
| **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

Efforts and Challenges to Control Corruption in Nepal

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| **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the current status, key efforts, socio-cultural challenges, and strategies implemented to control corruption in Nepal. A survey design was employed involving 300 officers and staff working in the offices of the CIAA, NVC, CIB, and DAO, all primary agencies combating corruption. Data were collected through a self-administered survey conducted both in person and via email. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS and MS Excel, while qualitative data underwent thematic analysis and Word Cloud visualization. Descriptive statistics revealed that 59% of participant's perceived corruption to be increasing, 12% believed it was decreasing, and 29% felt it remained unchanged compared to previous years. The most common forms of corruption identified were bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism. Public procurement (60%), judiciary and law enforcement (25%), and land administration (15%) were recognized as the most vulnerable sectors. Political (40%), social (36%), economic (16%), and cultural (8%) factors were the main contributors to corruption. Participants rated the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures on a 5-point scale: Legal and Institutional Framework (3.31), Investigation and Prosecution (3.17), Institutional Setup and Collaboration (3.18), and Promotional Campaigns (3.02). Regression analysis indicated a significant positive effect of the legal and institutional framework on controlling corruption ($\beta = 0.533$). ANOVA results showed no significant differences in perception of anti-corruption measure effectiveness among participants. The major challenges in controlling corruption included political interference in decision-making, law enforcement weaknesses, and institutional involvement. Socio-cultural challenges involved acceptance of 'money matters' phenomena, a culture of impunity, and social tolerance of corruption culprits. Key strategies recommended to control corruption comprised strengthening anti-corruption institutions, promoting transparency, and upholding the rule of law in Nepal.

| **KEYWORDS**

Corruption in Nepal, Embezzlement, Public procurement, Anti-corruption measures

| **ARTICLE INFORMATION**

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the study

Corruption is a general term that encompasses a wide range of abuse or misuse of entrusted funds and power for personal or private gain (Graycar & Sidebottom, 2012). It is considered a wrongdoing, a behavioral challenge, and an ethical dilemma that calls for personal transformation. Transparency International (2024) defines corruption as "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain." Here, "abuse" refers to misuse or mistreatment, and "entrusted power" refers to authority granted to duty bearers and decision makers on the premise that they act with integrity to advance the public good (Transparency International, 2024), and "private gain" refers to the self-serving benefits (financial, material, political or social) that accrue to individual or specific interest groups at the expense of society

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at large. Corruption poses a significant challenge to the development and governance of nations worldwide, including Nepal (Khan, 2006). The definition of corruption consequently ranges from the broad terms of misuse of power by authorities of public agencies to moral decay (Klitgaard, 1988). The legal definition of corruption in broad scene is as an act of bribery involving a public servant and a transfer of tangible resources (Mathew & Barnabas, 1996).

Research scholar Klitgaard (1991) suggested a model to understand corruption through an equation: $C = E + D - A$; where, C = Corruption, E = Economic Rent, D = Discretion, and A = Accountability. This model indicates that corruption can have a green light when individuals exhibit monopolistic and discretionary powers over the control of public goods or services of a country with little or no accountability, deciding who gets it, when they get it, and how much the receiver gets (Rothstein, 2011).

The corruption can happen in several forms. The main forms of corruption are bribery, embezzlement, fraud, and extortion (Khan, 2006). Even when these concepts are partly overlapping and at times interchangeable with other concepts, some of the basic characteristics of corruption can be identified through these concepts (Svensson, 2005). International organization working against corruption globally in the 'The Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 AD' described different types of corruption in existence in policy level like principle of anti-corruption legislation and criminalizes corruption, bribery, money laundering, abuse of office and facilitation payments in the public and private sectors (TI, 2017).

Research scholar R.K. Shah (2018) described several causes of corruption. The root causes of corruption are bad systems of governance (Klitgaard, 1988). There is little chance of getting caught. This comes primarily from a lack of transparency. Lack of accountability is also the cause of rampant corruption (Lambsdorff, 2007). Another equally important cause of corruption is bad incentive. Public employs do not get anti-corruption training and education that emphasizes the negative effects of corruption. In addition, there is no surveillance mechanism in place.

The international organization, through the Prevention of Corruption Act, and Nepal, through The Prevention of Corruption Act, 2002, in its Chapter-2, provisioned several offences of corruption and punishment (Government of Nepal, 2002). This Act has established a comprehensive legal framework to combat corruption, including the Anti-Corruption Act and the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) Act. The CIAA plays a crucial role in investigating corruption cases and promoting integrity within government institutions (Karki, 2018). Nepal has engaged in international cooperation initiatives to combat corruption, such as joining the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Uprety, 2017).

Having several efforts and provisions to control corruption scholars deliberated on political interference often hampers anti-corruption efforts, with corrupt politicians exerting influence over law enforcement agencies and anti-corruption bodies. Despite the existence of anti-corruption laws, enforcement remains weak due to limited resources, inadequate training, and a lack of political will (The World Bank, 2020). Lengthy judicial processes contribute to impunity for corrupt individuals, undermining deterrence and accountability.

Efforts to control corruption in Nepal have been hindered by various challenges, including political interference, weak enforcement, and judicial delays. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach involving strengthening institutions, enhancing enforcement mechanisms, and fostering a culture of accountability and transparency (Bista, 1991 & Pyakuryal, 2000). Thus, the issue of corruption is multi-faceted in Nepali context (Khadka 2021). This study was conducted among civil servants of Nepal who are involved directly to deliver public services and also likely to get involved in multiple facets of corruption.

This study focuses on civil servants in Nepal who play a central role in public service delivery and are often directly involved in the dynamics of corruption. Using a self-administered survey, this research investigates the prevalence and causes of corruption, reviews existing anti-corruption efforts and challenges, and proposes strategic recommendations to minimize corruption and promote good governance in Nepal.

Understanding and addressing corruption is crucial not only for improving governance but also for advancing sustainable development and social justice. By examining the efforts and challenges of controlling corruption, this research aims to provide insights to support policymakers, practitioners, and civil society in their ongoing fight against corruption within Nepal.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The social phenomena are complicated in nature. Corruption is also taken as a social phenomenon where the events are exposed in several ways. In the present context the issue of corruption is a popular narrative among citizens and is also fueled by public media. The narratives often highlight cases where a public official abuses, or attempts to abuse, the knowledge, power, or resources of their position for personal gain or to benefit others. In another form, a public official dishonestly exercises his or her official functions, or improperly exercises his or her official functions in a partial manner, breaches public trust or misuses information or material acquired during the course of his or her official functions (United Nations 2020). In another forms of events, a member of the public influences or a political person, tries to influence a public official to use his or her position in a (Sharesansar,2024) way that affects the probity of the public official's exercise of functions (Transparency International, 2024). The phenomena are widespread. The global indicators also support the above narratives like.

According to the Corruption Perceptions Index 2023, an annual flagship publication of Transparency International, Nepal received 35 points in 2023, which is one point more than the previous year, and ranked 108th (Transparency International, 2023) among 180 countries. In 2022, Nepal saw an improvement in its global corruption ranking, rising to 110th place from 117th in 2021. A score below 50 is considered to have a relatively higher level of corruption in a country, according to the anti-corruption advocacy body (Mauro, 1995). In South Asia, Nepal has been ranked below Bhutan (26th), the Maldives (93rd), and India (93rd) (Transparency International, 2023). Sri Lanka (115th), Pakistan (133rd), Bangladesh (149th), and Afghanistan (162nd) are the countries behind Nepal (Transparency International, 2022).

The lack of a strong governance system has been frequently highlighted by various anti-corruption bodies and prominent figures. In Nepal, civil society is often considered weak and, as a result, does not exert significant pressure on the government to formulate and enforce stringent anti-corruption policies. Corrupt individuals are not marginalized by the public; instead, they often gain recognition and social status. Certain attitudes also contribute to the public's disregard for the law (Amundsen, 1997). For example, poverty or scarcity of resources may drive people to act outside the law. In societies like Nepal, where the political system is neo-patrimonial, corruption is often seen as "collective," given the ruling elites' apparent control over consumption and wealth (Amundsen, 1997). Wealth is frequently displayed as a symbol of power, sometimes in excessively ostentatious ways. Furthermore, public policies are often crafted to benefit the ruling elite, with wealth being used to reinforce their political dominance (Bardhan, 2010).

There are several consequences of corruption in human society where Nepal remains untouched rather severely affected. The corruption in the public sector can cause serious damage to the public property, nation and society. The negative consequences of corruption include, but are not limited to, undermining public trust in government, wasting public resources and money, causing a sense of injustice through advantaging some at the expense of others, inefficiencies in operations, and reputational damage, which makes it difficult to recruit and retain quality staff or obtain the best value in public service delivery processes (Mauro, 1995). It may also be more difficult to attract business investment, adversely affecting prosperity (Bhandari, 2023).

Controlling corruption is a challenge faced by every society. Without active participation and vocal involvement from society, it becomes nearly impossible to address. Corruption in the public sector is seen as a major obstacle to good governance and economic development. Solid evidence demonstrates the harmful effects of corruption, impacting areas such as investment, economic growth, environmental quality, and, consequently, social welfare (Bhandari, 2023). In effect, a country suffers greatly due to the existence of corruption. Therefore, understanding the efforts and challenges to combat corruption is crucial. The development of effective anti-corruption policies relies

on a thorough investigation of the efforts and challenges across countries (Myint, 2000). This study aims to identify the measures related to the efforts, challenges, and strategies for minimizing corruption in the context of Nepal.

In view of several causes and consequences of corruption from the sociological perspectives, this research study attempted to answer following key questions.

1. What are the key efforts to control corruption in Nepal?
2. What are the sociocultural challenges to control corruption in Nepal?
3. What strategy should be taken to minimize corruption in Nepal?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to identify the key efforts and challenges to control corruption in Nepal and to suggest strategic way out to minimize it. The specific objectives of this research were:

1. To identify the key efforts control corruption in Nepal.
2. To examine the socio-cultural challenges to control corruption in Nepal.
3. To find out strategic ways to minimize corruption in Nepal.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is helpful to those people who want to know mainly the conceptual aspects of corruption law, its evolution, and the present situation of corruption efforts and challenges to control corruption in Nepal. In a professional prospect, this has paved the way for the researchers to conduct further studies relating to anti-corruption and good governance initiatives in Nepal. On the academic front, the findings have contributed to expanding the awareness and understanding of several aspects of corruption among interested scholars in this area.

In a real sense, the significance of this study lies in its potential to drive positive change at various levels, from policy formulation to societal awareness in the ongoing battle against corruption in Nepal. Moreover, this study suggested a few strategic ways from the perspective of the first level public serve personal who are stakeholders of the corruption and anticorruption events in Nepal. Based on the avenues opened from the findings of this research, scholars can explore more factors and ways in their forthcoming studies on the subject.

1.5 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters organized in the systematic way beginning from the introduction to summary and conclusion. The individual chapters have been organized systematically.

Chapter one: Chapter one has covered the introductory part of the study. The introductory part of the study include: introduction, background of the study, statement of the problem, Objectives of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter two: This chapter covers the description of the literature of this thesis. The relevant literature has been reviewed and deliberated in Chapter Two.

Chapter three: This chapter is about the methodological part of the study. The tools and techniques of data collection, research design, nature and source of data, analysis, and presentation techniques have been described in this chapter.

Chapter four: Chapter four deliberates the analysis and presentation of the data obtained from the survey. The statistical and thematic analysis of the quantitative data has been carried out, and results have been interpreted

suitably with a central focus on research objectives.

Chapter five: This chapter covered the summary of findings of the study, conclusions have been drawn based on the findings, and a few strategic suggestions have been framed and presented in the chapter. At the end, survey questionnaires have been annexed, and references are listed.

2. Literature Review

This chapter presents the theoretical perspectives on corruption, a conceptual review of corruption, prevalence and causes of corruption, efforts and measures to control corruption, challenges to control corruption, and strategic ways adopted to control corruption as mentioned in the literature. Also, the chapter presents a conceptual framework of this study based on the review of the literature.

2.1 Conceptual Review

Corruption, as a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, has been conceptualized and defined in various ways in the sociological literature. Understanding these diverse perspectives is crucial for framing the sociological analysis of anti-corruption efforts in Nepal.

Transparency International (TI), a leading global organization dedicated to combating corruption, defines corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain (Transparency International, 2024). This definition underscores the importance of power dynamics and the betrayal of public trust, aligning with the sociological perspective that corruption is not merely an individual act but a socially embedded phenomenon.

The manifestation of corruption in developing countries, including Nepal, is often shaped by unique contextual factors. Pokharel (2019) explores how historical legacies, weak institutions, and economic disparities contribute to the persistence of corruption in Nepal. Understanding these contextual factors is essential for a nuanced sociological analysis.

Examining global trends in anti-corruption efforts provides a comparative backdrop for understanding the effectiveness of strategies employed in Nepal. World Bank (2021) highlights the shift towards comprehensive anti-corruption measures, emphasizing the importance of societal engagement, institutional reforms, and international collaboration.

Corruption is a socially constructed phenomenon influenced by cultural norms, historical factors, and power dynamics. Social constructionist theories emphasize how corruption is defined, perceived, and reacted to within society. Scott (1978), Hacking (1999), and Schmidt (2013) provide insights into the social construction of deviance, including corruption.

Economic dimensions of corruption, including its impact on economic development and wealth distribution. It means economic motivations behind corrupt behaviors.

Scholars working in the study of corruption found corruption in several types, such as petty, systemic, administrative, and state capture, by considering the status and responsibility of government or private sector officials involved in corruption activities.

Petty corruption: This type of corruption is about only a small amount of benefit exchanged between the taker and the giver. In most developing and transitional countries like Nepal, this type of petty corruption is widespread. An example of this is the bribe taken by any public service or goods distributing agencies. According to Schwenke (2005), such corruption involves the use of small managerial functions for corruption and outside work rather than the use of authority. Also, public property is used for personal gain. Most societies have easily digested the simple act of using public property for personal gain. The types of corruption are regularly occurring in agencies involved in revenue, land administration, justice, police, and public services, and the distribution of goods, which provides services in large quantities daily.

Grand corruption: In grand corruption, there is a large amount and benefit between the receiver and giver. Skilled people who are at the top level policy making are complicit in such corruption. In this kind of big corruption, there is no one sided benefits like in small corruption. Both the giver and receiver benefit from this (Transparency International, 2023). In which it's estimated that the party causing the corruption by transferring the benefits of large results will protect themselves from such activities. Ackeman (1991) identified large scale and sensitive public procurement incentives to the private sector and collision in the privatization process as important areas of grand corruption. In particular, the rights of determining taxes, administrating justice, implementing laws, exchanging services and goods, building physical infrastructure, generating energy and doing business are involved in such corruption.

Systemic corruption: In systemic corruption, any institution or organization is completely involved in corrupt activities. From the lowest to highest levels officials in the organization are involved in corruption and irregularity in the same secret. If any employee or person at the bottom collects some amount of money as corruption certain part of it reaches the upper level than a corruption silo is built. Bogovic et. Al. (2010), the structure of any organization is designed to be conducive to corruption and the organization itself in encouraging corruption in a planned manner. Officials of such as organizations' do not fulfill their obligations and responsibilities without getting personnel benefits. Rather than a single person or officer, all the people and officials working in the organization are involved in this kind of work. A corrupt group formed by organization friend will expel those who do not want to join the group or make them irresponsible. Every person and officer within the organization is active in doing corrupt activities in an organized and planned manner and all the control of corruption are involved in these kinds of corruption. As a result, such watchdog bodies do not take any complaints related to corruption of services users. Even if forced, no action will be taken on the complaint.

Administrative corruption: Administrative corruption refers to corruption committed by employees working in public administration. Bureaucracy does things like extorting money from private sector businesses and firms, not doing any work without a bribe or some money (Coats, 2005). Administrative corruption seems to be more prevalent in third world countries where the pace of development is slow. Due to the corruption of the bureaucracy in such countries, they are unable to provide public services. Foreign investment in such countries has been hindered due to corruption. The private sector is also reluctant to invest (World Bank, 2023). As a result, it directly affects the economic growth and development of the country.

In state capture corruption, all silent czars and all organs of the state including the executive, judiciary and legislation commit corruption or protect or keep silent without being seen is a state capture situation. State capture is systematic process of corruption. Where is every mechanism and agency of the state works within the same system to commit corruption, protect the corrupt so on? From which they calculate the benefits and allow them to take it. In this kind of corruption, all the mechanisms of the state have been mobilized and used. All the organ of the state are taken over and kept under control. The setting is arranged through the appointment made in the state structures and agencies, like (Kufman, 2001) in appointing officials of the commission for investigation of abuse of authority, appointing judges, etc., some limited people have influence and the financial crime and corruption committed by such people are given immunity through the person appointed by them. These types of corruption happen with the participation of all the mechanism of making laws implementing them and administering justice to see if it is right or not. Opposition political parties are also involved in this kind of corruption. The opposition party and its leaders also remain silent due to the alignment of interests.

2.2 Theoretical review

Theoretical perspectives provide lenses through which researchers can analyze and interpret the social and other dynamics surrounding corruption. Below is a theoretical review organized around relevant theories and frameworks and providing a theoretical foundation for understanding the sociological/ dimensions and dynamics of corruption in Nepal.

Institutional Theory: Corruption is influenced by the institutional context, including the effectiveness of anti-

corruption laws, the strength of regulatory bodies, and the presence of accountability mechanisms. DiMaggio and Powell (1983) introduced the concept of institutional isomorphism, and North (1990) discussed the role of institutions in shaping economic behavior. Applying institutional theory to the study of corruption in Nepal allows for an exploration of how existing institutions contribute to the perpetuation or prevention of corrupt practices.

Political Economy Theory: Corruption is often analyzed in the context of power structures and economic inequalities, with a focus on how elites use their positions for personal gain. Marx (1867) provided foundational insights into the political economy, and Nye (1967) discussed corruption as a result of power imbalances.

Social Capital Theory: Social capital influences corruption through informal networks that facilitate collusion and corrupt practices. Putnam (1993) and Coleman (1988) contributed to the understanding of social capital and its implications. The theory posits that trust and reciprocity within social networks can either foster or inhibit corruption. Applying social capital theory to the study of corruption in Nepal allows for an examination of how interpersonal relationships and community bonds influence corrupt behaviors.

Dependency Theory: Corruption in developing nations may be influenced by global economic structures and dependencies. Frank (1966) and Cardoso and Faletto (1979) discussed dependency theory in the context of global inequalities. Dependency Theory offers a theoretical lens to understand corruption as a manifestation of global dependencies and economic inequalities. Applying this framework to the Nepalese context allows for an exploration of how external influences contribute to the perpetuation of corrupt practices (Cardoso & Faletto, 1979).

Public Choice Theory: Corruption is viewed as a rational choice made by individuals seeking personal gain within the constraints of the political and economic systems. Tullock (1967) and Buchanan (1968) are central to the development of public choice theory.

Cultural Theory: Cultural factors influence societal attitude toward corruption, determining whether certain behaviors are tolerated or condemned. Huntington (1968) and Banfield (1958) discussed political culture and amoral feminism in relation to corruption.

Hofstede's cultural dimensions theory (1980) explores how cultural values and practices influence corruption dynamics. The theory suggests that variations in cultural dimensions, such as individualism, power distance, and uncertainty avoidance, contribute to differences in the prevalence of corruption across societies. Applying cultural dimensions theory to the study of corruption in Nepal allows for an exploration of how cultural factors shape attitudes toward corruption.

Rational Choice Theory: Rational choice theory posits that individuals make decisions based on a rational assessment of costs and benefits. This theory applies to corruption by suggesting that individuals engage in corrupt practices when the expected benefits outweigh the perceived costs. Examining corruption through the lens of rational choice theory provides insights into the motivations and decision-making processes of corrupt actors in the Nepalese context (Becker, 1968).

Power Structure Theory: Power structure theory focuses on the distribution and exercise of power within a society. Bhandari (2023) argues that corruption often thrives within existing power structures. Examining corruption through the lens of power structure theory allows for an analysis of how power dynamics and hierarchies contribute to the perpetuation of corrupt practices in Nepal.

Social Learning Theory: Social Learning Theory suggests that individuals learn behaviors through observation and imitation (Bandura 1977) argues that corrupt practices may be learned and perpetuated within social groups. Applying Social Learning Theory to the study of corruption in Nepal allows for an examination of how societal norms and behaviors contribute to the transmission of corrupt practices.

Conflict Theory: Conflict theory, derived from the works of Karl Marx and further developed by scholars like Ralf

Dahrendorf, emphasizes power imbalances as central to social issues. Adhikari (2020) explores the application of conflict theory to corruption, asserting that corruption often arises from systemic inequalities. The theory posits that those in positions of power exploit their authority for personal gain, perpetuating social stratification.

Sharma (2015) and Adhikari (2020) both advocate for an integrated approach that considers multiple sociological theories to understand the complexity of corruption. Corruption, they argue, is a multifaceted phenomenon influenced by structural, conflict-driven, and symbolic processes. An integrated perspective allows for a comprehensive understanding of corruption that goes beyond individual actions to encompass broader social, cultural, and economic factors.

This theoretical review provided foundation for analyzing and interpreting corruption in Nepal through multiple lenses. The integration of these theoretical perspectives can inform a nuanced understanding of the socio-cultural, economic, and political dynamics influencing efforts to control corruption in the country. This social theoretical review establishes a foundation for understanding corruption as a social phenomenon and establishes the conceptual framework for examining corruption in Nepal, drawing on theories that emphasize societal structures, interactions, influences, and diverse theoretical perspectives to provide a comprehensive understanding of corruption dynamics. These studies have been conducted by including the factors contributing for Integration of sociological theories that encompass broader social, cultural, and economic factors.

The literature on corruption and institutional theory highlights both the complexity and the challenges of combating corruption in Nepal. Despite significant strides in adopting formal anti-corruption measures, the effectiveness of these reforms has been undermined by weak institutional capacity, political interference, and entrenched cultural and political practices.

This thesis builds on existing literature by applying institutional theory to understand the interplay between formal and informal institutions in the Nepali context and by proposing ways to strengthen anti-corruption efforts through more aligned institutional frameworks. By addressing these gaps, this research provides a nuanced understanding of corruption control in Nepal and offers actionable insights for reform.

The application of institutional theory to Nepal's efforts to control corruption reveals that the challenge is not just one of individual behavior but of a deeply embedded institutional system where formal anti-corruption efforts are often undermined by informal networks and political resistance. While formal institutions such as laws and anti-corruption agencies exist, their effectiveness is severely hampered by political influence, weak enforcement, and social acceptance of corruption.

To effectively combat corruption in Nepal, reforms need to focus on strengthening formal institutions, ensuring their independence, and creating accountability mechanisms. However, addressing corruption requires more than just institutional changes—it demands cultural and political shifts, including the dismantling of patronage systems and a sustained effort to alter social norms that allow corruption to flourish. Institutional theory provides a comprehensive framework for understanding these challenges and suggests that anti-corruption reforms in Nepal must address both the institutional structure and the cultural dynamics that perpetuate corruption.

2.3 Prevalence and causes of corruption

The prevalence of corruption varies widely across different countries. The prevalence of corruption is being measured by Transparency International's in the form of Corruption Perception Index (CPI). CPI is a widely used indicator that ranks countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. The CPI scores range from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean) (Transparency International 2023). As of the latest report (CPI, 2023), out of 180 countries Denmark, Finland, and New Zealand top with three highest ranks with CPI scores of 90, 87, and 85 respectively while the countries Somalia (11), Venezuela (13), South Sudan (13), Syria (13) and Yemen (16) rank at the bottom. In South Asia, Nepal (35) ranks 108th position below Bhutan (26th), Maldives (93rd), India (93rd); whereas Sri Lanka(115th), Pakistan (133rd), Bangladesh(149th) and Afghanistan (162nd) are the countries behind Nepal.

As per the Transparency International (TI) corruption exists in three major forms. The Petty Corruption happen in small-scale, everyday corruption experienced by ordinary citizens, such as bribing officials for services; Grand Corruption happen in large-scale involving significant amounts of money and high-level officials; while the Systemic Corruption happen in the embedded form with political and economic systems.

Research scholars have outlined several causes of corruption. Researcher R. K. Shah (2018) identified three major causes of corruption as bad systems of governance, bad incentives, and weak civil society, among other causes of corruption, such as lack of transparency, lack of accountability, lack of surveillance, weak civil society, no social boycott, and lack of training.

Some other factors that can lead to corruption include weak institutional frameworks (Bjornskov, 2011), inadequate anti-corruption measures and enforcement (Cao and Shi 2021), a lack of transparency and accountability (Jain 2001), low wages and high-income inequality among public officials (Doh, Rodriguez, Uhlenbruck, Collins, and Eden, 2003), and cultural and social norms that tolerate or encourage corruption (Mungiu, 2015). The identification of key factors their understanding is crucial in the prevailing situation of Nepal that can address public sector corruption minimization.

Moreover, most of the literatures deliberated broad factors (Political, Economic, Social, Systematic, Structural, and External) as the causes of corruption. Political factors include weak governance institutions, political instability, and concentration of power. Economic factors include poverty and low wages, economic inequality, lack of economic opportunities. Likewise, Social factors include breaching of norms and values, lack of education and awareness, and low trust in institutions. The systematic and structural factors include bureaucratic complexity, monopolies and lack of competition, and inadequate legal frameworks. In addition of these four factors, the fifth factor as an external factor encompasses the factors like foreign aids and investment, globalization and weak international co-operation.

2.4 Efforts and measures to control corruption

Several efforts and measures to control corruption in Nepal have been adopted among which legal and policy level instruments are the most prominent one. Besides legal provisions the role of anti-corruption agencies, assistance by foreign agencies in terms of technical assistance have complemented the efforts to control corruption in Nepal.

The legal/policy literature review examines existing legal frameworks and policy initiatives aimed at controlling corruption, providing insights into the role of legislative and institutional measures in the fight against corruption in Nepal. Examining the legal and policy landscape provides insights into the framework within which anti-corruption measures are implemented.

2.4.1 Constitutional provisions against corruption in Nepal:

The Constitution of Nepal before 2019 BS was the one from 2004 BS (Bajracharya, 2007). The Interim government has law of investigation 2007 and constitution of the kingdom of Nepal 2015 does not seem to have any provision regarding corruption control and prevention. Not even in the constitution of Nepal which was released in 2019 BS, there was not much provision about this at first however, in the second amendment of the constitution, there was provision for the formation of the authority prevention commission to control corruption and prevent the abuse of authority. The commission was empowered to investigate, persecute and curb corruption, which was against the principles of natural justice. There was a provision that the said commission could take action against officials in government service by action publishing notices in the gazette to make decision related to corruption. However, in accordance with article 6 of the constitution of Nepal 2019, there was a provision to appeal to the court formed by the Supreme Court in consultation with the chief justice.

After the people's movement of 2046, the constitution of Kingdom of Nepal, 2047 established the commission for the investigation of abuse authority as an independent constitutional commission and by reducing the dual jurisdiction that the commission had in the past. It was assigned the responsibility of investigating and prosecuting corruption related cases. In order to makes the position of the commission independent and impartial, the provision

that the officers of the commission are appointed only on the recommendation of the constitution of dominion of Nepal. Similarly, it was arranged that the removal of other commissioners including the chief commissioner of commission can only be done on the same basis and manner as the judges of supreme court. It seems that the constitution of the dominion of Nepal 2047 provides for an independent, impartial, strong and separate commission.

The constitution of the dominion of Nepal 2047 had clearly provided for the commission to conduct investigations according to the law regarding abuse of authority by doing improper actions or corruption. However, the constitution itself how interpreted it differently and according to the military act. It was made clear that the jurisdiction of the commission is not to be looked into by the authority in matters and cases that require action.

Similarly in 2063, the interim constitution also seems to have the provisions made in the constitution of Nepal domino 2047 regarding this commission. In article 119(2) of the interim constitution, it was arranged that the chief commissioner and commissioner will be appointed by the president on the recommendation and commissioner should have moral character as well as other qualification. The constitution of mentioned, that 10 years of experience is required, but this constitution provided that they would be qualified only after 20 years of experience. Similarly, in the case of constitutional officials who are dismissed from office on the basis of bad conduct, judges who are missed. From office by the judicial council and these who are persecuted according to the military act, it seems that they can be investigated according to the law after being dismissed from office.

Similarly, in the year 2072, the Constitution of Nepal, 2072, was promulgated. This constitution defines good governance as both a means and an end of the state. It also outlines policies, laws, and constitutional bodies aimed at controlling corruption. Part 21 of the Constitution includes provisions related to the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority. According to Article 239(1), the Commission is authorized to investigate and take action in cases of abuse of authority by individuals holding public office. However, the jurisdiction of the Commission is somewhat limited, as this provision does not apply to officials who are governed by separate provisions in other laws. Additionally, Article 239(2) of the Constitution further outlines the scope of these provisions.

2.4.2 Role of Anti-Corruption Agencies

Transparency International (2022) conducts a comparative analysis of the role of anti-corruption agencies in Nepal. The report assesses the effectiveness of these agencies in investigating and prosecuting corruption cases, as well as their capacity to promote transparency and accountability within governmental institutions. The findings offer insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the institutional framework in addressing corruption Transparency international (2022).

An investigative report by Fjeldstad and Isaksen (2008) examines the institutional capacity and resource allocation of anti-corruption agencies in Nepal. The study focuses on factors such as staffing levels, budgetary allocations, and infrastructure support for these agencies. By evaluating the adequacy of resources, the report highlights the challenges faced by anti-corruption institutions in fulfilling their mandates effectively. Additionally, the report conducts a legal analysis of the obstacles posed by judicial backlogs and legal impunity in implementing anti-corruption measures in Nepal. It examines delays in the judicial process, loopholes in the legal system, and instances of impunity for corrupt officials and influential individuals. These issues contribute to a lack of deterrence and erode public trust in the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts.

Insights from Transparency International (2022) highlight the challenges and opportunities for institutional reform in combating corruption in Nepal. By identifying gaps in the institutional framework and assessing public perceptions, these studies contribute to the formulation of policy recommendations aimed at strengthening anti-corruption institutions and improving their effectiveness.

2.4.3 Foreign Aid and Technical Assistance

The World Bank (2021) offers a development perspective on the role of international cooperation in supporting

anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal. The report examines how foreign aid and technical assistance from international organizations contribute to strengthening institutional capacity, implementing anti-corruption reforms, and promoting good governance practices. By providing financial resources and expertise, international cooperation enhances Nepal's ability to address corruption challenges effectively (World Bank, 2021).

The World Bank (2021) conducts an institutional analysis of international cooperation in supporting institutional strengthening and policy support for anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal. The report examines how international actors collaborate with Nepalese institutions to develop and implement anti-corruption strategies, improve governance structures, and enhance legal frameworks. Through institutional strengthening and policy support, international cooperation contributes to building resilient institutions capable of effectively combating corruption.

A comprehensive legal and policy review is essential for understanding the framework within which anti-corruption efforts operate in Nepal. It provides the context for assessing the effectiveness of existing measures, identifying gaps, and suggesting recommendations for policy improvements in this sociological thesis.

2.5 Challenges to control corruption

As the corruption reveals itself as a complex and multifaceted phenomenon it has several roots and branches. Tan-Mullins & Hofman (2014) identified lack of political will and enforcement capacity as key challenges in anti-corruption efforts. The challenges of anti-corruption can be broadly explained in terms of legal and operational challenges. Operational challenges cover operational parameters, coordination, and harmonization challenges facing the investigation initiatives, lack of anti-corruption programs where legal challenges include definition of corruption in Act, a poor conception of the meaning of corruption, limited mandate to the law enforcement agencies (Amukowa, 2013). Use of Information Technology based instruments has been suggested by several scholars among whom Sheryazdanova & Butterfield (2017) mentioned adoption of e-Governance practice is the best option as anti-corruption.

Combat against corruption in the countries like Nepal should be carried out as a campaign and multi-stakeholder commitment is the key. Ant-corruption campaign plan should cover the corruption prevention, evaluation, and monitoring parts. Lack of the highest standard corruption awareness programs, poor implementation of existing act/law, shortages of corruption prevention procedures or methods are the main challenges for anti-corruption (Kharel, 2021).

In Nepali context, the author also summarized challenges of anti-corruption in Nepal in three key points: (1) lack of understanding of the law enforcement officers on duties and responsibilities, (2) lack of morality of apparatus, and (3) lack of functioning supervisory institutions.

Besides above points literatures have shown some other most common forms of challenges in relation to anti-corruption. These challenges include:

Cultural Acceptance: In some societies, corruption is culturally accepted or seen as a necessary means to navigate bureaucratic systems, making it difficult to change behaviors and attitudes.

Complex Bureaucracies: Highly complex and opaque bureaucratic systems can create opportunities for corruption by making it difficult to trace transactions and hold individuals accountable.

Low Salaries and Poor Working Conditions: Public sector employees who are poorly paid or work in difficult conditions may be more prone to engaging in corrupt practices to supplement their income.

Lack of Transparency: A lack of transparency in government operations and financial transactions can hinder efforts to detect and prevent corruption.

Weak Legal Frameworks: Inadequate or poorly enforced legal frameworks can make it difficult to prosecute corrupt individuals and recover stolen assets.

Inadequate Whistleblower Protection: Without strong protections for whistleblowers, individuals may be reluctant to report corruption for fear of retaliation.

Globalization and Cross-Border Issues: Corruption often involves cross-border transactions, making it challenging to track and prosecute offenders without international cooperation.

Political Instability and Conflict: In regions affected by political instability or conflict, governance structures may be weak, and corruption can thrive in the absence of effective oversight.

Economic Inequality: High levels of economic inequality can contribute to corruption, as those with wealth and power may seek to maintain their status through corrupt means, while the less privileged may resort to corruption out of necessity.

Limited Civil Society and Media Freedom: A weak civil society and restricted media freedom can limit the ability of watchdog organizations and journalists to investigate and expose corruption.

Lack of Public Awareness and Engagement: Public apathy or lack of awareness about the impacts of corruption can undermine efforts to mobilize citizen action and demand accountability.

2.6 Strategic way outs to control corruption

A critical examination of global trends and best practices in anti-corruption initiatives is instrumental in understanding the diverse strategies employed to combat corruption on a global scale. This section reviews insights provided by Transparency International (2022) and the World Bank (2021) to elucidate overarching trends and best practices in the realm of anti-corruption efforts.

Transparency International (TI) serves as a leading advocate for transparency and the fight against corruption globally. The organization's comprehensive reports, such as the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), offer a nuanced understanding of corruption trends worldwide. Transparency International (2022) highlights key global trends in anti-corruption initiatives, emphasizing the importance of transparency, accountability, and public participation, (Transparency International 2023).

The World Bank, as a major international financial institution, contributes valuable insights into effective anti-corruption strategies. The World Bank (2021) emphasizes the significance of a holistic approach to anti-corruption efforts, addressing not only legal and institutional aspects but also societal and cultural dimensions. The report emphasizes the importance of strong governance structures, effective legal frameworks, and the engagement of civil society in fostering a comprehensive anti-corruption environment.

Both Transparency International (2022) and the World Bank (2021) underscore the critical role of international cooperation in the fight against corruption. Collaborative efforts between nations, organizations, and civil society entities are recognized as essential for sharing best practices, resources, and expertise. The global nature of corruption necessitates a coordinated response that transcends national borders.

Recognizing the cultural diversity across nations, both Transparency International (2022) and the World Bank (2021) emphasize the need to tailor anti-corruption strategies to specific cultural contexts. One-size-fits-all approaches may not effectively address the unique challenges posed by corruption in different societies. Context-sensitive interventions are crucial for ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of anti-corruption measures.

The involvement of the public and civil society emerges as a key element in successful anti-corruption initiatives.

Transparency International (2022) and the World Bank (2021) stress the importance of fostering a culture of accountability and empowering citizens to actively participate in the prevention and reporting of corrupt practices. Civil society organizations play a vital role in holding institutions accountable and advocating for transparency.

Numerous case studies have been conducted to assess the impact of specific anti-corruption measures. For instance, Rose-Ackerman's (1999) case study on Singapore's anti-corruption agency sheds light on the importance of strong institutional frameworks, preventive measures, and a culture of integrity in fostering successful anti-corruption initiatives.

Advancements in technology have been leveraged in the fight against corruption. Johnson et al. (2016) presented an empirical analysis of the implementation of e-Government initiatives in combating corruption. The study examines how technological solutions contribute to transparency and efficiency in public services, reducing opportunities for corrupt practices. Research by Garcia (2014) investigates the impact of whistleblower protection mechanisms on the reporting and prosecution of corruption cases. The empirical findings highlight the crucial role of whistleblower protection in creating a conducive environment for individuals to expose corruption without fear of reprisals.

Community-based approaches to combating corruption have gained attention in recent studies. Banerjee et al. (2020) conducted empirical analysis of community-led initiatives in India, emphasizing the role of grassroots involvement in holding public officials accountable and reducing corrupt practices.

Public Sector Reforms Studies on public sector reforms provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of structural changes in addressing corruption. In their empirical research, Anderson and Heywood (2009) assess the impact of civil service reforms on corruption levels, emphasizing the importance of merit-based appointments and professionalization.

Empirical research by Habib and Zurawicki (2002) identifies common challenges in implementing anti-corruption measures. The study analyzes case studies from multiple countries, emphasizing the importance of addressing institutional weaknesses, political will, and societal attitudes for successful anti-corruption efforts.

The analysis of historical data and current trends reveals the prevalence and evolution of corruption in various sectors in Nepal. Patterns of corruption are identified, shedding light on sectors most susceptible to corrupt practices. Understanding how the public views corruption is crucial for designing targeted interventions (Acharya, 2018).

Economic indicators such as income inequality and economic development are examined in relation to corruption. The study investigates how economic factors contribute to or mitigate corrupt practices (Shakya, 2017).

The CIAA in Nepal:

The constitution of Nepal, 2015 in its part 21, article 238&239 has a provision to setup the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA). This has arrangements for independency and competency of CIAA. Moreover, CIAA Act, 1991(2048); CIAA regulations, 2002(2059); and CIAA Procedures, 2021 (2078) has further elaborated about jurisdiction and functions of CIAA.

Currently, CIAA is in its fourth Strategic Plan “*Strategic Plan of CIAA (2019-2024)*” having vision, Goal and Strategies.

Vison: To establish corruption free and ethical society

Goal: To minimize corruption whereby assuring easy access of people in the public service and national development

Strategy: (1) Punitive, (2) Prevention, (3) promotional, (4) Institutional capacity Enhancement

Credit: Rai, Neetij (2024). Promotion of Public awareness as a countermeasure against corruption in Nepal with focus on role of the CIAA. Souvenir (2080), CIAA, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Pokharel (2019) and Shrestha & Adhikari (2016) offer insights that have implications for anti-corruption strategies in Nepal. Understanding the multifaceted nature of corruption within the economic, political, cultural, and societal realms is crucial for developing targeted interventions that address the specific challenges posed by corruption in the Nepalese context. In Nepal, CIAA is considered as a powerful institution enabled by the constitution as a constitutional body that can investigate and prosecute the authorities of public sector involved in the alleged corruption. The strategy of CIAA is instrumental and referral worthy.

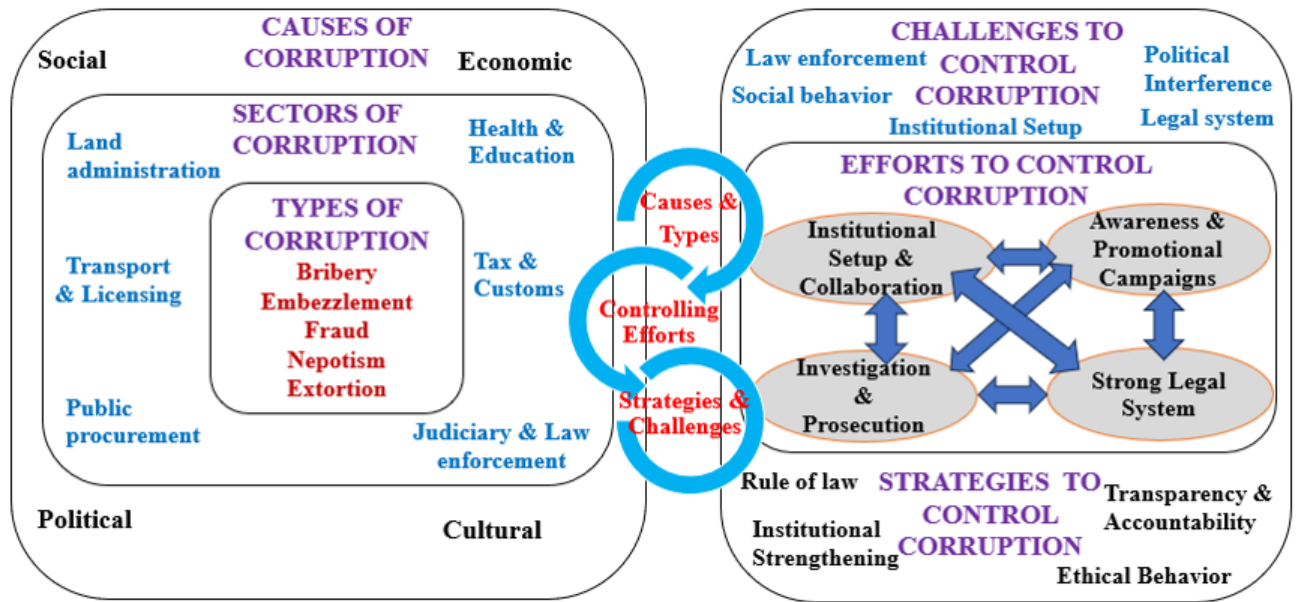
This empirical literature review provides concrete examples and findings from diverse contexts, contributing to a nuanced understanding of anti-corruption efforts and their outcomes.

2.7 A Conceptual Framework

As outlined in the introduction chapter of this study, the general objective of this research study is to identify the key efforts and challenges to control corruption in Nepal. Based on the literature review, this study identified four basic pillars of anti-corruption initiatives. These pillars were Institutional setup & collaboration between the government agencies combating corruption in Nepal, strong and fair legal system, credible investigation and prosecution system, and promotions of anti-corruption measures by media and civil society. These pillars

complement each other as well as contribute in anticorruption initiatives. The conceptual framework of the study is presented in the pictorial form in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study



The conceptual framework developed based on this research work depicts the continuous struggle and cycle of corruption and anti-corruption struggle. Anti-corruption agencies continuously develop the measures to curb corruption while corrupt behaviors find new way of corruption just like a thief-police game.

2.7.1 Anti-corruption Initiatives

Anti-corruption initiatives are systematic efforts designed to prevent, detect, and combat corruption. These initiatives are implemented by anti-corruption agencies, government agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector entities. These initiatives encompass a broad range of policies, laws, programs, and actions aimed at promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity in both the public and private sectors (Mu & Su, 2008). In broad anti-corruption initiatives has to be supported by strong institutional setup of government agencies, strong and fair legal system, credible investigation and prosecution and promotional campaigns.

2.7.2 Investigation and Prosecution system

The investigation and prosecution in relation to anti-corruption measures play crucial roles in controlling and mitigating corruption in any country. Investigation is the first step in addressing corruption. Investigation involves gathering evidences and uncovering corrupt activities. In Nepal, the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) is the primary body responsible for investigating corruption.

The role of investigation includes: Detection, Evidence Collection, Transparency, and Prevention. Once sufficient evidence has been gathered, the case is handed over for prosecution. The role of prosecution in Nepal is primarily handled by the Attorney General's Office and the Special Court. The prosecution process includes: Legal Action, Trial and Sentencing, Restitution, and Legal Reforms (Aryal, 2023).

2.7.3 Institutional setup & Collaboration

A strong institutional setup and effective collaboration among government agencies working against corruption play a pivotal role in the fight against corruption. They ensure that anti-corruption efforts are well-coordinated, legally sound, and capable of addressing corruption comprehensively. In Nepal strengthening these aspects can

lead to significant progress in curbing corruption and promote good governance.

A robust institutional framework ensures that anti-corruption efforts are systematic, sustained, and effective. The components of a strong institutional setup include dedicated anticorruption bodies like CIAA in case of Nepal, judicial independence, legal framework, and accountability measures. Effective collaboration among various government agencies enhances the efficiency and reach of anti-corruption efforts (Gyawali, 2022). Key aspects of such collaboration include joint operations, information sharing, policy coordination, and capacity building of staffs working in investigation and prosecution through training, workshops, and seminars.

2.7.4 Strong legal System

A strong legal system is critical in anti-corruption initiatives. Strong legal system provides necessary legal framework, ensures fair, and impartial adjudication, empowers enforcement agencies, promotes transparency and accountability, and supports continuous improvement through legal reforms (Akpuokwe et.al, 2024). Comprehensive anti-corruption laws, regulations, and policies complemented by consistency in enforcement are the components of strong legal system.

In the context of Nepal, strengthening the legal system to combat corruption involves several specific actions like strengthening anti-corruption laws, enhancing judicial independence, empowering anti-corruption agencies, promoting transparency, implementing legal reforms.

2.7.5 Promotional Campaign

In anti-corruption initiatives promotional campaigns has important role for people to raise awareness, change public perception, encourage participation, and build trust (Ishikawa, 2024). As per the changing context, effective campaign should equip multimedia approaches, targeted messaging, public engagement activities, collaborations with civil society, educational programs, and use of innovative techniques. For successful campaigning careful planning, stakeholder engagement, resource allocation, and continuous monitoring are essential.

3. Methodology

This chapter gives details on the methodologies adopted to achieve the purpose of the study. The research methodology consists of the methods and approaches to collect the data, their analysis, and findings. This chapter also covers the research design, interpretation of the results, and presentation of the findings. In addition, the ethical issues taken into consideration during the research process have also been described within this chapter.

3.1 Research Design

Research design refers to the comprehensive plan or strategy for collecting data to answer the research questions (Cooper & Schindler, 2014). This study adopts a descriptive research methodology, which involves specifying the research issue, understanding its real-world context, identifying the data and its sources, defining the time framework, population, sample, and sampling technique, and outlining data collection procedures, analysis methods, and presentation in the report. Saunders et al. (2016) define research design as the general outline that guides the researcher in answering the research questions. Therefore, research design serves as a framework for selecting information sources and types, allowing the researcher to describe the relationships among the study's variables and provide a practical outline for the research activity (Bryman & Bell, 2011).

The research methodology is explained in terms of research design guided by research theories, the survey data from the relevant organizational context. In addition to this research design also consists of sequence of activities consisting of the methodology undertaken, survey interviews with the sample respondents, data analysis and interpretations, results and their discussion based on the findings.

The literature review, the conceptual framework and survey questionnaire were the major sources of data in this research study. Major statistical tools used were reliability statistics, descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and regression analysis to analyze the. The questionnaire consisted of few open-ended questions to obtain the free opinion towards the variables from the respondents. These open-ended questions provided information in

qualitative front. The use of word cloud and thematic analysis of the transcribed data provided validation to the data obtained from the quantitative analysis. The complete approach of research design is shown in Figure 3.1.

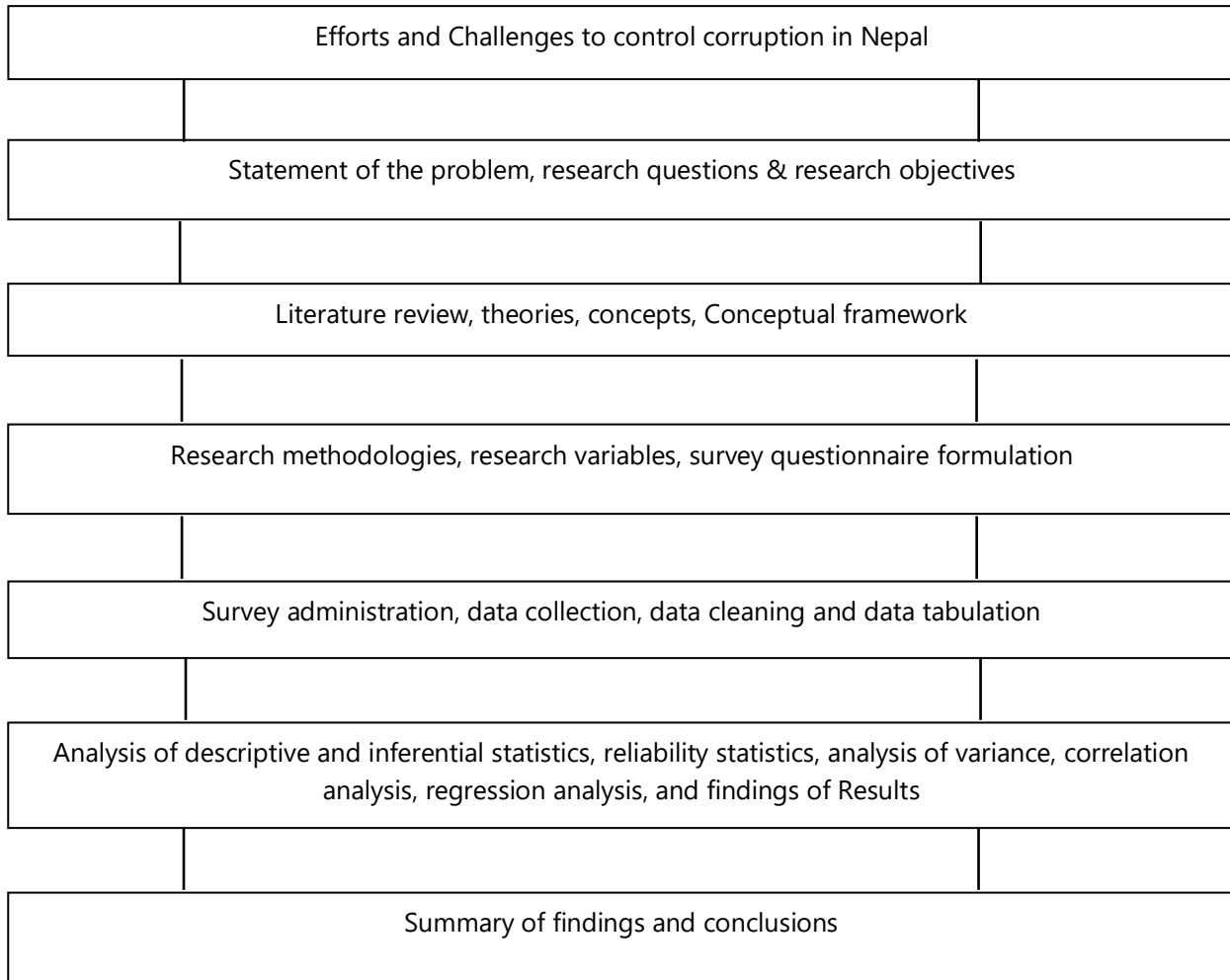


Figure 3.1: Research design

3.2 Nature and Sources of Data

The study was based primary data which is quantitative in nature collected from the respondents through survey questionnaires from CIAA and others investigation officers per provision in article239 (5) of constitution of Nepal, the commission delegates the power to authorized employees of government in 33 districts. The data used in the literature review to develop the conceptual framework of the study was secondary in nature. The secondary sources include Nepal constitution 2072, acts, rules, cases studies, books, articles, magazines, newspapers and reports published by commission for the investigation of abuse of authority. The information revealed by transparency international Nepal, World Bank, UNACA in their websites were also referred as per necessity.

3.3 Sample and Sampling

The study employed a purposive sampling method to examine the current status, efforts, and challenges in controlling corruption in Nepal. Respondents were selected from the CIAA and others investigation officers per provision in article239 (5) of constitution of Nepal, the commission delegates the power to authorized employees of government in 33 districts that play an active role in corruption control, with their primary responsibility being the investigation of abuse of authority, prosecution, and related activities. Given the confidentiality and ethical conduct required for civil servants, the researcher conducted purposive sampling on a personal request basis. A total of 300

samples were collected for this study. Statistically, this sample size is sufficient to conduct meaningful analysis and comparisons between the different groups.

3.4 Data Collection tools and technique

The data were collected through self-administered survey questionnaires. The questionnaires were prepared to capture the data that addresses the research question, research objectives and conceptual framework of the study described in chapter 1 and 2. The set of questionnaires used to collect the data is in Annexure-1.

The questionnaire has five sections ranging from Section A to Section E. Section A consists of questions that capture the demographic information of the respondents followed by Section B: Prevalence and causes of corruption in Nepal, Section C: Efforts to control corruption in Nepal, Section D: Challenges to control corruption in Nepal, and Section E: Strategies to control corruption in Nepal. The questionnaires were distributed among the staffs and officers working in the agencies like CIAA, PMO, DAO and NVC working against corruption having responsibilities including investigations, interrogation, and prosecution. The questionnaires were distributed offline in printed form as well as online through email in Google forms. A total of 300 Samples were collected. Among them 245 were collected offline and 55 online.

3.5 Data analysis technique

The data analysis technique of this study includes the data preparation, analysis of the descriptive statistics and analysis of the inferential statistics. Descriptive and inferential analysis of the data has been conducted and presented in Chapter 4. Data analysis was conducted using SPSS 20.0 computer application. In addition to this MS Excel was used to present the results in the presentable form in Tables, Graphs, and Charts. The qualitative information collected through the open-ended questionnaires were first analyzed in word cloud form using cloud-source application (www.worditout.com) and the key cloud terminologies were triangulated with the responses and thematic analysis was conducted.

3.6 Reliability and Validity

Reliability of this research study cannot be claimed in absolute terms. To minimize possible errors, like under and over counting and false reporting by respondents, certain measurements have been employed.

- A good rapport has been made with the respondents.
- Questionnaire have been asked in English language
- Researcher herself has been involved in the total investigation process-preparation of checklist, doing interviews and discussions and finalization of report.
- A close rapport has been developed with the respondents during interview, survey study that encourages the respondents to help the researcher's activity by providing the necessary information.
- The instrument has been pre tested and necessary modification was carried out.
- Editing of the entered data have been done very carefully in order to trap the entering the errors and maintain data accuracy.

In addition, the reliability of the variables where multiple questions in Likert scale were administered in section C were tested using reliability statistics named CronBach's alpha statistics. The result of the reliability statistics report is in Chapter 4.

The validity of the research mostly depended on the procedure of data collection. The secondary information, field level information, observation and personal experience all triangulate to prove the validity of the study. Information missing or doubtful information has been corrected before completion of analysis.

3.7 Ethical Consideration

The issue of ethical consideration is an important part of research work which every researcher must ensure they comply with in the course of their in the course of their study. Ethical consideration involves the aptness in the

actions of the researcher during the research in relation to the rights of those directly or indirectly affected by those actions. This study has been identifying possible threats to the personnel safety of participants and takes preventive measures against them. The personal privacy of participants has been respected while, at the same time, their sensitive information protected. Every information disclosed by the participants has not been divulged to other parties and have been treated with utmost level of privacy, while anonymity of respondents was been maintained.

The participation of the participant was purely voluntarily without being compelled, forced, or coerced, and was well specified in the first section of the questionnaire also. Equality was maintained among the respondents during the process of data collection. Also, participants were informed about the research's purpose, and ethical commitment level was communicated. Also, the deception and misrepresentation of participants opinions were avoided, and fairness and objectivity were maintained in the presentation and analysis of the findings of the study.

3.8 Methodological limitation

Methodological limitations refer to challenges and constraints related to the design, procedures, and methods employed in a research study. These limitations impact the data collection procedure, sample size, reliability, validity, and generalizability of the study's findings. To address these methodological limitations careful consideration of research design, data collection methods, and analytical approaches were taken into care.

In addition, contextual limitation was also taken into consideration. Corruption and its investigation and prosecution are always a sensitive issue in relation to sociopolitical, cultural, or historical context; limitation remained there in this study that had affected its navigation process.

4. Data Presentation and Analysis

This chapter describes the results obtained from analysis and their presentation in tabular, graphical and other suitable form. Before analysis, collected data was cleaned up for errors, inconsistencies, incompleteness, and misclassification obtained from the respondents. A total of 300 samples were collected during the study. The data and statistics obtained from the computer application were exported to suitable platform like MS Excel for graphical presentation and suitably analyzed keeping the research objectives in center.

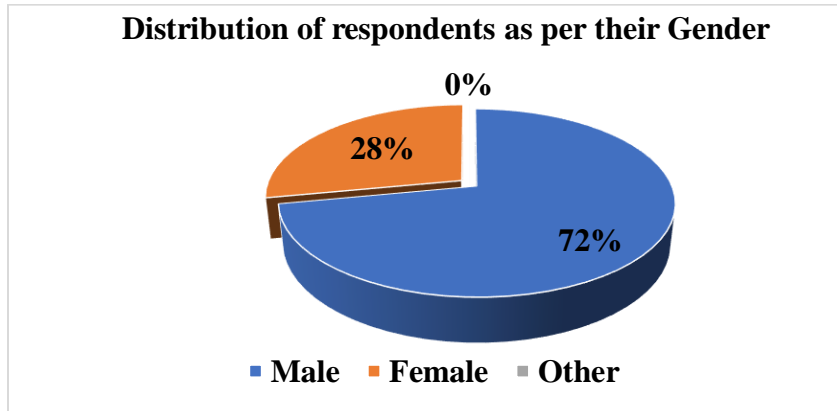
This chapter of the study presents analysis and presentation of the data as per the research framework developed to achieve the research objectives. Therefore, the data analyzed and presented in this report consists of the demographic distribution of the respondents followed by 'Prevalence and causes of corruption in Nepal', 'Efforts to control corruption in Nepal', 'Challenges to control corruption in Nepal', 'Challenges to control corruption in Nepal', and 'Strategies to control corruption in Nepal'. The thematic subject of 'Efforts to control corruption in Nepal' was further analyzed with four variables: 1) Investigation and Prosecution, 2) Institutional Setup and Collaboration, 3) Legal and Institutional Framework and 4) Promotional campaigns. The statistical analysis of these four variables was conducted using reliability analysis, descriptive analysis, inferential statistics, followed by correlation analysis, and regression analysis.

4.1 Demographic distribution of respondents

Demographic distribution of the respondents includes distribution of the total of 300 respondents as per gender, age group, level of employment, area of focus, and years of professional experience. The respondents participated in the survey as per the gender were 72% male, 28% female, and 0% others as shown on the pie diagram in Figure 4.1.

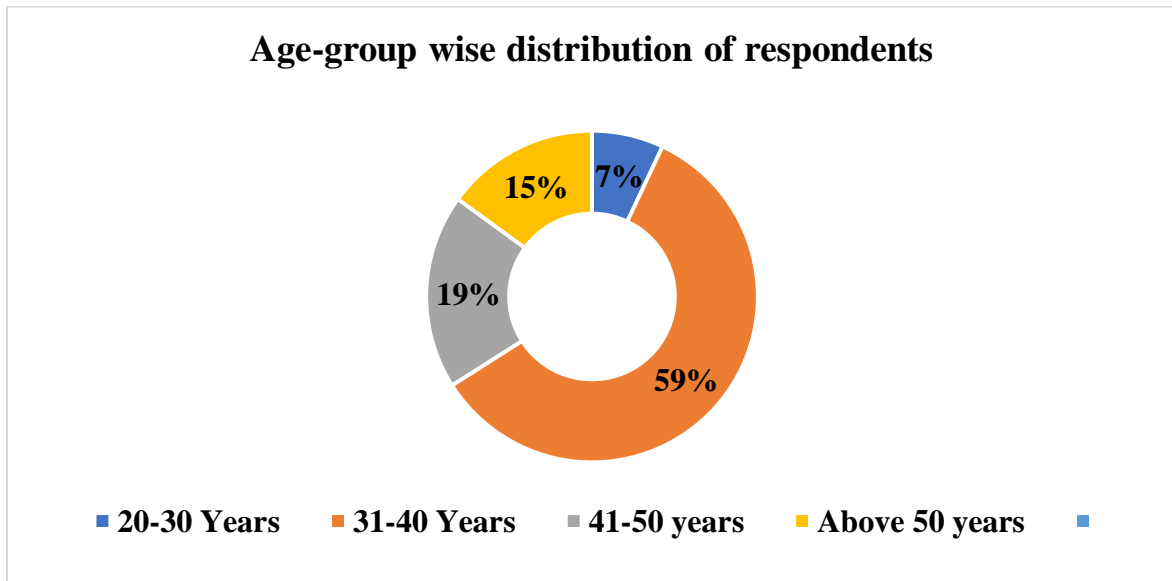
The distributions of respondents as per their age-group were: 7% 20-30 years, 59% 31-40 years, 19% 41-50 years, and 15% above 50 years of age. As per the civil service act, every civil servant has to retire after completion of 58 years. The age group wise distribution of the data is in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.1: Distribution of respondents as per their Gender



Source: author's primary data 2024

Figure 4.2: Age-group wise distribution of respondents

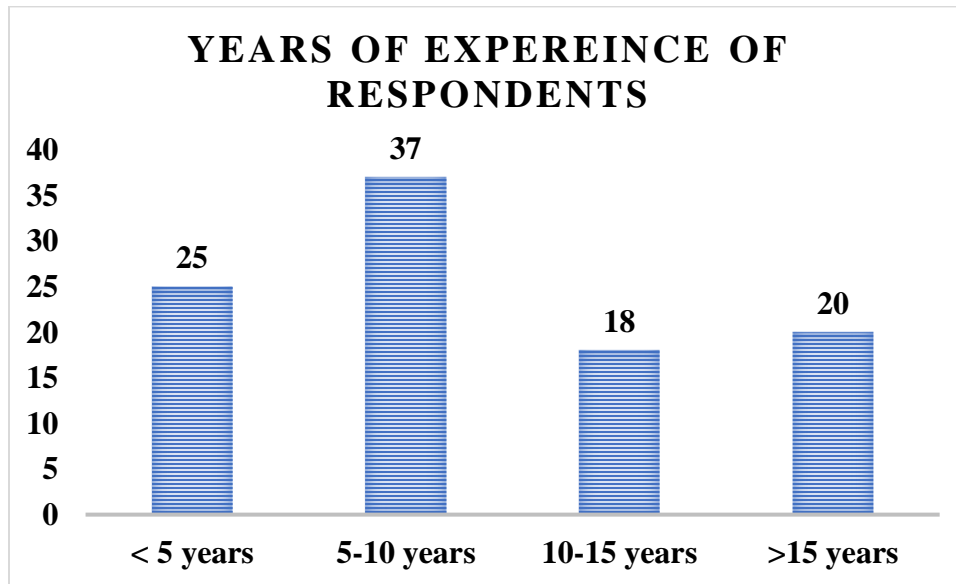


Source: authors' primary data 2024

The collected data showed that the respondents as per their employment level 14% belonged to Assistant, 50% Section Officers, 28% Under Secretaries, and 8% Joint Secretaries. Out of total respondents' majority 83% were involved in investigation of corruption related activities, 10% in monitoring of corruption related events, 4% in prosecution related activities of corruption cases and 3% were at vigilance work.

Regarding the years of experience in civil service, the distribution of respondents is shown in Figure 4.3. The figure shows that majority of the respondents belong to 5-10 years of experience, 25% respondents were of less than 5 years of civil service experience, 18% belonged to 10 to 15 years of experience, and 20% above had more than 15 years of experience in civil service.

Figure 4.3: Years of experience of respondents in civil service



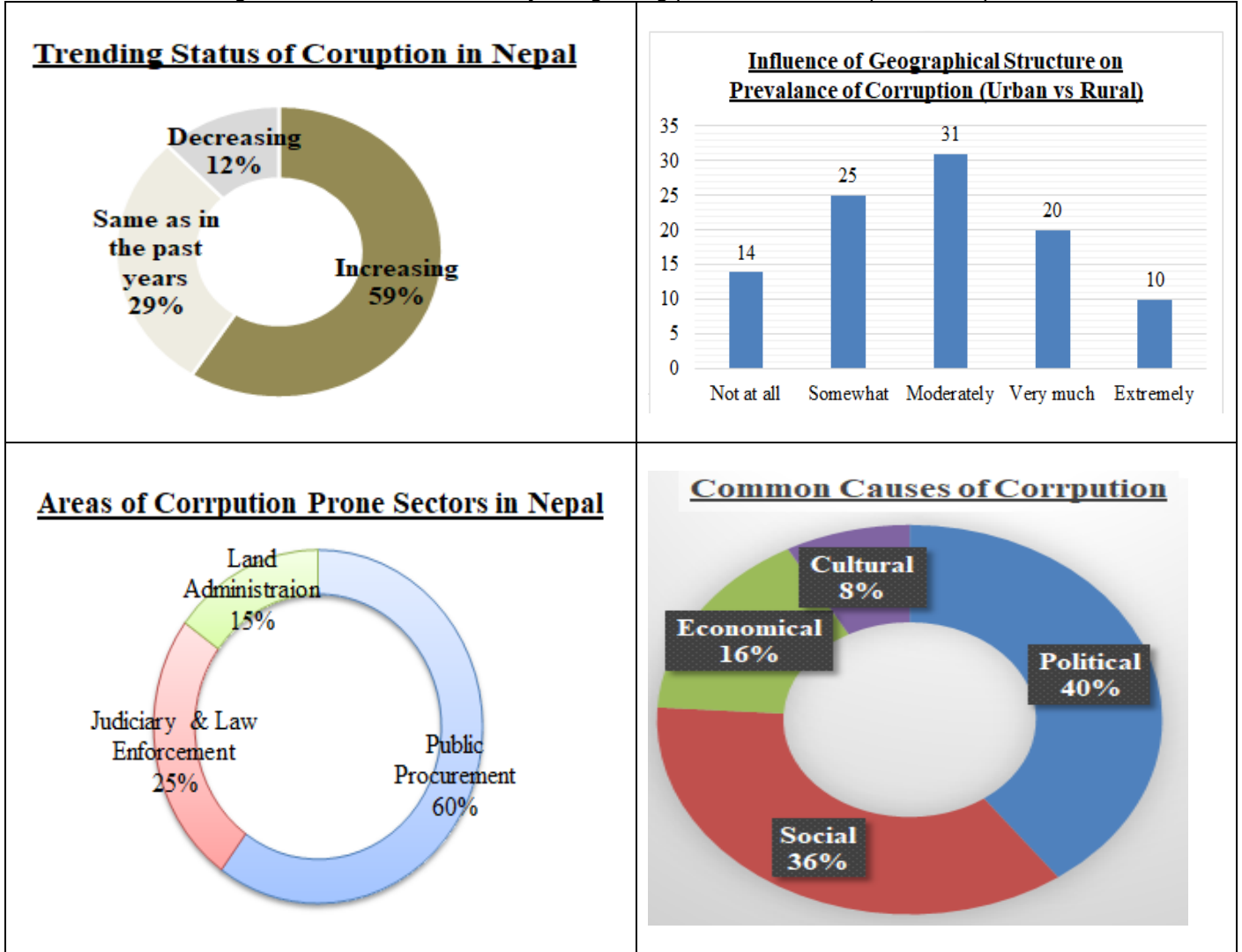
Source: author's primary data 2024

4.2 Prevalence of Corruption in Nepal

Prevalence of corruption in Nepal was evaluated through eight close ended questionnaires and an open-ended questionnaire. The analysis of each of the questionnaire has been presented in this section of the report.

Figure 4.4 presents the results of four questionnaires, showing respondents' perceptions of the prevalence of corruption in Nepal. Regarding the trend of corruption in Nepal, 59% of respondents perceive that corruption is increasing, 29% perceive it as remaining the same as in previous years, and 12% perceive it as decreasing. In a question examining the influence of geographical structure—comparing urban versus rural areas—on corruption, the responses were normally distributed, indicating that the prevalence of corruption is similar in both rural and urban areas. In the survey question about areas or sectors prone to corruption in Nepal, 60% of respondents identified public procurement as the most susceptible to corruption, 25% pointed to the judiciary and law enforcement, and 15% identified land administration as the sector most prone to corruption. Regarding the causes of corruption, 40% attributed it to politics, followed by social factors (36%), economic factors (16%), and cultural factors (8%).

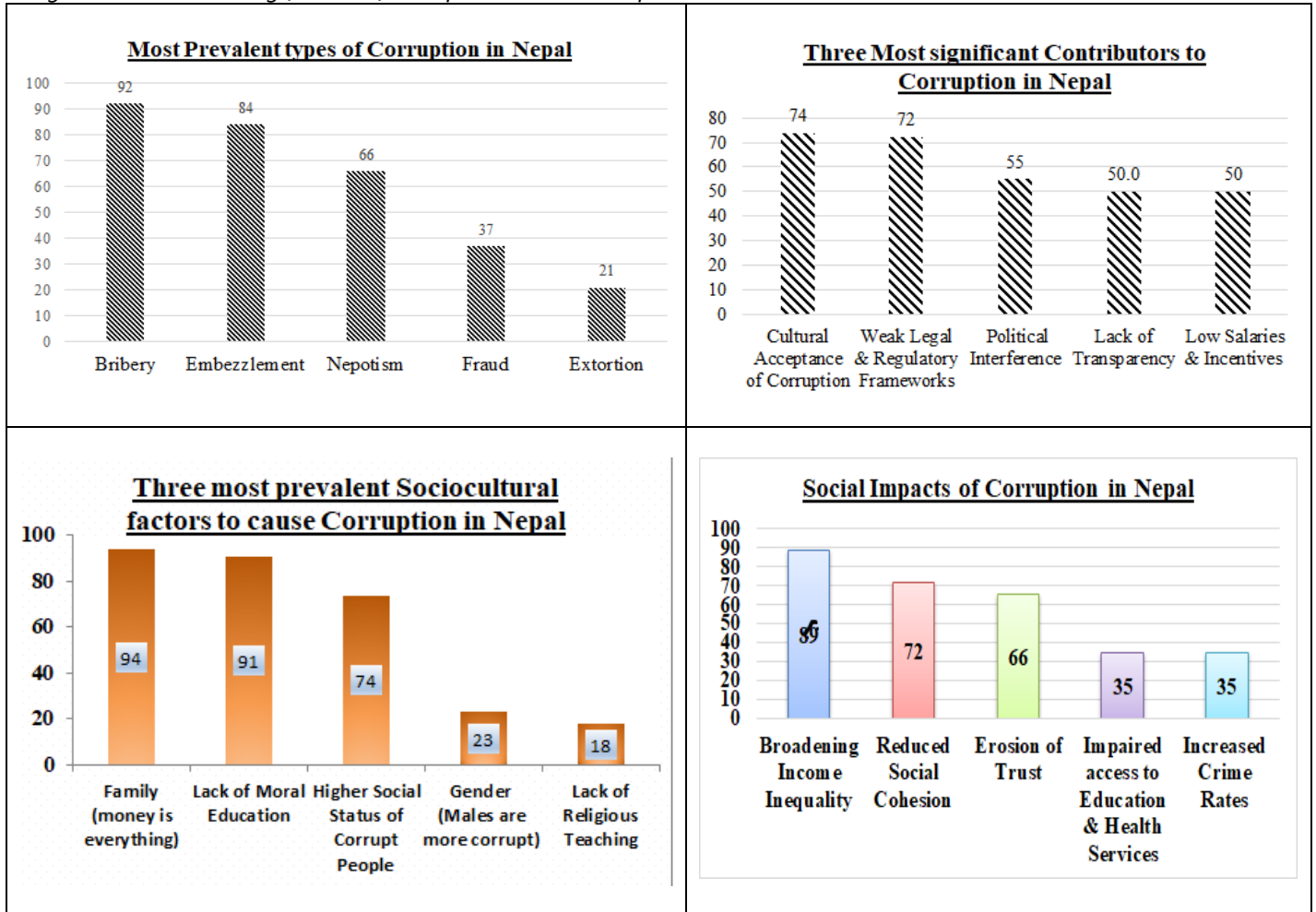
Figure 4.4: Results of data analysis regarding prevalence of corruption in Nepal.



Source: author’s primary data 2024

In a row to understand the prevalence of corruption in Nepal, respondents were asked to select (rank) three most contributing factors to corruption in Nepal among the given alternative options in the questionnaires. The respondents’ perception on the questions has been depicted in Figure 4.5.

Figure 4.5: Contributing factors of corruption and their Impacts



Source: author’s primary data 2024

Among the 300 respondents, 92% respondents perceive that Bribery is the Most Prevalent type of corruption in Nepal followed by Embezzlement (84%), Nepotism (66%), Fraud (37%), and Extortion (21%). Regarding the reasons that contribute the most to the corruption was asked with the respondents. In the response of out of 300 participants 74% respondents perceive that there is a cultural acceptance of corruption followed by Weak legal and regulatory framework (72%), Political interference (55%), Lack of transparency (50%), and low salaries and inceptives (50%).

Participants perception on ‘most prevalent socio-cultural factors causing corruption’ and ‘social impact of corruption’; the response among the 300 participants showed feeling of ‘money is everything kind of belief in the family’ was found most prevalent socio-cultural factor by 94% participants followed by ‘lack of moral education’ (91%), ‘Higher social status of corrupt people’ (74%), perception as ‘males are more corrupt’ (23%), and ‘lack of religious teaching’ (18%). In response to the ‘Social Impacts of Corruption in Nepal’ out of 100 participants the most profound impact was perceived by participants was ‘Broadening Income inequality’ (89%), ‘Reduced Social Cohesion’ (72%), ‘Erosion of Trust’ (66%), ‘Impaired access to education and health services’ (35%), and ‘Increased crime rates’ (35%).

So as to understand the respondent’s perception on prevalence of Corruption in Nepal, an open-ended question “In your opinion, what are the socio-cultural causes of corruption in Nepal?” was asked to write their opinion. The

response of the participants was analyzed using the 'Data visualization' technique to produce the word cloud as shown Figure 4.6.

Figure 4.6: Word cloud of causes of corruption in Nepal.



Source: author's primary data 2024

The word 'Social' had the frequency of 78, followed by 'Money' and 'Society' and the word 'moral' repeated 21 times in the text. The senses of the majority of respondents in relation to the most visible words in word cloud were.

1. Diminishing social and moral values in the society.
2. 'Money is everything' kind of narratives and temptation in the society.
3. Undue political interference in the administration and political protection in big corruption scandals.
4. Weak judicial administration and so-called involvement of judicial actors in corruption.
5. Appointment of officials in the regulatory bodies based on political quotas.
6. Non-transparent government decision made on 'Interest'.

4.3 Efforts to control corruption in Nepal

The perception of the respondents towards the 'Efforts to control corruption in Nepal' was measured considering the conceptual framework of the study. This theme was evaluated through four major constructs (variables) that were found key through the literature review. The efforts were finally measured with respect to the response of the question 'E2' that measured 'success of anti-corruption initiatives' in Nepal.

The research variables to measure efforts to control corruption in Nepal are 'Investigation and Prosecution', 'Institutional Setup and Collaboration', 'Legal and Institutional Framework', and 'Promotional Campaigns'. The variables were measured through the questionnaires in Likert Scale with four and five questionnaire items. The analysis of this theme follows Reliability analysis of the research variables, descriptive statistics, correlation, and regression analysis.

4.3.1 Reliability analysis of the research variables

Reliability refers to the accuracy and precision of a measurement procedure and seeks to determine if scores to items on a research instrument are internally consistent, stable, and whether the test administration and scoring was consistent. Reliability test was conducted in order to validate the items of the questionnaire to a variable. The reliability test score (Cronbach's alpha, α) was used to refer the measure of the questionnaire items that reflected the consistency in measurement of the intended variable (Field, 2005). A value of 0.7 and above was accepted for the

variable to get adopted.

The measurements for Cronbach’s alpha for the respective variables under study are shown in Table 4.1

Table 4.1 Reliability (Cronbach’s alpha) analysis of variables of the study

SN	Variable	Cronbach’s alpha	Number of items
1	Investigation and Prosecution	0.743	5
2	Institutional setup and Collaboration	0.797	5
3	Legal and Institutional Framework	0.875	4
4	Promotional Campaigns	0.731	4

The reliability statistics (Cronbach’s alpha score) of all four variables were above the value of 0.7, all items of the variables were adopted.

4.3.2 Descriptive Statistics of the data and variables

The descriptive statistics of the variables adopted to measure the efforts to control corruption in Nepal were computed. Descriptive statistics of the variables under study as per their distribution according to the gender, Age-group, and Employment level of the respondents was been analyzed. The result of the analysis has been presented in 5-point Likert scale of measurement. The result of the analysis of variance (ANOVA) by gender showed that there was no significant difference in the opinion towards the research variables (Investigation & Prosecution, Institutional Setup & Collaboration, Legal & Institutional Framework, and Promotional campaign) among male and female respondents. Likewise, the result of ANOVA by Age-group also showed no significant difference in the mean opinion score of the research variables to control corruption in Nepal between the groups of respondents divided by Age group.

The result of the analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the mean opinion score of the group of respondents as per their employment level on the research variables that are instrumental to control corruption in Nepal revealed that there is no significant difference on Investigation & Prosecution, Institutional Setup & Collaboration, Legal & Institutional Framework but the perception towards ‘Promotional campaign’ was found to be significant difference between level of employment. However, working experience wise the ANOVA found no difference in the mean opinion score among respondents towards research variables. The result of the ANOVA is in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Descriptive Statistics-

Descriptive Statistics – Gender				
Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig.
Investigation & Prosecution	3.174	0.673	0.304	0.583
Institutional Setup & Collaboration	3.182	0.681	0.180	0.672
Legal & Institutional Framework	3.307	0.758	0.585	0.446
Promotional Campaign	3.020	0.672	1.206	0.275
Descriptive Statistics – Age group				
Investigation & Prosecution	3.174	0.673	1.097	0.355
Institutional Setup & Collaboration	3.182	0.681	0.366	0.778
Legal & Institutional Framework	3.307	0.758	1.221	0.306
Promotional Campaign	3.020	0.672	1.203	0.313
Descriptive Statistics – Level of Employment				
Investigation & Prosecution	3.174	0.673	0.724	0.540
Institutional Setup & Collaboration	3.182	0.681	0.855	0.468

Legal & Institutional Framework	3.307	0.758	1.146	0.334
Promotional Campaign	3.020	0.672	2.932	0.037
Descriptive Statistics – Years of Experience				
Investigation & Prosecution	3.174	0.673	0.376	0.771
Institutional Setup & Collaboration	3.182	0.681	0.107	0.956
Legal & Institutional Framework	3.307	0.758	0.237	0.871
Promotional Campaign	3.020	0.672	0.662	0.577

Moreover, the result showed that the variable Legal and Institutional framework (3.307) has higher mean value compared to other variables Investigation & Prosecution (3.174), Institutional Setup & Collaboration (3.182), and Promotional Campaign (3.020).

4.3.3 Correlation analysis among variables of the efforts to control corruption

The correlation analysis was conducted to measure the interrelationship between the variables adopted that are instrumental to control corruption in Nepal. The Pearson' correlation coefficient between the four research variables namely Investigation & Prosecution, Institutional Setup & Collaboration, Legal & Institutional Framework, Promotional campaign, and Anti-corruption Initiatives showed strong positive correlation at 0.01 levels. The result of the analysis of correlation is shown in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Correlation analysis of Variables to control corruption in Nepal.

Pearson Correlation analysis; Sig. (2-tailed), N = 300					
	Investigation & Prosecution	Institutional Setup & Collaboration	Legal & Institutional Framework	Promotional Campaign	Anti-Corruption Initiatives
Investigation & Prosecution	1				
Institutional Setup & Collaboration	0.625**	1			
Legal & Institutional Framework	0.629**	0.701**	1		
Promotional Campaign	0.597**	0.503**	0.492**	1	
Anti-Corruption Initiatives	0.254*	0.299**	0.465**	0.216*	1
** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).					
* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).					

4.3.4 Regression Analysis between Efforts to control corruption and anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal

Regression analysis was conducted to measure the robust relationship between the efforts to control corruption in Nepal and anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal. The results of the regression analysis are in Tables 4.4

The result of the regression analysis shows that out of the four variables undertaken key contributing **factors** that are effective to control the corruption in Nepal, only one variable 'Legal and Institutional framework' found as significant contributing factor. Other three factors 'Investigation and Prosecution', 'Institutional Setup & Collaboration' and 'Promotional Campaign' found as insignificant factors that have key effect on anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal.

Table-4.4: Regression between constituent variables of Efforts to control corruption and anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal ($R^2 = .225$).

Model/ Independent variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	3.953	.495		7.978	.000
Investigation & Prosecution	.069	.187	.052	.368	.714
Institutional Setup & Collaboration	.052	.192	.049	.271	.787
Legal & Institutional Framework	.638	.176	.533	3.636	.000
Promotional Campaign	.003	.173	.002	.019	.985
Dependent Variable: Anti-corruption Initiatives in Nepal					

The regression analyses show that legal and institutional frameworks have significant positive contribution towards Anti-corruption Initiatives in Nepal. The result measured that 1-unit increment in Legal and Institutional Framework shall increase 0.55-unit increment in Anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal.

Moreover, while reviewing the items in Legal & Institutional Framework it shows that respondents had a strong perception that building proper legal arrangement with efficient, reliable, & trust worthy legal system can significantly affect to control corruption in Nepal.

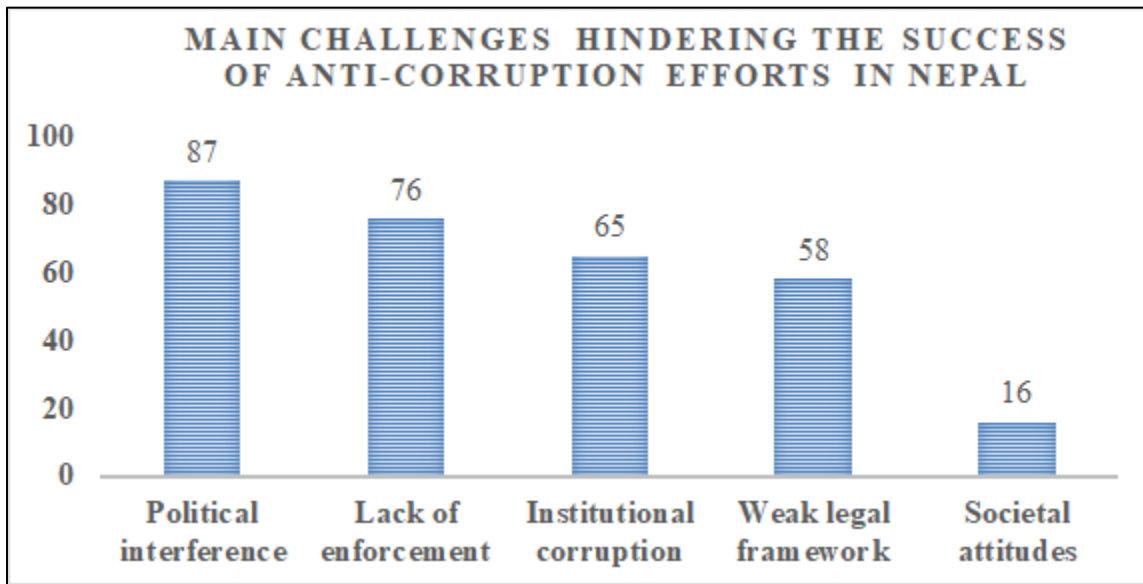
4.5 Challenges to control corruption in Nepal

A challenge to control corruption in Nepal was assessed through five close-ended questionnaires and an open-ended question. The analysis of each of the questionnaire has been presented in this section of the report.

4.5.1 Main challenges to control corruption in Nepal

In this section of research also, respondents were asked to select their top three challenges to control corruption in Nepal. Respondents had to select (rank) three most challenging factors to control corruption in Nepal among the given alternative options in the questionnaires. The respondents’ perception on the questions has been depicted in Figure 4.7.

Figure 4.7: Challenges of Anti-corruption efforts in Nepal.



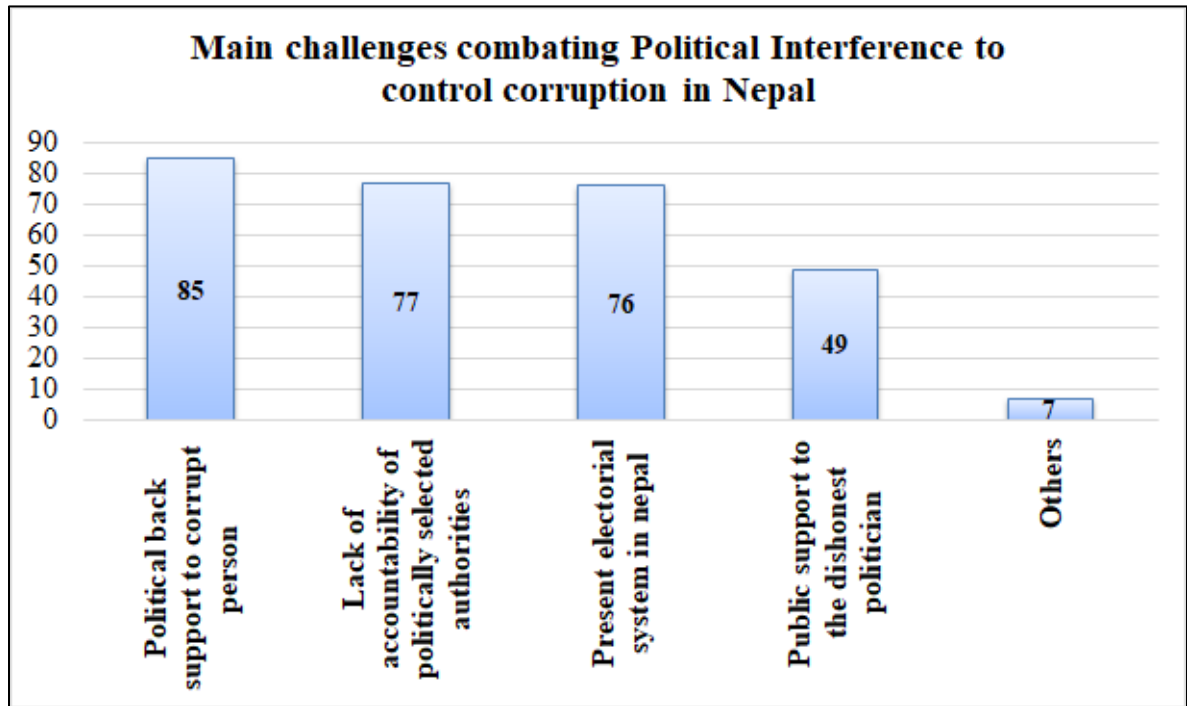
Source: author's primary data 2024

The respondents perceived that the top three challenges that are hindering the anticorruption efforts in Nepal are Political Interference, Lack of law enforcement, and Institutional Corruption. Another prominent factor is Weak Legal institutional framework.

4.5.2 Main challenges combating Political Interference to control corruption in Nepal

So as to further dissect the reasons behind the major challenge of Political Interference, respondents were asked to select their top three challenges to control corruption in Nepal. The perception of the respondents towards the challenges combating Political Interference to control corruption in Nepal has been depicted in Figure 4.8.

Figure 4.8: Main challenges combating Political Interference to control corruption in Nepal.



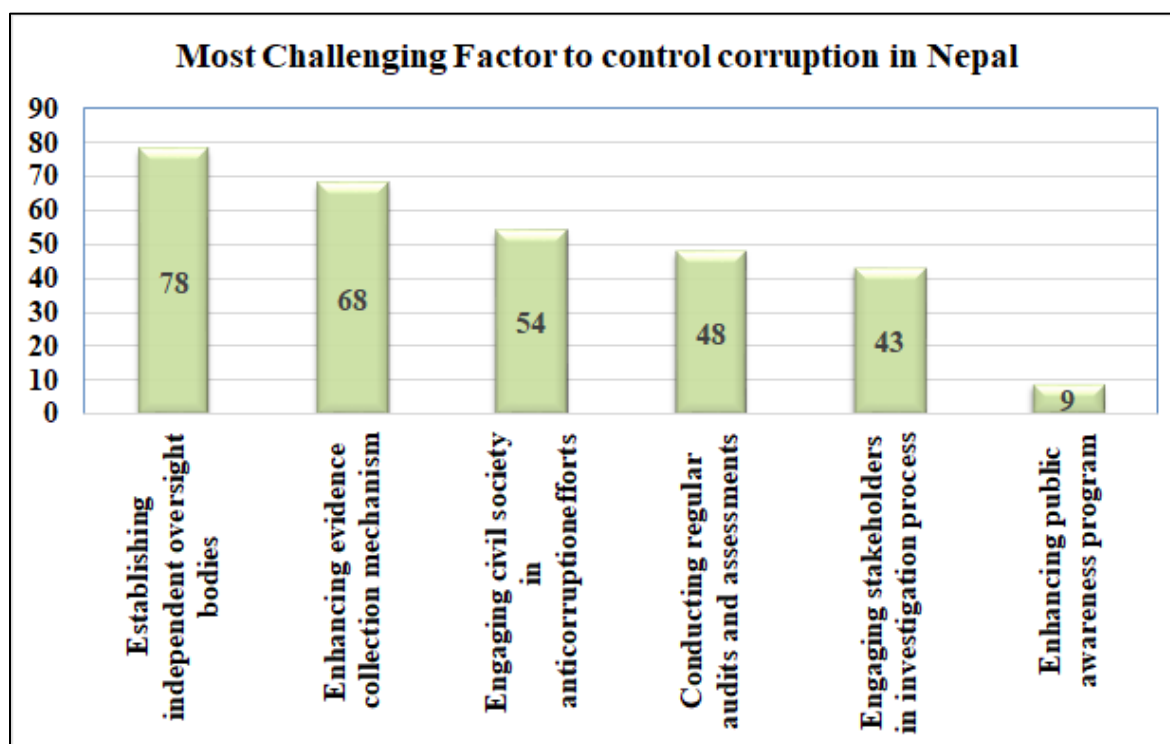
Source: author's primary data 2024

The result of the analysis of respondent's perceived opinion shows the respondents' perception towards most prioritized options among the given ones. As per the result out of 300 respondents top three challenges combating Political Interference to control corruption in Nepal are Political back support to corrupt person (85%), Lack of accountability of politically selected authorities (77%), and Present electoral system in Nepal (76%).

4.5.3 Most challenging factor to control corruption in Nepal

Regarding the challenges to control corruption in Nepal, the challenge posed due to economic factor was also captured during the data collection. The analysis of the response of the respondent as per their perception is shown in Figure 4.9

Figure 4.9: Most challenging factor to control corruption in Nepal



Source: author's primary data 2024

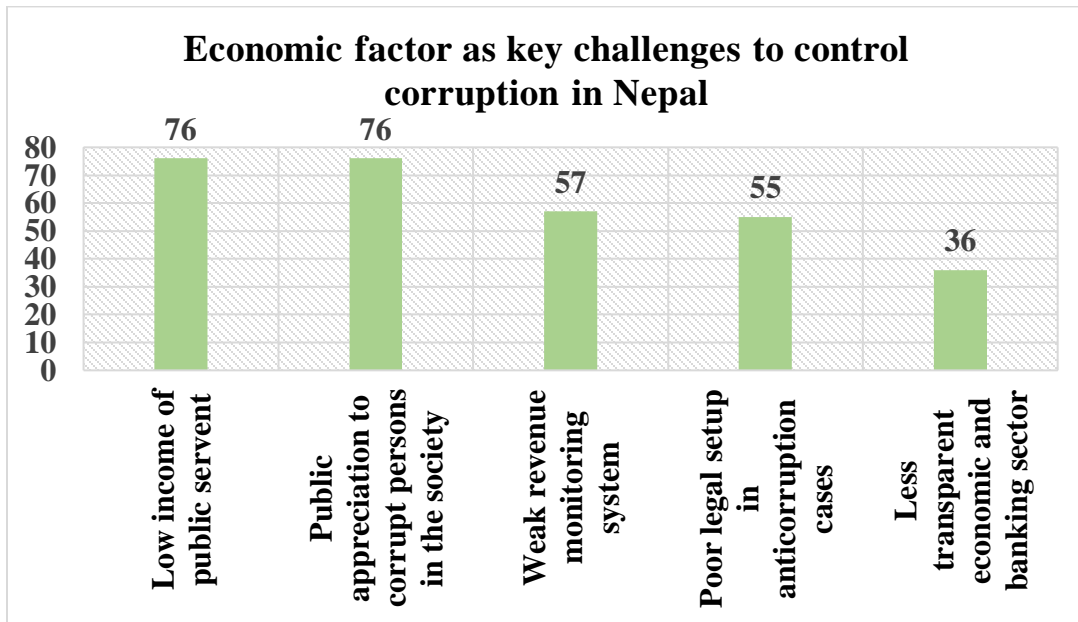
The result in figure 4.9 shows that the most challenging factor to control corruption in Nepal are Establishing independent oversight bodies (78%), Enhancing evidence collection mechanism (68%), Engaging civil society in anti-corruption efforts 54%, conducting regular audits and assessments 48%, engaging stakeholders in investigation process 43, enhancing awareness programme 9%.

4.5.4 Most challenging economic factor to control corruption in Nepal

Regarding the challenges to control corruption in Nepal, the challenge posed due to economic factor was also captured during the data collection. The analysis of the response of the respondent as per their perception is shown in Figure 4.10

The result in Figure show that Low income of Public Servant (76%), Public appreciation to corrupt persons in the society (76%), Weak revenue monitoring system (57%), and Poor legal setup in anti-corruption cases (55%).

Figure 4.10: Challenges due to economic factor to control corruption in Nepal



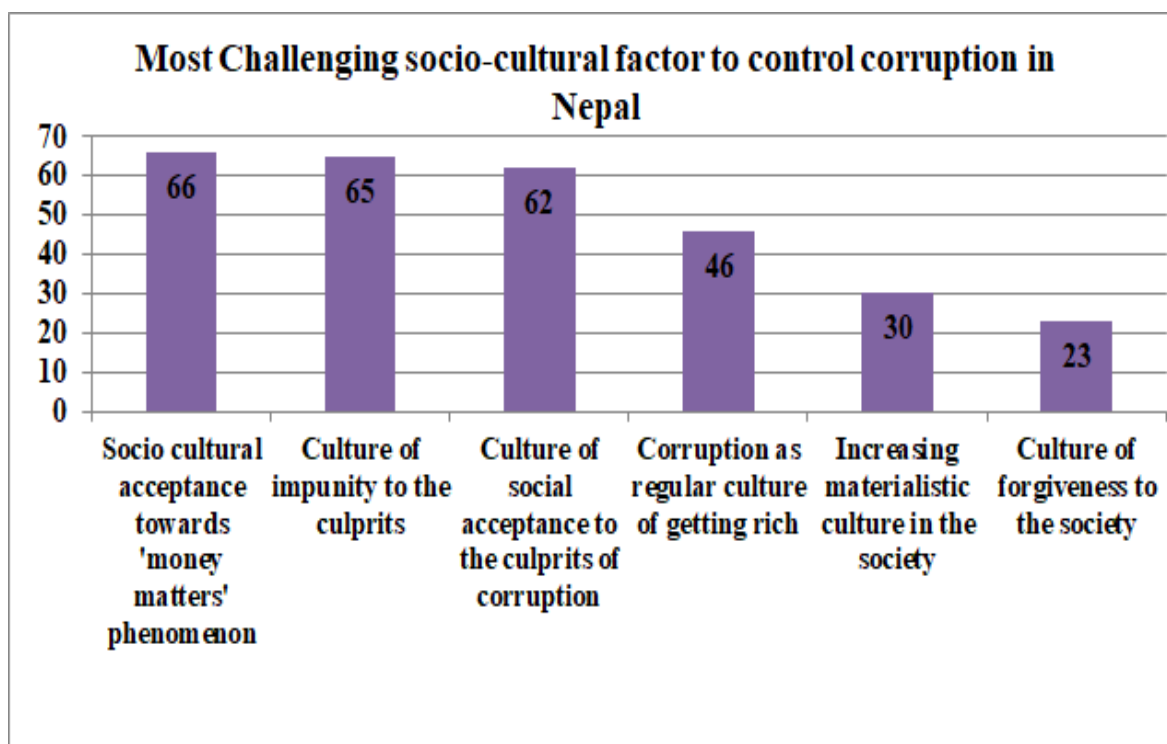
Source: author’s primary data 2024

4.5.5 Most challenging socio-cultural factor to corruption control in Nepal

Regarding the most challenging socio-cultural factor to control corruption in Nepal, the factors captured during the data collection from the respondent was analyzed. The analysis of the response of the respondent as per their perception is shown in Figure 4.11

The result show that the three challenging socio-cultural factors that are most difficult to control in relation to corruption in Nepal are ‘Socio-cultural acceptance towards “money matters” phenomena’ (66%), ‘Culture of impunity to the culprits’ (65%) by the society, and ‘Culture of social acceptance to the culprits of corruption’ (62%), corruption as regular culture of getting rich(46%), increasing materlistic in the society(30), culture of forgiveness to the society(23%).

Figure 4.11: Most challenging factor to control corruption in Nepal



Source: author's primary data 2024

4.5.6 Other challenges perceived by respondents to corruption in Nepal

In regards to the challenges in the respondent's perception that are challenging from the perspectives of controlling corruption in Nepal one open-ended question "In your opinion, what are the other challenges to control corruption in Nepal?" was asked to mention their opinion in written. The response was captured in text form.

The response of the entire participant was analyzed using the 'Data visualization' technique to produce the word cloud result which is shown in figure 4.12. In the result, the word 'Corruption' had the frequency of 36, followed by 'Political' and 'Control' and the word 'support' repeated 9 times in the text.

Figure 4.12: Word cloud depicting other challenges to control corruption in Nepal



Source: author's primary data 2024

The senses of the majority of respondents in relation to the most visible words in word cloud were.

1. Political corruption in the form of policy corruption.
2. Lack of social awareness in terms of corruption.
3. Lack of integrity of politicians, lack of good governance, and lack of transparency and accountability.
4. Political instability and high turnover of civil servants.
5. Strong preventive measures along with punitive and promotional measures.
6. Decline in moral Values and social recognition of Culprits.

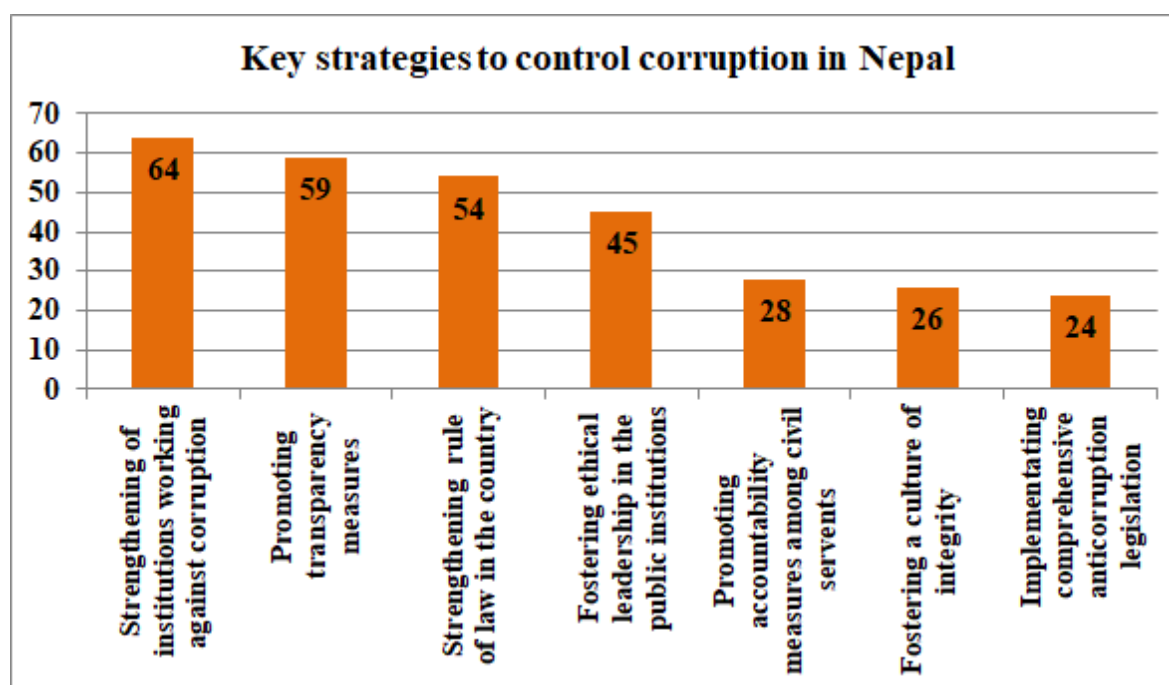
4.6 Strategies to control corruption in Nepal

A possible strategy to control corruption in Nepal was assessed through two close-ended questionnaires and an open-ended question. The analysis of each of the questionnaire has been presented in this section of the report. In this section of the research, respondents were asked to select their top three possible strategies to control corruption in Nepal followed by their hope about success of anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal, and their opinion towards strategies Nepal should adopt to control corruption in Nepal.

4.6.1 Necessary strategies to control systematic corruption in Nepal

To identify the perceived strategies necessitated by the respondents to control corruption in Nepal, the question was asked where respondents to select (rank) three most key strategic factors to control corruption in Nepal among the given alternatives in the questionnaires. The respondents' perception on the questions is shown in Figure 4.13.

Figure 4.13: Key strategies to corruption in Nepal



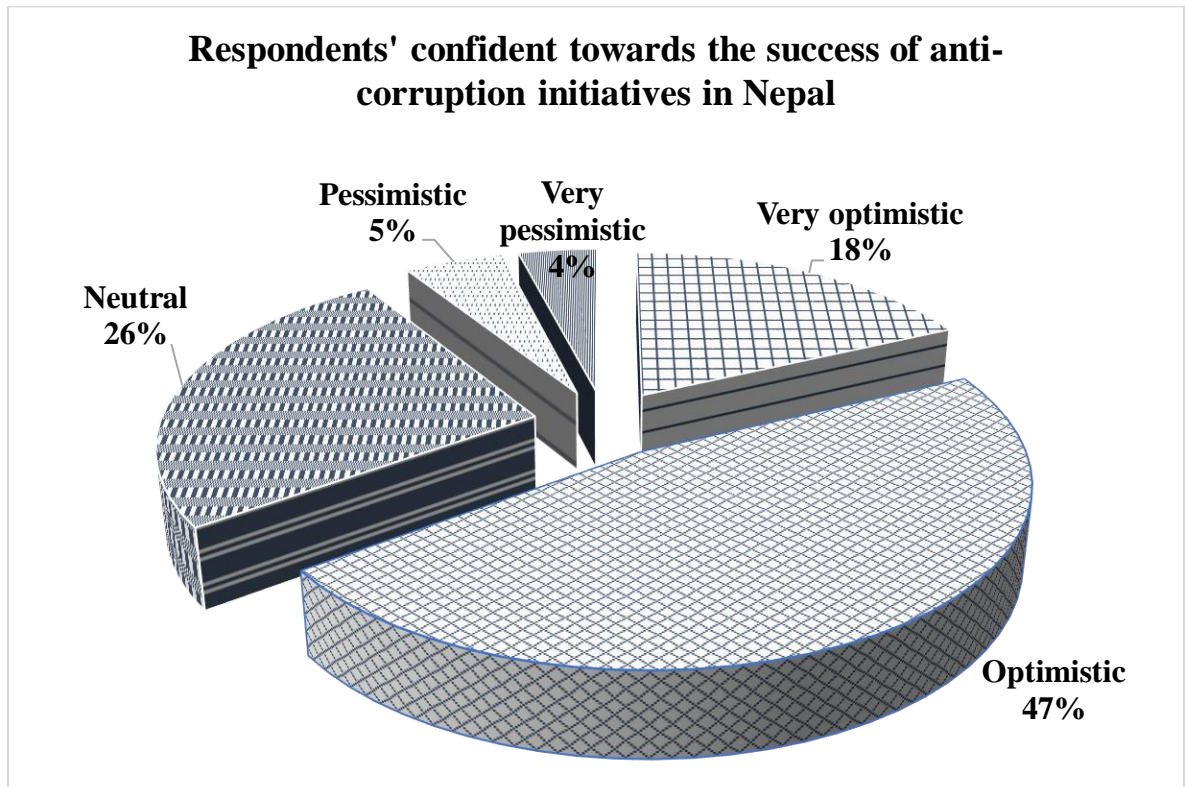
Source: author's primary data 2024

"The results from 300 total respondents reveal that the top three strategies for controlling corruption in Nepal are: 'Strengthening institutions working against corruption' (64%), Promoting transparency measures (59%), and 'Strengthening the rule of law in the country' (54%). Other strategies, which scored below 50%, include: 'Fostering ethical leadership in public institutions, (45%), promoting accountability measures among civil servants (28%), fostering a culture of integrity (26%), and 'implementing comprehensive anti-corruption legislation (24%)

4.6.2 Respondents' optimism towards the success of anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal

To identify the perceived hope and optimism towards the success of anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal, the result of the response of respondents is in Figure 4.14.

Figure 4.14: Respondents' optimism towards success of Anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal.



Source: author's primary data 2024

Out of the total responses 65% respondents were found optimistic about success of anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal however 9 % were found Pessimistic leaving 26% on neutral category.

4.6.3 Respondents' perceived strategies that Nepal should adopt to control the corruption in Nepal

To identify the perceived strategies to be adopted by Nepal to control corruption in Nepal, this research collected opinion of the respondents through an open-ended questionnaire. The open-ended question was: "In your opinion, what strategies Nepal should adopt to control corruption in the country?" The response was captured in text form and analyzed using word visualization technique.

The response of the entire participant was analyzed using the 'Data visualization' technique to produce the word cloud result which is shown in figure 4.15. In the result, the word 'Corruption' had the frequency of 75, followed by 'Public', 'education', 'awareness', 'strong' and the word 'legal' repeated 21 times in the text.

Figure 4.15: The word cloud of the respondents' suggestion towards strategies to be adopted to control corruption in Nepal.



Source: author's primary data 2024

The senses of the majority of respondents in relation to the most visible words in word cloud were.

1. Political corruption to be controlled.
2. Public policies to control corruption to be strengthen.
3. Strong institutional setup is the key.
4. Education and awareness of the public fosters the transparency.
5. Effective measure through strong legal institutional support is needed.

5. Summary, Main Findings and Conclusion

This chapter summarizes the findings of the research as outlined in the objectives of the study. Based on the findings, conclusions have been drawn and suitable recommendations have been suggested as an implication of the study. As mentioned in the organizations of the study, the limitations of the study are also mentioned in this chapter.

5.1 Summary

This section of the research includes the findings distributed over different headings starting from demographic distribution of the data followed by prevalence of corruption in Nepal, efforts to control corruption in Nepal, challenges to control corruption in Nepal, and strategies to control corruption in Nepal.

5.1.1 Demographic distribution of respondents

This research collected data from the respondents who are primarily involved in anticorruption activities through anti-corruption agencies including CIAA, DAO, and CIB. Out of total 300 sample data collected through field work 72% were male and 28% female. Majority (59%) of the respondents were belonged to 31-40 years age-group followed by 19% in the 41-50 years age group, 15% in the age group of above 50 years where 7% belonged to 20-30 years age group. Regarding the level of employment 50% were section officers (Gazette class 3 officers), 28% undersecretaries belonged to class 2 officers, 8% joint secretaries that belonged to class 1 officers while 14% belonged to Assistants.

Regarding the years of experience 37% had 5-10 years of experience in the field, 25% had less than 5 years of experience, 20% had more than 15 years of experience, and 18% had 10-15 years of experience.

5.1.2 Prevalence of corruption in Nepal

The field study of this research found that majority 59% of the respondents perceived that corruption in Nepal is increasing, while 12% perceived that it is decreasing while 29% perceived that it is same as in the past years. The study found prevalence of corruption in Nepal is normally distributed in rural as well as in the urban area. The most prone area of corruption in Nepal is public procurement (60%) followed by judiciary and law enforcement (25%), and land administration (15%). Regarding the causes of corruption, participants perceived that the main cause of corruption is political (40%) followed by social (36%), Economical (16%) and cultural (8%).

Three most prevalent type of corruption found were Bribery, Embezzlement and Nepotism where as the top three contributors to corruption in Nepal were Cultural acceptance, weak legal and regulatory frameworks, and political interference. Among the socio-cultural factors top three prevalent factors were found as Family (money is everything), lack of moral education, and higher social status of corrupt people in the society. Regarding the social impacts of corruption in Nepal, the top three impacts were found as Broadening Income Inequality, Reduced social cohesion and Erosion of Trust.

In their open mentions, the study found the causes of corruption in Nepal due to diminishing social and moral values, temptation towards money is everything kind of narratives, political interference in the public administration, weak judicial administration, unfair and quota system in posting and appointment of officials in regulatory bodies, lack of transparency in government decisions.

5.1.3 Efforts to control corruption in Nepal

As the research title envisioned studying efforts and challenges to control corruption in Nepal, this research studied the perception of officials working in anti-corruption agencies and measured four key instruments as research variables to control corruption in Nepal. These four variables were suggested by literature as well as adopted by CIAA as instruments to control corruption. The four key instruments were: (1) Investigation and prosecution, (2) Institutional setup and collaboration, (3) legal and Institutional framework, and (4) Promotional campaigns. These variables were measured with four or five number of questionnaire items and each variable was found reliable statistically with Cronbach's alpha score above 0.7. Among the four variables the variable Legal and Institutional framework (3.307) had higher mean value compared to other variables Investigation & Prosecution (3.174), Institutional Setup & Collaboration (3.182), and Promotional Campaign (3.020). Moreover, as revealed by the ANOVA, there was no significant difference on perception towards the variables among the participants as per their gender, age-group, and years of experience. However, as per the level of employment, the perceptions of participants working in the assistant level perceive that there is a significant difference on the effect of promotional campaign to control corruption in Nepal.

The correlation analysis showed significant positive correlation at the level of 0.01 among the four variables. Regarding the correlation with anti-corruption initiatives, Institutional Setup & Collaboration and Legal & Institutional had significant positive correlation at the level of 0.01 while the correlation between the Anti-corruption initiatives with Investigation & Prosecution and Promotional Campaign found positive correlation at the level of 0.05.

The results of the regression analysis regarding the effect of four instruments (variables) on anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal, only the Legal & Institutional Framework has significant positive effect with beta value of 0.638 with unstandardized coefficients and with beta value of 0.533 with standardized coefficients while the other three variables did not have significant effect to control corruption in Nepal. The result had a square of the coefficient of determination (R^2) value as 0.225. The results show that the one unit of efforts in Legal and Institutional framework contributes to control the corruption by 53.3 percent.

5.1.4 Challenges to control corruption in Nepal

As envisioned by the research title to study the challenges to control the corruption in Nepal, this research measured the perceived challenges faced by the officers working in the anticorruption agencies. The result of this research found that the top three challenges that are hindering the success of anticorruption agencies are: (1) Political Interference, (2) Lack of enforcement, and (3) Institutional corruption. With regards to the major challenges of political interference, participants of this research perceived that top three challenges in combating political interference to control corruption in Nepal are: (1) Political back support to corrupt persons by the politicians, (2) Lack of accountability of politically selected authorities, and (3) Present electoral system in Nepal.

Regarding the top three most challenging factor to control corruption in Nepal, participants of this research perceived that Establishing independent oversight bodies, enhancing evidence collection mechanism, and engaging civil society in anti-corruption efforts. The perception towards the economic factor (present salary) of public servants, participants opined that low income of public servants, public appreciation to corrupt persons in the society, weak revenue monitoring system, and poor legal setup in anti-corruption cases are the primary challenging factors in anti-corruption initiatives.

This research found out the most challenging socio-cultural factor to control corruption in Nepal, the result of this research found that the three primary factors in this regard are: (1) Socio-cultural acceptance towards 'money matters' phenomena, (2) culture of impunity to the culprits by the society, and (3) Culture of social acceptance to the culprits of corruption.

In the open-ended questions to figure out the challenges to control the corruption, participants opined that political corruption in the form of policy corruption, lack of social awareness in terms of corruption, lack of integrity of politicians, lack of good governance, lack of transparency and accountability, political instability and high turnover of civil servants, strong preventive measures along with punitive and promotional measures, and decline in moral values and social recognition of culprits are the major challenges.

5.1.5 Strategies to be adopted to control corruption in Nepal

This research found top three key strategies to control corruption in Nepal as: (1) Strengthening of institutions working against corruption, (2) Promoting transparency measures, (3) Strengthening rule of law in the country. This research captured the opinion through open-ended questions and found that the strategy should focus on to control political corruption, strengthen public policy and anti-corruption strategies, education and awareness to foster the transparency, and strong legal institutional support.

Despite of several obstacles in anti-corruption efforts, participants' confidence towards the success of anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal found Very Optimistic (18%), Optimistic (47%), Neutral (26%), Pessimistic (5%), and Very Pessimistic (18%).

6. Conclusion

By and large, the participants in this research perceived the status of corruption as increasing and indifferent to the rural or urban area. The main causes of prevalence of corruption are political, social, economic, and cultural in nature. The sectors of corruption in Nepal are public procurement, followed by judiciary and law enforcement, and land administration. The most prevalent types of corruption in Nepal are bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism. The primary contributors to the corruption are socio-cultural acceptance, weak legal and regulatory frameworks, and political interference.

The socio-cultural factors contributing to the corruption are family (money is everything environment), lack of moral education, and higher social status of corrupt people in the society. The impacts of increasing trend of corruption in Nepal are broadening income inequality, reduced social cohesion and erosion of trust. The effect of corruption is observed in the form of political interference in the public administration, weak judicial administration, unfair/quota system in appointment and posting of officials in regulatory bodies, and lack of transparency in government decisions.

The institutions primarily working to control corruption in Nepal are using four key instruments: (1) investigation and prosecution, (2) institutional setup and collaboration, (3) legal and regulatory frameworks, and (4) promotional campaigns. The most effective instruments to control corruption in decreasing order are legal and regulatory frameworks, investigation and prosecution, institutional setup and collaboration, and promotional campaigns. Among four instruments, only one instrument, the legal and regulatory frameworks, has a significant positive effect on controlling corruption in Nepal.

Challenges to controlling corruption in public agencies/organizations in Nepal are political interference in the decision-making process, lack of enforcement of legal and regulatory provisions, and institutional corruption. And the difficulties in combating these challenges in the present context of Nepal are political back support for corrupt persons, lack of accountability of political appointees, and the present electoral system. The most challenging factors to control corruption in Nepal are to establish independent oversight bodies, enhance evidence collection mechanisms, and engage civil society in anti-corruption efforts.

From the socio-economic perspectives, the most challenging factors include low income of public servants vis-à-vis socio-cultural acceptance towards 'money is everything' phenomena, public appreciation to corrupt persons in the society, and culture of impunity to the corrupt people by the society. The strategies to be adopted to control corruption in Nepal are to strengthen institutions working against corruption, promote transparency, and strengthen the rule of law.

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