

## EFFECTIVENESS OF CORRUPTION PREVENTION EFFORTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

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### Abstract

Corruption is a profound and dangerous problem, hampering progress and growth in many countries, including Indonesia. Corruption not only harms state finances but also undermines social order and reduces public trust in government. One strategy often used to prevent corruption is through administrative oversight. This study aims to assess the effectiveness of various corruption prevention efforts in the public sector based on a review of 13 journals. The results show that corruption prevention efforts still face complex challenges, despite various initiatives. Factors such as an entrenched culture of corruption, weak oversight, and lack of public participation are the main obstacles. This research suggests the need for a comprehensive and sustainable approach, involving all stakeholders, to improve the effectiveness of corruption prevention efforts.

**Keywords:** Corruption, Public Sector, Corruption Prevention, Supervision, Community Participation

### INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a profound and dangerous problem, impeding progress and growth in many countries, including Indonesia. Corruption not only harms state finances but also undermines social order and reduces public trust in government<sup>1</sup>. One strategy often used to prevent corruption is through administrative oversight. Administrative oversight is a mechanism carried out by government agencies to ensure that all activities and policies are implemented in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. This mechanism is designed to ensure compliance with rules and prevent irregularities that can lead to corruption (Rahmadany, 2023).

The crime of corruption is still a serious problem in Indonesia. This is reflected in the corruption perception index (ipk) of Indonesia recently released by Transprancy International (TI). According to the London-based organization, Indonesia's score in 2019 was 40. The assumption is that the higher the score, the cleaner the country is perceived to be from corruption. Conversely, the smaller a country's score, the more it is perceived to be plunged into corruption. Mathematically, Indonesia is ranked 85th out of 180 countries studied. That means, Indonesia only improved 8 points when compared to the 2012 ipk. Epistemologically, the type of corruption that is often found in the government environment whether at the central or regional level is corruption related to

public services. In this case, corruption crimes occur within the bureaucracy or its service units. The results of a study by the regional autonomy implementation monitoring committee (kppod) on regional economic governance in 2018, show that the most frequent public service corruption is licensing or business licenses (Satria, 2020) .

Corruption has become a chronic and complex problem in Indonesia as well as in many other countries. In Indonesia, corrupt practices hamper economic growth and erode public trust in the government. The corruption eradication commission (kpk) exists as an independent institution that aims to eradicate corruption in the public sector. Since its establishment in 2002, the kpk has shown various achievements in handling corruption cases, especially those involving high-ranking state officials, thus providing a deterrent effect and encouraging improved governance (Nurgiansah, 2021) .

However, the kpk's performance is not free from criticism. Despite its many achievements, some have questioned the effectiveness of the kpk in eradicating corruption systemically and its consistency in handling major cases. An evaluation of the kpk's performance in tackling corruption in the public sector is essential to identify achievements, obstacles and opportunities for improvement. This evaluation must be carried out comprehensively and objectively, taking into account various aspects, such as prosecution, prevention, and education. This evaluation aims to thoroughly evaluate how the kpk handles corruption in the public sector. This evaluation will consider three main aspects, namely enforcement, prevention, and education. In addition, this research will also take into account the political and social context in Indonesia, as well as identify factors that affect the kpk's performance. Thus, it is hoped that this research can help the kpk improve its performance (Manupapami et al., 2024) .

This research uses in the context of making scientific papers, the use of good literature review can provide a strong theoretical basis, provide a framework of thought, and support the arguments presented. Therefore, understanding the meaning of literature, accessing reliable literature sources, and critically evaluating the data contained in the literature is very important to create quality scientific papers (Suryani et al., 2023) .

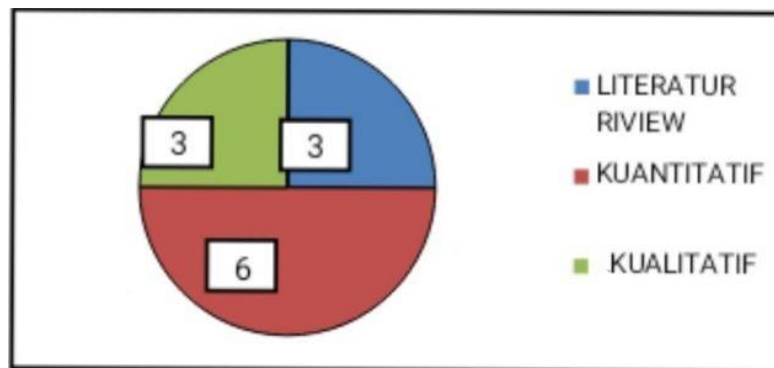
## **METHODOLOGY**

A literature review is a systematic process of searching, reading, evaluating, and synthesizing information from various sources relevant to a particular research topic. These sources can be scientific journal articles, books, research reports, and other reliable sources. Literature review is a systematic, explicit and reproducible method for identifying, evaluating and synthesizing research works and thoughts that have been produced by researchers and practitioners. The literature review aims to analyze and synthesize existing knowledge related to the topic to be studied to find empty spaces for research to be carried out (Fajri et al., 2024) .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Corruption Prevention

The word corruption comes from the Latin corruptio or corruptus. Corruptio has various meanings, namely the act of corrupting or destroying. Corruptio also means rottenness, ugliness, depravity, dishonesty, bribery, immorality, deviation from purity, insulting or slanderous words or speech. The word corruptio entered the English language as the word corruption or in Dutch as corruptie. The word corruptie in Dutch entered the Indonesian treasury as corruption. According to Prof. Dr. Todung Mulya Lubis, a legal expert who is also known in the field of human rights, corruption is an unlawful act committed intentionally by a person or group of people by using their power to gain personal or group benefits.



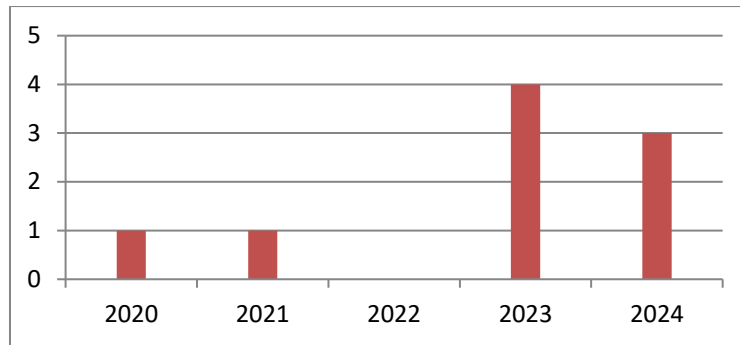
**Figure 1. Journal Research Methods**

The data in the table above shows a significant decline in the number of journal articles examining the effectiveness of corruption prevention efforts in the public sector from 2020-2024, there were many articles investigating this topic, but this number has been consistently declining so that the 13 articles listed in this journal

Another definition of corruption was presented by the World Bank in 2000, namely "corruption is the abuse of public power for private gain". This World Bank definition has become the international standard in formulating corruption. From a legal perspective, the definition of corruption is clearly explained in 13 articles in Law No. 31 of 1999 which has been amended by Law No. 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Corruption (Kenneth, 2024).

**Table 1. Data on the Number of Corruption Journals Used**

Year	Number Of Articles
2020	1
2021	1
2022	0
2023	4
2024	3



**Figure 2. Data on the Number of Corruption Articles**

The Indonesian government has made various efforts to eradicate corruption. These efforts began in the 1960s when the government began issuing Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 24 of 1960 concerning Investigation, Prosecution and Judicial Review of Corruption. Then in 1971 Law Number 3 of 1971 on the Eradication of Corruption was enacted. Post-reform, important changes related to the eradication of corruption were made with the enactment of Law Number 28 of 1999 concerning State Administration Free from Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism, and Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption which has been revised in accordance with Law Number 20 of 2001.

In 2003, the United Nations published the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and was signed by 140 countries around the world, which established corruption as a global problem. In 2006, following the 2003 UNCAC, Indonesia ratified the convention with the promulgation of Law No. 7/2006 on the Ratification of the 2003 United Nations Convention Against Corruption. Indonesia has ratified the convention for more than 15 years, but the anti-corruption problem has not shown significant signs of improvement (Isabela, 2022) .

### **Efforts to Prevent Corruption in the Public Sector Can Be Effective in Reducing the Level of Corruption**

Corrupt practices involving public officials, the private sector and even the general public create an unfavorable environment for sustainable development. Concentrating on eradicating corruption is seen as the duty of law enforcement and a shared responsibility of all levels of society. Learning from the history of corruption in Indonesia is important to form a collective awareness that deep structural and cultural changes are needed to combat this chronic disease. Only through cooperation between the government, anti-corruption agencies, and society as a whole, can we build a strong foundation to establish a corruption-free and just Indonesia for all its people. The Indonesian government has initiated various efforts in order to eradicate corrupt practices since the post-independence period.

According to Saputra and Firmansyah (2023), these steps were taken with the understanding that corruption is an extra ordinary crime. The decision to take corruption seriously is emphasized by the understanding that this phenomenon has systemic and endemic characteristics, with very broad impacts. Corruption causes financial losses to the state, and violates the social and economic rights of society as a whole. Various efforts have been made to prevent corruption in the public sector, among others:

1. The establishment of anti-corruption institutions, improving the quality of investigations and prosecutions of corruption cases, and imposing strict sanctions on perpetrators of corruption.
2. Implementation of management information systems (SIM), e-government, and publication of financial reports.
3. Establishment of internal and external oversight institutions, as well as community oversight mechanisms.
4. Anti-corruption education, code of ethics, and integrity development programs for civil servants.
5. Providing space for the public to report acts of corruption and participate in overseeing government administration.

Viewing corruption as an extraordinary crime, the government seeks to implement various legal instruments and law enforcement agencies to address this problem. The realization that corruption has deep roots in the social and economic structure of society encourages the government to take more effective prevention and prosecution measures. Corruption eradication is focused on legal sanctions against perpetrators, and involves prevention efforts through improved governance and increased transparency (Rizky et al., 2023) .

### Factors Affecting the Effectiveness of Corruption Prevention Efforts in the Public Sector

The high number of corruption cases that occur in Indonesia is partly due to irregularities in public services to the community without applying proper service standards. The types of public service irregularities that often occur are not providing services, protracted delays, procedural deviations, taking sides, abuse of authority, requests for money / goods / services and discrimination. Based on Law 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, service standards are benchmarks that are used as guidelines for service delivery and references for assessing service quality as obligations and promises of organizers to the public in quality, fast, easy, affordable, and measurable services.



**Figure 3. Asia's Public Service Bribery Rate Chart**

Indonesia's bribery rate is 30 percent in public services in Indonesia, this is a common enemy that we must fight so that there is effective prevention of corruption in public services. Corruption is one of the impacts of misappropriation of dishonesty where honesty is the main point of a person's integrity. Factors Affecting the Effectiveness of Corruption Prevention Efforts. The effectiveness of

corruption prevention efforts in the public sector is influenced by various interrelated factors, both internal and external factors. Here are some of the main factors that need to be considered:

### **1. Internal Factors**

The firmness and commitment of the leadership in the fight against corruption is crucial. If the leadership does not set a good example and is not firm in enforcing the rules, then efforts to prevent corruption will be difficult to succeed, an effective supervision system includes internal and external supervision. Internal supervision is carried out by supervisory units within the organization, while external supervision is carried out by supervisory institutions such as the BPK or KPK, an organizational culture that upholds integrity, transparency and accountability will be a strong fortress in preventing corruption, the quality of human resources, such as competence, integrity and commitment to organizational values, is very important in preventing corruption, the use of transparent and accountable information systems can minimize the occurrence of irregularities.

### **2. External Factors**

Political stability, democracy, and public participation in the decision-making process can affect the level of corruption, difficult economic conditions can increase pressure to commit acts of corruption, strict and consistent law enforcement against perpetrators of corruption will provide a deterrent effect, public participation in monitoring and reporting acts of corruption is very important to strengthen prevention efforts, the role of the mass media in exposing corruption cases and providing education to the public is very significant (Indah Yandri et al., 2023).

Main obstacles in the implementation of corruption prevention efforts in the public sector

Eradicating corruption is a difficult task. Although various efforts have been made to achieve the set goals, there are still many obstacles that stand in the way of eradicating corruption. Hand Capture Operations (OTT) were again carried out by the KPK. Although law enforcers have made great efforts and determination, corruption still occurs. Obstacles to eradicating corruption are divided into the category of Structural Obstacles, which are obstacles originating from the State and government that determine and implement methods. The way corruption crimes are handled does not work properly. These groups include:

1. Sectoral egoism and institutionalism that results in the request for maximum funding for sectors and institutions without considering the needs of the nation as a whole and attempts to hide irregularities in the relevant sectors and institutions.
2. Ineffective ongoing supervision.
3. Lack of coordination between law enforcement and supervisory authorities.
4. Weak internal control systems that are positively correlated with various irregularities and inefficiencies in the management of State assets and the low quality of public services.
5. The majority of people are permissive (ignorant) of corruption eradication efforts, the interference of the executive, legislative and judiciary in handling corruption crimes, the existence of a "respectful" and tolerant attitude among government officials that can hinder it.
6. Lack of transparency on the part of institutional leaders, who often appear tolerant in protecting corrupt actors.
7. And a low commitment to eradicating corruption.
8. The absence of a "single identification" number or valid identity for all community needs, which can limit the opportunities for abuse by any member of the community.

9. The existence of regulations that still overlap with laws and regulations has led to acts of corruption in the form of inflating funds within government agencies.
10. Lack of effective law enforcement in dealing with corruption.
11. The difficulty of proving corruption crimes. Management Barriers, are obstacles due to the application of management principles, whether these principles are followed or not. In handling good corruption crimes (high commitment that is carried out consistently in a fair, transparent and accountable manner) does not run as it should.
12. Decreased level of management (government) commitment in monitoring results.
13. Lack of information technology support in governance.
14. Non-independence of supervisory organizations
15. Lack of professionalism in supervision of most officers
16. The absence of support for the supervisory protocol system in handling corruption.
17. Inadequate systems for recruiting new employees, low "formal salaries" for civil servants, performance reviews, and rewards and punishments.

In handling corruption cases, KPK's performance has been criticized for not achieving the target number of cases handled and for saving a lot of state money compared to previous years. However, the KPK denied these accusations. Because, according to them (KPK) they have divided their attention between efforts to prevent and prosecute corruption cases (Salsadila et al., 2023) .

#### More Effective Strategies Can Be Implemented to Prevent Corruption in the Public Sector

Various studies have shown that the success of corruption prevention at the community level is greatly influenced by collaboration between various stakeholders. Therefore, synergy between the government, non-governmental organizations, academics, and the general public is needed to formulate a comprehensive and adaptive strategy. With a holistic approach, it is hoped that a comprehensive anti-corruption culture can be created, so that people are able to effectively tackle and prevent corrupt practices. By realizing the importance of character education in corruption prevention efforts, we can create the foundation for a more ethical society free from corrupt practices. Character education serves as a means to form strong moral values, which in turn encourage individuals to act with integrity and responsibility.

Thus, through education that emphasizes character aspects, we can build a generation that is not only aware of the negative impact of corruption, but also committed to opposing it. Steps to prevent corruption can also be taken in the executive or government agencies, where each agency has an Internal Control Unit that functions as an inspectorate. The task of the inspectorate is to monitor and evaluate the implementation of development activities in each agency, especially in the management of the state budget, to ensure that these activities are carried out effectively, efficiently and economically in accordance with predetermined goals (Lampung, 2024) .

Based on the 13 journals studied, it was generally found that corrupt practices involving public officials, the private sector, and even the general public create an unfavorable environment for sustainable development. Concentrating on eradicating corruption is seen as the duty of law enforcement and a shared responsibility of all levels of society. Learning from the history of corruption in Indonesia is important to form a collective awareness that deep structural and cultural changes are needed to combat this chronic disease. Only through cooperation between the government, anti-corruption agencies, and society as a whole, can we build a strong foundation to

establish a corruption-free and just Indonesia for all its people. The Indonesian government has initiated various efforts in order to eradicate corrupt practices since the post-independence period.

## CONCLUSIONS

From the results of the study, it can be concluded that corruption prevention efforts in the public sector still face complex challenges. Despite various efforts, corruption levels in many countries are still relatively high. Strengthening the independence and capacity of anti-corruption institutions, as well as improving coordination between supervisory institutions, implementing a transparent information system, opening public access to public information, and strengthening audit mechanisms, providing wider space for the public to be involved in monitoring and reporting acts of corruption, implementing anti-corruption education programs on an ongoing basis, starting from the basic education level to the government level, strengthening law enforcement against corruption perpetrators and providing protection for whistleblowers, conducting further research on the effectiveness of various corruption prevention models, as well as the influence of contextual factors such as culture, politics, and economics.

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