. By educating the youth on principles such as honesty, justice, responsibility, and social equality, corruption can be prevented. For instance, in Scandinavian countries, education programs are based on ethical values, which has ensured high levels of transparency in society.[4]

Strengthening ethical values in society is one of the key tools for creating immunity against corruption. The culture and religious heritage of every nation are based on the appreciation of honesty and responsibility. In Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and other religions, these values are viewed as factors ensuring the stability of society.

The ethical principles promoted by religions, such as honesty, not causing harm to others, and respecting the rights of others, all contribute to the formation of a high ethical culture in society. For instance, in Malaysia and Indonesia, Islamic values are being used as an important tool in the fight against corruption. These values serve as a foundation for ethical behavior, encouraging individuals and communities to act with integrity and fairness, thus supporting the broader efforts to reduce corruption.[5]

The role of leaders in the fight against corruption is unparalleled. When leaders adhere to high ethical standards in their activities, it strongly influences the promotion of honesty within society. If leaders demonstrate transparency and justice in their actions, it sets an example for employees and the community as a whole. According to the 2023 report by Transparency International, in countries where leaders have increased their accountability, corruption levels are significantly lower.

Public oversight is one of the most effective methods in combating corruption. By ensuring transparency in governance, corruption levels can be drastically reduced. Modern technologies play a crucial role in this process. For example, in Estonia, the introduction of e-government technologies in the state administration system has led to significant achievements in the fight against corruption.[6]

Ethical principles should be recognized as the most fundamental and long-term tool in reducing corruption. Promoting honesty in the education system, developing moral values, increasing leadership accountability, and ensuring transparency through public oversight are the most effective strategies in this regard. If these measures are implemented cohesively and consistently, significant results can be achieved in the fight against corruption.

Ethical mechanisms can only be effective in reducing corruption under certain conditions. For these mechanisms to succeed, all segments of society must be involved. Additionally, legal measures should be seen as complementary tools to ethical mechanisms.

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