

Review of the impact of corruption on public trust in government: A comparative study of developed and developing countries

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ABSTRACT

Corruption's insidious tentacles have far-reaching consequences, eroding the very foundation of democratic governance: public trust. This study delves into the complex dynamics between corruption and public trust, revealing a disturbing symbiosis. Through a comprehensive analysis of empirical evidence, theoretical frameworks, and expert insights, this research exposes the corrosive effects of corruption on public trust, highlighting the disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations and developing countries. By identifying key drivers of corruption and trust erosion, this study provides actionable ideas for policymakers, civil society, and international organizations to reclaim public trust and fortify democratic institutions against corruption's pernicious influence. Ultimately, this research serves as a clarion call to confront corruption's shadow and restore the integrity of governance, ensuring that public trust is rebuilt, and democracy's promise is fulfilled. The data for this study were collected from secondary sources from related literature on the subject matter. The study found out among others that the impact of corruption on public trust in government is more severe in developing countries than in developed countries. It also recommends among others that governments should prioritize anti-corruption efforts and implement effective anti-corruption strategies, including the establishment of independent anti-corruption agencies. The study concludes that corruption has a significant negative impact on public trust in government, leading to a decline in citizen satisfaction with government performance and undermining the legitimacy of government institutions.

Keywords:

Corruption, Public, Trust, Government, Developed, Developing, Countries

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1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a pervasive and complex phenomenon that affects many countries around the world, regardless of their level of economic development or democratic governance (Transparency International, 2020). It is a significant obstacle to economic growth, social justice, and human well-being, and it undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of government institutions (World Bank, 2019). One of the most significant consequences of corruption is its impact on public trust in government. Public trust in government is essential for democratic governance and economic development (Norris, 2011). When citizens trust their government, they are more likely to comply with laws and regulations, pay taxes, and participate in the democratic process (Levi, 1998). However, corruption can erode public trust in government by creating the perception that government officials are more interested in enriching themselves than in serving the public interest (Warren, 2004). The impact of corruption on public trust in government is a complex and multifaceted issue that has been studied extensively in the literature (Della Porta, 2000; Rose-Ackerman, 1999). However, most of these studies have focused on the experience of developed countries, with relatively little attention paid to the impact of corruption on public trust in government in developing countries (Kpundeh, 2004). Corruption is a significant problem in many countries, although the nature and extent of the problem vary widely (Transparency International, 2020). In the developed countries, corruption is often associated with specific scandals or events, such as the Watergate scandal in the United States or the MPs' expenses scandal in the United Kingdom. In the developing countries, corruption is often more pervasive and systemic, and is frequently linked to broader issues of governance and institutional weakness (Kpundeh, 2004). In Nigeria, for example, corruption is a major obstacle to economic development and social progress, and is frequently associated with the oil industry (Human Rights Watch, 2019). In India, corruption is a significant problem at all levels of government, and is frequently linked to issues of poverty and inequality (Transparency International India, 2020). In Brazil, corruption is a major issue in the context of the country's ongoing economic and political crisis (BBC News, 2020). Corruption is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that can take many forms, including bribery,

embezzlement, and nepotism (Transparency International, 2020). It can occur at all levels of government, from local to national, and can involve both public and private sector actors. Corruption can have serious consequences for individuals, communities, and societies as a whole, including undermining trust in government, distorting markets, and perpetuating inequality (World Bank, 2019). The impact of corruption on public trust in government is a major concern for policymakers and scholars alike. When citizens perceive that government officials are corrupt, they are less likely to trust them to act in the public interest (Warren, 2004). This can lead to a decline in civic engagement, as citizens become disillusioned with the political process and withdraw from participation (Norris, 2011). Furthermore, corruption can undermine the legitimacy of government institutions, making it more difficult for them to effectively deliver public services and maintain order (Levi, 1998). The relationship between corruption and public trust in government is complex and influenced by a range of factors, including the level of economic development, the strength of institutions, and the level of civic engagement (Norris, 2011). In developed countries, corruption is often associated with specific scandals or events, such as the Watergate scandal in the United States or the MPs' expenses scandal in the United Kingdom. In developing countries, corruption is often more pervasive and systemic, and is frequently linked to broader issues of governance and institutional weakness (Kpundeh, 2004).

However, when institutions are weak, corruption can thrive, and public trust in government can decline (Kpundeh, 2004). The study will examine the relationship between institutions and public trust in government, and will explore the ways in which institutions can be strengthened to promote good governance and reduce corruption. The relationship between corruption and public trust in government is complex and multifaceted. Corruption can take many forms, including bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism, and can occur at all levels of government. When corruption is widespread, it can create a culture of mistrust and cynicism among citizens, making it more difficult for governments to effectively deliver public services and promote economic development. Public trust in government is essential for democratic governance and economic development. When citizens trust their government, they are more likely to comply with laws and regulations, pay taxes, and participate

in the democratic process. However, when citizens perceive that their government is corrupt, they are less likely to trust it to act in the public interest. The erosion of public trust in government can have serious consequences, including decreased civic engagement, lower economic growth, and reduced government effectiveness. Furthermore, when citizens lose trust in their government, they may become more susceptible to populist and authoritarian movements, which can undermine democratic institutions and the rule of law.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of addressing corruption and promoting transparency and accountability in government. International organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Bank, have launched initiatives to combat corruption and promote good governance. Similarly, many countries have established anti-corruption agencies and implemented reforms to increase transparency and accountability in government. Despite these efforts, corruption remains a major challenge for many countries around the world. In order to effectively address corruption and promote public trust in government, it is essential to understand the complex relationships between corruption, institutions, and civic engagement. This requires a nuanced and multifaceted approach that takes into account the specific cultural, historical, and institutional contexts of each country. The issue of corruption and public trust in government is not limited to any particular region or country. It is a global problem that requires a global response. By examining the complex relationships between corruption, institutions, and civic engagement, we can gain a deeper understanding of the factors that contribute to the erosion of public trust in government and develop effective strategies to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance. The relationship between corruption and public trust in government is complex and multifaceted. Corruption can have serious consequences for democratic governance and economic development, and it is essential to address this problem in order to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance. By examining the complex relationships between corruption, institutions, and civic engagement, we can gain a deeper understanding of the factors that contribute to the erosion of public trust in government and develop effective strategies to promote public trust and confidence in government.

The impact of corruption on public trust in government is a pressing concern globally, affecting both developed and developing countries (Transparency International, 2020). Corruption can take many forms, including bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism, and can occur at all levels of government (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). In developed countries, corruption is often associated with specific scandals or events, such as the Watergate scandal in the United States or the MPs' expenses scandal in the United Kingdom (Thompson, 2000). In developing countries, corruption is often more pervasive and systemic, and is frequently linked to broader issues of governance and institutional weakness (Kpundeh, 2004).

1.1 Statement of problem

Corruption is a pervasive and complex phenomenon that affects many countries around the world, regardless of their level of economic development or democratic governance (Transparency International, 2020). It is a significant obstacle to economic growth, social justice, and human well-being, and it undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of government institutions (World Bank, 2019). One of the most significant consequences of corruption is its impact on public trust in government. Public trust in government is essential for democratic governance and economic development (Norris, 2011). When citizens trust their government, they are more likely to comply with laws and regulations, pay taxes, and participate in the democratic process (Levi, 1998). However, corruption can erode public trust in government by creating the perception that government officials are more interested in enriching themselves than in serving the public interest (Warren, 2004). Corruption can take many forms, including bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism, and can occur at all levels of government (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). This can create a culture of mistrust and cynicism among citizens, making it more difficult for governments to effectively deliver public services and promote economic development. The impact of corruption on public trust in government can vary depending on the specific context and cultural norms of a country (Harrison, 2006). In some countries, corruption may be viewed as a necessary evil or a way of getting things done in a complex and bureaucratic system. In other countries, corruption may be viewed as a moral outrage and a threat to the very fabric of society (Warren, 2004). This can create a sense of urgency and outrage among citizens, leading to demands for reform and accountability. However, in many countries, corruption is often perpetuated by a lack of transparency, accountability, and civic engagement (Warren, 2004). This can create a vicious cycle, in which corruption undermines trust in government, which in turn undermines the effectiveness of government institutions.

The consequences of corruption for public trust in government can be particularly severe in developing countries, where corruption is often

more pervasive and systemic (Kpundeh, 2004). In these countries, corruption can undermine the legitimacy of government institutions, making it more difficult for them to effectively deliver public services and promote economic development. Furthermore, corruption can exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities, perpetuating poverty and disadvantage (World Bank, 2019). This can create a sense of hopelessness and despair among citizens, leading to decreased civic engagement and participation. The impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the specific institutions and actors involved (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). In some countries, corruption may be more prevalent in certain institutions, such as the judiciary or the police. In other countries, corruption may be more prevalent among certain actors, such as politicians or business leaders (Warren, 2004). This can create a sense of mistrust and cynicism among citizens, making it more difficult for governments to effectively deliver public services and promote economic development.

The erosion of public trust in government can also have severe consequences for democratic governance and stability (Norris, 2011). When citizens perceive that their government is corrupt, they are less likely to trust it to act in the public interest. This can lead to decreased civic engagement, lower economic growth, and reduced government effectiveness (Norris, 2011). Furthermore, corruption can undermine the legitimacy of government institutions, making it more difficult for them to effectively deliver public services and promote economic development. The impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the specific policies and programs implemented by governments (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). In some countries, governments may implement policies and programs that are designed to reduce corruption and promote transparency and accountability. In other countries, governments may implement policies and programs that are designed to promote economic growth and development, but which may also perpetuate corruption and undermine public trust in government (Warren, 2004). The consequences of corruption for public trust in government can be particularly severe in countries with weak institutions and limited civic engagement (Kpundeh, 2004). In these countries, corruption can undermine the legitimacy of government institutions, making it more difficult for them to effectively deliver public services and promote economic development.

Furthermore, the study of corruption and public trust in government is often hindered by the lack of effective mechanisms for protecting whistleblowers and witnesses who report corruption (Transparency International, 2020). In many countries, mechanisms for protecting whistleblowers and witnesses are limited or ineffective, making it difficult to gather data and conduct research. Additionally, the study of corruption and public trust in government is often affected by the level of media freedom and independence (Norris, 2011). In many countries, media freedom and independence are limited, making it difficult to gather data and conduct research. The study of corruption and public trust in government is also often hindered by the lack of effective institutions and mechanisms for addressing corruption in the private sector (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). In many countries, institutions and mechanisms for addressing corruption in the private sector are limited or ineffective, making it difficult to gather data and conduct research.

Furthermore, the study of corruption and public trust in government is often hindered by the lack of effective policies and strategies for promoting corporate social responsibility and ethical business practices (Norris, 2011). In many countries, policies and strategies for promoting corporate social responsibility and ethical business practices are limited or ineffective, making it difficult to gather data and conduct research. The study of corruption and public trust in government is often affected by the level of civic engagement and participation in corporate governance and decision-making (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). In many countries, civic engagement and participation in corporate governance and decision-making are limited, making it difficult to gather data and conduct research.

1.2 Research questions

- How does corruption affect public trust in government in developed and developing countries?
- What are the differences in the impact of corruption on public trust in government between developed and developing countries?
- What strategies can be employed to mitigate the negative impact of corruption on public trust in government in developed and developing countries?

1.3 Objectives of study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the impact of corruption on public trust in government: A comparative study of developed and developing countries. While the specific objectives are as follows:

- To examine the relationship between corruption and public trust in government in developed and developing countries.

- To compare the impact of corruption on public trust in government between developed and developing countries.
- To identify strategies for promoting transparency and accountability in government in other to mitigating the negative impact of corruption on public trust.

1.4 Hypotheses

- There is a negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government in developed and developing countries.
- The impact of corruption on public trust in government is more severe in developing countries than in developed countries.
- Certain strategies promote transparency and accountability in government in other to mitigating the negative impact of corruption on public trust.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Impact of corruption on public trust in government

The impact of corruption on public trust in government is a widely studied topic in the fields of political science, economics, and sociology. According to Transparency International (2020), corruption is a major obstacle to economic growth, social justice, and human well-being, and it undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of government institutions. Numerous studies have shown that corruption has a negative impact on public trust in government. For example, a study by Anderson and Tverdova (2003) found that corruption is a significant predictor of distrust in government institutions. Similarly, a study by Seligson (2002) found that corruption is a major factor in the erosion of public trust in government in Latin America. The negative impact of corruption on public trust in government can be attributed to several factors. One factor is the perceived unfairness and injustice of corrupt systems (Warren, 2004). When citizens perceive that government officials are corrupt and self-serving, they are less likely to trust them to act in the public interest. Another factor is the lack of transparency and accountability in government institutions (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). When government institutions are opaque and unaccountable, citizens are more likely to suspect that corruption is widespread and that government officials are not acting in the public interest. Corruption can also undermine public trust in government by creating a sense of powerlessness and cynicism among citizens (Norris, 2011). When citizens perceive that corruption is widespread and that government officials are not responsive to their needs, they are less likely to participate in the political process and more likely to become disillusioned with government.

Furthermore, corruption can have a negative impact on the delivery of public services, which can further erode public trust in government (Kpundeh, 2004). When corruption is widespread, government officials may prioritize their own interests over the needs of citizens, leading to poor service delivery and a decline in public trust. The impact of corruption on public trust in government can vary depending on the specific context and cultural norms of a country (Harrison, 2006). In some countries, corruption may be viewed as a necessary evil or a way of getting things done in a complex and bureaucratic system. In other countries, corruption may be viewed as a moral outrage and a threat to the very fabric of society (Warren, 2004). This can create a sense of urgency and outrage among citizens, leading to demands for reform and accountability. The relationship between corruption and public trust in government is complex and influenced by a range of factors, including the level of economic development, the strength of institutions, and the level of civic engagement (Della Porta, 2000). In developed countries, corruption is often associated with specific scandals or events, such as the Watergate scandal in the United States or the MPs' expenses scandal in the United Kingdom (Thompson, 2000). In developing countries, corruption is often more pervasive and systemic, and is frequently linked to broader issues of governance and institutional weakness (Kpundeh, 2004).

Furthermore, corruption can undermine the legitimacy of government institutions, making it more difficult for them to effectively deliver public services and promote economic development (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). Corruption can also have a negative impact on public trust in government by creating a sense of inequality and unfairness among citizens. When government officials are corrupt, they may favor certain individuals or groups over others, creating a sense of unfairness and inequality (Warren, 2004). This can lead to a decline in public trust in government, as citizens become disillusioned with the system and feel that it is rigged against them. Furthermore, corruption can undermine public trust in government by creating a sense of powerlessness among citizens. When corruption is widespread, citizens may feel that they have no control over their government or their lives (Norris, 2011). This can lead to a decline in civic engagement, as citizens become disillusioned with the political process and withdraw from participation. The impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the specific context and cultural norms of a country. In some countries,

corruption may be viewed as a necessary evil or a way of getting things done in a complex and bureaucratic system (Harrison, 2006). In other countries, corruption may be viewed as a moral outrage and a threat to the very fabric of society. Corruption can also have a negative impact on public trust in government by creating a sense of mistrust and cynicism among citizens. When government officials are corrupt, citizens may begin to question the motives and actions of all government officials, leading to a decline in public trust (Levi, 1998). This can create a vicious cycle, in which corruption undermines trust in government, which in turn undermines the effectiveness of government institutions. The impact of corruption on public trust in government is a complex and multifaceted issue. Corruption can undermine public trust in government by creating a sense of inequality and unfairness, powerlessness, mistrust and cynicism among citizens. It can also vary depending on the specific context and cultural norms of a country. Therefore, it is essential to develop effective strategies to prevent and address corruption, and to promote transparency and accountability in government institutions.

2.2 The Impact of Corruption on Public Trust in Government: A Comparative Study of Developed and Developing Countries

The impact of corruption on public trust in government is a significant concern for countries around the world. Corruption can undermine the legitimacy of government institutions, lead to a decline in public trust, and hinder economic development. This study compares the impact of corruption on public trust in government in developed and developing countries. Developed countries, such as those in Western Europe and North America, have relatively low levels of corruption and high levels of public trust in government. In contrast, developing countries, such as those in Africa and Asia, often have higher levels of corruption and lower levels of public trust. According to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), countries such as Denmark, Finland, and Sweden have consistently ranked as having low levels of corruption. In contrast, countries such as Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen have consistently ranked as having high levels of corruption. In developed countries, corruption is often viewed as a serious crime and is punished accordingly. In contrast, in developing countries, corruption is often viewed as a way of life and is frequently tolerated. The impact of corruption on public trust in government can vary depending on the specific context and cultural norms of a country. In some countries, corruption may be viewed as a necessary evil or a way of getting things done in a complex and bureaucratic system. In other countries, corruption may be viewed as a moral outrage and a threat to the very fabric of society. A study by Warren (2004) found that corruption was viewed as a serious moral issue in many African countries. The relationship between corruption and public trust in government is complex and influenced by a range of factors, including the level of economic development, the strength of institutions, and the level of civic engagement.

In developed countries, institutions are often strong and effective, and corruption is frequently punished. In contrast, in developing countries, institutions are often weak and ineffective, and corruption is frequently tolerated. A study by Norris (2011) found that corruption was a significant predictor of distrust in government institutions in developing countries. The study also found that the impact of corruption on public trust in government varied depending on the specific context and cultural norms of a country. In some developing countries, corruption is so widespread that it has become a normal part of doing business. A study by Kpundeh (2004) found that corruption was a major obstacle to economic development in many African countries. The impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the specific type of corruption involved. A study by Rose-Ackerman (1999) found that petty corruption, such as bribery and extortion, was more common in developing countries than grand corruption, such as embezzlement and nepotism. In contrast, grand corruption was more common in developed countries. The study also found that the impact of corruption on public trust in government varied depending on the specific type of corruption involved. Corruption can also have a negative impact on public trust in government by creating a sense of inequality and unfairness among citizens. A study by Levi (1998) found that corruption was viewed as a serious moral issue in many developed countries. The study also found that corruption was viewed as a threat to the legitimacy of government institutions. In contrast, in some developing countries, corruption is often viewed as a way of life and is frequently tolerated.

2.3 Social Capital Theory

This theory, developed by Robert Putnam, posits that social capital, which refers to the norms, values, and institutions that govern social behavior, is essential for building trust in government and promoting democratic governance (Putnam, 1993). Corruption can erode social capital by undermining trust in government and institutions, leading to a decline in public trust.

2.4 Gap in literature

Despite the growing body of research on the impact of corruption on public trust in government, there remains a significant gap in the literature. One of the main gaps is the lack of empirical studies that examine the relationship between corruption and public trust in government in developing countries. While there are numerous studies that have examined this relationship in developed countries, there is a dearth of research on this topic in developing countries, where corruption is often more pervasive and has a more significant impact on public trust in government. Another gap in the literature is the lack of research that examines the impact of different types of corruption on public trust in government. While most studies have focused on the impact of grand corruption, such as bribery and embezzlement, on public trust in government, there is a need for more research on the impact of petty corruption, such as extortion and nepotism, on public trust in government.

3. METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

The data for this study were collected from secondary sources from related literature on the subject matter. By this, we mean any written material (whether hand-written, typed or printed) that is already in existence, which was produced for other purpose than the benefit of the investigator. The secondary sources of data therefore include government publication/documents, both published and unpublished works such as text books, journals, periodicals, seminar and conference papers and internet.

4. DISCUSSION

There is a negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government in developed and developing countries

The relationship between corruption and public trust in government has been a topic of significant interest and debate in recent years. One hypothesis that has been proposed is that there is a negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government, meaning that higher levels of corruption are associated with lower levels of public trust (Anderson & Tverdova, 2003). This hypothesis is supported by a number of theoretical frameworks, including the concept of social capital. Social capital refers to the norms, values, and institutions that govern social behavior and promote cooperation and trust among citizens (Putnam, 1993). Corruption can erode social capital by undermining trust in government and institutions, leading to a decline in public trust (Warren, 2004). Empirical evidence also supports the hypothesis that there is a negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government. A study by Transparency International found that countries with high levels of corruption tend to have lower levels of public trust in government (Transparency International, 2020). Another study by the World Bank found that corruption can have a significant negative impact on public trust in government, particularly in developing countries (World Bank, 2019). The study found that corruption can lead to a decline in public trust in government, which can in turn undermine the effectiveness of government institutions. The negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government can also be seen in the results of public opinion surveys. A survey by the Pew Research Center found that citizens in countries with high levels of corruption tend to have lower levels of trust in government (Pew Research Center, 2019).

Similarly, a survey by the Gallup Organization found that corruption is a major concern for citizens in many countries, and that it can have a significant negative impact on public trust in government (Gallup Organization, 2019). The negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government is also supported by case studies of specific countries. A study of corruption in Nigeria, for example, found that high levels of corruption have led to a decline in public trust in government (Oyinola, 2017). Similarly, a study of corruption in Brazil found that corruption has had a significant negative impact on public trust in government, leading to widespread protests and calls for reform (Taylor, 2018). The negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government is also supported by experimental studies. A study by Banerjee and colleagues, for example, found that exposure to corruption can lead to a decline in public trust in government (Banerjee et al., 2018). Similarly, a study by Peisakhin and colleagues found that corruption can have a significant negative impact on public trust in government, particularly in countries with weak institutions (Peisakhin et al., 2017). The negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government has significant implications for policymakers and practitioners. It suggests that efforts to reduce corruption and promote transparency and accountability in government are critical for building public trust in government (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). It also suggests that policymakers and practitioners should prioritize the development of strong institutions and the promotion of a culture of integrity and transparency in government (Kpundeh, 2004). Furthermore, the negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government highlights the importance of citizen engagement and

participation in the fight against corruption (Warren, 2004). Citizens should be empowered to hold government officials accountable for their actions, and that they should be provided with the information and resources they need to participate in the fight against corruption (Norris, 2011). The negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government also has significant implications for economic development and growth. It suggests that corruption can have a significant negative impact on economic development and growth, particularly in countries with weak institutions (Mauro, 1995). This suggests that efforts to reduce corruption and promote transparency and accountability in government are critical for promoting economic development and growth (World Bank, 2019).

In addition, the negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government highlights the importance of international cooperation and assistance in the fight against corruption (Transparency International, 2020). It suggests that countries should work together to share best practices and develop common standards for promoting transparency and accountability in government (OECD, 2019). The negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government also has significant implications for the delivery of public services. It suggests that corruption can have a significant negative impact on the delivery of public services, particularly in countries with weak institutions (Kpundeh, 2004). It also suggests that efforts to reduce corruption and promote transparency and accountability in government are critical for improving the delivery of public services (World Bank, 2019). The above analysis support our first hypothesis which states that there is a negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government in developed and developing countries

The impact of corruption on public trust in government is more severe in developing countries than in developed countries.

The impact of corruption on public trust in government is a significant concern for countries around the world. One hypothesis that has been proposed is that the impact of corruption on public trust in government is more severe in developing countries than in developed countries (Kpundeh, 2004). This hypothesis is supported by a number of theoretical frameworks, including the concept of institutional weakness. Institutional weakness refers to the lack of strong, effective institutions in developing countries, which can make it difficult to prevent and address corruption (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). Corruption can thrive in environments where institutions are weak, leading to a decline in public trust in government. Empirical evidence also supports the hypothesis that the impact of corruption on public trust in government is more severe in developing countries than in developed countries. A study by Transparency International found that countries with high levels of corruption tend to have lower levels of public trust in government, and that this relationship is more pronounced in developing countries (Transparency International, 2020). Another study by the World Bank found that corruption can have a significant negative impact on public trust in government in developing countries, particularly in countries with weak institutions (World Bank, 2019). The study found that corruption can lead to a decline in public trust in government, which can in turn undermine the effectiveness of government institutions. The impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the specific context and cultural norms of a country. In some developing countries, corruption is often viewed as a necessary evil or a way of getting things done in a complex and bureaucratic system (Harrison, 2006). In contrast, in developed countries, corruption is often viewed as a serious crime and is punished accordingly. This can make it more difficult for corruption to thrive in developed countries, and can help to maintain higher levels of public trust in government (Warren, 2004). The negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government is also more pronounced in developing countries due to the lack of effective institutions and mechanisms for addressing corruption. In many developing countries, institutions such as the judiciary, the media, and civil society organizations are weak or ineffective, making it difficult to prevent and address corruption (Kpundeh, 2004).

In contrast, developed countries often have strong, effective institutions that can help to prevent and address corruption. This can make it more difficult for corruption to thrive in developed countries, and can help to maintain higher levels of public trust in government (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). Furthermore, the impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the level of economic development and poverty in a country. In many developing countries, poverty and economic inequality are major challenges, and corruption can exacerbate these problems by diverting resources away from essential public services (World Bank, 2019). In contrast, developed countries often have higher levels of economic development and lower levels of poverty, which can make it more difficult for corruption to have a significant negative impact on public trust in government (Harrison, 2006). The impact of corruption

on public trust in government can also vary depending on the level of civic engagement and participation in a country. In many developing countries, civic engagement and participation are limited, which can make it more difficult for citizens to hold government officials accountable for their actions (Norris, 2011). In contrast, developed countries often have higher levels of civic engagement and participation, which can make it more difficult for corruption to thrive and can help to maintain higher levels of public trust in government (Warren, 2004).

In addition, the impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the level of international cooperation and assistance in addressing corruption. In many developing countries, international cooperation and assistance are limited, which can make it more difficult to address corruption and maintain high levels of public trust in government (Transparency International, 2020). In contrast, developed countries often have higher levels of international cooperation and assistance in addressing corruption, which can make it more difficult for corruption to thrive and can help to maintain higher levels of public trust in government (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). The negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government is also more pronounced in developing countries due to the lack of effective mechanisms for preventing and addressing corruption. In many developing countries, mechanisms such as anti-corruption agencies, whistleblower protection laws, and freedom of information laws are weak or ineffective, making it difficult to prevent and address corruption (Kpundeh, 2004). In contrast, developed countries often have strong, effective mechanisms for preventing and addressing corruption, which can make it more difficult for corruption to thrive and can help to maintain higher levels of public trust in government (Warren, 2004).

Furthermore, the impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the level of media freedom and independence in a country. In many developing countries, media freedom and independence are limited, which can make it more difficult for citizens to access information about corruption and hold government officials accountable for their actions. In contrast, developed countries often have higher levels of media freedom and independence, which can make it more difficult for corruption to thrive and can help to maintain higher levels of public trust in government (Warren, 2004). The impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the level of civic education and awareness about corruption in a country. In many developing countries, civic education and awareness about corruption are limited, which can make it more difficult for citizens to understand the negative impacts of corruption and demand accountability from government officials (Kpundeh, 2004).

In contrast, developed countries often have higher levels of civic education and awareness about corruption, which can make it more difficult for corruption to thrive and can help to maintain higher levels of public trust in government (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). Furthermore, the impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the level of government accountability and transparency in a country. In many developing countries, government accountability and transparency are limited, which can make it more difficult for citizens to hold government officials accountable for their actions (Norris, 2011). In contrast, developed countries often have higher levels of government accountability and transparency, which can make it more difficult for corruption to thrive and can help to maintain higher levels of public trust in government (Warren, 2004). The negative relationship between corruption and public trust in government is also more pronounced in developing countries due to the lack of effective institutions and mechanisms for addressing corruption. In many developing countries, institutions such as the judiciary, the media, and civil society organizations are weak or ineffective, making it difficult to prevent and address corruption (Kpundeh, 2004).

In addition, the impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the level of international cooperation and assistance in addressing corruption. In many developing countries, international cooperation and assistance are limited, which can make it more difficult to address corruption and maintain high levels of public trust in government (Transparency International, 2020). In contrast, developed countries often have higher levels of international cooperation and assistance in addressing corruption, which can make it more difficult for corruption to thrive and can help to maintain higher levels of public trust in government (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). The impact of corruption on public trust in government can also vary depending on the level of economic development and poverty in a country. In many developing countries, poverty and economic inequality are major challenges, and corruption can exacerbate these problems by diverting resources away from essential public services (World Bank, 2019). From the analysis above, we accept the second hypothesis which states that the impact of

corruption on public trust in government is more severe in developing countries than in developed countries.

Certain strategies promote transparency and accountability in government in order to mitigating the negative impact of corruption on public trust.

The negative impact of corruption on public trust in government is a significant concern for countries around the world. Corruption can undermine the legitimacy of government institutions, lead to a decline in public trust, and hinder economic development. However, certain strategies can promote transparency and accountability in government, mitigating the negative impact of corruption on public trust (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). One such strategy is the implementation of freedom of information laws. These laws allow citizens to access information about government activities, decisions, and expenditures, promoting transparency and accountability (Banisar, 2006). For example, a study by the World Bank found that countries with freedom of information laws tend to have lower levels of corruption and higher levels of public trust in government (World Bank, 2019).

Another strategy is the establishment of independent anti-corruption agencies. These agencies can investigate and prosecute corruption cases, promoting accountability and deterring corruption (Kpundeh, 2004). For example, a study by Transparency International found that countries with independent anti-corruption agencies tend to have lower levels of corruption and higher levels of public trust in government (Transparency International, 2020). The use of technology can also promote transparency and accountability in government. For example, online portals can be used to provide citizens with information about government activities, decisions, and expenditures (Bertot et al., 2010). Additionally, social media can be used to promote transparency and accountability by providing citizens with a platform to report corruption and demand accountability (Norris, 2011). Civil society organizations can also play a crucial role in promoting transparency and accountability in government. These organizations can monitor government activities, expose corruption, and demand accountability (Warren, 2004). For example, a study by the World Bank found that countries with strong civil society organizations tend to have lower levels of corruption and higher levels of public trust in government (World Bank, 2019). The media can also play a crucial role in promoting transparency and accountability in government. A free and independent media can expose corruption, investigate wrongdoing, and hold government officials accountable (Norris, 2011). For example, a study by Transparency International found that countries with a free and independent media tend to have lower levels of corruption and higher levels of public trust in government (Transparency International, 2020).

Government accountability mechanisms, such as parliamentary oversight committees and judicial review, can also promote transparency and accountability in government (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). These mechanisms can provide citizens with a means of holding government officials accountable for their actions and decisions. The implementation of whistleblower protection laws can also promote transparency and accountability in government. These laws can provide protection to individuals who report corruption and wrongdoing, encouraging them to come forward and report misconduct (Banisar, 2006). The use of open data initiatives can also promote transparency and accountability in government. Open data initiatives provide citizens with access to government data and information, allowing them to monitor government activities and decisions (Bertot et al., 2010). The implementation of asset declaration laws can also promote transparency and accountability in government. These laws require government officials to declare their assets and income, providing citizens with a means of monitoring potential conflicts of interest (Kpundeh, 2004). The establishment of independent electoral commissions can also promote transparency and accountability in government. These commissions can oversee the electoral process, ensuring that elections are free and fair (Norris, 2011).

The implementation of access to information laws can also promote transparency and accountability in government. These laws provide citizens with a means of accessing information about government activities and decisions (Banisar, 2006). The use of participatory budgeting initiatives can also promote transparency and accountability in government. Participatory budgeting initiatives provide citizens with a means of participating in the budgeting process, allowing them to have a say in how government funds are spent (Bertot et al., 2010). The implementation of conflict of interest laws can also promote transparency and accountability in government. These laws require government officials to disclose potential conflicts of interest, providing citizens with a means of monitoring potential wrongdoing (Kpundeh, 2004). The establishment of independent audit offices can also promote transparency and accountability in government. These offices can oversee government expenditures, ensuring that funds are being used efficiently and effectively

(Rose-Ackerman, 1999). The above discussion support our third hypothesis which states that certain strategies promote transparency and accountability in government in other to mitigating the negative impact of corruption on public trust.

5. FINDINGS

From the above discussion, the study found out that:

- Corruption has a significant negative impact on public trust in government, leading to a decline in citizen satisfaction with government performance.
- The impact of corruption on public trust in government is more severe in developing countries than in developed countries.
- Grand corruption, such as bribery and embezzlement, has a more significant impact on public trust in government than petty corruption, such as extortion and nepotism.
- The media plays a crucial role in exposing corruption and promoting transparency and accountability in government.
- Civil society organizations can play an important role in promoting transparency and accountability in government and mitigating the negative impact of corruption on public trust.
- Anti-corruption agencies can be effective in reducing corruption and promoting transparency and accountability in government, but their effectiveness depends on their independence and resources.
- Freedom of information laws can promote transparency and accountability in government, but their effectiveness depends on their implementation and enforcement.

5.1 Recommendations

The study recommends as follows:

- Governments should prioritize anti-corruption efforts and implement effective anti-corruption strategies, including the establishment of independent anti-corruption agencies.
- Governments should promote transparency and accountability in government by implementing freedom of information laws and ensuring their effective implementation and enforcement.
- Governments should support civil society organizations and the media in their efforts to promote transparency and accountability in government.
- Governments should prioritize public education and awareness campaigns to promote transparency and accountability in government and mitigate the negative impact of corruption on public trust.
- Governments should ensure the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies and provide them with sufficient resources to carry out their mandate.
- Governments should implement effective whistleblower protection laws to encourage citizens to report corruption and wrongdoing.
- Governments should promote citizen participation in governance through mechanisms such as participatory budgeting and citizen engagement initiatives.

6. CONCLUSION

The impact of corruption on public trust in government is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a comprehensive and nuanced approach. Corruption can have a significant negative impact on public trust in government, leading to a decline in citizen satisfaction with government performance and undermining the legitimacy of government institutions. However, by prioritizing anti-corruption efforts, promoting transparency and accountability in government, and supporting civil society organizations and the media, governments can mitigate the negative impact of corruption on public trust and promote a more transparent and accountable government. Ultimately, promoting transparency and accountability in government and mitigating the negative impact of corruption on public trust requires a long-term commitment to good governance and a willingness to address the root causes of corruption. By prioritizing anti-corruption efforts, promoting transparency and accountability in government, and supporting civil society organizations and the media, governments can promote a more transparent and accountable government, mitigate the negative impact of corruption on public trust, and promote a more stable and effective democracy. By working together, governments, civil society organizations, and the media can promote a more transparent and accountable government and promote public trust in government.

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