Perception of Corruption as the Most Contagious Disease

Wilder Fernández Campos[1], William Verastegui Lopez[2], Cristian Gumercindo Medina-Sotelo[3], Virginia Cerafin Urbano[4]

[1, 2, 3]Cesar Vallejo University
Email: [1]wfernandezca3@ucvvirtual.edu.pe, [2]wverasteguilo@ucvvirtual.edu.pe,
[3]cmedinasol@ucvvirtual.edu.pe, [4]vcefarinu@ucvvirtual.edu.pe

Abstract

This study aims to make known how corruption is perceived in various international and national spheres, through a narrative review. It is important to know the factors that affect the levels of public management, nationally and internationally. This review was carried out with various specialized sources such as Scopus, Web of Science, Scielo, Dialnet. A total of 51 articles strengthened this investigation, considering terms such as corruption; breaking rules; cultural values and officials ethics. It was found that corruption is the most incident factor in poverty, in addition to there being officials prosecuted with more than 30 years. So, corruption is a dishonest practice that affects the development of a country, impacts on the fulfillment of development projects. This causes ethics and personality to cease to be part of the moral culture of a nation.

Keywords: Corruption; breaking rules; cultural values; official ethics.

1. Introduction

The problem of corruption is perceived as the act that affects all countries, since studies report that the authorities or managers of all levels of public function, were involved in breaking the rules and laws, for acts that contravened the purposes of government (Abraham et al., 2018). The United States was one of the countries that was targeted due to the high degree of corruption that occurred between the years 1800 and 1900, which affected its justice system in an ethical and moral way, generating economic recession, buying the conscience of judges, politicians and favoring organizations that sought profit through illegal acts such as arms sales, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal exploitation of products (Abbink et al., 2017). In addition, Julián and Bonavia (2017) emphasize that in South America it was conceived that corruption was an almost uncontrollable means in most governments, especially those where the dictatorship had absolute power, giving way to the proliferation of the illegal act of officials at all levels of government regimes.

For Köbis et al. (2017), the application of justice, the purchase of conscience, bribery; as well as the conditioning of social factors due to the decrease of the economy and the loss of the associated production forces, are causes of acts of corruption. In a temporary study on the analysis of rulers, Cañete (2018) determines that, in Peru, since the 1990s, all presidents have been investigated and/or punished for acts of corruption. A clear example of this is the case of the former president Alberto Fujimori, who is serving a sentence for having accepted acts of corruption in his government. Likewise, Du Puit (2022) points out that former president Alejandro Toledo is being investigated with a prison requirement to clarify all complaints about bribery in government contracts.

Another example refers to former President Alan García, who chose to commit suicide before responding to justice, regarding acts of corruption during his two governments. In the case of Ollanta Humala and his wife Nadine Heredia, they served pretrial detention and investigations are still ongoing for alleged acts of corruption with companies regarding irregular contracting, both for the exploitation and conduction of Camisea gas and road construction. In short, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski is guided by acts of corruption and Martín Vizcarra, too, is accused of illegal acts at high levels of public management (Garay, 2018). Despite these cases, Julca (2016) describes that for 67.8% of the population, all officials become involved in acts of corruption. This is repeated in almost all areas, since this same author confirms that the justice system, police action, among other sectors, present a 65% corruption rate, while high-level officials reach 86%. On the sustained, the following question arises in the problem: Is corruption the most contagious disease in society?

For Du Puit (2022), it is pertinent to consider that corruption is the most contagious disease that affects Peru, based on the perception of the role of public management. In this sense, Julian and Bonavia (2019) specify the phrases that have been normalized in society: "as long as you do works, it doesn't matter what you steal", as well as "the arrangement is not new, everyone does it", "there are always ways to fix not to go to jail."

2. Literature review

2.1 Corruption in Public Management

Regarding the academic research carried out on corruption, it is understood that the determining factor of the increase in poverty is corruption within state policies, especially in public investment systems, which affect compliance with the execution of development projects in all levels (Meza and Carhuancho, 2019). Along the same lines, Dickel and Graeff (2018), refer that the factor associated with corruption was the lack of efficiency of the officials of all the last national governments, the poor management of these in regional and local governments. Porras (2020), based on the INEI report, describes that 45% of those surveyed considered that the deficiency of government management is due to the levels of corruption of officials, as well as the "arrangements" and directions of the service contracts. In the same study, it is reported that for 75% of those consulted, the laws are poorly formulated, since they only favor those who can support with money some type of proposal or obtaining a good deal from a public tender. Likewise, Ramos and Álvarez (2018) indicate that in first world economies, acts of corruption are present, since commercial actions cannot be controlled and regulated by the government system.

For their part, Madrid and Palomino (2019) specified that the report of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) shows that, in Latin America, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) tends to a sustained growth between 3 and 7%, on average. However, in most countries, the management of public policies shows deterioration rates due to the inability to supervise compliance with contracts, since they were affected by the commission of charging percentages to the contractors, which leave unfinished public works, breach contracts, and affect government credibility (European Union, 2019).

Nieto and García (2019), through the World Health Organization, presented specific figures on the management and effectiveness of the intervention system to face the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the acquisition of vaccines as equipment of protection, they have been involved in acts of corruption at all levels, in which state officials were involved in coordinating costs affecting the country's economy, as well as the health of human beings.

2.2 Forms of Corruption

The perception of most of the population is that, in all governmental systems in the world, corruption is one of the most discussed issues, since improper acts have been presented where those who have power request gifts, while those who need the service resorts to wrong actions with the purpose of taking advantage of its interests. Arroyo (2018) and Bai, et al. (2016) agree that the activities and practice of abuse of power, as well as doing the wrong thing, denotes different ways of corrupting the system. For this reason, both the one who corrupts and the corrupt demonstrate the will to infringe for some personal interest without considering that this action harms society.

Dickel and Graeff (2018) consider that a person breaks the procedures and rules to intentionally favor another person or organization, with the purpose of achieving a benefit, affecting the rights and duties of others. Meanwhile, Du Puit (2022) affirms that the Anti-Corruption Commission, from the field of politics and public management, considers that corruption is the improper act that breaks regulatory procedures to illegally favor part of the system. It also points out that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (2020) considers that corruption is any action by a public official that contravenes the regulated functions within public management, breaking ethics. Elsevier (2019) describes that a particular interest leads to benefiting others, in exchange for gifts, money collections; without conceiving the social damage, as well as the development of society.

In Peru, corruption dates back many years. Ugaz's report (2018) situates it from the time of the Incas, describing how some caciques engaged in illegal acts to absolve the breaches that ruled the government of the Incas. Later, in the colonial period, this scourge appeared in two forms: achieving social position and obtaining social justice.

2.3 Impact of Corruption on Society

Fath and Kay (2018) argue that officials obtained benefits by issuing licenses and authorizations for different commercial and productive activities and the extraction of natural resources. These actions caused capital flight in 7.5% of the state reserve; and the budget for attention to society fell by 3%. Guimaray (2019) specifies that one modality was the payment of a percentage of debt costs to the state for tax evasion, in addition to achieving its own benefits. Likewise, they influenced the addressing for the benefit of the interested parties, after a material or monetary gift. With this, the equitable distribution of the public budget was affected since the reality of the amount of investment causes works to be carried out without complying with the established technical standards.

Regarding the way in which corruption occurs, Porras (2020) concludes that, in Peru, since the year 2000, "incentives" have become general in all governments, especially in state contracting for the execution of development works. "The addendum" is one of the mechanisms that is subscribed to unduly benefit from state resources. In the summary of his study by households, carried out during the years 2018 and 2019, it was shown

that 64.7% of people perceive that corruption is the evil that most afflicts Peru, affecting the health, education, and transportation systems. In short, Du Puit (2022) indicates that Lima is the locality with the highest rate of corruption among public officials, as well as among servants of some local management institution, who demand "extra" payments for expediting or prioritizing the demands of the users. Vranka and Bahník (2018) argue that the acceptance of corruption refers to phrases such as "pay to avoid an infraction", "leave a gift"; or actions such as delivering a drink with the purpose of achieving a personal goal, such as expediting a process or avoiding a penalty.

2.4 Ethics and Personality of Actors

In almost all public management systems, Du Puit (2022) specifies that, throughout Peruvian history, the scourge of corruption has become entrenched in Peruvian culture. In many cases, it is considered a natural act of those in power. For this reason, there is a belief that justice in Peru does not reach the poor, but it does reach those who can buy conscience. The name of corrupt is a daily practice of those who request a service in any office of the public system. This is how political institutions, rules and procedures are manipulated in the production of resources and financing by government decision makers. This consists of acts of corruption committed at high levels of government that distort the policies and functioning of the state.

2.5 Organization Forms of Actors

In various analyses, Zhao (2018) has determined that, since the common practice of what is improper, such as breaking procedures with private interests, can only be carried out between those who allow themselves to be corrupted and those who offer a gift of any means. This is how the individual form of the practice of corruption is determined. The second form is mediation or "hidden" intermediary; the official never deals with the one who requires the service, but rather with the intermediary and this action is carried out outside the work function environments. It is consolidated with the creation of codes that are practiced in concerted events, as reported by those involved in these acts.
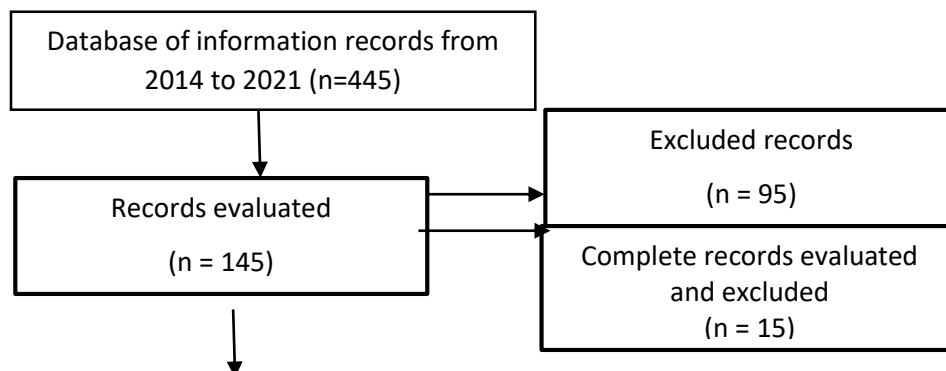
Regarding the denomination of "generalized" corruption, in the Ugaz study (2018), it is found that only Reniec reaches more than 50% credibility, followed by the Catholic Church with 42%. Contrary to this, 83% do not trust the Executive Power, while 93.1% do not have confidence in political parties, and 75% do not feel represented by the Congress of the Republic. 57% totally mistrust the judiciary and 43% do not trust the media. This mistrust is based on the corruption rate emanating from these agencies.
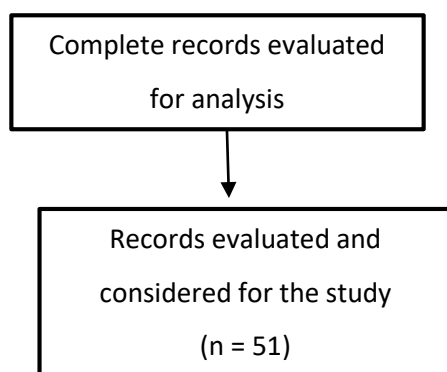
2.6 Methodological Framework

This research used the narrative review method in various specialized sources such as: Scopus, Web of Science, Scielo and Dialnet, resulting in a total of 51 useful articles. The following terms were used: corruption, breach of norms, cultural values, and ethics of officials. It focused on the foundation of the socio-critical paradigm, for the analysis of social conceptions, finding phenomenological facts that are perceived in society and these are continuously reiterated within a context (Ñaupas et al., 2014).

The review was made on the web of different scientific information magazines between 2018 and 2022, either in Spanish, English and/or Portuguese, regarding the analysis of corruption within the modality of behavioral psychology. To focus the study on the particularity "Contagious disease", validated information from international and national organizations was added, due to the statistical trends that support the study. For the exclusion of the information, we proceeded to reject the information from magazines, papers and theses that only observed one of the characteristics. Therefore, it was important not to rely on valid models of morale analysis.

3. Results

```
┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│ Database of information records  │
│   from 2014 to 2021 (n=445)      │
└─────────────────────────────────┘
                │
                ▼
┌─────────────────────┐         ┌──────────────────────────────┐
│                     │         │      Excluded records        │
│ Records evaluated   │────────▶│         (n = 95)             │
│                     │         ├──────────────────────────────┤
│      (n = 145)      │         │ Complete records evaluated   │
│                     │         │       and excluded           │
└─────────────────────┘         │         (n = 15)             │
                │               └──────────────────────────────┘
                ▼
```

Figure 1. Flow diagram for the database analysis sequence, taken from Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and meta-analysis (Liberati et al., 2009).

Regarding the academic research carried out on corruption, it is stated that the determining factor of the increase in poverty is corruption within state policies, especially in public investment systems, which affect compliance with the execution of development projects. at all levels (Meza and Carhuancho, 2019). Likewise, Miranzo (2018) points out that this practice is continuous and systematic, since it is shown that officials at all levels, in the last 30 years, are always linked to acts of corruption and criminally denounced.

Dickel and Graeff (2018) refer that the factors associated with corruption were the lack of effectiveness of the officials of the last national governments and the deficient management of officials at all levels of regional and local governments. According to Porras (2020), the INEI report describes that 45% of those surveyed consider that the deficiency of government management is due to the levels of corruption of officials, as well as the "arrangements" and direction of the hiring of services. The same study reports that for 75% the laws are poorly formulated, since they only favor those who can sustain some type of proposal with money or obtain a good deal from a public tender.

Tan et al. (2017) specify that the economic system is directly affected, especially that which is linked to political power, as well as acts and loss of government morality and transparency. The reports indicate that some official, politician or ruler is always involved in some act of corruption, which means that people within themselves are aware of the act as an illegal act; however, they practice it as a cultural form.

Ramos and Álvarez (2018) indicate that acts of corruption still occur in first world economies, since commercial actions cannot be controlled and regulated by the government system. In the international context, Madrid and Palomino (2019) and Uslaner and Rothstein (2016) specify that the report of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) reports that in Latin America the growth of the Gross Domestic Product tends to a sustained growth between 3 and 7%, approximately. However, in most countries, the management of public policies shows deterioration rates due to the inability to supervise compliance with contracts, since they were affected by the commission of charging percentages to the contracting parties. This is because they leave public works unfinished, breach contracts, and affect government sustainability and credibility (European Union, 2019).

Nieto and García (2019), through the World Health Organization, presents specific figures on the management and effectiveness of the intervention system to face the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in the process of acquiring vaccines as protective equipment, acts of corruption at all levels have been reported. In addition, state officials got involved in cost agreement, affecting the country's economy and the health of human beings.

4. Discussion

Regarding the analysis of the information; Rotondi and Stanca (2015) and Kronick et al. (2021) establish that public management is riddled with reasonable indications about the practice of corruption, given that it seems that the system is designed around it, due to high bureaucratic obstacles. Meanwhile, Basadre (2015) clarifies that, in administrative procedures and the evaluation of investment projects, the conditions of ineffectiveness of officials at all levels are established. This generates locating a "specialist adviser" who facilitates intermediation with those responsible for evaluation, approval, publication, transfer of economic items and management operation, perceiving that all these processes are linked to the illegal act of having become involved in practices not regulated but "fixed".

Likewise, Brazil was another of the countries that was affected by corruption, through collusion, bribery; especially, due to the growth of crime and drug trafficking. Added to this is the weak government system; the

moral, ethical, and economic crisis, concluding that the purchase of consciences of judges, officials and politicians had increased towards organized crime (Banco Mundial, 2017).

In turn, Arroyo (2018) and Bai et al. (2016) agree that abuse of power and improper acts denote different ways of corrupting the system; actions that harm society. On the other hand, Dickel and Graeff (2018) consider that a person breaks the procedures and rules to intentionally favor another person or organization to achieve a benefit, affecting the rights and duties of others.

Meanwhile, Du Puit (2022) points out that the Anti-Corruption Commission, from the field of politics and public management, corruption is the improper act that breaks regulatory procedures, illegally favoring a good of the system and harming the state and the public. Then, any action by a public official that contravenes the regulated functions within public management enters acts of corruption.

Fisar et al. (2016) mention that, during the 1960s and 1970s, corruption was related to the misuse of government political power. Meanwhile, Fath and Kay (2018) argue that officials obtained benefits by issuing licenses and authorizations for different commercial, productive activities and extraction of natural resources. In this regard, Guimaray (2019) specifies that one modality was the payment of a percentage of debt costs to the state, for tax evasion, in addition to achieving its own benefits.

5. Conclusion

Corruption in public management is a determining factor that affects the development of a country, since studies show that an average of two billion soles is lost due to this scourge. This affects the investment to improve the country's structural bases, because officials engage in acts of corruption. Some are prosecuted but are not penalized.

The forms of corruption have been determined in two modalities. The first refers to dishonest practices from the most basic level of society, which determines an action by the official. Another way is the organization of actions to favor higher interests, generating political, private business corruption, as similar as in the justice system.

Corruption in society affects the effective fulfillment of development projects for the populations, affects the development of education, the health system, and the development of infrastructure, preventing the growth of the country and benefiting the entire productive system.

The moral culture and norms in corruption are a daily practice since studies show that the level does not matter. People and officials inherit different acts of corruption, which indicates "no matter how, what is worth is what is achieved." This condition causes the rules to be broken and the rights of others to be violated.

The ethics and personality of the actors have no way of being evaluated, it seems that they enter with high honesty; but over time, the system, the function, and the offering of gifts change them, and they become dishonest, always forgetting ethics.

The form of organization of the actors of corruption is the recruitment of key officials, as well as the offer of gifts. They seek, at all levels, to achieve their recruitment purposes and provide means through illegal acts.

References

[1] Abraham, J., Suleeman, J. and Takwin, B. (2018). The psychology of corruption: the role of the counterfeit self, entity self-theory, and outcome-based ethical mindset. Journal of Psychological and Educational Research, 26(2), 7-32. doi: https://doi.org/

[2] Abbink, K. and Wu, K. (2017). Reward self-reporting to deter corruption: An experiment on mitigating collusive bribery. Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, 133, 256–272. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2016.09.013

[3] Arroyo, J. (2018). Mecanismos e instrumentos jurídicos y administrativos implementados para luchar contra corrupción pública en América Latina. Revista Enfoque, 16(29). http://revistaenfoques.cl/index.php/revista-uno/article/view/492/pdf_85.

[4] Bai, B., Liu, X. and Kou, Y. (2016). Belief in a just world lowers bribery intention. Asian Journal of Social Psychology, 19(1), 66–75. https://doi.org/10.1111/ajsp.12108

[5] Basadre, J. (2015). La serie de probabilidades dentro de la emancipación peruana. En Contreras y Glave (Editores). Lima: IEP https://fondoeditorial.iep.org.pe/producto/la-independencia-del-peru-concedida-conseguida-concebida/

[6] Banco Mundial (2017). World Development Report. Governance and the Law, Washington D.C. World Bank. Disponible en: https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2017

[7] Cañete, R. (2018). Democracia Capturada. El Gobierno de unos pocos. Mecanismos de captura de la política fiscal por parte de las élites y su impacto en la desigualdad en América Latina y el Caribe (1990-2017). Oxfam Internacional. Doi: 10.21201/2018.3521

[8] Du Puit, J. (2022). La Corrupción en el Perú: Breve reseña histórica. Disponible en: https://perso.unifr.ch/derechopenal/assets/files/anuario/an_1995_06.pdf

[9] Dickel, P. and Graeff, P. (2018). Entrepreneurs' propensity for corruption: A vignette-based factorial survey. Journal of Business Research, 89, 77–86. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2018.03.036

[10] Elsevier. (2019). Mendeley. Elsevier. Retrieved from https://www.mendeley.com/download-desktop/

[11] Fath, S. and Kay, A. (2018). If hierarchical, then corrupt: Exploring people's tendency to associate hierarchy with corruption in organizations. Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, 149, 145–164. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.obhdp.2018.10.004

[12] Fišar, M., Kubák, M., Špalek, J. and Tremewan, J. (2016). Gender differences in beliefs and actions in a framed corruption experiment. Journal of Behavioral and Experimen-tal Economics, 63, 69–82. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socec.2016.05.004

[13] Garay, L. (2018). Macro-estructuras de corrupción: el caso Lava Jato. Revista di Studi e Ricerche sulla criminalità organizzata, 4 (1), 99-131. https://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/cross/article/view/10250.

[14] Guimaray, E. (2019). Aproximación teórica sobre la aplicación de la autoría mediata por dominio de organización en supuestos de gran corrupción. Ius et Veritas, 58, 14-31. http://revistas.pucp.edu.pe/index.php/iusetveritas/article/view/21262

[15] INEI. (2020). Perú: Percepción ciudadana sobre Gobernabilidad, Democracia y Confianza en las Instituciones. https://www.inei.gob.pe/media/MenuRecursivo/boletines/informe_de_gobernabilidad_may2020.pdf

[16] Julca, J. (2016). Influencia de la cultura ética en los delitos de corrupción de funcionarios de Lima Metropolitana en el periodo 2015. [Tesis de posgrado, Universidad César Vallejo]. https://repositorio.ucv.edu.pe/handle/20.500.12692/8696

[17] Julián, M., y Bonavia, T. (2019). Variables psicológicas asociadas a la corrupción: una revisión sistemática. Annals of psychology, 36(2), 330-339. https://doi.org/10.6018/analesps.389371

[18] Julián, M. and Bonavia, T. (2017). Aproximaciones Psicosociales a la Corrupción: Una Revisión Teórica. Revista Colombiana de Psicología, 26(2), 231–243. https://doi.org/10.15446/rcp.v26n2.59353

[19] Köbis, N., Van Prooijen, J.-W., Righetti, F. and Van Lange, P. (2017). The road to bri-bery and corruption: Slippery slope or steep cliff? Psychological Science, 28(3), 297–306. https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797616682026

[20] Kronick, D., Plunkett, B., y Rodríguez, P. (2021). Backsliding by Surprise: The Rise of Chavismo. Available: http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3810203

[21] Liberati, A., Altman, D., Tetzlaff, J., Mulrow, C., Gotzsche, P., Loannidis, J., Clarke, M., Devereaux, P., Kleijnen, J. and Moher, D. (2009). The PRISMA Statement of Reporting Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses of Studies that Evaluate Health Care Interventions: Explanation and Elaboration. Annals of Internal Medicine, 141(4). https://doi.org/10.7326/0003-4819-151-4-200908180-00136

[22] Meza, C. y Carhuancho, I. (2019) Factores que inciden en la corrupción de funcionarios en el Perú. Res non verba, 9(2).

[23] Miranzo, J. (2018). Causas y efectos de la corrupción en las sociedades democráticas. Revista de la Escuela Jacobea de Posgrado. Available: http://revista.jacobea.edu.mx/

[24] Madrid, C. y Palomino, W. (2019). Análisis de la tipificación de la corrupción privada en el Perú: ¿una estrategia global contra la corrupción también debe involucrar a los particulares? ¿Y a las empresas? Ius et Veritas, 58, pp. 32-54. Available: http://revistas.pucp.edu.pe/index.php/iusetveritas/article/view/21264

[25] Nieto, A. y García, B. (2019). De la ética pública al public compliance. Sobre la prevención de la corrupción en las administraciones públicas. Material de lectura del máster en Cumplimiento Normativo. Universidad Castilla La Mancha.

[26] Ñaupas, H., Mejia, E., Novoa, E. y Villagómez, A. (2014). Metodología de la investigación Cuantitativa-cualitativa. Bogota: Adriana Gutierrez M.

[27] Porras H. (2020). Un punto de vista sobre la corrupción. Revista Tierra Nuestra. ISSN 1997-6496 (Online). doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.21704/rtn.v14i1.1505

[28] Ramos M. y Álvarez, F. (2018). El control de la corrupción en América Latina: agenda política, judicialización e internacionalización de la lucha contra la corrupción.

[29] Rotondi, V. and Stanca, L. (2015). The effect of particularism on corruption: theory and empirical evidence. Journal of Economic Psychology, 51, 219-235. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joep.2015.09.008

[30] Transparency International. (2017). People and Corruption: Citizens' Voices From Around The World. Available: https://bit.ly/3wFuxJg

[31] Tan, X., Liu, L., Huang, Z. and Zheng, W. (2017). Working for the Hierarchical System: The Role of Meritocratic Ideology in the Endorsement of Corruption. Political Psychology, 38(3), 469–479. https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12341

[32] Uslaner, M. y Rothstein, B. (2016). The historical Roots of Corruption: State Building, Economic Inequality and Mass Education. Comparative Politics, 48(2), 227-248.

[33] Ugaz, J. (2018). Gran corrupción y derechos humanos. [Tesis de posgrado, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú]. https://bit.ly/3ji3tNe

[34] Unión Europea (2019). Comunicación conjunta Relaciones UE-ALC. Available: https://bit.ly/3JlNdFx

[35] Vranka, M. and Bahník, S. (2018). Predictors of bribe-taking: the role of bribe size and personality. Frontiers in Psychology, 9(10). https://doi.org/ 10.3389/fpsyg.2018.01511.

[36] Zhao, H., Zhang, H. and Xu, Y. (2016). Does the dark triad of personality predict corrupt intention? The mediating role of belief in good luck. Frontiers in Psychology, 7, 1–16. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00608