

SOCI 224:

Social Structure of Modern Ghana

Session 10 – Bribery and Corruption

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UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

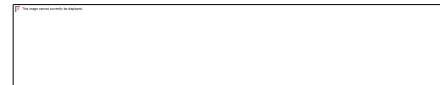
College of Education

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Session Overview

Corruption is a very contentious issue in Ghana. It is one of two major causes of political instability in Ghana. This session will discuss corruption by examining how it is defined and the factors that predispose Ghanaians to be corrupt. It will end with some suggestions on how it can be mitigated.



Session Outline

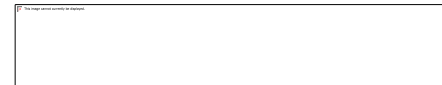
The key areas to be covered in the session are as follows:

- Define bribery and corruption
- Discuss the factors that predispose Ghanaians to corruption
- Suggest ways that the incidence of corruption can be stemmed



Reading List

- Abotchie, C. (2016) *Social Change in Ghana*. Accra: Hans Publications. Chapter 8
- Nukunya G. K (2014) *Tradition and Change in Ghana, An introduction to Sociology*. Accra: Ghana Universities Press. Chapter 12.

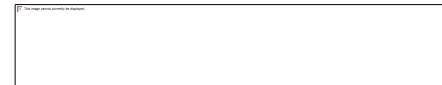


Definitions

- **Bribery and corruption:** the giving and receiving of a gift or a valuable consideration either in cash or kind with the object of influencing a person in a position of trust to act in a way favourable to the giver (Anin Commission, 1975)

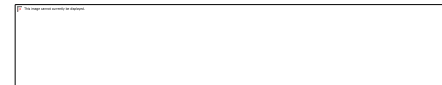
Some terms for corruption in Ghana:

- *Kalabule*
- *AWAM (Association of West African Merchants)*
- *419*



Definitions contd.

- **BRIBE:** a gift or anything offered to procure an illegal action or decision in the favour of the giver.
 - Is money or anything offered to procure illegal or dishonest action or decision in favour of the giver (Nukunya, 2014)
- **CORRUPTION:** the *intentional mis-performance* or neglect of a recognised duty, or *the unwarranted exercise of power*, with the motive of gaining some advantage more or less directly personal (Lipman, 1975)



What a bribe does

- Bribe is aimed at either breaking a law/rule outright
- To bend the rules in favour of the giver
- The crux of the matter:
 - **Behind the notion of bribery and corruption is that people put in a bureaucratic set up are paid salaries and therefore are not to demand or accept extra payment/gift for work done.**



Forms and Level of Corruption

- Corruption can be at the:
 - Individual
 - Groups*
 - Direct or
 - Indirect



Factors contributing to corruption in Ghana

- The custom of gift giving to elders, chiefs, etc in pre-colonial Ghana
- The principle of reciprocity
- Money as a sole index of success and achievement
- The demands and expectations of the extended family
- Weak law enforcement
- Absolute nature of political power



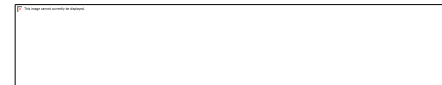
Factors Cont.

- Low levels of salaries and the high cost of living
- Cumbersome procedures for acquiring essential services
- Ineffective supervision of administrative controls
- Expensive nature of elections
- Insecurity of political office
- Nepotism and cronyism
- Expensive funerals
- illiteracy



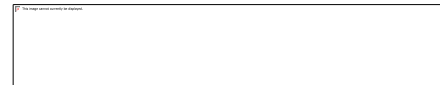
Effects of Corruption

- Loss of revenue to the state
- Negative impact on development
- Political instability
- Creates inequalities-the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer
- **Latent function**-redistribute society's wealth to others
- Fast-track administrative processes/procedure



Perspectives on the Pervasiveness of Corruption in Ghana

- Ghanaians as incorrigible
- Publicity effects syndrome



Ways of Reducing Corruption

- Public education on the negative effects of corruption
- Education on the individual rights
- Complaints outlet and agents
- Swift and proportional punishment
- Controlled powers of public officers
- Access to information
- Reward for conformist/ whistle blowers
- Questioning the source of wealth
- Addressing the issue of undue 'bureaucracy'/redtapeism



Your Opinion

- Joy News' Manasseh Azure in his latest expose claims President John Mahama (then Vice President) was presented with a new Ford Expedition vehicle as a gift by Burkinabe contractor Djibril Kanazoe. Mr. Kanazoe secured a contract to fence Ghana's embassy in Burkina Faso and also won the 46.4km European Union funded Dodo-Pepesu Road Contract in the same year the 'gift' was given to Mr. Mahama.
Mr. Djibril Kanazoe, who has received praise from President John Mahama for his work, has confirmed he presented a brand new Ford Expedition to the President as a gift for his friendship. Claims of possible bribery has been challenged by the Communications Minister, Dr. Edward Omane Boamah.
- **Question:** Do you consider receipt of this gift appropriate or otherwise?

