
Contribution of Law and Religious Principles to Eliminating Corruption Culture

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Abstract:

Damage will hit the people of a country when corruption has become a culture. However, religion as a way of life for the people is able to contribute to dampening this culture of corruption, so that it can save people from the destruction of their culture of life. The method used in this study is a qualitative method with a literate approach. The results of the study stated that religion greatly contributed to reducing the culture of corruption. However, there are still challenges for religion to be able to contribute to reducing the culture of corruption, including the limited involvement of religious leaders in political issues, religious differences, lack of coordination between religious institutions and the government, cultural and social environmental factors, lack of supervision and strict law enforcement. In addition, there are limitations of religious leaders in their mastery of general science and technology.

Keywords: Corruption Culture; Religion; Contribution

Abstrak:

Kerusakan akan melanda masyarakat suatu negara pada saat korupsi telah menjadi budaya. Namun, agama sebagai pedoman hidup masyarakat mampu berkontribusi meredam budaya korupsi ini, sehingga dapat menyelamatkan masyarakat dari kerusakan budaya hidupnya. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan literatus. Hasil penelitian menyatakan bahwa agama sangat berkontribusi dalam meredam budaya korupsi. Namun masih ada tantangan bagi agama untuk dapat berkontribusi dalam meredam budaya korupsi, diantaranya seperti terbatasnya Keterlibatan Pemuka Agama dalam Masalah Politik, perbedaan agama, Kurangnya Koordinasi antara Lembaga Keagamaan dan Pemerintah, faktor budaya dan lingkungan sosial, kurangnya pengawasan dan penegakan hukum yang tegas. Selain itu, adanya keterbatasan pemuka agama dalam penguasaan terhadap ilmu pengetahuan umum dan teknologi.

Kata Kunci: Budaya Korupsi; Agama; Kontribusi

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Introduction

A culture of corruption is a phenomena that is detrimental to the nation and puts it in peril. Corruption can be understood as a system of beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that are widely accepted by society and make corruption a part of people's everyday life. This concept is referred to as the culture of corruption. There is a strong correlation between a culture of corruption and the weakening of institutions and the retardation of national progress. A culture of corruption can be harmful to a nation because it can have repercussions in the form of crises and other types of damage in a variety of contexts. Such as the erosion of the public's trust. The public's trust in the government, institutions, and state institutions can be undermined when there is a pervasive culture of corruption. When citizens become aware that a significant number of government officials are corrupt, this results. As a direct consequence of this, people will begin to question the effectiveness of their government and will lose faith in the institutions of the state.

A culture of corruption can also contribute to an increase in social injustice. This is because money and wealth that ought to be used for the betterment of society are frequently appropriated by corrupt government officials and corporate executives. As a direct consequence of this, wealth is solely held by a select few individuals, while the vast mass of people continue to exist in abject poverty. Because many government officials are more focused on serving their own personal interests than the needs of the society, a culture of corruption can lead to a deterioration in the quality of public services. As a direct consequence of this, individuals will have a more difficult time receiving the public services that the government is obligated to provide for them.

The economic damage is not an exception to the rule when it comes to the culture of corruption. When there is a culture of corruption, many development projects may not be carried out correctly or individuals may utilize phony programs for their own personal gain, both of which can be detrimental to the economy. Because of this, significant initiatives that ought to be carried out but cannot be, it is possible for this to slow down the economic development of a country. The result of this is a decrease in the trust of investors, which is another another impact. When there is a pervasive culture of corruption, investors may lose their confidence because they no longer trust the government or the institutions of state governance. Because of this, potential investors might be put off from doing business in the country, which would be detrimental to the nation's economic growth and development.

As a result, there is no way to get beyond the fact that a culture of corruption is a phenomenon that is extremely destructive and puts the nation in jeopardy. Hence, concerted efforts are required to transform the culture of corruption into a culture of integrity and transparency so that the nation might experience sustained growth and development.

The objective of the author of this article is to highlight the role and contribution that religion plays in attempts to remove corruption in a country, as well as to explain how religion may help reduce the culture of corruption. Its secondary objective is to raise awareness about the role that religion may play in the fight against corruption through the inculcation of moral principles and the cultivation of traits that are acknowledged by religious traditions. One such objective is to disseminate the idea that religion may act as a deterrent to corruption and to provide specific instances of situations in which religion has been an essential factor in the fight against a culture of corruption in a particular nation. The purpose of this article is to encourage people to take an active role in the fight against corruption by providing a positive view of religion as an important partner in efforts to reduce the culture of corruption and by providing a positive view of religion as an important partner in these efforts.

From the discussion above, the authors focus the discussion on two questions, namely: how is the Contribution of Religion in Reducing the Culture of Corruption? What is the Impact of Religion's Contribution in Reducing the Culture of Corruption? What Are the Challenges in the Contribution of Religion in Reducing the Culture of Corruption?

Definition of Corruption and Religion

The abuse of power that has been provided by the public for the benefit of personal or select group interests is what Transparency International refers to as corruption. This definition places an emphasis on power abuse committed by government officials or other individuals who are in a position within the government that gives them the ability to either influence or make significant decisions. (Transparency International, 2019). Expert on corruption Robert Klitgaard describes corruption as "power plus opportunity without accountability." This definition demonstrates that corruption arises when someone with decision-making authority exploits possibilities for personal or organizational gain without accountability. (R., 1991)

In contrast to Susan Rose-Ackerman, an economist defines corruption as "the exploitation of public positions for private advantage, including extortion, bribery, and other behaviors that facilitate the plunder of public resources for private gain." (Ackerman, 1999). A legal expert, James L. Newell, defines corruption as "a violation of legal, ethical, and moral norms on the exercise of public power." (J.L., 2007)

According to the author's interpretation, therefore, the definition of corruption might be different depending on the point of view and method that is utilized by various authorities. Alternatively, corruption can be defined more broadly as the abuse of power or a public position for the purpose of gaining personal or certain group benefits, without any accountability or in violation of legal, ethical, or moral norms.

To explain the meaning of life and human relations with something that is considered sacred or divine, as well as to provide moral and ethical guidance in day-to-day life, religion is defined as a system of beliefs, rituals, and procedures that are followed by a certain group of people or society. This system aims to explain the meaning of life and human relations with something that is considered sacred or divine. This definition is subject to change depending on the perspective and experience of the person providing it. The following individuals are some of the authorities that have offered definitions of religion:

First: Clifford Geertz: Religion is a symbolic system that is articulated in actions that are often considered sacred and designed to guide humans in their way of life. (Geertz, 1973)

Second: Emile Durkheim: Religion is a set of beliefs and social practices that link humans with a higher world, which can give followers a sense of strength and togetherness. (Durkheim, 1915)

Third: Max Weber: Religion is a system of values and beliefs that influence human behavior and provide a basis for forming social actions. (Weber, 1922)

Fourth: Mircea Eliade: Religion is a way of life or a way of being in the world, which involves efforts to understand the meanings and values contained in the reality of humans and the world. (Eliade, 1957)

Fifth: Rudolf Otto: Religion is an experience that transcends rational understanding and allows humans to feel the presence of something mysterious and sacred. (Otto, 1958)

According to the author, religion is always described as a form of belief that teaches its adherents a code of conduct and behavior based on spiritual principles.

When put into effect, the idea that religious teachings and values like honesty, integrity, and justice may be significant elements in avoiding and reducing the level of corruption in society becomes a formidable barrier against corruption. According to this idea, religious beliefs and practices significantly affect how people act and think as individuals and as members of society as a whole. (Ackerman & Palifka, 2016)

The concept of religion as an obstacle to corruption rationally and irrationally can be seen for the following reasons: (Mahmudah, n.d.; E. Mulyana, 2016; Sabatini, 2017)

- Goodness, honesty, and justice are all preached and practiced according to religious teachings. Corruption goes against the ethical and moral ideals preached by religion since it is wrong and detrimental to others.
- Followers of religious groups are likewise subject to stringent norms and regulations. Corruption is seen as a sin by many faiths and is met with severe retribution in both this world and the next.

- Religion also teaches that there are consequences from God for evildoers. Religious people think corruption is bad because it hurts others and because it disobeys God's laws, for which they deserve to be punished.

The Contribution of Religion in Reducing the Culture of Corruption

Religion can contribute to reducing the culture of corruption in several ways, including:

First: Teaching High Ethics and Morals. In other words, religious teachings emphasize the importance of acting with integrity, fairness, and generosity. Religion can influence public perceptions of corruption for the better by teaching moral principles. Followers of religious doctrines are presumed to be more honest and less likely to succumb to temptations like accepting bribes or gifts that go counter to their beliefs. (Bakar & Darmawan, 2020)

Second: Providing a Strong Legal Foundation. This indicates that the scriptures of the world's major faiths all contain rules against corrupt behavior. Corruption is harshly condemned in many faiths because of its high moral hazard. People will be less likely to engage in corrupt behavior if they believe there is a solid and obvious legal basis for it, and religion can give this basis. (E. Mulyana, 2016)

Third: Forming Social Concern. Religion instills admirable characteristics in its followers, including kindness, charity, and concern for others. Religious adherents are expected to exhibit a heightened concern for the welfare of society as a whole, prioritizing the needs of others over their own. Corruption can be reduced in this way since it is typically done to further the interests of an individual or small group rather than the public good as a whole. (Sabatini, 2017)

Religion's ability to foster a heightened awareness of ethics and morals like honesty, justice, and generosity makes it a powerful tool in the fight against a corrupt civilization. People will develop a stronger sense of ethics and morality if they study and apply these principles in their daily lives. Those with a strong sense of ethics and morality are less likely to engage in corrupt behavior because they recognize it as incompatible with their own principles. (Bakar & Darmawan, 2020)

Religion encourages people to live their lives truthfully and to avoid causing harm to other people. In order to prevent persons who practice religion from engaging in acts of immorality that are harmful to others. The concept of blessing is something else that is taught in religious texts. According to this view, everything that is achieved in the correct manner will result in increased blessings from God. On the other hand, if people get wealth through dishonest ways, then God will punish them more severely for their actions. (A. Mulyana, 2015)

Religion instills in its followers admirable qualities such as honesty and leadership. Those who are exposed to and make an effort to live by these principles are more likely to possess high levels of personal integrity and to develop the skills necessary to become effective and moral leaders. Because unethical behaviors run counter to the ethical and moral principles that guide ethical leaders, these leaders are less likely to engage in corrupt activities. (Sabatini, 2017)

The importance of community and service to others is instilled in people through religious instruction. Those who follow the teachings of a particular religion are likely to have a strong feeling of community and compassion for their fellow man. Because of this, a healthy social atmosphere may be formed, and corrupt behaviors can be avoided. This is due to the fact that actions of corruption have a tendency to favor personal interests or the interests of particular groups over the interests of the public. (Sabatini, 2017)

Religious leaders play a significant role in combating corruption because of their widespread influence. Religious leaders play a crucial role in combating corruption for several reasons: (Nurhayati, 2018; Syafiq, 2020; Wijayanto, 2017)

- The spiritual and moral leaders of a religion serve as mentors who can point their followers in the right direction and offer them guidance. Hence, religious leaders have the potential to play a significant part in the provision of moral and ethical education, which has the potential to assist in the reduction of a culture of corruption in society.
- The leaders of religious groups wield a significant amount of power in society, particularly among the people who follow them. They are able to galvanize the community to carry out

social actions that can help deal with problems associated with corruption. These social actions include anti-corruption campaigns, public interest fundraisers, and other similar activities.

- The sermons and lectures that religious leaders provide can contribute to the development of an ethical and moral consciousness in the general population. Religious leaders can assist in raising public awareness of the hazards of corruption and how to avoid engaging in corrupt behavior if they educate their congregations on appropriate standards of ethics and morality.
- Religious leaders can contribute to the development of quality leadership character through the teaching and coaching they provide to their followers. Those who hold positions of quality leadership typically have a high level of integrity and are able to make sound choices by drawing on sound ethics and morals.
- Religious leaders have the potential to assist in the formation of partnerships with various other groups in the fight against corruption. For instance, religious leaders might help increase efforts to remove corruption in society if they form alliances with organizations that fight corruption and work against it.

The concrete form of religion's contribution in reducing the culture of corruption is as follows:

First: the KPK Movement and Anti-Corruption Education in Islamic Boarding Schools.

According to the research conducted by Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) in 2018, around 14% of the occurrences of corruption in Indonesia included public employees misusing education funding. The KPK ultimately decided to take action and did so by forming a partnership with a number of Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia in order to launch an anti-corruption education program. This program includes the teaching of religious ideals such as honesty, responsibility, and integrity, as well as practical training to avoid and overcome corruption inside Islamic boarding schools and the communities that surround these schools. (Munir, 2019)

Second: Transparency Movement in Zakat and Infaq. Zakat and infaq are two of the most essential practices in Islam, and they both have a role to play in the distribution of charitable aid to those who are in need. Yet, in a number of instances, the cash provided through zakat and infaq are frequently misappropriated by irresponsible persons. Some zakat institutions in Indonesia have implemented transparency programs in the management of zakat and infaq funds. These programs include the involvement of external audits and community scrutiny. The goal of these programs is to combat the problem described above. This program is founded on Islamic principles of morality and ethics, which stress the significance of maintaining one's honesty and integrity in the administration of zakat and infaq monies. (Syafiq, 2020)

Third: Anti-Corruption Fatwa. A religious authority in Islam may declare a fatwa, which is an opinion addressing a matter pertaining to Islam. A number of Indonesia's most prominent religious figures have issued fatwas, or religious edicts, that criticize and forbid various forms of corrupt behavior. This fatwa is grounded in Islamic moral and ethical principles, which stress the significance of being truthful, transparent, and responsible in one's interactions with others in social settings. This fatwa has the potential to increase public awareness of the risks associated with corruption and to assist in the process of reducing the prevalence of corrupt behavior across society. (Suyuthi, 2017)

The Impact of Religion's Contribution in Reducing the Culture of Corruption

Increased public knowledge of the risks of corruption and the moral standards that must be applied in social life can be considered as religion's contribution to reducing the culture of corruption. This can be seen as religion's contribution to reducing the culture of corruption. People can become more critical and comprehensive in their examination of acts of corruption that take place in their surroundings if they have a knowledge of the ideas of integrity, honesty, transparency, and responsibility that are instilled by religion.

Religious leaders have the potential to set a positive example for society by contributing to the development of healthy morals and ethics. When carrying out their responsibilities, religious leaders are required to give precedence to upright moral principles that are consistent with the teachings of their respective religions and to abstain from engaging in corrupt behavior. This can assist the general public

place more trust in religious institutions and encourage members of the community to model their behavior after that of religious leaders who exhibit positive behaviors. (Huda, 2018)

By cultivating strong awareness and integrity among individuals, teaching moral ideals found in religion can be an effective means of preventing acts of corruption. In addition, anti-corruption education programs that are run by religious institutions can assist the general public in gaining a deeper understanding of instances of corruption as well as the methods that can be utilized to combat such instances. In addition, the teachings of religious groups have the potential to inspire community engagement in establishing trust and adhering to the law. People are more likely to feel motivated to abide by the law and avoid engaging in acts of corruption that are harmful to society if they have a better understanding of the moral and ethical ideals that are embedded in their faith. (Nuridin, 2018)

Within the context of government, the contribution of religion toward combating a pervasive culture of corruption has the potential to make government more efficient and effective. It is possible for public officials to carry out their duties in a more effective, transparent, and honest manner if they have an understanding and appreciation of the moral and ethical values that are found in religion. This will allow them to provide quality public services that are just for the community.

Religion makes a significant impact, especially when it comes to lowering the overall rate of corruption in a society. This is due to the fact that religion has the potential to provide moral and spiritual education, which assists individuals in cultivating an awareness of the significance of ethics and morals in social life. Through education, the general public may come to understand that acts of corruption are deeds that are both destructive to society as a whole and go against the teachings of various faith traditions. In addition, religion instills in its adherents such virtues as integrity, transparency, and honesty, all of which are critical in the fight against corrupt behaviors. When it comes to carrying out their responsibilities and doing their work, those who comprehend these values are likely to be more honest and responsible. Religious leaders have another opportunity to assist in raising general public understanding about the perils of corruption and the damage it causes to both social and economic life. Individuals who have a high awareness of acts of corruption will have a greater chance of avoiding these behaviors and will be more likely to opt to report acts of corruption that occur. As a result, religion makes a significant contribution due to the fact that it plays a significant role as a driver of public participation in government supervision and exerts pressure on the government to promote openness and accountability in the policies and programs it enacts. Communities that are engaged in supervision will increase social control mechanisms and contribute to the reduction of possibilities for corrupt conduct. (Huda, 2018; Nuridin, 2018)

Religion has the potential to improve morality in society and contribute to the development of a culture that is intolerant of immoral behavior. People will feel driven to report instances of corruption and demand stringent legal punishment against those who engage in corrupt behavior if you cultivate a culture that is intolerant of corrupt behavior. Religious leaders can also play a role in helping to build society's compliance with the law by educating their followers on the significance of following the rules and regulations that are currently in place. When it comes to engaging in acts of impropriety, people who respect authority will exercise greater caution and give the idea some serious consideration.

Challenges in the Contribution of Religion in Reducing the Culture of Corruption

Although religion has an important contribution to reducing the culture of corruption, there are several challenges facing the role of religion in dealing with corruption. Some of these challenges include:

First: Limited Involvement of Religious Leaders in Political Matters. Because of institutional and legal limits, religious leaders are frequently prevented from directly participating in political and governmental matters. These constraints limit the role that they can play. This can make it more difficult for religious organizations to exert their influence on public policy and spread anti-corruption messages to the general population. (Magdalena, 2018)

Second: Differences in Religious Teachings. There are a variety of interpretations of religious teachings, which can make it difficult for religion to play a part in the fight against corruption. Certain

religious teachings may place a greater emphasis on living a moral and spiritual life, while other religious teachings may place a greater focus on the responsibilities that come with being a human being. This might result in a variety of approaches taken by religious authorities in recognizing and combating corrupt behavior. (Hidayat, 2017)

Third: Lack of Coordination between Religious Institutions and the Government. A lack of coordination between religious institutions and the government can lead to challenges in forming cooperative relationships and developing effective tactics to combat corruption. These issues can arise as a direct result of the lack of coordination. In addition, the failure of law enforcement authorities and religious institutions to communicate with one another and work together can make the situation significantly worse and contribute significantly to the prevalence of corruption. (Suryanto & Hayati, 2020)

Fourth: Cultural Factors and Social Environment. The high amount of corruption that exists in a society may be the result of the culture and social environment that encourages people to engage in corrupt behavior because they perceive it to be an efficient and uncomplicated approach to accomplish their objectives. This has the potential to lessen the impact that religious initiatives have in raising people's consciousness and fostering morality in society. (Wibisono & Fattah, 2018)

Fifth: Lack of Oversight and Firm Law Enforcement. When there is insufficient oversight and lax law enforcement on the part of government and security services, the anti-corruption efforts of religious institutions can be hampered. It is possible that anti-corruption messages from religious institutions will not be successful enough to curb corrupt conduct if they are not accompanied by robust action by government agencies. (Mulyadi, 2018)

Even though there are obstacles to overcome in terms of the function that religion plays in lowering the level of corruption within a culture, the role that religion plays can still make a substantial contribution to the battle against corruption in society.

One of the difficulties that can arise in the fight against a culture of corruption is a lack of expertise in some areas of science and technology. A restricted grasp of science and technology might be one of the many elements that contributes to an atmosphere that is susceptible to corrupt practices. These factors include the following: (Ali & Choudhury, 2019; Baharuddin, 2016; Hussain, 2017)

First: Inability to manage finances. A lack of understanding of financial management can be the root cause of corruption in financial management, including acts of corruption in budgeting, program implementation, and oversight of financial management. Limited understanding of financial management can also lead to corruption in financial management.

Second: Limited access to information. If someone does not have full access to the relevant information, it is possible that they will not fully comprehend the laws and policies that are in effect, leaving them open to the possibility of engaging in corrupt behavior.

Third: Lack of technological capabilities. The quality of the data, as well as financial management and reporting, can be negatively impacted by restrictions in technological capabilities, such as those in operating software and hardware. This can make it easier for dishonest actions to take place, such as the manipulation of data or the theft of funds.

Fourth: Inability to repair the system. The inability to make improvements to the system makes the working environment susceptible to bribery and other forms of misconduct. Actors may be able to engage in corrupt behavior more easily if the systems they use are not transparent or are easily manipulated.

To be successful in overcoming this obstacle, efforts are required to improve both understanding of, and mastery of, scientific and technological concepts. There is a correlation between increased capability and mastery of technology, as well as sound financial management, and a decreased likelihood of corrupt acts being committed. In addition to this, it is necessary for all involved parties to take an active part in the process of developing an atmosphere of work that is transparent, responsible, and free from corruption.

Conclusions

On the basis of what has been said up to this point, it is possible to draw the conclusion that religion is responsible for a major portion of the reduction in the prevalence of corrupt cultures. Character and mental attitude that are able to reject corrupt acts can be shaped through the instruction of moral principles that are found in religious teachings. These values include honesty, integrity, and social responsibility, among others.

In addition, the role that religious leaders and religious institutions play in giving education, raising awareness of the risks of corruption, and contributing to the development of ethical awareness in society is very significant. Yet, there are also obstacles that need to be conquered, such as a limited understanding and mastery of technology, as well as reservations regarding the utilization of religion as a political instrument. These obstacles need to be addressed before progress can be made. As a consequence of this, there is a requirement for collaboration between religious institutions, the government, and the community in an effort to lessen the prevalence of corrupt cultures.

Religion has made a contribution to the reduction of the culture of corruption through the teaching of moral values contained in religion, the role of religious leaders in providing anti-corruption education, and the support from individuals who have strong religious beliefs in efforts to eradicate corruption. However, there are obstacles to utilizing the potential contribution of religion in reducing the culture of corruption. These obstacles include the limited role that religion plays in the political sphere, the poor quality of religious education, and also the limited mastery of science and technology. Thus, there is a need for joint efforts between religious parties and other parties such as the government, non-governmental organizations, and the commercial sector in order to eradicate the culture of corruption in an all-encompassing manner.

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