Research Article

Developing a Framework for Analyzing the Causes of Corruption

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Abstract

In this paper, a framework for effective factors on the occurrence of economic corruption is presented. Corruption issues as an existing challenge need to be addressed comprehensively and accurately. Various factors affect this issue, and the lack of precise and comprehensive identification of these factors can create a constraint, in which the main causes of corruption may not be addressed and efforts may focus on less important issues. The existence of a framework of factors helps by examining the level of these factors and makes it possible to identify the strengths and weaknesses of context and personal factors to design and implement corrective solutions and eliminating weaknesses, so the probability of economic corruption decreases. To achieve this framework, the factors affecting the economic corruption occurring at both individual and national levels in the literature are studied and carefully rooted to find the basic causes of corruption. The basic causes can be classified into three levels of individual, organizational and social. By gathering and categorizing these factors, a framework for the factors affecting economic corruption is presented.

Keywords: Corruption; Framework; Individual; Organizational; Social

1. Introduction

Knowing how to investigate and fight economic corruption is an attractive subject, but knowing what to fight and indicators to investigate, is the complicated part that has been a big challenge for researchers. There is literature investigating corruption in political science, psychology, economics, law, and management. Each area looks at the issue from its particular point of view. Simultaneously, different institutes are monitoring and reporting corruption all over the world[1]. These reports are the basis of researches studying the outcomes of corruption. The link between corruption and economic growth(Song, Chang, & Gong, 2021; Tanzi & Davoodi, 1998), corruption and distribution of resources(Li, Xu, & Zou, 2000; Sánchez & Goda, 2017), corruption, and life satisfaction (Ciziceno & Travaglino, 2018), corruption and brain-drain (Dimant, Krieger, & Meierrieks, 2013), corruption and social values and norms (Truex, 2011), and corruption and poverty(Chetwynd, Chetwynd, & Spector, 2003) are only a small part of the findings of these researches. In the past few years, the growth of investigations in this part of literature(Jain, 2001) shows the importance of this subject.

Corruption is categorized into different types. Political corruption(Deysine, 1980), economic corruption(Basu, Bhattacharya, & Mishra, 1992), organizational corruption(Taylor, 2014) and expert corruption(Miller & English, 2014) have been mentioned in the literature. From another aspect, corruption can be investigated in two ways. One area focuses on contextual parameters which affect the occurrence of corruption and a second focuses on personal parameters which influence the decision of doing corruption or not(Graycar & Sidebottom, 2012).

One of the most critical issues in this topic is the factors causing and preventing corruption. Defining and analyzing these factors can help to control and heal corruption. Identification of these factors can be made at different levels, which in turn leads to different levels of analysis. Global factors, country-level factors, industrial factors, organizational factors, and personal factors have been mentioned in the literature. All these factors influence the occurrence of corruption through effective factors which is the main idea of the presented framework of this article.

The goal of this research is to create a framework for the causes of economic corruption. Having this framework, analyzing and auditing the factors which may cause the corruption, and then controlling corruption would be possible. Without this framework, introducing new causes of corruption may have no new contribution because it may be a mixture of previously mentioned causes. In this article, firstly, a literature review would provide the factors mentioned in the literature, the second step involves finding the effective factors of each factor to allow the creation of a framework. The next step is validating these effective factors to ensure that all the factors have been covered. After this, categorizing the causes of corruption into different levels creates the final framework which will cover all the factors mentioned in the literature.

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2. Critical Analysis of Literature

There are different definitions of corruption in the literature(Gorta, 2006; Wickberg, 2021). In this research, the definition found in **Transparency International** which is "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain" will be assumed as the definition.

Literature has a big body about causes of corruption but it has a big difference with other fields. Investigating corruption has some difficulties which have affected the literature. The main point is that there is no valid and reliable data about the corrupt people and corruption because corrupt people prefer to hide the data of corruption, even if some parts of corruption have been uncovered next to this there's no evidence that all aspects of corruption and corrupt people have been found. So difficulties in measuring and investigating corruption have shaped the body of the literature in two levels. The first level checks the correlation between different factors and country corruption level to show factors that correlate with corruption level. This part of the literature shows country-level factors which affect the corruption level and how these factors act is extracted from concepts mentioned by theoretical arguments in the literature. The next level investigates corruption acts from a personal level. In this part of the literature factors which affect the personal decision is mainly discussed. The cost-benefit model is the most common model used to find the factors which affect the personal decision. In the following, these factors have been mentioned and discussed. It should be mentioned that categorizing these factors in these two levels and also categories under each level are presented in this article. Also, all the factors which have been mentioned here are non-regional, and regional or special factors have not been mentioned to have a general framework. As mentioned before, the literature review consists of two parts: country-level factors and personal level or individual factors.

2.1. Country-level factors

Six categories have been mentioned in this part of the literature: political factors, historical factors, social and cultural factors, economic factors, state factors, and geologic factors. The factors in these categories have been tested through correlation with corruption levels in the countries and then supported by theoretical arguments.

2.1.1. Political factors

There are three factors mentioned in this category.

2.1.1.1. Level of democracy

By looking at corruption as an Insufficiency in the governmental process and looking at democracy as the way of having good governance, the level of democracy would have a reverse correlation with the level of corruption(Dreher, Kotsogiannis, & McCorriston, 2007; McMann, Seim, Teorell, & Lindberg, 2020). In this regard, the relationship between corruption and the consequences of democracy, such as decentralization of power and election rules, has been studied(Fisman & Gatti, 2002; Paldam, 2002; Persson, Tabellini, & Trebbi, 2003; Treisman, 2000).

Rules and decentralization of power could be mentioned as effective factors of the level of democracy.

2.1.1.2. The effectiveness of the judicial system

This factor is the influence of law on society. When the law is properly implemented, corruption will decrease. The judicial system can effectively penalize the corruption to a level at which the cost of doing corruption would stop most people from doing it. This will create a healthy economic framework for society(Batrancea, Nichita, Batrancea, & Gaban, 2018; Berggren & Bjørnskov, 2020) (Becker, 1968; Dreher et al., 2007; Easterly & Levine, 1997; North, 1990).

Implementation of rules and defining a healthy framework for economic activities are effective factors of the effectiveness of the judicial system factor.

2.1.1.3. The origin of the legal system

In the judicial system factor, good implementation of good rules would be effective. Having good rules is the basis of the discussion. The impact of the origin of the legal system has been studied. Studies show that legal systems originating from a common law system have less corruption than legal systems originating from a civil law system. Also, Treisman (2000) mentions a legal culture, which builds up through content and setup of the rules (Dreher et al., 2007; Gong & Wang, 2013; La Porta, Lopez-de-Silanes, Shleifer, & Vishny, 1999; Treisman, 2000).

Having good rules is an effective factor of this factor. Good rules come from a good legal origin and also create a good legal culture.

2.1.2. Historical factors

Historical factors have been studied from two perspectives. The first perspective is somehow similar to political factors because they both study the dependence of governance on models of governing between different countries. The colonies of different countries correlate with the level of corruption(Treisman, 2000).

The second perspective is based on the duration of independence of the country(Goel & Nelson, 2010). Countries with a short independence period do not usually have good and customized rules and controls; hence, they usually have a high level of corruption. However, countries with a long period of independence have stable rules and controls; this stability offers a chance for corrupt actions to develop continuously and increases the level of corruption(Lambsdorff, Taube, & Schramm, 2004). In these studies, countries that are in an ongoing process of changing their rules and improving their model to control corruption are in the best stage and have the least amount of corruption(Goel & Nelson, 2010).

Summing up this factor, the relationship between corruption and duration of independence in a country is U shape. Both old and new countries have a high level of corruption.

History has an impact on the law and control systems of countries so these two could be mentioned as effective factors of this factor.

2.1.3. Social and cultural factors

Social and cultural factors mean the characteristics of the society which prevent or promotes corruption(Dreher et al., 2007). Two factors of the community features have been studied by researchers.

2.1.3.1. Religion

Religion has both a direct and indirect impact on the incidence of corruption. Religion's effect on corruption can either make corruption easier or harder. The influence of religion on family culture and social values can prevent corruption. The influence of religion and law can also play a role in the occurrence of corruption (Gokcekus & Ekici, 2020; Gutmann & Lucas, 2018; Treisman, 2000). Among religions, hierarchical features religion can be effective in the incidence of corruption. Moreover, societies with more than one religion are more corrupt(Alesina, Devleeschauwer, Easterly, Kurlat, & Wacziarg, 2003).

2.1.3.2. Multi-race and multi-language

This factor was reported as not affect early studies(Treisman, 2000), but newer researches show that multi-race and multi-language societies have a higher level of corruption(Alesina et al., 2003; La Porta et al., 1999).

Impacting personal and social values and influencing the laws are mentioned as the effective factors of religion, multi-race and multi-language are the other factors mentioned in this area.

2.1.4. Economic factors

Economic factors are expressed by three factors. These three factors can express the impact of the economic factor on the incidence of corruption in society.

2.1.4.1. Openness

This factor indicates the comfort level of economic interaction with the global economy. Societies that don't have an open economy put controls and create barriers to import and export, and these could be a source of corruption(Batrancea et al., 2018; Dreher et al., 2007). Four studies have been done in this field. In the first, the correlation between corruption and competition has been studied and it was found that competition reduces corruption, so open economies are less corrupted than closed economies(Ades & Di Tella, 1999). The next study showed that having more imports would reduce corruption(Treisman, 2000). The third study concluded

that monitoring import and export increases the corruption level(Wei & Wu, 2001). The last study mentioned that economic openness moderates the effect of corruption on economic growth(Neeman, Paserman, & Simhon, 2008). So, competition and monitoring are two effective factors of openness factor.

2.1.4.2. Natural resources

When a country has a lot of natural resources and generates income from these resources, this income can be a source of corruption. Countries that export their natural resources are more corrupt(Treisman, 2000, 2003). The corruption is mostly in the authority of distribution of natural resources(Ades & Di Tella, 1999). It should be noted that although there is some evidence that natural resources have no impact on corruption(Goel & Nelson, 2010), most of the literature in this field has found that natural resources influence the corruption level.

So the power given to the authorities has a linear relationship with corruption level. By monitoring and controlling the authorities' decision-making processes, corruption could be controlled.

2.1.4.3. The size of the public sector

The public sector plays an important role in the management of society, it gives authorities some influential decision-making powers in this area(Dreher et al., 2007). This authority and its financial strength can cause corruption(Tanzi, 1998). Apart from this problem, if the salary of public officials is not adequate, this could aggravate corruption(Van Rijckeghem & Weder, 2001). It should be noted that the studies of Treisman (2000) didn't show any relationship between the size of the public sector and corruption, but because of the strength of other studies, this factor is considerable.

In addition to decision-making power as an effective factor, the salary of the officials is also mentioned as another effective factor.

2.1.5. State Factors

In researches conducted investigating State factors, two variables that influence corruption have been identified. The first variable is the amount of government intervention in the economy. More interference creates more opportunities for paying and receiving bribes, which increases corruption(Goel & Nelson, 2010). The second variable is the size and structure of the government. Initial research expressed that bigger governments lead to more opportunities for corruption in the government(Goel & Nelson, 1998)t. In contrast to this finding, some scholars assert bigger governments will use more surveillance tools which will reduce corruption(Fisman & Gatti, 2002; Goel & Nelson, 2005). Based on government statistics, a correlation between bigger states and corruption (defining bigger as the land area) did not produce meaningful results. But if bigger is defined as the population of the country, results show that bigger populations have less corruption(Goel & Nelson, 2010).

Based on the literature, state factors influence corruption through the size of the population and intervention of the state in the economy, which gives decision-making power to the people in charge. As previously mentioned, decision-making power can be corrupted through the weakness of the monitoring and auditing process, additionally, population size can affect corruption through public surveillance.

2.1.6. Geographic factors

Three factors have been mentioned in the geographic category. Urbanity and density of population as the first factor has been investigated and results show that more urbanity decreases corruption. Dense population and urbanity help the flow of information and thus affects the incidence of corruption. Natural resources have been mentioned as a second factor, as discussed above in the economic factors. The spread of communication networks has been proposed as a factor that can decrease corruption, but results have not shown any relationship between the spread of networks and corruption(Goel & Nelson, 2010).

2.2. Individual factors

Factors that have been mentioned above are factors that can increase or decrease corruption. These factors correlate with the occurrence of corruption, but the point is that people decide to do corrupt actions or not. This decision is a personal decision, so knowing and investigating personal factors which can lead people to do corrupt acts is critical for knowing what factors affect the occurrence of corruption. Three elements must exist to commit a corrupt action. The first element is having decision-making power. Without the power to make a decision, no corruption could happen. The second element is the value of economic rent related to the decision. The decision which doesn't have economic rent, would not lead to corruption. The third and last element is the deterrents of corruption. Deterrents of corruption could stop people from deciding to do corrupt acts(Goudie & Stasavage, 1998; Jain, 2001).

Considering the first two elements necessary for doing a corrupt act and investigating deterrents of corruption can show factors that could affect people's decisions. In the literature, factors have been extracted from an agent-based point of view(Goudie & Stasavage, 1998).

2.2.1. Individual deterrents factors

This section of the literature is richer than other personal factors, but the diversity and extensiveness of these factors show the need for further research(Jain, 2001). This section is also called corruption control in some parts of literature(Van Rijckeghem & Weder, 2001).

Knowing factors that could prevent people from doing corrupt acts is important because it is the only way to stop a person who has the ability (the power to decide the value of economic rent) to do corruption from doing the act. These factors can increase the cost of doing

corruption to the level in which the corrupt act becomes undesirable for the person(Jain, 2001).

In this section of literature several factors, some so descriptive that no experimental studies have not been able to study them, have been identified. Recent literature does not even mention these factors. Due to the difficulty of investigating the effect of leadership and some cultural factors mentioned in the researches, they have not been studied(Rijckeghem & Weder, 1997). The following factors have been mentioned in the literature.

2.2.1.1. The value of corruption

The value of corruption is one of the factors which can alert people about corruption. At the lower limit, little acts of corruption are not considered important by the individuals or society(Jain, 2001). When a senior government official with power over billions of dollars commits a small corrupt act of ten dollars no one will be sensitive to this corrupt act. This is seen in the common case of gifts given to officials. These gifts should be passed to the government, but some officials take them for personal use. So, it can be concluded that the value of corruption must exceed a certain threshold to alert people of the corrupt act. This factor and the relationship between the value of corruption and doing a corrupt act has been mentioned and accepted in other researches(Subramanian & Chakrabarti, 2011; Timofeyev).

2.2.1.2. Legal and fair wage

A fair wage is an important factor in the impression that the individual and society have toward corruption. If people believe that wages are fair when corruption happens, no one will go along with it, and instead, condemn it(Chand & Moene, 1999).

But if people feel unfair about their wages, then they will consider themselves entitled to illegal forms of income. In the first step, Goel and Nelson (1998) showed the inverse relationship between wages and corruption in the United States of America. In their research, a rise in wages decreased corruption. Although in another study, Van Rijckeghem and Weder (2001) showed a poor relationship between corruption and wages and they reported no link between these two factors. Several subsequent studies in this area were conducted to examine the issue, and they showed an inverse relationship between fair wages and corruption(Cornell & Sundell, 2020; Sundell, 2012).

2.2.1.3. The power of competing institutions

In democratic societies, people can vote at every election and take or give power to institutes and parties. In democratic and even semi-democratic societies where democracy is not perfect, there are institutes that monitor or influence elected parties. This action takes place in formal and informal ways(Jain, 2001). Conversely, elected officials also try to disable these mechanisms to have more freedom. The level of power among competing institutes and the degree of balance between them could be a preventing factor for corruption. Extreme unbalance

among these institutes provides a greater opportunity for the elected official to engage in corruption (Chong, Tee, & Cheng, 2020; Johnston & Hao, 1995; Rosenblatt, 2012).

2.2.1.4. *Moral and political values*

Moral and political values have an impact beyond incentives or deterrents of corruption. Moral and political values can define which act is corrupt and which act is not. At the individual level, values can act as either a deterrent factor or a justifier for corruption (Jain, 2001; Shah, 2016; Tu, Yang, & Zheng, 2020). From another point of view, the reaction of society to corruption can play an important role in people's decision to do corruption. Media are the most important actor in this field(Morse, 2018). How much the media follow corruption cases and how much society reacts to this news indicates the level of consciousness and tolerance towards corruption. The proportion of corruption and punishment, as explained later in the article, can be effective in corruption devaluation(Jain, 2001).
Treisman (2000) declares three dimensions of value that influence the level of corruption. Participation in civil communications, law, culture, and religion are three factors related to the level of corruption.

2.2.1.5. *The consequences of corruption*

The consequences of corruption are the potential cost that a person engaging in corruption may pay. Of course, a general point about the consequences of corruption should be considered. If the ruling party had so much power that it overtakes the judicial system or if celebrities are excluded from being held responsible by trial, then there would be no consequences to be mentioned.
There are four effective -factors for the consequences of corruption in the literature: chance of discovery, law enforcement, independence of the judicial system, and equal access to the law. These effective -factors are described in further detail below.

2.2.1.5.1. *Chance of discovery*

There is a great difference in the methods of curbing corruption in societies with widespread corruption from those societies with a small corruption level.
There is little motivation to detect corruption in systems where corruption is pervasive as it is considered normal practice. But in a system where corruption is very small, surveillance systems are used to detect and identify even the smallest amount of corruption(Jain, 2001). This greater chance of discovery gives leverage to the

consequences of corruption. If there is a high probability of being detected, corruption becomes more undesirable(Cuervo-Cazurra, 2014; Zhou, Jin, & Wang, 2016).

2.2.1.5.2. *Law enforcement*

If law enforcement were corrupt, then others can easily and without cost do corruption. In this context, the fight against corruption will have no meaning. In other words, the corruption consequences have meaning when it could be identified, and it could be identified when law enforcement would be well themselves(Jain, 2001; Sundström, 2015). Kaufmann (1998) states that the high level of corruption in Albania and Georgia was the consequence of the high level of corruption in 4 law enforcement institutes out of 5(Jain, 1998).

2.2.1.5.3. *Independence of the judicial system*

If the judicial system depends on the party which has the power to do corruption, then the judicial system will not be able to cope with the corruption, and there will be no deterrent for corruption(Jain, 2001; Wang, 2013).

2.2.1.5.4. *Equal access to law*

If all people have equal access to law, the law can be implemented in all fields to reduce corruption. But if there would be problems in some fields for accessing law, then those fields could be a paradise of corrupt actions because they know that law does not deal with them(Jain, 2001).
There is a rich literature body for deterrents of corruption researchers have been interested in curbing corruption by making deterrents better and better as a general strategy(Goel & Rich, 1989; Johnson, Kaufmann, & Zoido-Lobaton, 1998).
All factors which affect corruption are presented in Figure 1.Categorizing these factors in this way will help to sort effective factors for the presented framework. In table 1, more details of factors are presented. In this table, the relation between factors and corruption level is mentioned and next to this, effective factors which make the main factor influence the corruption is mentioned. The main point of table 1 is to show that effective factors of different factors mentioned in the literature could have many common parts and in some cases, the difference between factors are in the bundle of effective factors that each has. Having these effective factors extracted from the theoretical arguments in the literature, the base of the new framework is created.
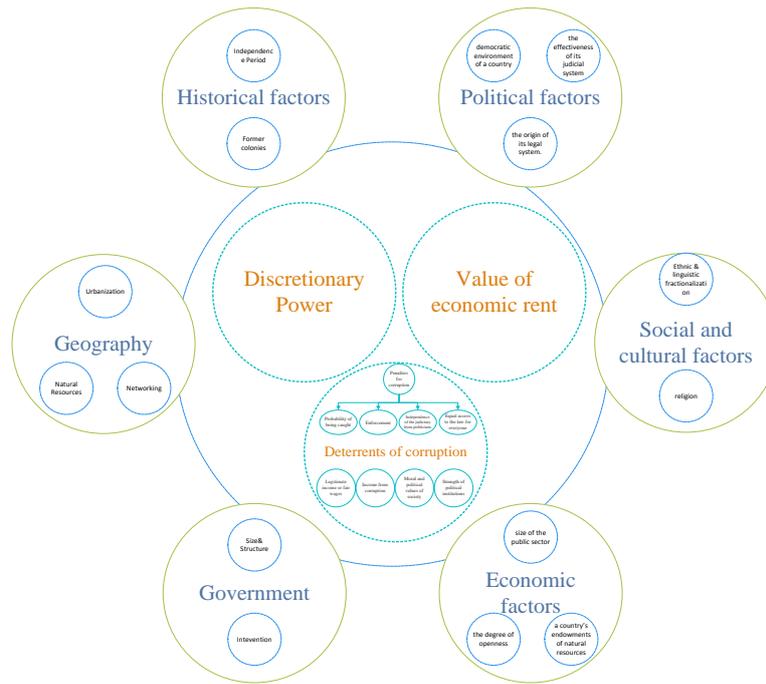
Fig.1 Factors from the literature which affect corruption.

Table 1

Factors of corruption from the literature

Level	Macro factor	The following factors	Effective factors	Type of Relationship
National	Political	Strong judicial system	Create deal - economic framework	Reverse
		Level of democracy	Electoral laws - the concentration of power	Reverse
		The origin of the legal system	Correctly legal rules-culture	Countries using common law have less corruption
	Social and Cultural Rights	Religion	Personal and social values	The effect is expressed.
		The multiplicity of race	Creation of inner groups	straight
		The multiplicity of languages	Creation of inner groups	straight
	Economic	Size of public services	Salary-control-processes	straight
		Natural resources	Monitoring-processes	straight
		Level of economic openness	Competition-monitoring	Reverse
	Government	size of government	Monitoring	straight
		Government intervention	Monitoring-processes	straight
	Geographical	percentage of urbanization	Flow of information	Reverse
	Historical	Independence period	Rules-monitoring	The relationship of the normal curve
		Colonial history	Correctly legal rules-culture	Past colonial countries which had common law model, have less corruption
Individual	Punishment of Corruption	Chance of discovery	Chance discovery	Reverse
		enforcement power	Monitoring	Reverse
		Independence of the judicial system	Monitoring	Reverse
		Equal access to law	Monitoring-judge	Reverse
	Barriers to corruption	Legal income	Salary	Reverse
		The income from corruption	Salary	The relationship is U graph
		Moral values of society	Values	Reverse
		The strength of rival institutions	Chance of discovery-monitoring	Reverse

3. Presented Framework

In the literature review, several factors were studied which have been represented in table 1. Studies were generally based on identifying the correlation of one factor with the corruption level. Having a general framework with all the factors mentioned in the literature is the contribution of this article and defining factors and effective -factors were for this mean.

To develop the framework, first, we should define the logic that will build up the framework. Three steps shape the framework. In the first step, from the factors mentioned in the literature review, mediators should be found. These mediators that were shown in table 1 have a good amount of unity which helps to shape a bundle of mediators which affects the behavior of people. The second step is categorizing these mediators into different levels and proofing that this early framework covers the basic factors in the literature. In the third and last step, the connections between the variables of the framework should be shown to complete the framework.

Doing a corrupt act is a personal decision. From this point of view, defining a framework would mean defining the variables which influence this personal decision. There are different researches investigating corruption as a utility equation in which a person calculates costs and benefits, then decides what to do(Litina & Palivos, 2016). So selecting this model as the base of the framework is acceptable in the literature. In this model, the decision is based on personal factors. These personal factors are affected by some variables in other levels of analysis. These variables can't make a decision or influence it directly. These variables affect personal variables, and personal factors can make or influence personal decisions. In the McDevitt, Giapponi, and Tromley (2007) model, which was designed for exploring the decision-making process, four levels were mentioned. Personal level, job level, organizational level environment level. In our framework, we do not investigate the job differences, so, with a little change, the model is based on three levels. Personal level, organizational level, and environment level. This model is shown in Figure 2. This figure is based on McDevitt et al. (2007) without the job level. To complete the framework different levels of the model should be filled with the effective factors.
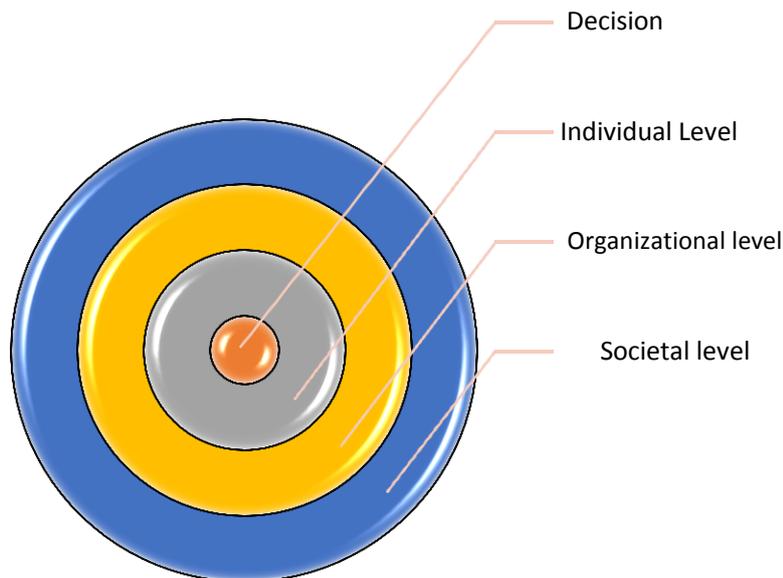

Fig. 2. Theoretical framework exploring the decision-making process.

Before filling the model with factors, it should be checked that do all the factors nominated to fill the model cover all the factors mentioned in the literature or not. To do this first all factors have been categorized into three levels of personal, organizational, and societal which can be seen in the second column of Table 2. Factors found in the literature are shown in the second row of table 2. It should be mentioned that personal factors are positioned in the inner level of the framework so these factors are not mentioned in the second row because they would match one by one with the second column. Table 2 shows that all the effective factors represent factors mentioned in the literature.

Table 2
Relationship between the theoretical framework factors and the factors discussed in the literature

		Political			Social and Cultural Rights			Economic			Government		Geographical	Historical		Punishment of Corruption				Barriers to corruption				
		Strong judicial system	Level of democracy	The origin of the legal system	Religion	The multiplicity of race	The multiplicity of languages	Size of public services	Natural resources	Level of economic openness	size of government	Government intervention	percentage of urbanization	Independence period	Colonial history	Chance of discovery	Enforcement power	Independence of the judicial system	Equal access to law	Legal income	The income from corruption	Moral values of society	The strength of rival institutions	Leadership and Template
Individual	Benefit																				*			
	Cost																				*			
	Salary							*													*			
	Individual Values				*	*	*																*	
	Implementation of law	*													*						*			
	Chance of discovery															*	*						*	
Organization	Enforcement												*						*					
	Disciplinary Regulations	*		*												*		*						
	auditing system	*						*	*		*					*		*		*				
	Organizational Culture			*									*			*							*	
	Regulations		*	*	*								*	*		*								
	Organizational competitors		*							*						*							*	
	Organization Structure										*													
	Processes							*	*	*	*				*				*					
	Human Resource Management							*												*	*			
	Leadership																							*
	Information transparency									*	*		*											
	Judicial system	*														*			*					
Society	The strength of punishment rules	*														*								
	Enforcement	*														*								
	Media												*											
	Social values				*	*	*																*	
	The efficiency of the judiciary	*														*			*					

Finalizing the presented framework needs filling the different levels of the model with effective factors. These levels are personal level, organizational level, and environment level. Effective factors are categorized in Table 2 so filling them in the model to present the framework would be as shown there. This framework will present all the factors mentioned in the literature and makes a basic framework for future researches.
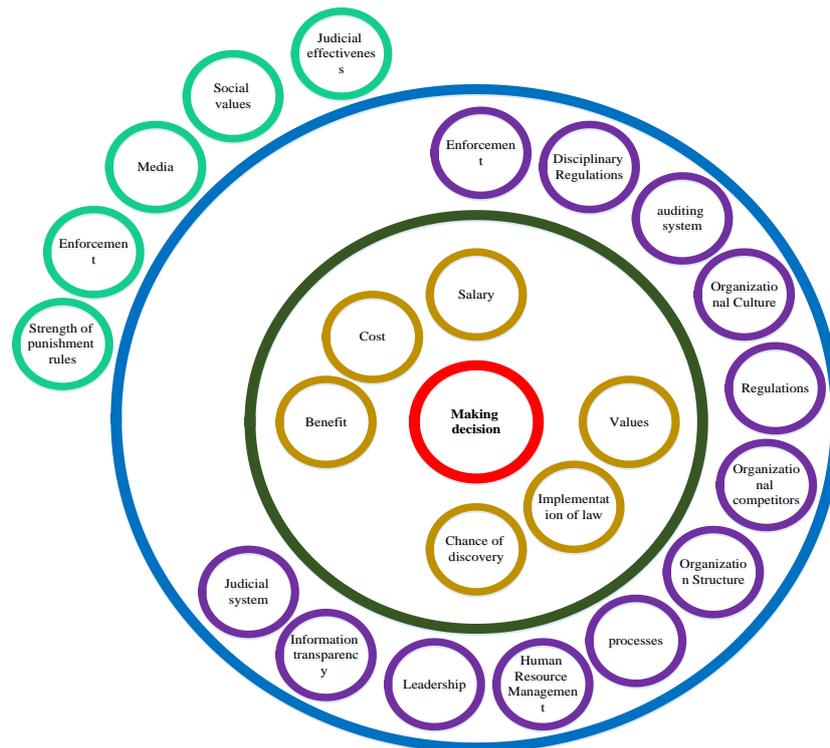
Fig. 3 Basic framework constructed in categories.

4. Research Findings

The main goal of this article was to present a framework of factors affecting the occurrence of corruption. This is a big step in corruption researches. Two main bodies of corruption research (cost-benefit model and correlation tests) give a big amount of data about corruption, but do not answer how it's possible to find the main factors affecting the corruption level. They cannot show which factors should be checked if an organization has a corruption problem. In the presented framework, these two bodies have completed each other to fill this gap. In developing this framework, only public bodies of literature have been used. There are a lot of countries or industry-based researches about corruption in which the context of the subject plays an important role in the findings of researches. If these findings were used in developing the framework, using this framework had a lot of contextual constraints. In other words, this is a public framework and can be used in different contexts as a basic model. To adapt this framework to different fields and different countries, new researches should be done to make changes to this framework. Some factors may not be so important and some new factors may be added to the framework(Zausinová, Zoričak, Vološin, & Gazda, 2020).

5.Conclusion and Future Research

In this article, from the literature review, factors causing corruption were identified and expressed, and the effective factors were extracted. Effective factors with different names but the same meaning were combined, and a framework was developed (Fig. 3).

In the following, based on the logic of the theoretical framework, all factors are influenced by the individual factors which affect the decision to commit corruption; and there is a link between the factors that, if carefully examined, complete a basic theoretical framework. As can be seen in Fig. 3, all of the variables in the higher levels (organizational level and environmental level) directly or indirectly influence the variables on a personal level. This part of the model can be completed in two ways. The first and most difficult way is to go back to the literature and find the relationships. The second way is to use other decision-making models and map these findings in those models. This part of the research has not been conducted and will be a good research topic for future studies. Therefore, one of the most important studies in the field is the relationship between factors.

We can also consider the framework outlined in this paper as the primary framework for examining the factors affecting corruption. This framework can help to audit people and organizations to find the probability of corrupt acts occurring. Analyzing the results can show the weaknesses of an organization and give directions to heal these weaknesses.

This framework fully covers the factors mentioned in the current literature, but since the literature on the factors affecting the occurrence of corruption is ongoing, this framework must be periodically updated. In addition, since the framework is expressed generally and without specific industry details, future research should explore and describe specific frameworks for each industry.

Another weakness is considering these factors as causes of corruption. Due to the newness of this look at corruption, the causal relationships mentioned must be

taken with forbearance. In future research, the relationship between these variables on corruption should be examined so that the relationships between the factors are more reliable. Another aspect that has been addressed in detail from a variety of perspectives to date, but not precisely and exhaustively described, is our dynamic relationship between effective factors in the field of poverty. Finding these relationships would help to complete the framework and achieve corruption control solutions.

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