

**INTERNATIONAL
UN WOMEN'S DAY**

THE GENDER DIMENSION OF CORRUPTION

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Transparency International India (TII) is a leading non political, independent, non-governmental anti-corruption organization of India. TII has extensive expertise and understanding of issues of corruption in India.

From villages in rural India to the corridors of power in Delhi, TII gives voice to the victims and witnesses of corruption. We work in constructive manner in the interest of the country together with Union and State governments, like minded civil society organizations, corporate, academia, media and common citizens. The main aim is to reduce corruption, bribery, create deterrence for abuse of power, promote good governance and the rule of law.

We raise awareness about corruption; advocate legal and policy reforms at national and state levels; design practical tools for institutions, individuals and companies wishing to combat corruption; and act as a leading centre of anti-corruption expertise in India.

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“Empowering women is a prerequisite for creating a good nation, when women are empowered, society with stability is assured. Empowerment of women is essential as their value system leads to the development of a good family, society and ultimately a good nation.”

- APJ ABDUL KALAM

"Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world."

— ANTONIO GUTERRES
UN Secretary-General

International Women's Day: 8 March

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8 every year. It commemorates the movement for women's rights. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.

United Nations The Sustainable Development Goals Some key targets of the 2030 Agenda

Goal number 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes.
- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.
- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation



Let's make every day
Women's Day

Gender & Corruption



“Exactly one half of the sky rightly belongs to women, if not more.”

INTRODUCTION

In 1998, then Peru's President Fujimori announced that the 2,500-strong traffic police force in Lima would be re-placed by an all-women force. This declaration was based on the assertion that “women are more honest and morally firm than men. Later results confirmed that there was less corruption in traffic police. Many other countries experimented with similar strategies like Mexico.

Men and women are affected by corruption in different ways, and are subjects and objects of different corrupt practices and behaviours across the globe, but a little more in India. Gender inequality breeds corruption and vice versa: corruption tends to exacerbate gender inequalities. A gender perspective is necessary if we are to find effective strategies to combat corruption and achieve sustainable development.

Women are in many ways subjected to the same forms of corruption as men, although often – due to gendered power relations, discrimination and vulnerability – to a greater extent. But there are also forms of corruption that are gender specific. These include use of sex as an informal currency in bribery, threatening to cause defamation and hurt their honor and dignity, and trafficking of girls and women. These acts often go unpunished as they are associated with private and public shame, and are in most cases not recognized as corruption. Although, a survey conducted by Transparency International India confirms that women are just as likely as men to pay bribes, but impact of corruption is unsparingly more on women than man.

As per United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (ICVS dataset) survey of 55 000 households from 30 countries worldwide suggest that women are targeted with attempts to elicit bribes less often than men (Mocan, 2008). Many attempts to improve quality, quality of good government and reduce corruption so far have been surprisingly meager. Often, women's participation in political life was portrayed as a tool to combat corruption and not a goal in and of itself.

CONCEPTUALISING GENDER BAISES IN INDIA

India's ranking in the latest report (published in November 2017) of the World Economic Forum's global gender gap index fell to a low of 108 which was down by 21 places as compared to the previous report. India is not doing enough as compared to others in bridging the gender gap. The Survey brings out that out of members of legislative assemblies (MLAs) only nine percent are women, where maximum of them come from Haryana, Bihar and Rajasthan. This means that women do not have equal opportunities for political participation and hence need meaningful interventions in their support.

Despite such a scenario, according to the Economic Survey, published by Government of India, India's score in 14 out of 17 indicators that relate to the agency, attitude and outcomes about women have improved over time. In seven of these indicators, there has been such consistent progress that India's performance is better than or at par with other countries. There has also been a decline in physical and sexual violence against women, according to the Survey. Moreover, education levels have also improved. The percentage of educated women have gone up from 59.4 percent in 2005-06 to 72.5 percent in 2015-16 but the employment of women in the workforce has declined from 36 percent employed in 2005-06 to 24 percent in 2015-16.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY: WOMEN

Gaps in accountability and transparency of the systems across the world, automatically translates into corrupt practices. Participatory processes which include women can detect and reduce corruption more effectively and efficiently. Women who are involved in transparent processes and who are empowered to understand the policies behind it are able to fight corruption from the local to the national level.

LINKAGES BETWEEN GENDER, POVERTY, DEVELOPMENT AND CORRUPTION

Corruption disproportionately affects the poor and illiterate, including those who are unaware of their rights and entitlements. Many forms of corruption affect both women and men, but given the unequal gender relations in society women are in many settings more exposed to corruption and its consequences. Poor women often risk being exposed to verbal abuse, physical extortion, sexual assault and sexual exploitation in case they do not offer a bribe to corrupt officials or persons holding positions of power. To add to this, women's lower status and position in society makes them vulnerable to corruption.

Gender inequality interferes with women's ability to advance at all levels of politics and decision-making, thereby obstructing their access to political participation. Corruption also becomes a major hindrance to combat the issue of violation of various rules and regulations. Corruption goes to the extent of meddling with judiciary thus making it difficult to struggle against trafficking and letting traffickers to go unpunished.

Corruption is a major impediment to development and economic growth in developing countries. Yet, most corruption policies do not make a clear connection to gender equality, despite the well-documented disproportionate impact corruption has on women and girls. Corruption further marginalizes already vulnerable women living in poverty, putting basic public services and goods out of their reach, and leaving them lagging behind in the economic, social, and political development of their country.

Thus corruption poses a barrier to the achievement of gender equality and therefore should be addressed in gender policies. Addressing gender in anti-corruption policies furthermore makes sense from an economic and development perspective.

EQUALITY AND CORRUPTION: AN INVERSE RELATIONSHIP

Nations that perform relatively better on various indices measuring corruption, have a few characteristics in common- freedom of press, democracy and support to gender equality. These are the core elements which define the instance of corruption.

Women are subjected to monetary bribes or solicited for sexual favours in exchange for employment or operating a business, hindering their ability to earn income and / or sustain their businesses. This reinforces the importance of addressing corruption through a gender lens by providing safe and inclusive environments that are transparent and accountable, while at the same time leveraging women as agents of change.

WOMEN'S ROLE IN CORRUPTION: A PARADOX

Despite women's rightful share on one half of the world, if not more, yet in the most pressing issue that the countries world over find themselves in, corruption, their role can be seen as paradoxical. Research indicates that women are disproportionately impacted upon by corrupt activities. Women, especially in developing countries, are negatively impacted upon by corruption, to a greater extent than that experienced by their male counterparts. Where this calls for greater women participation, there is still a definite gap in their rightful participation.

WOMEN FOR/AGAINST CORRUPTION: PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES

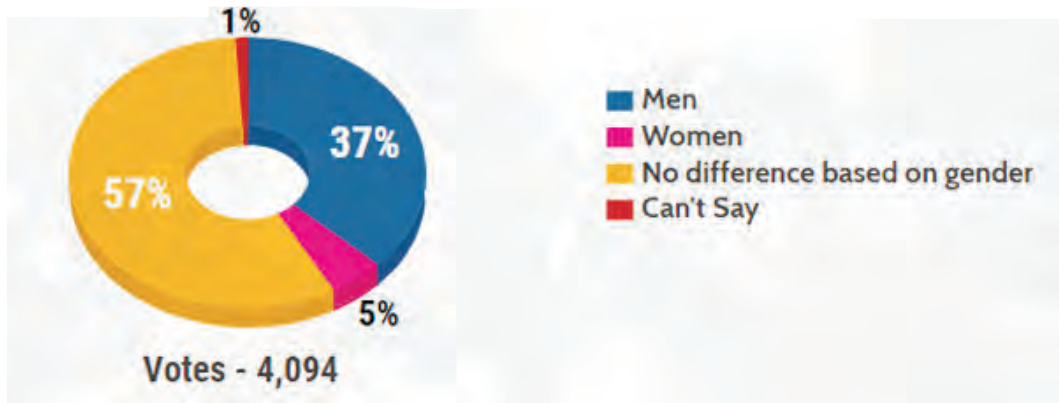
Women, in general do not easily approve of corruption and are more likely to be in favour of punishing corrupt behavior, compared to men. As far as perceptions are concerned, women are less likely to engage in corruption.

The World Bank's Engendering Development report states that a higher level of women's political and economic participation is likely to indicate that a country is more open in general, with more transparent governance and a more democratic approach. This possibly discourages or minimizes opportunities for corruption. Although one can see a direct correlation between women's participation and lower levels of corruption, the relationship is not as linear as it looks. Further, there is no evidence suggesting that women will not engage more in corruption if they are more exposed to corruption practices, take up more senior management positions and enter into the workforce to a higher extent.

The Gender Dimension of Corruption

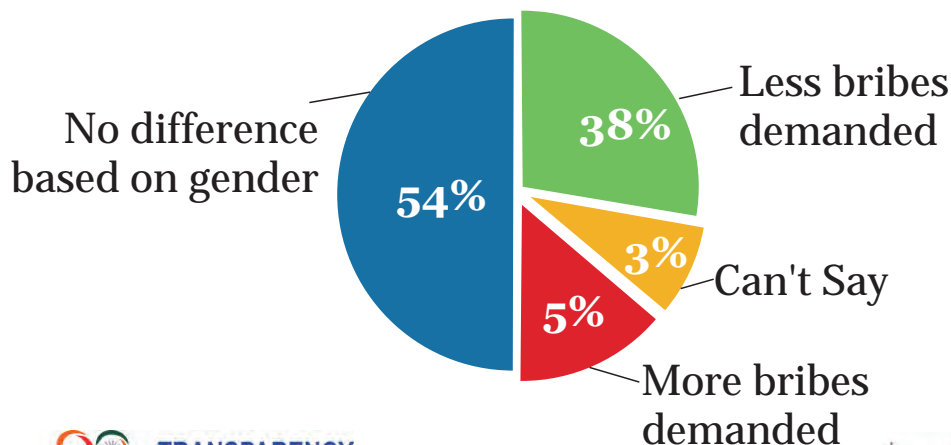
Urban Area Survey conducted in association with LocalCircles

In your opinion, who among men or women is more prone/vulnerable to corrupt ?



The first question asked citizens who among men or women in their opinion is more vulnerable to corruption. 37% said men and only 5% said women. 57% said there was no difference based on gender and 1% were unsure. This clearly shows gender equality can potentially reduce corruption in public life.

In your opinion, do you agree that if there were more women in positions of responsibility/power there would be:



Second question asked what would happen if there were more women in positions of responsibility. 38% said there will be less bribes demanded, 5% said more bribes will be demanded, 54% said there was no difference based on gender and 3% were not sure about the answer.

It seems just obvious that women are given more power and important positions in the corporate ladder as well as the government machinery so that the rate of corruption in the country could be drastically reduced. Indian women have shown their mettle in various field and it is high time that women power is used to control bribery in India.

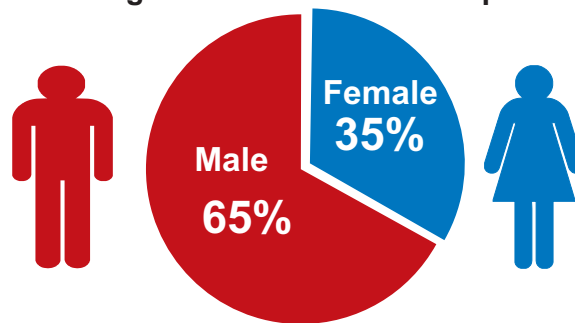
The Gender Dimension of Corruption

RURAL HOUSEHOLDS SURVEY

Gender Profile (Female, Male,) of Rural Respondents

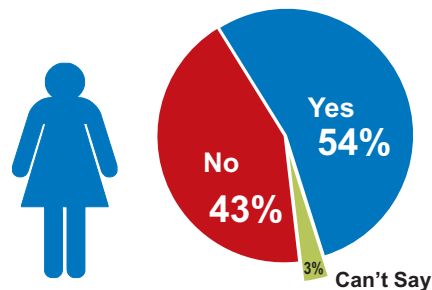


Percentage of Male & Female Respondents



Bribe Paid for Obtaining Government Services

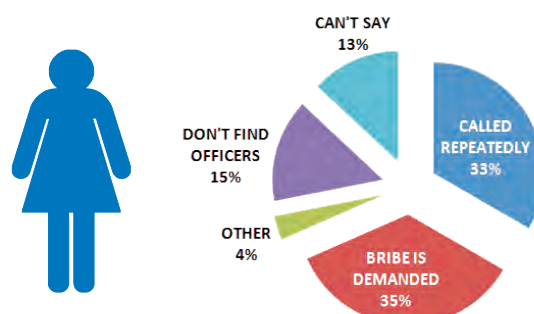
■ Yes ■ No ■ Can't Say



54% Women reported that they paid the bribe for obtaining Government services.
43% Women said that they did not have to pay any bribe for obtaining Government services.

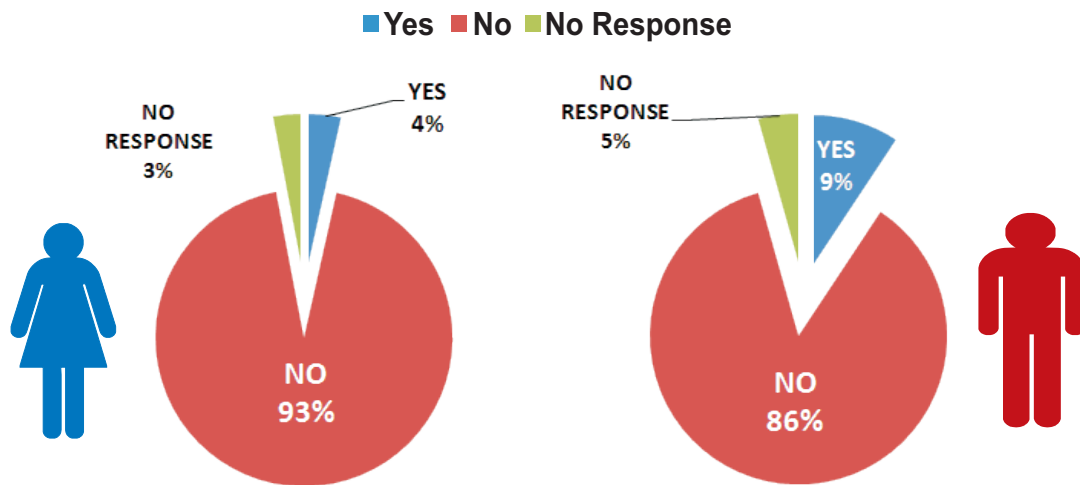
Problems Faced By the Citizens in Availing Government Services. (More than one Reason)

■ Called Repeatedly ■ Bribe Demanded
 ■ Don't Find Officers ■ Can't Say ■ Other



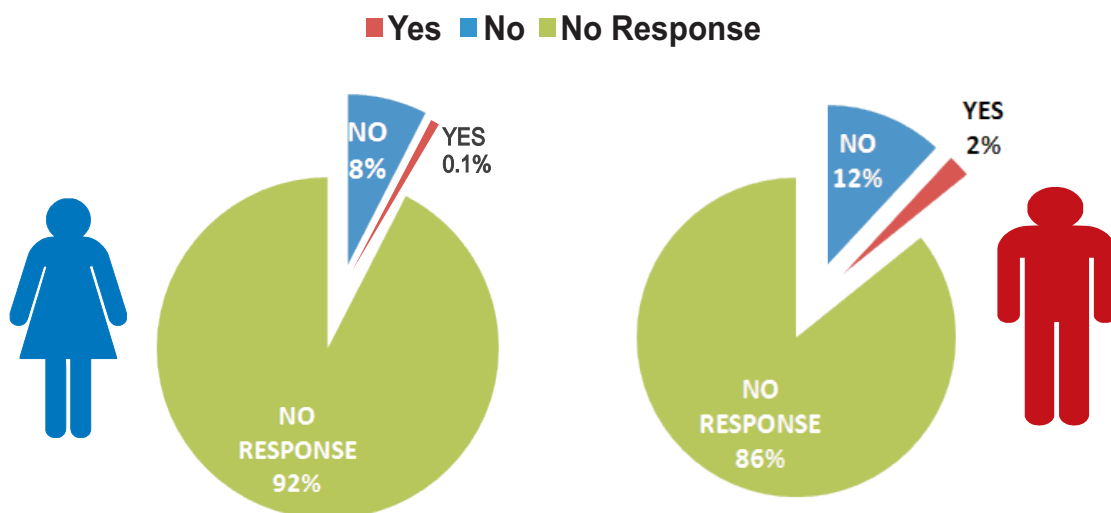
35% Women reported that they were asked directly to pay bribe to get benefits under the Government Schemes.
33% Women reported that the officials called them repeatedly to harass them.
15% Women said that officers were not available

Awareness/Knowledge about the Right to Information Act (RTI).



93% Women were not aware about the Right to Information Act.
Only 4% responded that they were aware about the Right to Information Act,
whereas 9% (more than double) men are aware about Right to Information Act in rural area.

Among informed Citizen (Who knows about RTI), who filed an RTI for obtaining information



Among women, who claimed that they are aware about Right to Information Act,
said that they never filed RTI applications (except few) for obtaining information.



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Vision

To create a corruption-free India, so that the poor do not lose their voice to corruption.

Mission

To lead and support a committed effort to improve transparency and accountability by eradicating corruption through widening of knowledge and catalyzing action.

Priority Areas

Good Governance, Research, Capacity Building, Communication and Advocacy, Participatory Monitoring, Engaging with Government, Private Sector and NGO



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