Chapter V

CONCLUSION

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At this juncture, it is important to view the entirety and relevance of the subject described and analyzed in various chapters with regard to governance and corruption in India and in select countries of the world. The study begins with extensive discussion on the origin, history and characteristics of governance and corruption by giving special treatment to each and every connecting concept under various subsections. The first chapter, being a trend-setter, exposes thoroughly the concept of corruption and its impact on society in addition to the profound explanation given on the concept of governance and its linkages. To put it in a nutshell, this chapter is the central one that holds the thesis in tact.

Based on the study, good governance is the manner in which the authority of the state is exercised in the management of a country’s economic and social resources for maximizing welfare. Nations have vast differences in their state of development even within their respective geographical region despite the same mix-up of politics and economic plans followed and implemented respectively. It demonstrates that the uneven development is the common feature in the world due to corruption playing at the top level. Thus, frequent changes of policies, strategies economic plans and the governments under various political parties have no considerable impact on society. As a result, majority of the people, what one calls in political terms as electorates, continue to suffer in all the spheres of social and economic life. Ultimately what differentiates success from failures in political and economic development is the clean and corruption free governance.

Therefore, in terms of key concepts and common definitions encompassing governance, good governance and corruption dealt in the introductory chapters are very important to drive home with great points of suggestion for attaining not only corruption
free India but also for corruption free world leading to the establishment global knowledge society that would pave the way for peace, prosperity and human development for the entire humanity. Further, this chapter revels that the developmental experiences in the developing countries including India is not satisfactory due to structural violence that exist in social system influencing the entire gamut of life including politics and economics of people.

The second chapter analyses various concepts like governance, good governance, corruption, new public management and e-governance. It summarizes that good governance not only depend on government alone but it needs the involvement of both citizens and organizations. It argues, therefore, establishing good governance is very important prerequisite for both social and economic reforms that can happen when the polity of nation is reformed effectively. It highlights further certain pertinent issues based on systemic analysis. It is important to note here that the polity of western society mostly defends the minority holding more wealth and the communist polity aims at majority. Welfare of all is not addressed effectively in political governance. However, it should be noted that Mahatma Gandhi had greatly contributed for the concept of welfare of all through his innovative concept, popularly known as ‘sarvodaya’ meaning welfare of all.

The third chapter evaluates the linkages between corruption and governance. It codifies that in the absence of good governance, corruption flourish and in the absence of corruption good governance emerges. Very important point with which this chapter erects its arguments is centered on moral or ethical governance, which is at present in only at ideal stage. However, it is necessary to build, as noted in the chapter, such governance. It also notes that governance no matter whatsoever it is influenced with, either capitalism or communism, moral leadership can only help eradicate corruption and provide good
governances. Such scenario was highlighted by eminent personalities like Aristotle and Plato, who were in support of evolving ‘philosopher kingdom. With this understanding, this chapter systematically describes various corruptions at different level of governance. As it is concerned more on political corruption in India, it also perceives the consequences of excessive state intervention and the creation of bureaucratic nexus.

The fourth chapter, by analyzing the governance indicators and corruption levels of India, exposes various levels of corruption at different levels by comparing with India certain select countries of the world based on the report of Corruption Perception Index (CPI). The data analysis clearly points out that how the corruption level vary from country to country, how it affects the development process in the developing countries, especially in the case of India and what kind of governance indicator that contribute for more corruption and less good governance. It is also interpreted based on comparative analysis with the diagram, graphical notes and pictorial explanation with the propound analysis so as to understand the entire gamut of issues pinning down or thwarting the emergence of good governance not only in India but also in any nation of the world including the prosperous nations. It should be argued here that prosperity is a relative term which cannot be exclusive in its definition. Practically put it, it is not that the so-called prosperous nations or developed nations don’t have either corruption or bad governance. In fact, as it is studied in this chapter, they are rampant in polity, economy and society of the so-called prosperous nations. As per a case study made in this chapter, after more than six decades of its independence, India remains backward in all the fronts including politics, economics and society. Democracy at gross root is, therefore, not working or the state intervention is very minimal as it is analyzed in the chapter in detail.
To sum up, it can be said that the deciding factor in good governance is only ‘people’. If the system is corrupt, it should be reformed, reinvented and reengineered by people through great participation. Certainly, there is hardly any logic to throw away the baby with the bath tub. If the government is not performing, the remedy should not be its amputation or riddance but its cure through appropriate medication and therapy. If governance has lost its shine it should be restored to its pristine splendor and glory. Government after all is a rendezvous with trust, a commitment of the people for the people, a social action for the greatest good. Good governance should be ensured for a better future.

Therefore, the agenda for good includes addressing of the issues transparently, strengthening the legal framework, active involvement of people, strengthening and sustaining the participatory model of governance in all the levels of decision making possibly through civil society organizations, removal of corruption on the basis of directed principles and committed rules and regulations supported by government, increasing the degree of accountability and responsibility on the part of the public officials and introducing transparency in the functioning of government by upholding the recently introduce right to information acts and finally, but most importantly initiating the process of reforms at the different levels of governance. It is necessary to note here that the reforms process is viewed as the main policy instrument not only for advancing society or economy of a nation but as a important prerequisite for building global knowledge society, which can alone contribute for erecting corruption free India and the world as such.

Furthermore, corruption is seen as a consequence of the monopoly power of authoritarian regimes and it is blamed only on them. But at one point of time, it was the
developed donor countries that had supported these authorization regimes in the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and it was a part of their policy agenda. Again it is being seen as a result of bad governance and vice versa. But, it is not seen as a systematic problem, which has entrenched in the structure and systems of these countries. As argued by a popular author, Johan Galtung in his analysis on structural violence in relation to the developing countries, corruption has become very much inherent to the systems and structures of the developing as well as the so-called developed countries.

As a result, for establishing good governance, attention must be focused on system and accordingly the primary responsibilities of governance which includes the maintenance of law and order, administration of justice and welfare of economically and socially weaker sections of society in terms of provision of safety net for them should be addressed effectively. It can truly be said that ‘he who governs the least governs the best’. If this principle had been followed in governance all these years, India would not have presented a picture of such squalor illiteracy and poverty even sixty two years after its independence.

The main question is whether the country is prepared to learn lessons for the future from its experience of the past. It has to have governance guided by heart more often helped by positive mind with equity, which can do better with firm commitment for reaching out to the poorer sections of the society. Its writ must run and should be acknowledged and the people should not take the government for granted. In practical terms, it would mean the government taking all actions to retain its firm holds over people, their institution and the situations that arise day to day. However, not many governments would pass this test.

In other words, government is the product of historical evolution. It was invented in the history of mankind to meet certain common and basic needs of the people formed into
a political community. The fundamental message of political philosophy is that government as an instrument of governance is indispensable. The government was invented to meet certain social needs and deserves to be ‘reinvented’ once again when the number and the nature of social needs undergo a radical change. What is needed is effective government, because there are always some national problems that require national solutions. An ineffective government is not suitable for finding out national solutions for solving national problems and for serving the permanent and aggregate interests of the community.

The current thinking in India is to move towards a more entrepreneurial government, although it is conceded that government cannot be run as a business enterprise. Even Osborne and Gaebler have said as much in their famous book ‘Reinventing Government’. The private sector is concerned basically about the bottom line, profit making; the public sector is answerable to everyone. Whilst risk-taking is an essential part of the private sector management, the public sector management abhors risk and uncertainty. The reason is that there is zero-tolerance for mistakes or wrong decisions in the government. The effort then is to “play safe” and delay decision or better still, not take a decision. If one does not take a decision, one can not take a wrong decision. The whole structure is based on mistrust and suspicion. The rules and procedures drafted during the colonial past have merely been updated and kept in place. If the government does not trust its civil service, it would be difficult to expect the civil servant to trust those whom it has to serve. There is however more readiness now to bring all these issues into the open and discuss them freely.

Successive state governments are putting in place initiatives for ‘good governance’ and even if the beginnings are small, the fact that they are there augur well for the future.
Continuous improvement, aided and supplemented by ‘bench-marking’, is the way to good governance. The goal is to be set for every activity in government and performance is to be assessed in terms of results, quality of service and cost. Moreover, the best performer should be accepted as the standard to be reached by others. Such a course of action for reinventing the government can be easily suggested but is difficult to achieve.

The welfare state very much exists despite some political philosophers emphatically opposing it. But the relevant question, which is recently being asked throughout the world, is whether some activities of the government can be done better through non-governmental ways, as governments are frequently unable to perform those activities effectively. Certainly more and not less government will be necessary to administer foreign policies and defense matters in recent times. But in matters of social improvement and social engineering, effective government is needed. What is in demand is a government that works and can deliver services to its citizens with reasonable cost. It remains a formidable challenge to political science today to develop any theory of judging the effectiveness of government and to identify elements that would ensure realization of good governance.

The Structural Adjustment Programme, as formulated by the World Bank/IMF, dictates to the developing countries the mandatory opening up of their economies. But today, globalization is not something that one aspires to formulate as an act of conscious policy. It is no longer an option, it is a fact. World over people are on the move, becoming more demanding and getting more and more right conscious. In substance, what is visible all-around in most of the societies is bottom-up expectation of people. In this context, arguments for reforms in the process of governance are being concluded in favour of decentralization and de-bureaucratization. The rationale for such claims and demands is
coloured with the desire to participate and contribute in the management of the affairs of society at national, regional and local community level by the people. This trend is the manifestation of desire, coupled with demand, for grassroots participatory democracy. This may also be characterized as the rising democratic demand for service to the people.

Coming to India, the space vacated by the government withdrawing from some economic activities in the name of liberalization and privatization is being occupied by the profit-seeking corporate sector. But there is hardly any matching of private interests of business, with public interest of the community. And a serious mismatch between the two would indicate the death of good governance. Commenting on the post-liberalization Indian scenario, a senior bureaucrat has said: “… the buccaneers and privateers are having a free run of the economy since the liberalization. Otherwise how could one explain the continuous and rhythmic oscillation between the scam and scandal from mid-1991 to now? … The economy is having no respite from piracy and pillage”. The main arguments used in favour of disinvestment are:

- Most of the public sector companies are loss-making and are a burden on public funds;
- Since the government is corrupt, the public sector companies are also corruptly managed;
- In the hands of the private sector, the public sector companies would be run more efficiently.

The major premise of the first argument is factually in correct since many public sector undertakings (PSUs) are not loss making ones. However, even if it were assumed to be so, this argument has no relevance for most of the PSUs, which have been privatized or
are on the selling block. It has been argued in India that privatization is necessary to reduce
the malevolent influence of a corrupt state. In this connection, Stieglitz notes that
privatization is supposed to eliminate the role of the state in the economy. However many
oppose his argument noting that it is too naïve in the modern economy. Moreover, if the
government is corrupt, there is every reason to suppose that disinvestment will also
proceed corruptly. An honest disinvestment minister is certainly no guarantee against
dishonesty in the prevailing atmosphere. If a government is corrupt, there is little evidence
that privatization will solve the problem. After all, the same corrupt government that
mismanaged the firm will also handle the privatization process.

It would be a mistake to put the whole issue as government verses privatization. The
real question is monopoly verses competition. Both public and private sectors are there,
and they would co-exist. It cannot be a neat public verses private conflict. What the society
needs is competitive government that must govern with professional finesse. Limiting the
government’s role and functions is not the answer. Comprehensive governance of the
government is essential especially in the larger public/national interest. If at all there is an
insufficiency or gap in the government in terms of orientation, approach, styles of
motivation, professionalization, entrepreneurship, killer instinct, accountability, forward-
looking or risk-taking dynamism on part of its personnel, high or low, these gaps should be
bridged. If procedures stand on the way, their limiting rules, restricting regulations and
procedural jungle should be cleared. If work environment and work culture are not positive
and commensurately contributing, they should be changed to re-align and fine-tune to the
new needs, new challenges and new demands of the future. If human assets are not
contributing assets for productivity and prosperity of the polity, these should be renewed,
enriched and recharged with their capabilities enhanced and upgraded through multiple media.

Hence, it can be understood that governance gets a concrete shape through accountability, transparency in administration and above all welfare services to the people. In other words ‘good governance’ is a system of governance that is able to identify clearly the basic values of the societies and pursue these values through an accountable and honest administration in order to achieve the welfare of the people without any discrimination based on class, caste, creed, sex, religion etc. There should be special emphasis on the down-trodden and weaker sections of society and the physically and mentally handicapped people. Now-a-days due to the executive being unresponsive, legislature unaccountable and judiciary under scanner, corruption is expanding at all levels. Corruption is the most endemic and entrenched manifestation of poor governance in Indian society so much so that it has almost become an accepted reality and a way of life.

To eliminate this and for achieving such development, good governance with the help of the information and communication technology will play a major role in helping every citizen in the gigantic task of building India as a developed nation. Such a collective effort is inevitable for the transformation of the society in this country, which is branded to be a peaceful country. To bring peace, system has to be changed. Are not these who are in power or in position better placed to change the system? The researcher here would suggest that the nation should learn from Mahatma Gandhi. He was one of the greatest men in history. When he started fighting against system, be it the white supreme rule in South Africa or the British rule in India, he started with himself as a single individual. He was able to mobilize his followers in changing the systems through some steps such follows: intense commitment, total dedication to truth and ‘a never say die spirit’. If the citizens
have commitment and preference and at the same time their actions are based on truth, then there is no reason why each one of them should not be able to punch much above their weight and start the process of changing the system for the better.

**Concluding Observations and Suggestions:**

The “new paradigm” that has emerged in the contemporary period emphasizes the role of public managers in providing high-quality services i.e. citizen’s value. It advocates increasing managerial autonomy, particularly by reducing central agency controls and demands measures and rewards on both organizational and individual performance. It recognizes the importance of providing human and technological resources that managers need to meet their performance targets, and is receptive to competition and is open-minded about which public purposes should be performed by public servants as opposed to the private sector. Far from the automatic abandonment of traditional administration by the government because of the thrust for a smaller government, the challenge of New Public Administration is seen as one of the reinventing and renewal of the government’s erstwhile functions.

In developing countries, good governance would mean nothing unless its goal is fixed to promote an egalitarian and equituous social and economic order. That goal would require the government to be fully transparent and accountable to the people who would have a substantive role to participate in decision-making and implementation. The administration is often unresponsive, ineffective, unsympathetic and often callous or even cruel to those whom it professes to serve. With the politico-administration in this situation, India has opted for decentralized democracy at the grassroots through the 73rd and 74th constitution amendments (1992). A rejuvenated and revitalized local government system elected and accountable to the people has been empowered to take decisions on local
development policies. It has opened up a scope for people’s participation and has the potential for providing good governance. The power structure existing at the broad societal level does not sabotage this attempt for good governance.

The primary condition of good governance is the establishment of Rule of Law supplanting the rule of whims and caprice of the power. Good governance demands that government must be not only representative but also responsive to the needs of the governed. A strong sense of responsiveness and commitment to serve the governed – the customer and client of the government – would ensure efficient delivery of service to the people. Money and technology would definitely be needed, but without proper ethical commitment and preparedness more money would create more corruption and more sophisticated technology would mean further waste and chaos. Therefore, effective governance, as per the findings of the study, will depend on the following factors:

- There should be absolute clarity of rules in relation to public servants and their duty including their limitation, responsibility and their rights;
- There should be transparency in the functional aspects of the governance so to make people understand their rights and the process by which they can get the promised services from various public organizations;
- There should be accountability, which means that in case of failure to deliver and discharge of responsibility by concerned officials in the public organizations, strictly adhered to law guaranteeing punishment to concern official and protecting there after the concern organ by effective regulation of law so as to prevent the similar corrupt practices by any officials in the same organization;
- There has to be efficiency and productivity in operations, which have to be checked by people participation through effective protection by law and curtailing and punishing officials who delay the process of implementation of welfare schemes;

- The general complaint about the Indian bureaucracy today in relation to its enormous delays in the process of implementing welfare scheme of the people should be checked by reorienting laws and related regulations;

- New rules and regulation should be made coping up with the emerging new world order for curtailing corruption in a more competitive ways;

- To bring changes into bureaucracy, greater transparency in furnishing information to people and related NGOs should be put in right frame of law and implemented as a fundamental one without weakening the spirit of the recently proclaimed Information Bill leading to greater access to government’s decision making process; and

- There should be protection to individuals who work for building awareness among people for the cause of establishing good governance and corruption free society.

**Strategies:**

It is necessary to devise a series of long-range strategies and short-term measures to deal with the menace of corruption. An anti-corruption revolution, if it is to be credible, must start at the top. To make an impact in public mind, it is necessary to prosecute and punish some of the top officials including at ministry level so as to make way in order to jolt the system out of the corruption trap. Unfortunately, in India till now very few corrupt political leaders or businessmen have been brought to book and hence the talk of war against corruption brings cynical reactions from the public.
Political corruption has become the mother of all kinds of corruption. Hence, some determined action against corrupt politicians is called for. There should be a revision of the electoral law, which ensures that any one who is facing trial in any criminal case or who has a criminal history is not permitted to contest elections. Corruption flourishes because punishment is lacking. The conviction rate in India is hardly six per cent. Therefore, it has thus become a low-risk and high-profit activity. The Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1999 is pending with the government for consideration since 4 February 1999. It is necessary to pass such an Act so that real punishment by way of confiscation of the property can be enforced.

Politicians, bureaucrats, judges and military officers should be required to give a detailed break-down of their assets every year after assuming office, in their tax returns. In fact, even if the property statements of the officers are properly scrutinized, action can be initiated against many of the black sheep. Annual Property Returns (APRs) are not submitted, despite clear service rules, by many civil servants regularly. A very senior officer did not submit APRs for fifteen years and could get away by pleading the ignorance of these rules. If these returns are carefully scrutinized and then followed by swift enquiries against some of the known corrupt public servants living beyond their means, it will have a deterrent effect.

An effective 'Right to Information Bill' would go a long way to help the citizens to combat corruption. In India, the Right to Information Bill is lying before the Parliament for a long time. It has still not been passed. It is essential that government policies and programmes become transparent and people are able to exercise their right to information. Those in authority, to suit their whims, often use the Official Secrets Act to deny
information. In developed countries people have a right to obtain information on all matters except those pertaining to national security and defense.

Though corruption has become deeply entrenched, it is not impossible to get out of the corruption trap. Countries like France in the 19th century, Singapore and Hong Kong in the 20th century have completed the transition from high-corruption societies to low-corruption ones. Strong political will and commitment to a clear anti-corruption agenda can bring about similar outcome in India also. In Hong Kong, the Independent Commission against Corruption\textsuperscript{'} (ICAC) has done a remarkable job in reducing corruption. ICAC was given the power to investigate and prosecute corruption cases and engage in a campaign of public education. The government indicated its commitment by appointing a person of unquestioned integrity to head the ICAC and also by prosecuting some important people. Compared to this, in India, a highly politicized nature of anti-corruption processes shows that often it has been used for political purposes than for catching corrupt persons. Stifling administrative procedures have made the work of anti-corruption agencies non-productive.

**Act Now-- Urgent Steps:**

So far as the transparency aspect is concerned, apart from the Freedom of Information Act and empowering the citizens to have more access to information, what is needed is extensive application of information technology, which directly leads to a new type of governance known as SMART --Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent governance. This is possible today because of information technology. There seems to be a healthy competition among the various states in this area and Government of India also has recognized the importance of information technology. One must aggressively push for application of information technology in as many areas as possible
especially where the government interfaces with the public so that not only will there be speedy service but also greater transparency. Automatically, accountability will follow and the quality of governance will improve.

It is more important to note the adage that the politics play as dividing force and the economy plays as uniting force of the society. Since the political display is entirely connected with the contact of governance, corruption at this level play a predominant role involving economy as an enticement for material benefit. In the earlier days, as noted by many scholars, India had no such upheavals as it did not have a historical tradition for accumulation of wealth or management of ‘surplus value’. Only the ‘giving tradition’ was so strong and storing or ‘stockpiling tradition’ was not at all there in India. As a matter of fact, Indian culture evolved over a period of time based on the life style of people was so imminent that could not be challenged. As time pass by, such giving tradition got eroded. Similar analysis was made by Warren Casting in 1835 itself. According to him, India was the only county having a strong tradition emerged on the basis of ‘humane approaches’ influencing every walk of life and it had, therefore, a great ambiance to rule the world morally. He also noted in his writings that unless Indian traditional values were eroded, no power could prevent India influencing the world nations in areas of politics, economics and therefore on society.

Such understanding was also expressed by Mahatma Gandhi, who had noted in his book ‘Hind Swaraj’ that ‘Indian civilization is the best and that the European is a nine days’ wonder… This (Western) civilization is such that one has only to be patient and it will be self-destroyed.’ It is also to be noted that in his book ‘Clash of Civilization, Samuel P. Huntington notes making a great analysis on the seven civilizations of the world community that ‘Hindu civilization can give a paradigm shift to the world’. In this connection, Arnold Toynbee notes that “if India were ever to fall to live up to this Indian
ideal which is the finest and therefore the most exacting, legacy in your Indian heritage, it would be a poor look out for mankind as whole. So a great spiritual responsibility rests on India”. If India paves the way for corruption free society with in, it has great opportunity for playing role in preventing corruption at global level joining with the United Nations. Therefore, corruption needs to be fought in India locally. The following measures can be adopted as per the study for such an eventuality leading to establish corruption free Indian society, which will make a greater stride to attain corruption free world.

- Aid money should be used to strengthen the governance institutions, guided by national assessments and development strategies and to incorporate strengthened integrity and corruption prevention as an integral part of poverty reduction programme and improving governance.
- Judicial independence must be freed of political influence, and integrity and accountability should be enhanced to improve its credibility. Judges themselves must be subjected to disciplinary rules, limited immunity and a code of judicial conduct to help ensure that justice is served. They should assist in the recovery of stolen assets from abroad.
- Governments must introduce anti-money laundering measures to eradicate safe havens for stolen assets, as prescribed by the UNCAC. Leading banking centre should explore the development of uniform expedited procedures for the identification, freezing and repatriation of the proceeds of corruption. Clear provisions for disputed funds are essential.
- Wealthy countries must regulate their financial hubs more strictly. Focusing on the roles of trusts, demanding knowledge of beneficial ownership and strengthening
anti-money laundering provisions are just a few of the ways that can tackle the facilitators of corruption.

- The boards of multinational companies must not only introduce but implement effective anti-bribery codes, and ensure that they adhere to by their subsidiaries and foreign offices.