Impact of Corruption on Government Machinery and Sustainable Development

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Public corruption has emerged significantly due to the influences of   socio-economic and political factors as challenges before public institutions not only in the developing but the developed nations around the World. The elected and appointed officials are entrusted and expected to protect the interest of the people with integrity. However, corruption remains widespread in the countries and there are instances of political and bureaucratic corruption and misuse of public funds. Unfortunately, judiciary could not even get itself isolated from the black engulfing clouds of corruption. The sectors which are most affected by corruption, include public procurement, tax & customs administration, infrastructure, public utilities, and the police. The alarming situation is clearly noticed when we see Corruption Perception Index of the Transparency International Report. United Nations in its Sustainable Development Goal, has stressed the need to substantially reduce corruption and bribery; promote the rule of law; develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions; ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels; strengthen relevant national institutions and ensure equal access to justice for all.

 In India, the fight against corruption has been declared a high priority by the Government. To eradicate corruption from the Country, multiple anti-corruption institutions were created within the existing legal and institutional framework. However, it is necessary to study how far the Anti-Corruption Machineries are performing their functions efficiently and effectively for curbing corruption to ensure sustainable development? What kinds of obstacles are being faced by the different groups of stakeholders towards the Anti-Corruption Institutions? How can feedback loops be eradicated and achieved as per sustainable development goals for combating corruption?

The present study examines the linkage between corruption machineries as per the perception of public from Himachal Pradesh in relation to sustainable development. The research paper confines to the three districts, out of 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh on the basis of highest number of   corruption and trap cases and is based on primary data collected from stakeholders.