



Research Article

Uncovering the Chain of Corruption: A Case Study in Bangladesh

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Abstract. Government officials are responsible to the people because they are paid for their services by the fund of the country which is collected from people. They got extra facilities as the government officials but people see them as the oppressors while taking public services. Their offensive behavior hurts the common people who do not have extra money paid for services. This study attempts to make the people aware, conscious, responsible, accountable, and transparent to government officials. The study titled "Uncovering the Chain of Corruption: A Case Study in Bangladesh" delves into the intricate web of corruption within Bangladesh, highlighting systemic issues and identifying key actors involved. This research adopts a mixed-methods approach, utilizing both qualitative interviews and quantitative data analysis, to provide a comprehensive examination of corruption at various levels of governance and society. Findings reveal that corruption in Bangladesh is deeply entrenched, facilitated by a nexus of political patronage, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and socio-economic disparities. The case study

uncovers how corruption manifests in public procurement, law enforcement, and the judiciary, perpetuating a cycle of impunity and public mistrust which is conducted at Bangladesh Road Transport Authority in Rajshahi Zone. Furthermore, the study explores the socio-cultural dimensions that normalize corrupt practices and examines the role of international aid and non-governmental organizations in both exacerbating and combating corruption. Recommendations emphasize the need for robust legal frameworks, greater transparency, and public accountability mechanisms, alongside fostering a culture of integrity and ethical governance. This study contributes to the broader discourse on anti-corruption strategies, offering insights that are crucial for policymakers, stakeholders, and scholars aiming to address corruption in developing countries.

Keywords: Corruption, Driving License, Rajshahi, Bangladesh.

INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh gained independence from West Pakistan in 1971 since this country faces different kinds of government systems e.g. Presidential system of government, Parliamentary system of government but restored the Parliamentary system of government in 1990 (Kabir et al., 2021). Since the raising of the newly independent country sees corruption heavily. According to the United Nations Development Program (1999, New York, UNDP), corruption is defined as "the misuse of public power, office, or authority for private benefit through bribery, extortion, influence peddling, nepotism, fraud, speed money, or embezzlement." There is a big distance between government and public officials regarding accountability (Sultan Mahmud et al., 2023). Recent surveys of the public's perception of the corruption situation also show that most people think that access to public goods including jobs, justice, healthcare, and education is being hampered by corruption and bribery (Asadullah & Chakravorty, 2019).

In less developed nations, corruption is likely to have greater costs than advantages, except for high-level corruption including contemporary inducements and slight deviations, except in circumstances in which corruption offers the only way to overcome a significant barrier to progress (Nye, 1967). That is why people lead a poor life in slum areas because they do not get available goods (Hossan, 2024). The cultural, political, and economic fabric of society is directly impacted by corruption, which also jeopardizes national security and harms essential governmental institutions (Hasan, 2007). While corruption in one form or another has always existed, its prevalence has varied throughout time, across locations, and with differing degrees of detrimental effects (Bardhan, 1997). In Bangladesh, corruption in its different forms permeates the public sector. In addition to rent-seeking, bribery, and financial misappropriation, several other issues negatively impact the operation of public organizations, including aggressive lobbying, service delivery delays, theft and pilferage, careless behavior on the part of officials, bureaucratic ineptitude, patronage, and clientelism (Zafarullah, 2001).

Public officials are by no means the only ones who can be corrupt. If goods and services are scarce, private company employees may also accept bribes to supply them (R._N._Ghosh_ed._M._A._B._Siddique_ed._Corru, n.d.). Sometimes we have seen that the neighboring countries felt an unpleasant situation of corruption (Hossan, 2023).

Consequently, a country must have abundant natural wealth but no stability of governance because of corruption. Both Venezuela and South Africa are rich in natural resources, yet neither country has a good level of living due to issues with wealth disparity, corruption, and civil upheaval (Pendergast et al., 2011). Analyzing the consisting corruption, we have found out the present condition of official behavior, services, misbehaving, maladministration, and corruption. In Bangladesh, people are not aware of corruption because they are predominantly uneducated and do not have critical thinking qualities (Hossan et al., 2023). When people cannot combat corruption, they go through the illegal way to get their services. For this reason, corruption may lead to human life low-quality human standards (Alomgir Hossan et al., 2023). To eliminate corruption and make the country resilient public awareness must be ensured (Hossan et al., 2024). When a country can make the government administration accountable, it may ensure prosperity in every step of the existing country (Sultan Mahmud et al., 2024). In this study, we have conducted a case study (Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, Rajshahi) to scrutinize the chain of corruption. Where government officials do not pay special attention without bribes.

Objectives

1. Investigate the underlying socio-economic and political factors contributing to the prevalence of corruption within various sectors in Bangladesh.
2. Identify the key stakeholders involved in corrupt practices and analyze their roles, motivations, and interactions within the corrupt network.
3. Examine the mechanisms and channels through which corrupt activities are facilitated, sustained, and concealed within the Bangladeshi context.
4. Propose evidence-based strategies and policy recommendations to effectively combat corruption, and enhance transparency, accountability, and integrity in Bangladesh.

METHODOLOGY

In this research paper, we have selected the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) at Rajshahi City in Bangladesh and used direct participation in an investigation. Quantitative and Qualitative research methods are applied to data analysis. In the beginning, we apply for a driving license from the BRTA online platform. We directly observed over 400 candidates who also applied directly or through a third party in selected areas. Microsoft Office Home and Student (2019) was utilized to examine and examine the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Case 1

The first phrase

Before expounding upon the incident, it is essential to provide a concise preamble regarding personal details. My name is Abdur Rahim, and at present, I am pursuing studies in the distinguished Department of Political Science at Rajshahi

University. In tandem with my scholarly endeavors, I have devoted myself to a comprehensive four-month training program in diving to hone my proficiency in this skill set. Consequently, spurred by my newfound capability to operate a motor vehicle, I commenced the process of acquiring a driving license, an undertaking which I intend to delve into further within the context of this narrative.

The Day of the Driving License Examination

On the morning of October 1st, 2023, the commencement of my day transpired at 6:00 AM, adhering to my customary regimen. After assembling all essential documents, including my learner's permit, academic credentials, medical authorization, and identification, I procured a bike from my elder sibling and journeyed towards the Rajshahi BRTA office. My arrival at 7:30 AM was met with a closed gate, a customary occurrence as it typically unveils at 8:00 AM. During the interim, I partook in a morning repast and engaged in conversations with fellow candidates. An inquiry arose regarding the mode of application, whether direct or through intermediaries, a prevalent custom in Bangladesh. Despite encountering disheartenment due to such practices, my resolve to obtain my license solely based on my driving prowess remained unwavering. The commencement of the gate at 8:00 AM marked our entry into the BRTA office.

Amid biometric scanning

The entrance of the Rajshahi BRT office was promptly unlocked at eight o'clock in the morning. Upon my arrival, I proceeded inside with my Bike, only to face rebuke from a member of the Ansar security force in an abrupt manner. His question was, "Why did you come in here? This area is not designated for bike parking," was communicated with disapproval. Subsequently, I elucidated my lack of familiarity with the premises due to my recent arrival, to which he responded, "Young man if you are uninformed, why have you arrived to carry out the evaluation?" Expressing regret, I adhered to his directive and positioned my bike next to the entrance. In search of guidance, I approached another Ansar member who kindly directed me to the necessary procedures for biometric data capture and photography. Following his guidance, I joined a lengthy queue. However, my attention was soon drawn upwards as I noticed individuals behind me being escorted ahead by an Ansar member, thus circumventing the queue. Puzzled by this irregularity, I shared my concerns with a fellow applicant, questioning the impartiality of the situation. In reply, the individual attributed the incident to the actions of intermediaries, commonly known as 'brokers'. Despite feeling disheartened by this disclosure, I remained steadfast. When my turn arrived, I proceeded indoors for biometric registration and photography. However, my disappointment increased upon encountering impolite conduct from the attending officer. Particularly, upon examining my documentation, the officer's attitude deteriorated further. Despite my earnest efforts to adhere to his instructions, I was subjected to scornful comments regarding the size of my fingers, along with requests for repeated biometric registration attempts. Similarly, during the photography session, the officer's language became disrespectful as he questioned the positioning of my head, using vulgar language in the process. Despite these obstacles,

I completed the necessary procedures for biometric data capture and photography, determined to navigate the process with resilience despite the discourteous treatment endured.

Written Examination

Upon the completion of the biometric registration and photographic documentation, participants advanced to a designated area for the written examination. Upon their arrival, individuals lined up in anticipation of entering the examination venue. Following that, an official instructed a group of participants to separate from the rest of the candidates, although the reason for this segregation was not immediately clear. The attendees then followed the official's directions. At 10:00 AM, the examination session commenced, and a proctor at the entrance oversaw the collection of necessary documents from each participant. Inside the examination hall, candidates were assigned seating, with some placed next to each other, others towards the back, and a few occupying individual seats at the front. I was seated in the front row. Once the written examination began, it was noticeable that a door in front was partially covered, creating a unique atmosphere in the room. After the distribution of examination materials, such as question papers and answer sheets, a troubling event occurred: an individual, known as "Sir A," allegedly provided assistance to specific candidates by sharing answers and even writing responses for them. This discovery caused shock and disbelief. Upon investigation, it was found that certain individuals, supposedly introduced through intermediaries, were receiving preferential treatment. This realization raised concerns about the examination process's integrity and its impact on society. Despite these challenges, I managed to finish my answers diligently within a short timeframe of 15 minutes, despite Sir A collecting examination materials prematurely. The conclusion of the examination session at 10:15 AM led participants to leave the premises, questioning when the results would be released. An official mentioned an estimated time of around 1:30 PM for result announcements, leading to a period of patient waiting. Around 40 minutes later, an Ansar official used a public address system to call participants to a specific area for the announcement of examination results. I followed the instructions and moved to the location, where a facilitator proceeded to declare the results, confirming my successful completion, for which I conveyed my appreciation. Following further instructions from the overseeing official, successful candidates, including myself, had to prepare for the practical part of the examination, involving logistical arrangements using personal vehicles, such as a motorcycle and a car.

Practical Exam time

Following the successful completion of the written examination, I approached the practical examination with enthusiasm. The bicycle practical commenced promptly at 2:20 PM. It is noteworthy that failure to maintain balance without dropping a foot or touching the boundary pillars during the bicycle practical results in disqualification. However, upon arrival, I observed a discrepancy in the evaluation process, where individuals were deemed successful despite instances of foot contact

or collision with the boundary pillars. In light of this, I proceeded with my test apprehensively. Fortunately, I navigated the course adeptly, culminating in a successful outcome, for which I express gratitude. Subsequently, as the bicycle practical concluded, an official announced the commencement of the car practical for those who had passed. Eagerly, I commenced my preparation for this next phase of evaluation. The car practical commenced at 4:10 PM, with candidates undertaking the test sequentially. Similar to the bicycle evaluation, specific criteria were in place, emphasizing graceful maneuvering and avoidance of contact with boundary pillars. Regrettably, I observed inconsistencies in the evaluation process, where some individuals were permitted to utilize smaller vehicles and still achieved success despite limited driving proficiency. However, when it was my turn, I was assigned a larger vehicle. Undeterred by the challenge, I successfully navigated the course, showcasing my driving skills and ultimately securing a passing grade. Delighted with the outcome, I received confirmation of my success and eagerly prepared for the next evaluation stage, the Shaheed Viva, with a sense of contentment.

Viva Moment

Those individuals who had completed both examinations formed a line for the Viva assessment in the morning. I, too, joined the queue, patiently awaiting my turn. Upon being called, I entered the room and greeted the assessor. Accompanying me was another candidate. Surprisingly, the assessor swiftly dealt with the other candidates, simply obtaining their signatures and dismissing them. I experienced a sense of relief, presuming that I might be asked fewer questions. However, to my astonishment, the assessor proceeded to ask me 10 to 12 questions. Despite this unforeseen challenge, I managed to respond adequately, expressing appreciation for the opportunity. Following the question session, I was requested to sign the necessary paperwork before departing. Intrigued about the results process, I inquired about it. The assessor reassured me that I would be notified on my mobile device. With a hopeful outlook, I exited the assessment room, feeling content.

Message

At 7:10 pm, a notification was received conveying the message, "The driving license test has not been successfully passed." Upon perusal of this information, a sensation akin to a heavy burden descending was experienced. The inability to grasp the situation arose as all examinations had been previously completed with success. Instantaneously, tears began to form. The ensuing night was spent in a state of unease, contemplating the arrival of the morning and deliberating the option of complaining.

Complaint time

Despite the morning's arrival, I find myself disheartened. A singular question plagues my thoughts: why, despite passing, have I been deemed unsuccessful? This morning, I proceeded to the BRTA office in Rajshahi to acquire my learner's permit. Upon examination of the documents, I discovered an inconsistency: though I had indeed passed the practical test, it was erroneously marked as a failure. Seeking

clarification, I approached an official within the main office and conveyed my predicament. Regrettably, the response I received was less than satisfactory. The official asserted that the written record superseded my actual performance, thereby dismissing my claim without further consideration. In an attempt to rectify the situation, I implored the official to consult with those responsible for the assessment conducted the previous day. However, my plea was met with disdain. Rather than addressing my concerns, the official rebuked me, questioning my audacity in challenging the established verdict. Lacking any tangible evidence to corroborate my assertion, I was summarily dismissed from the premises. Thus, despite my successful completion of the practical test, bureaucratic oversight and unwillingness to rectify errors have left me in a state of disillusionment.

Second Phrase

Upon departing from the office, I encountered an individual who identified himself as an Ansar. He brazenly suggested that bureaucratic processes are easily circumvented through monetary exchange, offering to facilitate the acquisition of a driving license for a fee of five thousand taka. Incensed by his proposition, I swiftly departed from his presence. Faced with the pervasive corruption within the system, I felt a sense of defeat. However, determined not to succumb to such unethical practices, I resolved to reapply for my license. Vowing to never yield to the influence of brokers, I returned to the licensing process with renewed determination. Upon submitting my application anew, I was issued a revised examination date: October 15, 2023.

The Day of the Driving License Examination

This time, I approached the examination with added precautions. Following the routine procedures of biometric registration and photographing, I proceeded to undertake the written examination, successfully clearing it as before. Anticipating the practical examination, given the previous discrepancy, I devised a strategic approach. Accompanied by a friend, I instructed him to discreetly record my performance to safeguard against any potential misrepresentation. Adhering to the plan, I completed the practical test, capturing video evidence to substantiate my competence. Subsequently, facing the viva examination, I emerged successfully, receiving assurance from the examiner to await the results. Relieved by this positive outcome, I returned to my university hall, grateful for the prospect of a fair assessment.

An unfamiliar message

At 7:10 pm, I again received a notification stating, "You have failed the driving license test."

The day truth prevails

Upon obtaining conclusive evidence of my passing status, I dutifully proceeded to the BRTA office in Rajshahi the subsequent morning to collect my learner papers. To my dismay, upon review, it became evident that I had failed the practical examination once more. Without hesitation, I approached the officer's

quarters and expressed my concerns regarding the discrepancy, highlighting that despite having passed previously, I was marked as unsuccessful. The response from the officer was one of reproach, questioning my audacity in returning. Despite the initial rebuke, I persisted in presenting my evidence of having completed the examination, citing a video recording captured by a friend during the practical test as substantiation. This revelation incited further ire from the officer, prompting an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the video's creation. Faced with the unjust designation of failure despite possessing tangible proof of my competence, I resolved to escalate the matter to the appropriate authorities at my university. However, the intervention of Sir Thotamto paused my intended course of action, as he expressed a willingness to review the situation. Subsequently, I was summoned to a private chamber where I provided my roll number for verification. Upon scrutiny, it was revealed that a grave error had been made, as it was not I but another candidate, with roll number 711, who had failed. A rectification was swiftly enacted, and my records were adjusted accordingly. This sequence of events sheds light on the administrative oversights presents within the Rajshahi BRTA office. Following the resolution of the matter, the concerned officer ensured the proper completion of my paperwork and took measures to delete the video from my mobile device. Thus, through perseverance and adherence to due process, I successfully obtained my Driving Licence without the need for intermediary assistance.

Case 2

The first Phase

Before elaborating on the incident, it is imperative to present a succinct introduction concerning personal information. This is Jakirul Islam, now I am pursuing a BSS(Hons) within the esteemed Department of Political Science at the University of Rajshahi. Concurrently with my academic activities, I have dedicated myself to an extensive three-month training scheme in diving to enhance my skills in this area. Subsequently, motivated by my enhanced capacity to operate a motor vehicle, I initiated the procedure of obtaining a driving license, a task that I plan to explore further in the context of this account.

The Day of the Driving License Examination

On the morning of January 1st, 2024, my day commenced at 6:30 AM, by my usual routine. Following the collection of necessary documents such as my learner's permit, academic certificates, medical clearance, and identification, I utilized an automobile to arrive at the Rajshahi BRTA office. The weather was delightful that winter morning, as I reached the office at 8:00 AM and was greeted by a long queue outside the biometric room. Meanwhile, I enjoyed a morning meal and conversed with other candidates. A discussion emerged regarding the application process, whether it was direct or through intermediaries, a prevalent practice in Bangladesh. Despite feeling discouraged by such customs, my determination to acquire my license based solely on my driving skills remained steadfast. Anyway, I stood at the back of the long line.

Biometric

In the application form, the designated time for Biometric authentication was stipulated as 8.30 am. Thirty minutes before the appointed time, I reached the venue and was met with a substantial queue comprising individuals awaiting their turn for the biometric process. Similarly to myself, these individuals were also queued for biometric verification. In adherence to common practice, I positioned myself at the rear end of the line. Subsequently, it dawned upon me that by offering a sum of 100-200 BDT, I could expedite the biometric procedure without the necessity of waiting in line. Numerous individuals opted for this approach, thereby circumventing the prolonged wait, albeit engaging in an unauthorized practice. This prompts the inquiry as to whether individuals can gain preferential treatment through monetary means. After a prolonged period of waiting exceeding two hours, an opportunity presented itself for me to access the biometric room. The comprehension of the procedures proved challenging, primarily owing to a dearth of prior exposure. Regrettably, the conduct exhibited by the personnel present was notably unsatisfactory. Subsequently completing the assigned tasks, I exited the premises.

Written Exam

The experience of the written examination was found to be significantly more daunting and nerve-racking than anticipated by the test-takers. Upon completing the biometric process, the examinee proceeded to the designated examination hall, where they were directed to a segregated area for the test. Interestingly, individuals who had sought the services of intermediaries by providing additional monetary compensation were seated collectively in more favorable and convenient locations within the examination venue. The evident disparity in treatment based on financial influence was glaring, reflecting a blatant form of discrimination, further exacerbated by the discourteous conduct exhibited by the examination staff towards the examinees. The pivotal moment arrived when the outcome of the written examination was to be disclosed to the candidates. Subsequently, it was revealed to the examinee that they had not met the required standards and had unfortunately failed the examination. Reflecting on their performance during the test, the examinee harbored a preconceived notion that their inadequacies might lead to an unfavorable outcome, hence, their failure was somewhat expected. However, their astonishment peaked when they observed individuals lacking basic literacy skills, unable even to pen their names, being granted a passing grade, while they, a university student, faced failure. Upon closer inspection, it was discovered that the individuals who succeeded had engaged the services of intermediaries to facilitate their examination process, even receiving guidance on the written test from these brokers. Alarming was the revelation that the invigilators turned a blind eye to such malpractice, allowing even those who struggled to identify themselves correctly to pass the examination. After these disconcerting events, another distressing episode unfolded within the examination premises. Among the unsuccessful candidates was a female examinee, who, upon being notified of her failure, elicited inquiries from an individual, presumed to be a broker, regarding the rationale behind her unfavorable result. The

individual above proceeded to escort the distressed examinee from the examination staff to the overseeing Magistrate, insinuating the potential complicity of the Magistrate in the illicit activities witnessed during the examination process. This incident shed light on the pervasive corruption that seemed to permeate not only the examination administration but also the higher echelons of authority responsible for overseeing the integrity of such evaluations. Finally, I departed from the location with the self-perception of being unsuccessful. Subsequently, at 6:30 pm, a notification was received on my cellular device indicating my failure.

The second phase

I initiated a quest to enhance my understanding of corruption. Inquired from a member of Ansar stationed at the entrance about the method of obtaining a driving license effortlessly using financial transactions. He requested an additional sum of 4500, following the usual practice. This payment would ensure a smooth process without any challenges. Furthermore, he assured me that non-participation in the practical examination would not pose any issues. To validate the information, I consulted another individual who also proposed an extra payment of 4500 TK. These incidents vividly illustrate the prevailing corruption within BRTA.

Practical

After facing an initial lack of success, I decided to reapply for the opportunity. The date of 28th February 2024 was designated for my application process. Punctually, I arrived at the designated location and proceeded to complete the necessary biometric procedures within the same queue as other applicants. During this instance, I actively took part in the practical examination and executed it with great care and precision. It is worth noting, however, that a significant number of individuals managed to bypass the examination requirement by utilizing brokers, while some even succeeded in passing despite initial failures. Conversely, numerous applicants who arrived without the assistance of brokers found themselves being rejected on various grounds and justifications.

Viva-voce

Upon the Viva board, a distinctive and unique encounter unfolded, diverging from the usual routine I would partake in. Similar to the rest of the individuals present, I patiently waited in line until my turn arrived. Upon entering the premises, my attention was drawn to the presence of two employees from BRTA within the vicinity. Interestingly, the Magistrate who typically oversees such proceedings was notably absent on this occasion. Observing the individuals ahead of me, I witnessed them being subjected to a series of intricate and challenging inquiries. Despite successfully responding to the majority of the questions posed, there was one query that stumped them. Consequently, they were directed to affix their signature in a singular location, indicating their ineffectiveness in meeting the required criteria. Subsequently, when it was my turn to undergo the process, the employees attempted various methods to impede my progress, yet their efforts were ultimately unsuccessful. Instead, I was instructed to sign my name in three distinct areas on the

document provided. During this signing process, I couldn't help but notice certain annotations adjacent to several names, suggesting a potential association with intermediary agents facilitating the candidacy of individuals. Before concluding my visit and exiting the room, another individual entered the premises. Engaging in a customary exchange with one of the employees, the newcomer delved into an irrelevant narrative. Interestingly, Viber, the individual overseeing the proceedings, swiftly prompted them to sign the necessary documents without any further interrogation. It became apparent to me that this particular individual had likely been introduced through intermediaries and had established familiarity with the supervisory staff on duty. After numerous diligent endeavors and relentless pursuits, the inefficacy in identifying my error on this particular occasion eventually led to its triumphant resolution. The observation and documentation of malpractice within the hierarchical structure of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) have not escaped my notice. It has come to my attention that every individual holding an official position within the organization, starting from the designated magistrate overseeing operations, is implicated in these illicit activities.

Recommendations

1. Introduce anti-corruption policies and mechanisms within the licensing authority. This could involve training officials on ethical conduct, instituting whistleblower protection, and establishing anonymous reporting channels for candidates to raise concerns.
2. Transition towards digital platforms for registration, examination schedules, and result announcements. This can reduce human interaction and minimize opportunities for corruption and favoritism.
3. Implement regular audits and oversight mechanisms to monitor the conduct of officials involved in the licensing process. Random checks on examination centers and CCTV surveillance can deter malpractice.
4. Educate the public, especially applicants, about their rights and the standard procedures for obtaining a driver's license. Encourage individuals to report any instances of corruption or malpractice they encounter during the process.
5. Enforce strict penalties for officials engaging in corrupt practices and ensure timely resolution of complaints.
6. Establish mechanisms for gathering feedback from applicants about their experiences during the licensing process. Use this feedback to continuously improve the system and address any loopholes or issues.

CONCLUSION

The case study is a revealing look into the pervasive nature of corruption within the country. The findings underscore that corruption is not merely a series of isolated incidents but a deeply ingrained system supported by political, economic, and social structures. The research illustrates how corruption is perpetuated by a synergistic relationship between political elites and bureaucratic entities, creating a self-reinforcing cycle that undermines public trust and hinders economic development. One of the key insights from this study is the identification of specific

sectors where corruption is most rampant, including public procurement, law enforcement, and the judiciary. These sectors are critical to the nation's governance and economic health, and their corruption has far-reaching implications, from stifling foreign investment to exacerbating poverty and inequality. The study also highlights the role of socio-cultural factors, such as patron-client relationships and social norms that tacitly endorse corrupt practices, further entrenching corruption in the fabric of Bangladeshi society. Moreover, the analysis reveals that while international aid and non-governmental organizations play significant roles in development, they can inadvertently contribute to the problem by creating additional layers of bureaucracy and opportunities for graft. This underscores the complexity of combating corruption, necessitating a multifaceted approach that includes strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing transparency, and promoting accountability across all levels of government and society. In conclusion, addressing corruption in Bangladesh requires a comprehensive strategy that integrates legal reforms, capacity building, and cultural change. It is imperative to cultivate a culture of integrity and ethical behavior, supported by robust institutions that can effectively enforce anti-corruption measures. This case study serves as a crucial resource for policymakers, civil society, and international partners committed to fostering sustainable development and good governance in Bangladesh. The lessons learned here are not only pertinent to Bangladesh but also offer valuable insights for other developing nations grappling with similar challenges.

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