Strategy, Assessment and Suggestions for Eradication of Petty Corruption in Bangladesh *

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Abstract

This paper will discuss and suggest ways to overcome the problems of corruption especially petty corruption. Corruption—at both high and low levels—is one of the greatest challenges to the Bangladeshi establishment of good governance in the country. This paper focuses on the critical issue of good governance, which has been absent in anti-corruption reform initiatives and argues that reform strategies are more effective when they are participative and include all public sectors. It will also examine Bangladesh’s corruption experience in light of the anti-corruption in Bangladesh. The paper next considers the corruption that arises at all levels in general in Bangladesh. Overall, the findings tend to support the predictions about corruption, though there remain many issues that need to be further investigated. The

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present analysis reveals the recent trend of petty corruption and offers some suggestions through realistic and psychological strategy practices for combating corruption which will affect the future development prospects of Bangladesh.

JEL classification: D4. L1

Keywords: Petty corruption; Realistic factor; Psychological strategies; Anti-Corruption; Principle-agent model.

I Introduction

I have been nearly thirty years in Japan and in that time, I have never paid a single yen for dealing with the passport office, tax office, driving license establishments or any other organizations. Neither have I ever heard from my friends, colleagues or neighbors about petty corruption by the police, tax office or public servants here. But it is very difficult to say Japan is totally clean of corruption. Sometimes there are some corruption scandals broadcast by mass-media involving higher officials and bureaucrats\(^1\). Corruption is forbidden in all countries around the world, but corruption happens, both high or low, in every country including the least corrupt countries. No one can guarantee the elimination of corruption. It is just a matter of how severe it is. The purpose of this paper is to analyze petty corruption in Bangladesh and to consider the possibility of Bangladesh eradicating or (at least) decreasing petty corruption like in other Asian countries or the Asian region like, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan.

Bangladesh has some persistent problems like: over-population, poverty, malnutrition, inadequate education, lack of resources and corruption at all levels of society and government. Development
efforts are seriously hampered due to corruption in all corners of bureaucracy, the civil service, politics, even in education. Due to corruption the government cannot achieve its political goals and targets. Bangladesh—at both high and low levels—faces great challenges to the establishment of good governance systems. The corruption menace increases social injustice and human insecurity².

Under the present circumstances, there are different studies about corruption in Bangladesh. Transparency International (TI) ranked Bangladesh as the most corrupt country in the world for five years from 2001 to 2005. Since then corruption in the public sector has become a much talked and serious issue in Bangladesh contemporary research. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) publishes yearly reports and some NGOs are working on it.

The studies conducted include: research papers, surveys of research and government documents. The World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), TI, TIB, National Household Survey, and newspapers have used consultants to study various aspects of Bangladesh. This study will try to clear up the concept of corruption and verify the major causes of corruption and the consequences of corruption at both government levels. The discussion of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2, The realities and trend of petty corruption in Bangladesh; Section 3, An international comparison of corruption and research review; Section 4, Suggestions for corruption eradication strategies in Bangladesh; and Section 5, concluding remarks.

II The realities and trends of petty corruption in Bangladesh

The World Bank recognized in July 2015, Bangladesh as a
low-income country, with a Gross National Income per capita (GNI) of $1,046 to $4,125, joining other countries with similar annual incomes. There was economic growth, with 6 percent plus growth over the decade, reaching 7.1 percent in 2015-2016. Rapid growth will enable Bangladesh to achieve middle-income country status by 2021, it’s 50th anniversary of independence (WB, website). Under such an achievement, the country has chronic problems like corruption in all government offices and organizations. Before explaining the realities and trends of petty corruption in Bangladesh, the definition(s) of corruption from different research and institutions will be discussed.

The WB defines corruption as “the abuse of public power for private benefit” (WB, 1997:8). The TI defined it as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”.

When a person has a monopoly over a good or service, he/she has the discretion to decide who will receive it and for how much, but is not accountable, and has a low (legal) income level (Klitgaard, 1998:1-18). It is significant to explore how ‘corruption’ is defined by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Bangladesh. The ACC, Bangladesh, defines corruption, as ‘offences’ (Ministry of Finance, 2011, website). “Petty corruption” is included in administrative related corruption. Petty corruption is bribery in connection with the implementation of existing laws, rules and regulations. The level of corruption varies depending on how influential the position a particular civil servant holds is. Small scale, bureaucratic or petty corruption is ‘everyday corruption’ that takes place with public officials. According to Heidenedheimer, corrupt behavior is classified into ‘petty corruption’, ‘routine corruption’ and ‘aggravated corruption’ (Heidenedheimer, 2002:156-157). On the other hand, Stapenhurst and Langseth (1997) categorize it into ‘petty’ and ‘grand’ corruption'.
According to the United Nations Office of Drug Control (UNODC), “Petty corruption”, is sometimes described as “administrative corruption”, which involves the exchange of very small amounts of money, and the granting of small favors. These, however, cause considerable public losses, as with the customs officer who waves through a consignment of high-duty goods having been bribed a mere $50 (UNODC, 2004: 27). Transparency International in a 2011 survey, found/state that petty corruption amounted to £554 million globally. Furthermore, petty corruption has been increasing, which means its increasing day by day. There are some studies on Bangladesh’s corruption concerns. A TIB survey shows that near 70 percent of household heads paid bribes to officials in law enforcement agencies, customs offices, in (income) tax departments, and utilities departments throughout the country. The WB document found that corruption totaled 2-3 percent on annual GDP growth each year in Bangladesh (WB, 1996). The Washington-based think tank Heritage Foundation, the Wall Street Journal, and TI give a CPI score and Bangladesh has moved slightly upward on the score card by 0.2 points, though its ranking remained static compared to that of the last year,2011 (The Daily Star, 2012, January 19). This has slightly declined in recent years but nonetheless is an improvement on 2005, when the country ranked last (figure 1).
1. Some examples of corruptions in Bangladesh

Government offices are staffed with bureaucrats and law enforcement agencies, in which the police and tax officials are highly corrupt. TIB has conducted several national household surveys. These surveys showed that the most corrupt sectors in the Bangladesh are the police, the judiciary, administrative and tax wings (table 1). The “national household survey 2012”, showed that 84.2 percent of the households were victims of corruption from different public and private service sectors or institutions. Judiciary is the most corrupt among all the sectors followed by law enforcement agencies and land administration. About 71.9 percent of households were forced to pay bribes or unauthorized money. The highest occurrence of these kinds of incidents were connected to law enforcement agencies followed by land administration and the judiciary.
Table 1: Household Survey on Corruption Trends of Different Government Department in Bangladesh (percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Services</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>75.32</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>88.0</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>48.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law enforcement Agencies</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>83.61</td>
<td>83.57</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>79.7</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Administration</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>72.8</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>52.7</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>53.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Tax, VAT &amp; Customs</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>19.25</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>28.23</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45.3</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>22.66</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>40.18</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>67.4</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>40.65</td>
<td>24.22</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>60.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport and Immigration</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>71.0</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>89.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>55.12</td>
<td>49.64</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>69.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: * (no survey) First household survey on corruption in 1997 by TIB.
Sources: Compile from TIB Website

There has lack of accountability, transparency, honesty, guarantees of economic freedom, and individuals’ rights to freely exchange and, based on well secured property rights of the government to the public by law due to poor governance. The politicians, public and private employees all too easily involved in corruption. All these create an environment for corruption and corruption gradually deepens its roots in the society. As stated above, in Bangladesh, police, passport, immigration and education department corruption are endemic. According to figures released by the TIB on November 1, 2015 and December 25, 2015, two out of every ten Bangladeshi interviewed had paid a bribe in 64 districts (Table 2). Acts of petty corruption, the daily abuse of power by low and mid-ranking police officers when interacting with common citizens, as described in these examples,
can at first seem to be simple and trivial acts.

**Example 1: The suffering of the taxpayers**

The phenomenon of tax evasion has received enormous research attention throughout the world. Notably, over the past four decades, a rapid growth in the literature on tax evasion and compliance has become evident (Tanzi & Shome 1998). Tanzi, argues that corruption in taxation destroys economic efficiency. Favoritism and corruption spoils the neutral aspect(s) of a tax system by providing undue competition for some individuals, firms or companies over their competitors (Tanzi 1998). Needless to say, in this rent-seeking⁴ corrupt game, the loser is the government.

Taxpayers who bribe tax authorities get special treatment and are able to reduce or evade their tax liability. A clearer view is reflected in comments made by an Executive of TIB, “If you want to pay your tax honestly, you have a problem; if you want to pay tax in a dishonest way, or in other words you evade tax, your life can be much easier. If you have some mechanism to get some people who will help you in making tax payments lower than actual or bypassing the due dates, then you will have a lot of people to help you” (The Daily Star, 2011, Feb,1).
Table 2: Victims of corruption among the recipients of different services in 2015 (unit %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons for giving bribe</th>
<th>Passport</th>
<th>Law Enforcement</th>
<th>BRTA</th>
<th>Local Administration</th>
<th>Judiciary</th>
<th>Electricity</th>
<th>Tax &amp; Customs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Paid unauthorized money</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>77.0</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>44.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Paid to avoid complications</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Avoiding hassle</td>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. To get services on time</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Illegal services</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Harassment</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Others</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Taka</td>
<td>3,120</td>
<td>7,067</td>
<td>3,869</td>
<td>9,257</td>
<td>9,686</td>
<td>3,630</td>
<td>4,796</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: * Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, This household survey was conducted by TIB, between November 1, 2015 and December 25, 2015 in 64 districts. (—) data unavailable.
Sources: TIB(2016), National Household Survey 2015, Corruption in Service Sectors, June, Bangladesh.

According to the President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), “The suffering of the taxpayers is due to the tax officials imposing taxes according to their will by using their discretionary power. That’s why people do not want to come under the tax net. Lots of people try to escape the tax net because of a fear of being harassed. The perception is, if once you are caught in the tax net, then you are in trouble for ever” (The Daily Star, 2011, Feb,1).

Example 2: Corruption of construction engineers and Members of Parliament

The WB study on the hidden costs of doing big business in Bangladesh examined the implicit ‘private’ taxes in attempting to get a trade license and a factory license to set up a garment factory. Businessmen end up resorting to ‘side-payments’ of $500 for local authority approval, $125-200 for clearance by the chief inspector of
factories, and $125 for the factory license itself is required to push this through.’ Overall, ‘the costs of corruption ($7,760) come to 340 percent of the estimated initial official costs ($2,291) of setting up a business’.

The Daily Prothom-Alo (newspaper) an article about thousands of unnecessary and unfinished small and medium bridges in the country that never got completed over a period of several years. In most cases, once 20 to 40 percent of the work had been completed, the builders got paid in full by the ministry. This type of activity is mostly permitted by local Members of Parliament, engineers and related officials because they already have their commission. But the ultimate sufferers of this wastage are the country’s economy and local tax paying people. Here corruption creates the mentality of ill political competition. Politicians always want to have the power so they engage in fighting with opposition parties. In Bangladesh political activities are sustained by money and power but it must be through ideology and merit (Daily Prothom-Alo, 2008).

**Example 3: Corruption in judiciary**

It is regrettable to observe the reality of Bangladesh’s corruption in/of the legal system. Court employees, court clerks and brokers take money to hasten or postpone hearings, to withdraw and destroy case documents and influence judgement. Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar, of the Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (the Law and Justice Division of the Bangladesh Ministry of Law), mentioned, “The situation is very gloomy now. Not only do we have vast overcrowding in the prisons and a huge backlog of cases in the courts, but we have corruption everywhere - in the administration, the police, the judiciary. In most cases, people cannot obtain services or a decision without money.
People are afraid, and every day they are losing their confidence in the whole system” (GIZ, 2016, website). Another example from the Daily Star (Dec 25, 2010), states that about 11 percent of the surveyed households that received services from the judiciary paid an average Tk 7,918 per bribe. Households that sought service(s) from the High Court paid on average, Tk 12,761 each for services. They also paid, on average, Tk 6,598 and Tk 6,178 at magistrates’ and judges’ courts.

**Example 4: Corruption in the Passport Department**

“Possibly you will not get a single person who would say that he received any public service without a bribe or harassment. The public servants harass people to collect extra money,” Khandker Abdul Baten, a businessman, said he had to bribe officials in the passport department in obtaining passports for his wife and two daughters. Two separate police officers telephoned me to verify my address and other information. They met me at my office and asked for money. They gave a good report to the passport office without going to my house as I gave them 1,500 *taka* [U.S. $19] for each of the passports,” (Benar News, 2016, June 29).

**Example 5: Corruption in the Police Department**

Dhaka resident Mohidul Islam complained that he had to pay a broker, or middle-man, 200 *taka* (U.S. $2.50) outside a police station in order to expedite his case of a lost identity card. At every police station, brokers wait to collect such payments from ordinary people, particularly illiterate ones, Islam alleged. “They collect money from the people for whatever service they seek from them. Can’t the police evict the brokers? The middlemen are the collectors for the
police,” (Benar News, 2016, June 29).

Example 6: Corruption in the Electric Power Department

Power and Energy sector corruption is another problem in Bangladesh. Getting an electric connection from the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) or Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) is a very difficult process, involving hassles, delays and bribery. The application form for a service connection asks for details of property ownership, lease deeds, and for industrial connections, clearance certificates from the fire department and the Health Division. It is easy to find faults in the dozen or so attachments, unless appropriate palms are greased. Six signatures of various BPDB officials are required for the approval, while the time involved for moving the case from one office to another is inversely related to the amount of gratification paid (Benar News, 2016, June 29). Owners of a new private house may get away with paying between 5,000 and 10,000 taka, but a commercial or industrial connection would cost more. For example, a small factory requiring a bulk low-tension connection of 45 KW capacity could easily cost Tk 50,000 or more. For small and medium enterprises, a connection “surcharge” of Tk 1,000 per KW is the norm. For them, bribing is mainly limited to paying baksheesh to working people. (Benar News, 2016, June 29).

Example 7: Others

Real estate businesspeople are an influential interest group in Bangladesh and are said to have a relationship with politicians. Therefore, they are in a convenient position to bargain with the incumbent government. More recently, between 2009 and 2012, the
GOB encouraged dishonest people to invest their black money in the stock market without fear of being prosecuted for the illegal source of their income or not paying taxes in due time ((The Daily Star, 2011, Feb 1).

The petty corruption, which is public management related, includes persons like higher authorities in the civil service; public officers, police officers, other administrative clerks, and peons. The study mentioned above that petty corruption problem in Bangladesh, affecting every sector of service delivery including police, health care, education, land administration, tax collection, journalism, and municipal and telephone services. “Bureaucratic corruption has become institutionalized as never before in Bangladesh” (Munir and Salim, 2000: 138). Extensive interventions and enormous increase in rent-seeking and corruption at all levels of the government. In this section it will focused on petty corruption as follows.

2. Dualistic factors of petty corruption in Bangladesh

Dualistic factors of petty corruption in Bangladesh are realistic and psychological (Figure 2). The realistic factors are based on materialistic (economic, social and political) interests. Psychological factors are non-materialistic factors (dishonesty, immorality and no integrity).

Both of these factors have forward and backward linkages, which ‘push’ towards corruption. Petty corruption is (a form of) bribery connected to the implementation of existing laws, rules and regulations and is the oldest and wide spread form in Bangladesh. It involves the provision of public goods and services being sold at a bribe price, usually by low level personnel. It also refers to modest sums of money usually involved, and has also been called “low level” or “street
level” bribery, to name the kind of corruption that people can experience more or less daily, in their encounters with public administration and services like hospitals, schools, local licensing authorities, police and taxing authorities.

Figure 2: Dualistic factors of corruption in Bangladesh

![Diagram of dualistic factors of corruption with realistic and psychological factors]

Sources: Complied by Author

(1) Realistic factors

It is very unfortunate to observe the continuing and unimpressive activities amongst politicians, bureaucrats and other civil servants in Bangladesh. According to ADB research on Bangladesh, corruption occurs within the public sector, whether politicians or civil servants, where they improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves, or those close to them, through the misuse of the public power entrusted to them (ADB, 2010:31). In addition, according to Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB, the general impression of ordinary people in Bangladesh is that corruption is ‘a way of life’. While culturally corruption is considered to be an immoral act as opposed to a “wrong” or “bad” “policy”, with rapid economic growth and social development, corruption has crept into the economic system of the country. However, the realistic factors are economic, social
and political factors which are as follows.

i) **Economic factors**: Low salaries, lack of career advancement opportunities, and poor motivation, make rent-seeking an easy means to improve life for many civil servants (**Table 3**). Unemployment is another cause of corruption in Bangladesh\(^{9}\). The demand for jobs is much greater than availability. So people try to get jobs by offering bribes. Like ‘give bribe and take favorable services’ behavior occurs with in both client and agent. Sometimes client want favorable services to provide bribes for agent, such as taxes reduction. In cases of high taxes, paying off the corrupt official is always cheaper than the tax. The result has that the corrupt officials collect bribes, the government fails to collect taxes, and ultimately corruption continues to grow. Studies by Buehn and Schneider, 2012; Hassan, 2011; Torgler 2004; and Schneider, 2002, looked at the tax corruption issue and the size of the shadow economy of Bangladesh. Torgler’s (2004) study demonstrated that tax corruption in Bangladesh appeared to be highest among Asian countries over the period 1995-1997 at 96.3 percent. According to TIB, of income-tax payers, 20.7 percent paid bribes in the process of tax payment, with the average bribe estimated at Tk.5,282. The incidence of bribery and numbers of bribes was higher for urban households. Most households (62.5 percent) reported that they resorted to paying bribes in order to avoid harassment (BIT, website).

ii) **Social factors**: Giving and accepting a ‘gift’ or ‘present’ are traditional customs and courtesies in many parts of the world. But when these gifts are for financial benefit it becomes an offence. Giving a ‘gift’ or a ‘present’ as dowry (specially in Hindu culture)
is a traditional custom and a courtesy and was founded in ancient India and is/was used in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. The *zamindary* system is an example of this gift giving tradition which continued up to India’s independence from Britain.

The tenants had to work in the houses of *zamindars* on occasions like marriages and religious festivals without any return. Moreover, the farmers had to give ‘gifts’ or ‘presents’ to *zamindar* by mortgage or sale their land and cattle. While on *zamindari* system abolition but their ‘gifts’ or ‘presents’ culture still continue in Bangladesh. Many people accept bribes as inevitable and unavoidable. Even going so far as to say that nothing should be done about it: that it’s a form of gift giving. In Bangladeshi culture giving presents to particular persons during special events or seasons is considered the norm. However, this culture of gift-giving by students or parents to teachers must be discouraged, as this becomes a channel for bribery and psychological practices by both parties. Breaking this pattern can be effectively executed by teachers/professors by refusing all gifts and offers. The same can be done by parents by refusing to give gifts, and reporting to designated authorities, if gifts or bribes are asked for.
Strategy, Assessment and Suggestions for Eradication of Petty Corruption in Bangladesh (Chowdhury)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade/Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Grade</td>
<td>7800</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
<td>6600</td>
<td>3350</td>
<td>1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Grade</td>
<td>5650</td>
<td>2900</td>
<td>1680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>2575</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Grade</td>
<td>4300</td>
<td>2225</td>
<td>1375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Grade</td>
<td>3550</td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>1100</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Grade</td>
<td>2900</td>
<td>1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th Grade</td>
<td>2300</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>7400</td>
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<td>9th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Grade</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>5100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Grade</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>6400</td>
<td>4100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Grade</td>
<td>1130</td>
<td>5900</td>
<td>3700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th Grade</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>5500</td>
<td>3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th Grade</td>
<td>1020</td>
<td>5200</td>
<td>3300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Grade</td>
<td>9700</td>
<td>4900</td>
<td>3100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th Grade</td>
<td>9300</td>
<td>4700</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Grade</td>
<td>9000</td>
<td>4500</td>
<td>2850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th Grade</td>
<td>8800</td>
<td>4400</td>
<td>2600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th Grade</td>
<td>8500</td>
<td>4250</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th Grade</td>
<td>8250</td>
<td>4100</td>
<td>2400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: $1=79 Taka, 1Taka = 1.3Yen (2016)
Sources: MOF, website

There are some social corruption by unfair business person, doing duplicating medicines, import items goods, mixture in low price goods with high price goods like, mixture in spices, stones in cereals, animal fats in ghee (butter), kerosene in petrol. Organized corruption does not a special category within corrupt practice, but rather is a situation in which the major institutions and processes of the state are routinely dominated by, and used by, corrupt individuals and groups, and in which many people have few practical alternatives to deal with corrupt officials. Honest businessmen and politicians are often isolated and powerless, as the prevailing atmosphere makes
it difficult to remain unsullied by corruption and patronage. The protected godfather-\textit{mastaan} (scumbags)\textsuperscript{7}) enjoy impunity from both police and the justice system, though in recent years this safety has been threatened by other extrajudicial means.

\textbf{iii) Political factors:} As with the above, this form of corruption neither has a special category of corrupt practice by corrupt individuals and groups, it is a systemic corruption “trap”. The influence of corruption is so strong that most people have virtually accepted it as just another part of daily life: moreover, frighteningly, express their helplessness to measure the phenomenon at any level of government. A WB report quoted: ‘\ldots files do not move in government offices without bribes. Bribe-taking has almost become as legitimate as taking salaries’ in Bangladesh (WB, 1996). Under these circumstances nobody can get free of these corruption trap.

\textbf{(2)Psychological factors}

Psychology factors are explained here as the relationship between human mind(s) and behaviors. Psychological factors are dishonesty, immorality and a lack of integrity and these factors drive corruption in the following ways:

\textbf{i) Dishonesty:} Dishonest, erroneous, and untrustworthy conduct, usually by way of bribery or alteration of original intentions, which ultimately leads to a bastardized view of original goals. Psychological factors regarded as very important, because dishonesty can convict to negative actions. Embodiment of implementation psychological factors through transparency. Transparency is method of enforcing honesty morality and integrity. With transparency, participation in monitoring an entire organization will be accommodated so as to minimize the
potential for dishonesty, immorality and no integrity. To be moral is to have a sense of what is right, good, and truthful based on an implied common standard. Integrity is one's honesty, moral character and ability to make decisions. Integrity includes the accountability and willingness to accept responsibility for actions and decisions.

ii) **Immorality:** As we know, moral hazard is a concept where people will take risks whenever they have an incentive to unfair mean. Poverty, unemployment and low pay negatively influences immoral activities in Bangladesh. The get rich quick trend, in combination with low wages, tends to indulge meal hazard. It is often claimed that poverty is a very important factor in encouraging corruption. Poor people has unable to manage their basic needs; food, cloths, shelter, medical and education. They struggle with starvation. Honesty, morality and virtue are arguably, meaningless to them. So they have no hesitation to adopt unfair means or to offer bribes to fulfil their needs. Furthermore, as we know from basic economics, every transaction has demand and supply, corruption is no different. The demander of a bribe is a civil servant who has the power to offer a job or the issuance of licenses and permits, passports, building permits, and the supplier is a business or unemployed citizen who wants these favors.

iii) **No integrity:** The house hold survey of TIB in 2015, findings show that Bangladeshi youth usually cling to a highly moralistic concept of integrity. They are aware of what is right and wrong according to the social norms and values of the country. As shown in table 4, 97 percent to 98 percent of youth surveyed believed that a person of integrity never lies nor cheats, never breaks the law
and refuses corruption in every case. In actual cases, the survey found, that many people have experienced corruption in the last 12 months (from October 2014 —to November 2015) in six different areas such as in getting official documents, in passing exams, in getting health care, in avoiding police problems, in getting jobs, and in increasing business (figure 3).

Table 4: The Level of Integrity Means of Young Persons (Age 15 to 35) in Bangladesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person of integrity means</th>
<th>percent</th>
<th>Perception of integrity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never lies nor cheats</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>Illegal for better life</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never breaks the laws</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Illegal but benefits</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ready to breaks laws</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Unofficial payment</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuse corruption</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>Unofficial payment to a public official</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuse bribes</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: TIB, 2015, website.

Figure 3: Experience of corruption in last 12 months (from October 2014 —to November 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To get or renew the National ID (NID) cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get health care from government health facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get a job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get rid of police case or harassment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get admission in school/ college/educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get more business/work order</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Survey by TIB among 3,656 young persons (age 15 to 35) in 31 districts
Sources: TIB 2015, website.
III An international comparison of corruption and Research Review

According to TI, in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2013, Bangladesh has scored 27, just one point higher than in 2012 and the same as in 2011, and was ranked 16th from the bottom, 3 points higher than in 2011 and 2012. Counted from the top, Bangladesh has ascended by 8 positions to 136th among 177 countries, compared to 144th among 176 countries in 2012. (The Daily Star, December 4th, 2013, website). This year (2014) it has ranked 14th from the bottom and was 16th in 2013 (The Daily Ittefaq, December 5 2014, Website). Although, from the above discussion, it has very cleared to understood about the corruption situation in Bangladesh. From the above statistics it is clear to see the corruption situation in Bangladesh. The Home Affairs Ministry controls the police and paramilitary forces, which bear primary responsibility for maintaining internal security. The government frequently uses the police for political purposes. There is widespread police corruption and a lack of discipline, and police officers committed numerous serious human rights abuses.

1. Some examples of corruptions in Bangladesh

Comparing corruption in countries is always difficult, however, according to an international comparison of the annual CPI, done by TI, Bangladesh has ranked for five years (2001-2005) at the bottom of the list. In 2011 the country scored 2.7, which has 0.3 higher than in 2010, occupied 120th place among 183 countries in 2011, compared to 134th among 178 countries and in 2012 Bangladesh occupied 144th place among 176 countries (table 5). Making a comparative analysis of the scores of last two years, in 2011 and
2012, among Asian countries, Singapore received the highest ranking in fifth place, next Hong Kong ranked 14th, Japan was placed 17th and Bangladesh placed 144th. Afghanistan was the lowest at 174 among 176 countries in the world.

Table 5: The Score and Rank of South Asia in CPI.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Asia</th>
<th>CPI 2016 Score</th>
<th>Rank (175)</th>
<th>CPI 2015 Score</th>
<th>Rank (175)</th>
<th>CPI 2014 Score</th>
<th>Rank (175)</th>
<th>CPI 2013 Score</th>
<th>Rank (176)</th>
<th>CPI 2012 Score</th>
<th>Rank (176)</th>
<th>CPI 2011 Score</th>
<th>Rank (183)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srilanka</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: TT (2012): Website. Note: (-) data are not available

2. Research review

Although, it could assessment and the prevention to petty corruption require; reducing the monopolistic power of (the) bureaucrats, civil servants and elected representative; limiting official discretion; transparency; punishments for violators; and so on. The former president of the WB, James Wolfensohn, stated that the ‘cancer of corruption’ was worldwide (WB, 1996) but the fight against it has increased significantly around the globe since the 1990s. It may not be possible to completely eradicate corruption in any country in the world, but with the strict implementation of laws and regulations, transparency, determined action will control corruption. Corruption occurs when a monopoly decision in the area of values, isolation,
communication gap with colleague, without someone’s accountability, transparency.

According to Nobel Prize laureate Gary Becker “if we abolish the state, we abolish corruption.” (Boris, 2005: 2). Corruption or corrupt practices involves the violation of established rules for personal gain and profit (Sen, A., 1999,136).

American Sociologist Donald Cressey developed a theory—known as the Fraud Triangle. The “points” of the Fraud Triangle represent three factors which are present in fraud (Figure 4): rationalization, opportunity, and motivation or pressure those are lead to fraud and other unethical behavior.
(1) Pressure is what motivates the fraud in the first place, such as a financial need, is the “motive” for committing the fraud. One common pressure is a gambling problem. Greed can also become a pressure, but it usually needs to be associated with injustice.
(2) Opportunity is created when there are weaknesses in controls. The person committing the fraud sees an internal control weakness and, believing no one will notice if funds are taken, begins the fraud with a small amount of money.
(3) Rationalization is when an individual thinks they are justified because they are underpaid. The person committing the fraud frequently rationalizes the fraud. The mindset of a person about to commit an unethical act is one of rationalization. The individual manages to justify what he or she is about to do.

Becker, who received a Nobel prize in Economics in 1992) pointed out that corruption can be divided into five categories: (1) the number of crimes, called “offences” in this essay; (2) the number of offences and the punishments meted out; (3) the number of offences, arrests, and convictions and the public expenditures for
police and courts; (4) the number of convictions and the costs of imprisonments or other kinds of punishments; and (5) the number of offences and the private expenditures for protection and apprehension (Becker, 1968: 169-217). The Beckerian method it should be possible, from an economic point of view, to introduce institutions that would act as deterrents to corrupt behavior. The straight forward instrumentalist way would be to manipulate the variables introduced in the equations above, that is, legal income, probability of detection, severity of punishment and expected loss of gains from corruption upon detection. In addition, since policing and investigating are costly tasks, and raising wages throughout the public sector equally so, the efficient approach quite rationally has to raise punishment to a level so high that it will automatically outweigh the expected utility from corrupt income, and this has indeed the approach in many developing countries.

Figure 4: The Fraud Triangle

\[\text{Pressure} \quad \text{Fraud} \quad \text{Opportunity}\]

\[\text{Rationalization}\]

Sources: Cressey, (1973, 30).

Klitgaard explained, the principal-agent theory\(^8\). Anti-corruption agency have adopted this theory in many countries in order to
reduce corruption. Within the principal-agent framework, corrupt acts between a bureaucrat or a civil servant (agent)—assumed to act in his or her own self-interest—and a client or citizens (principal), typically assumed to act in the public interest, may be an example of “a highly principled principal” (Klitgaard, 1988). Furthermore, to prevent corruption, Klitgaard suggests that the principal may choose the particular agents who will work for him: fix up for agent’s rewards and penalties; gather information about agents and clients; re-organize the principal agent-client relationship, and change the moral cost that affects the attitudes of agent and client about corruption. Since some of the theories suggest that the 'right' strategies will potentially reduce corruption explained in table 6. Hong Kong9, and Singapore10 are examples of countries that have adopted and are putting into practice these theories in order to prevent corruption to adopt these theory (Table 6).

In the context of Bangladesh, the ‘principal’ is the government body, which provides the public services to the people, and the ‘agents’ are the bureaucrats. The main contribution of this theory in the study is, it has assisted in evaluating the trust factor within contracting processes, as these affect the relationship between government and bureaucrats for tenders. The principle agent theory provides (for) different independent constructs including trust, information asymmetry, power, moral hazard, and contract. Some suggestions and corruption eradication strategies are discussed below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Empirical evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anticorruption agencies</td>
<td>Anticorruption agencies have been successful in Australia, Chile, Hong Kong, New South Wales, and Singapore (Klitgaard 1997: Segal 1999). Developing countries, however, do not view such agencies as effective anticorruption tools in countries with endemic corruption (Kaufmann 1997; Shah and Schacter 2004).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public opinion surveys</td>
<td>Public opinion surveys have served as a useful tool in articulating citizen concerns. Transparency International surveys, such as those compiled by International, highlight countries in which corruption is perceived to be endemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher public sector wages</td>
<td>Van Rijckeghem and Weder (2001) find no short-run impact of raising public sector wages, as the income from bribery dominates total income. Gurgur and Shah (1999, 2002) nd a negative but insignificant effect; Treisman (1999b) and Swamy and others (2001) nd no relationship. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) nds no relationship between wage increases and corruption in the forestry sector in Pakistan. In corrupt societies, public positions are often purchased by borrowing money from family and friends. Raising public sector wages simply increases the purchase price and subsequent corruption efforts needed to repay the loans. Where public sector wages are so low that officials cannot live on their wages, raising salaries is likely to reduce petty corruption (Gurgur and Shah 1999).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smaller public sector size</td>
<td>LaPalombara (1994), La Porta and others (1997), and Tanzi and Davoodi (1998) find that reducing the size of the public sector reduces corruption. Gurgur and Shah (1999) nd that this result holds only when important variables such as the judiciary, democratic institutions, colonial heritage, decentralization, and bureaucratic culture are omitted. Elliot (1997) finds an inverse relationship between budget size and corruption. Privatization in some countries has led to increased corruption and exploitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media independence</td>
<td>Freedom of the press is negatively correlated with the level of corruption (Brunetti and Weder 1998).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decentralization</td>
<td>Decentralization and corruption are negatively correlated, according to Fisman and Gatti (2002), Gurgur and Shah (2002), and Huth and Shah (1998).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV Corruption and eradication strategies in Bangladesh

Since the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, the government has adopted several strategies in the combatting of corruption. Adopting new plans, regulations and acts has not been difficult but implementation has been another matter. Implementation is a very important element solving all kinds of problems in every country in the world. As far we know, every developing country including Bangladesh, have unique plans, policies, rules, acts and regulations but they have no proper implementation. So, implementation problems are the root of corruption in developing countries including Bangladesh. The government has not been successful in implementing anti-corruption strategies. Every government worldwide in developing countries in the face of public opinion and pressure from the donors’ community have launched much publicized anti-corruption campaigns. Finally, the government of Bangladesh set up an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to replace the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) on November 2004. Several reforms have been initiated with the donors’ collaboration.

A World Bank study suggested several measures to improve procurement practices in Bangladesh. They include (WB, 1986):

- *The creation of an independent division, probably under the Cabinet Secretary, responsible for public procurement policy, law, procedures and documents, and oversight of public procurement.*
- *The passage of a public procurement law.*
- *The adoption of standard rules and procedures and bidding and contract documents, and their publication.*
- *The adoption of procedures which would simplify and streamline procurement, especially to reduce the number of bureaucratic layers involved.*
- *Some of the recommendations were particularly aimed at increasing*
the transparency of procurement, including:

- Elimination of the role of the Ministry of Publications in the advertisement process, to reduce the scope for political punishment of critical newspapers.
- Publication of contract awards above $20,000.
- The inclusion of an outsider of known probity in every evaluation committee for consultants and,

- The introduction of a watchdog institution to address corruption.


At present there’s no single and universal assessment technique for corruption. As for the above, the study makes some suggestions to control corruption through realistic strategic and psychological strategic practices as shown in chart 1. Realistic strategies act as ‘real site’, ‘real things’ and ‘real situation’, the (3 Rs)\(^{11}\) which are important practices in controlling corruption. ‘Honesty’, ‘integrity’ and ‘morality’ are psychological practices (Chart 1). These practices are mainly adoption and adaptation processes, with citizens, politicians, bureaucrats, civil servants, research institutes, mass media, and the local government cooperating and participating and acting honestly to overcome corruption problems. These practices have, of course, been accompanied by many difficulties and errors.
along with the success(es). To improve psychological strategies best practices are required to justify the present (real site, real things and real situation) realistic strategies.

Chart 1: Corruption and Eradication Strategies’ in Bangladesh

Sources: Compile by author

1. Realistic Strategic Practices

A large number of researchers have agreed that the overall failure of anti-corruption goes beyond the implementation problem. As mentioned above, the government of Bangladesh has taken numerous steps and made several laws\textsuperscript{12}) to prevent corruption. To strengthen the institutions and laws particularly put in place to reduce corruption, the government has developed an action plan for compliance to provide operational guidance on the implementation of these acts and regulations. (Nisha, 2013, Website). It has also put emphasis on effective anti-corruption acts and commission (strict laws and honest enforcement, by government administration);
Strategy, Assessment and Suggestions for
Eradication of Petty Corruption in Bangladesh (Chowdhury)
effective monitoring (implementation practices); adjudication and adopt-ion of severe punishment; and others efforts like; the utilization of the independent mass media, improvements/increases of low wages, morning meetings, and also moral development, all of which are most important and need further consideration. Further explanation is as follows:

1) Efficient anti-corruption acts and commissions

Anti-corruption agencies in Bangladesh, have no effective anti-corruption tools. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) give curbing its administrative power as the key reason behind the worsening situation (The Daily Star, 2015). The ACC is controlled and administered by an executive organ of the government. According to Norad’s report (2013), the ACC in Bangladesh was unable to make much progress until 2007, the caretaker government of Bangladesh (2007 to 2008), published the ACC rules in 2007 to strengthen the commission, which was fully revamped in terms of staffing and given new investigative powers to speed up processes\(^{13}\). In 2010 the government moved to amend the ACC Act to require the organization to obtain permission from the government to file corruption cases that involve government officials. As a result the ACC had no independency, moreover, the ACC Formal Chairman Golam Rahman has called the ACC a ‘toothless tiger’. But the ACC was able to recruit its own staff and operate independently from the executive. The public masses did not help the situation in that civil servants themselves gave bribes and this encouraged that the ACC would be an effective instrument, capable of tackling corruption at all levels including the highest strata of public life (Norad, 2011:30). In addition, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman
stated that “the government’s failure to implement pledges to fight corruption, lack of professionalism and moral courage of the ACC, curtailing independence of the ACC and grabbing of land, rivers and wetlands overshadowed Bangladesh’s profile” (The Daily Star, 2015).

To improve, anti-corruption agencies adopted real site, real things and real situation to control corruption problems. The government should set up these activities including acts and regulations provided by ACC officers to advise and assist with citizens’ activities in the anti-corruption program to act in effectively and efficiently, while impact and pertinence indicators are also important ‘factors’ in controlling corruption.

2) Effective monitoring

Strict laws and regulations should control crime, lawlessness, individual security and the overall safety in country. An adequate level of law enforcement and regular monitoring system is essential in preventing and controlling corruption. The most common method for the evaluation of the law enforcement agencies conditions, is a regular monitoring system which can be control enforced when bribes or corrupt activities take place. Also, monitoring is important to ensure that the agent has implemented laws and regulations and it is a continuous process. The monitoring activities should appear on work plans and should involve all stake holders. Plans and daily schedules help the implementers to measure how well they are achieving their targets. This is based on the understanding that the process through which a project is implemented has a positive effect on its use, operation and maintenance. The monitoring system has to evaluate of the corruption contexts, and therefore the adoption,
in a timely manner, of corrective measures in order to maintain the pertinence and relevance.

3) **Adjudication and adoption of severe punishment**

Severe penalties and punishments can be effective in reducing corruption offences. In most jurisdictions, penalties for individuals may include several years imprisonment and heavy fines. According to Becker (1968), the “crime and punishment”, states that self-interested public officials seek out or accept bribes as long as the expected gains from corruption exceed the expected costs (detection and punishment) associated with corrupt acts. Corruption could be mitigated by reducing the number of transactions over which public officials have discretion, reducing the scope of gains from each transaction, increasing the probability for detection, or increasing the penalty for corrupt activities. (Anwar, 2007: 236-237).

4) **Others**

(i) **Independent Mass Media**

A free and independent mass media help expose levels of corruption by uncovering and shedding light on abuses. Many things are necessary to correct this situation such as a more active civil society, and a more independent media. Corruption is a secretive/an under the table or clandestine activity and a corrupt persons biggest fear is public exposure. Corruption is considered the enemy of openness and transparency. A free and independent press offers a vital way of challenging the powerful to account for their actions and is an essential prerequisite for ensuring that (any) government is open and responsive.
(ii) **Solve the low wage problem**

Low wages are the beginning of the corruption problem in Bangladesh. Several studies suggest corruption has a behavioral phenomenon occurring between the state and market domains (Shleifer, and Robert 1993: 599-617). There is a growing consensus that low wages combined with weak monitoring systems are breeding grounds for corruption and misuse of public resources. As the low pay-scale of civil servants means declining purchasing power, it is generally agreed that low wages provide incentives for corruption. Low wages encourage corruption and is accepted as conventional wisdom (Myrdal, 1968).

(iii) **Call morning meetings**

Brief morning meetings in government offices all over the country can create collaboration, improved communication with colleagues. Meetings are critically important, and they can control offensive activities. Rigid agendas often prevent the surfacing and discussion of unplanned topics. These meetings must be held in an open and transparent manner in order to minimize the perception of any corrupt activity taking place.

2. **Psychological strategic practices**

For the assessment and suggestion for eradication of corruption, people need to understand how corruption occurs and what psychological matters are involved. Psychological strategic practices are honesty, morality and integrity. Moral practices provide free from offensives behavior. The terms ‘good’, ‘bad’, ‘right’, ‘wrong’, ‘fair’, and ‘unfair’ are related to psychological practices. Psychological strategic practices is a process through which a person develops of
a sense of “right or wrong” or “bad and good” through proper attitudes or behaviors towards other people, based on various factors such social and cultural norms, customs, religious beliefs, ethics, laws and rules.

1) Honesty

‘Honesty is the best policy’ everybody knows this in Bangladesh, but unfair, unjust people do not implement it. Due to lack of honesty, leadership, fair election and clean politics, supporters are involved in corruption and illegal activities and thus serve their (own) evil interests. But it is possible for a greater psychological dialogue to help overcome these challenges. Honesty is an important substantive value with a close connection to trust. Honesty implies both truth-telling and responsible behavior that seeks to abide by the rules (Bok, 1978). The “honesty” practices emphasize clean politics which provide real democratic government and good public management. Honest politics and political parties must take an important role to preventing corruption. An honest government should offer clean politics throughout elections where candidates must not spend large amounts of money on getting elected, or it must stop the cycle of corruption. After spending a lot of money on electioneering, winners must recover their costs and also accumulate funds for future elections. As a result these candidate have unimpressive activities were one method of gaining political influence. Political indiscipline is favorable to neither economic growth nor any development in the country. The Bangladeshi constitution contains a provision encouraging the establishment of an ‘Office of the Ombudsman’ however, successive governments have failed to implement it (TIB, 2010).
2) Integrity practices

TI defines integrity as “behaviors and actions, consistent with a set of moral and ethical principles and standards, embraced by individuals as well as institutions that create a barrier to corruption” (TI, 2011, website). Without personal integrity, no organization, business structure or government can function properly and societies do not work. Societies that foster integrity are investing in the nations’ present and future. Lack of integrity leads them to corruption, dishonesty and crime. Social values, culture, family bonding have an influence on people’s lives and moral development. The TIB has put special emphasis on sensitizing and engaging the young generation in the anti-corruption movement and developing virtues of honesty, integrity, ethics, patriotism and social responsibility through its Youth Engagement and Support (YES) program. The National Integrity Strategy (NIS) of Bangladesh has duly recognized the necessity to promote the culture of ethics and morality (GOB: 2012). Figure 5 shows that 72 percent of the youth strongly disagree with the statement that ‘being rich is more important than being honest’. Another 20 percent have shown some alignment with being honest.

![Figure 5: Attitude Toward Integrity ‘Being rich’](image-url)

Note: Survey by TIB among 3,656 young persons (age 15 to 35) in 31 districts
Source: TIB 2015, website.
Integrity practices are important when investigating real site, real things and real situation to solve corruption problems. If the government or ACC would realize real site, real things and real situations it would be easy to take appropriate action against the people and organisations involved in corruption.

Integrity is said to provide honest, dignified bureaucrats and civil servants and thus good governance. Alternately, corruption includes the destruction of a persons honesty and loyalty, and undermines moral integrity.

The solutions to corruption through integrity practices require: first, by reducing monopoly power through making independent anti-corruption agencies; second, enhancing transparency and accountability through the regular monitoring of law enforcement agencies and independent judiciaries; third, implementation of laws and regulations, effective anti-corruption acts, and right strategies. Fourth through increasing punishments for violators, adopting more severe penalties, and incentives for engaging in corrupt activities (chart 1). According Wei (1998), “If Bangladesh were to improve the integrity of its bureaucracy to Uruguay’s level, its yearly GDP growth rate could rise by over half a percentage point”. However, Wei remarked that it is easy to understand the concern of integrity in Bangladesh. To promote good governance and good public management, that is accountable, transparent, honest, participatory, and guarantees economic freedom, the rights of individuals to freely exchange and contract, based on well secured property rights by law under integrity practices.

3) Moral Practices

Morality consists of: humanity, intelligence, courage, conscience,
autonomy, respect, responsibility, naturalness, loyalty, and humility. Durkheim (1925) argues that there are three elements of morality: (1) discipline—a spirit shared generally by members of the group, (2) attachment to those social groups of which one is a member, and (3) autonomy or self-determination. Wright (1971) writes: “moral rules are foundational in the sense that they are concerned with the maintenance of, for instance; trust, mutual help and justice in human relationships. Kimmel (1996:5), Macklin (1982:3), Hoffman and Moore (1990:1) and others, typically describe moral judgments as involving matters of right or wrong, ought or ought not, a good action or a bad one.

Recently, Kohlberg, explained that moral development includes three stages, pre-conventional, conventional, and post-conventional. Each level of moral development reveals the cognitive perspective of the individual in reference to their beliefs on the principle of justice. In the pre-conventional stage, young children, who lack a higher level of cognitive ability, experience the world around them only through their senses. In the conventional stage, youngsters become increasingly aware of others’ feelings and take those into consideration when determining what’s “good” and “bad.” The post-conventional, is highlighted by those who utilize universal moral principles that are seen as broader than those of any particular society.

Education should develop civil society and engage public and civil servants in combating corruption via social auditing, investigative reporting and other efforts to hold government accountable. Civil society can similarly also support the fight against political corruption by monitoring and pushing for greater transparency. The rate of literacy in Bangladesh is gradually rising. It has already reached
63 percent in urban areas and 36.6 percent in rural areas. There is also progress towards a 100 percent enrolment rate and gender equity at primary level in schools throughout the country. Each year, the number of certificate-owning but barely educated students is on the rise. But overall, the quality of education and moral education has not improved.

Muslims widely hold the view that it is necessary to believe in God, to be moral and have good values. Basic moral plane, Islam provides humankind with a higher system of morality that can be used by an individual to realize his greatest potential. Despite the fact that, corruption is morally wrong, socially detestable, economically harmful and a religiously condemned act, this menace is ubiquitous even in Muslim countries, thus no nation is free of its evils activities. According to the holy Qur’an\(^{14}\) Allah warns humans as follows:

*O you who believe! Eat not up your property among yourselves unjustly except it be a trade amongst you, by mutual consent [...] (Q4, 29): And eat up not one another’s property unjustly (in any illegal way, e.g. stealing, robbing, and deceiving), nor give bribery to the rulers (judges before presenting your cases) that you may knowingly eat up a part of the property of others sinfully (Q2,188).*

The increasing attention to the religion-corruption nexus stems from the argument that fairness and honesty are basic to the teachings of religions, and that they can therefore be used in attempts to reduce corruption (Luxmoore, 1999). All the major religions attempt to define humans’ relationship with a sole or dominant deity, but also served as sources of institutions used in managing early societies. Thus they all address the issue of honesty (Reisman, 1979; Armstrong, 2007). There’s no question that psychology
should devote religion to improve morality and honesty. Implementation of rules, regulations, and actions are important factors that are improving the quality of education and religious education, especially in Bangladesh.

The WB has states that integration between religion, morality and corruption seems like common sense in many ways. It may be reasonable to assume that many people derive their ethical framework from religion. Certainly those people who consider themselves to be religious are likely to do so, but even those who describe themselves as secular, humanist, agnostic or atheist may be influenced by the religion(s) that forms a significant part of their cultural heritage, even if its influence has not acknowledged (Marquette, 2013). There can be various moral, and religion integrated approaches to combating corruption, however, the psychological term has moral, religion, oath, and promise, that affect the level of perceived corruption.

V Conclusion

Corruption remains perhaps the biggest threat to developmental process of any nation. The study found several factors have been identified for this dysfunctionality in Bangladesh. ‘Give and take’ or ‘demand and supply’ of bribes on both side are offences. The principal factors are; scarce resources, weak legitimacy, misuse of political power and patron-client and commonly make up what is known in Bangladesh as mastans (scumbags) or godfather politics. This led to weak legitimacy, as the citizens lack faith in their political leaders, and, by extension, the political system.

The study’s findings suggest that, the prevention of corruption (activities) has to start from its root, it requires fair justice, an
independent ACC and training for human resources on how they can avoid corruption in their professional lives. However, the most effective way is to make honest civil servants and bureaucrats and make a clean atmosphere in which people are not tempted to (be) corrupt. This requires education especially moral education. Family, society, and teachers have to teach children to live morally, to be honest and to have integrity. It is a long term process. It takes/will take generations to reach the ideal level. The government should focus on the economic determinants of corruption especially the policy of economic freedom (free market economy), to control the perceived level of corruption though Corruption and Eradication Strategies’ (chart 1) practices. It also needs to find out the problems of real site, real things and real situation of corruption in Bangladesh. These Corruption and Eradication Strategies’ practices also place emphasis on implementing independent anti-corruption agencies as important and effective tools to fight against corruption and (may) work as an antidote for economic prosperity, industrial development, free people from the poverty trap and save human lives in Bangladesh. However, the corruption and eradication strategies practices has attempted to investigation by the psychological. A number of aspects have not been considered, and should be incorporated in subsequent research. The study has considered the importance of corruption and eradication strategies practices within a framework of moral hazard, and it could be optimal for a principal to implement a scheme with anti-corruption agencies in Bangladesh. As a concluding optimistic remark, in section two above, in was noted in a household survey on corruption, that the number of incidents of corruption are many, but the amount of ‘corrupt money’ was not so high. The author believes it is impossible to clean corruption in Bangladesh but not
impossible to reduce it. But there needs to be more effort to realistic factor to ‘stop corruption’ and psychological effort ‘promises to reduced corruption’ as a slogan to nation to protect people from dishonest and immoral government officials. Of course there’s still a good number of political leaders and officials who are honest and conscientious. There is a need for more effort to prevent and control corruption and uphold a high standard of transparency, strict laws, honest enforcement, punishment and effective government administration in order to overcome corruption and its associated problems.

Note
1) There is a traditional practice (known as amakudari) of assigning retired government officials to top positions within Japanese companies. Corruption in Japan generally takes the form of bribery of high officials in the various ministries or prefectural governor. In recent years there have been cases of corruption involving the Ministries of Labor, Education, Finance, International Trade and Industry, and Health and Social Welfare, as well as politicians in a number of prefectures in Japan (OECD website).

2) According to a Bangladesh Fire Department report, 414 persons died, at 213 garment factory fires between the years 2006 and 2009. On April 24th 2013, the garment tragedy of Rana Plaza at Savar, near Dhaka, killed 1,127 and injured 2,438 people. The garment industry tragedy came soon after a fire that broke out at Tazeen Garments (Company) in Ashulia, (Savar), on November 24th, 2012, which killed at least 113 workers. The high death toll from these incidents reflects not only sub-standard buildings but poor emergency procedures, inadequate and blocked fire exits and overcrowded workplaces, in violation of building construction laws for garment factories. There has blamed behind such as incident and worst safety condition has causes of corruption. Corruption and worsening safety conditions are said to have been the cause of these incidents. (Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, Website).

3) Grand corruption is the misuse of power by heads of state, ministers,
and top officials for private profit (Haq, 1996). However, the most prominent corruption scandal in 2012 featured the construction of the 6 km-long WB funded Padma Bridge. The WB and ADB have cancelled USD 1.2 billion financial assistance to the Padma Bridge project. The WB has claimed an inadequate response from the Government of Bangladesh, citing massive corruption related to the project (The Guardian, July 17). Since 1991, the Prime Minister or President has run top level anti-corruption workshops for their heads of ministries or administration. More than 200 corruption charges were laid against politicians including Presidents, Prime Ministers, ministers and members of parliament (MPs). Some officials on corruption charges received stay orders from the High Court. The government has withdrawn corruption lawsuits by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) against its Ministers, MPs and leaders. According to the Criminal Procedure Code, the government can release any person from a lawsuit lodged by the government itself. One estimated 60,000 lawsuits have been withdrawn by the government for political consideration. (The Daily Star, editorial comments, 19 April 2002).

4) Rent-seeking is spending wealth on political lobbying to increase one’s share of existing wealth without creating wealth. The effects of rent-seeking are reduced economic efficiency through poor allocation of resources, reduced wealth creation, lost government revenue, increased income inequality (Era Dabla-Norris and Paul Wade, 2001, IMF, WP/01/15).

5) There are around 160 million population, employed in agriculture sector 45 percent, industry sector 30 percent, and services sector 25 percent and unemployment rate 5 percent in 2012. The Labor Force Survey, showed that about 40.1 percent were unpaid family workers. 17.9 percent were day labor, 12.4 percent were regularly employed workers and 29.6 percent were self-employed (BBS, website).

6) Zamindar means a Landlord. The Zamindari System was introduced in the Mughal period to collect taxes from peasants, and it continued during colonial British rule. After independence Zamindari was abolished in India and Bangladesh, but it is still present day in Pakistan.

7) Mastaans (scumbags) have developed relationships and linkages with politicians, who in turn benefit financially. Some of these politicians, known as ‘godfathers’, hold high-ranking positions, and extend political and judicial protection to the mastaans. Some Mastaans have become legitimate businessmen, while others have themselves entered politics.
each maintaining his own coterie of goondas.

8) Robert Klitgaard’s provides a useful tool to both identify the causes and combating corruption through his famous equation, C=M+D·A·S where C has the level of corruption, M is the monopoly power of office-holder, D is his discretionary authority and A is the level of accountability and S for low salaries (Klitgaard, 1988 and 1998).

9) The Governor of Hong Kong has established the independent commission against corruption (ICAC) in 1974. The ICAC reported directly back to the Governor, and was independent from the police force. The ICAC was given the power to investigate and prosecute corruption cases, and to engage in a campaign of public education (UNDP 1997).

10) The government of Singapore has established Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) to controlled corruption. The framework of corruption control consists effective anti-corruption acts (or laws); effective anti-corruption agency; effective adjudication (or punishment) and efficient government administration. Since 1970, CPIB has been directly under the Prime Minister’s office. The CPIB also requires that ministries review work practices regularly, with the aim of reducing corruption. According to Klitgaard, the principle agency theory in Singapore’s Government has been acting as principle agent, which has fight against corruption though the anticorruption agencies the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB), that derives its powers from an act of parliament. Key strategies to reduce corruption include reducing delays, rotating officers, and increasing supervision (UNDP 1997).

11) 3Rs (real site, real things and real situation) are about taking the time to go on-site and personally verify the facts, then using those observations to make informed decisions. It is about not being satisfied with the current situation, and making informed decisions that will lead closer to solutions. (Bridgestone Website).


13) A corruption offence has non-bailable, and the AC could freeze property and order a 30 days detention without sanctions from the courts. Other investigative powers were added, e.g. a review of one’s wealth and a lifestyle statement.
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14) The holy Qur’an is very difficult to translate into English, however, a close meaning is given in the above sentences.
15) The WB has a Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics; the World Faiths Development Dialogue works on corruption. Several international faith-based organizations, such as Christian Aid, Tear fund and Islamic Relief, have undertaken anti-corruption work.

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