

BOOK REVIEWS

Analyzing Corruption: An Introduction by Dan Hough, Agenda Publishing, 2017, 256 pages.

The author of the book Dan Haugh, discusses a very practical and currently the most debatable issue in the World, i.e., corruption, its definitions, its measures and the ways of fighting against it. The book provides some valuable research on fighting against corruption, history of corruption and the role of various international organizations, national public policy institutions and the role of civil society; to control corrupt practices. 'Analyzing Corruption: An Introduction' is a text book for students of political sciences, anthropology, development studies, development economics and the public and institutional administration. This book is useful for courses of governance, institutional quality and public policy. The audience of the book includes workers of government and non-government, welfare and charity organizations, as well as academic students, researchers and professors. The book consists of ten chapters which are divided into three parts. Part I of the book include corruption challenges, history of corruption analysis, definitions of corruption and the measurement challenges.

The initial chapters of the book start with definitional challenges and discover to obtain regulations when preliminary position is based on philosophy of people rights and functions of the privileged class, in determining the satisfactory performance. The book provides various definitions of corruption framed by different international agencies; for example, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Transparency International, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Defining corruption cited by international agencies do not differ significantly. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund define corruption as 'an abuse of public office for private gain'. The definition of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is 'active or passive misuse of powers of public officials (appointed or elected) for private financial or other benefits'. According to the Transparency International, corruption is 'an abuse of entrusted power for private gain'. The African Development Bank defines it as misappropriation of public assets or public office and trust for private gains. The Asian Development Bank adds private office along with the public office, and state corruption as 'an abuse to public or private office for personal gain'. All these definitions of the international organizations have similar themes, except the definition of the Asian Development Bank which differ to some extent as it includes private sector too.

The book also deals with measurement challenges. The author describes the issues facing in measurement of corruption and analyzes it through different techniques and proxies. He also discusses the corruption indices particularly the recently developed Bribe Payers index. The author also emphasizes on the flaws of corruption measures; for example, the World Bank's Control of Corruption indices and the Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index which depends on the surveys of business community and professionals. Lack of correct and reliable measures of corruption are also explained by the example of gross domestic product (GDP). Since its creation in 1990s there is no authentic official statistic about the gross domestic product (GDP), on which the researchers have agreed. However, the author is still doubtful to conclude the activities which should be accounted under the definition of GDP and whether it is a practical policy indicator or a measure of welfare - perhaps, it is imprecise and regularly not revised. The mistake with the measurement of GDP is like a measure of corruption which raises some questions: Can we estimate the private or public corruption? Can we employ corruption indices to assess policy framework? Can we quantify the opinion or officially authorized cases, and can we revise the corruption indices? In order to perform with corruption indices, these defects cannot be avoided in order to educate GDP's utilization and mistreatment of the defects.

Part II of the book consist of two chapters which discuss about the causes of corruption and its association with business, economy, and the corruption. This part of the book sheds light on the main causes of corruption and its corrupt practice. These chapters discover options, preferences and the variety of arguments, methodological approaches to recognize and comprehend the causes of corruption. Various theories of different disciplines have been used here to explain linkages between business, economy and corruption. The third part of the book contain surveys and reviews of the work on struggle against corruption, including the international conferences, seminars, workshops and meetings; for example, efforts of the IMF and World Bank, as well as the research plans and policy proposals at national level. The role of the third sector's organizations - the so-called 'anti-corruption industry', the efforts of social activists and civil society is also investigated in this part of the book.

At each level, the evidence are diverse. The regulations of national anti-corruption policy struggle against corruption are useful regulations which follow the social values, and not the reverse. In 2007, the Bangladesh military supported their government's policies and establish an anti-corruption agency, the Financial Intelligence Unit. Also, the Electoral Commission made stronger claims of prisoners and suspects abuses and distressed the materialized instantly. In the latest regulations, the establishment developed tools of abuse in the hands of government. International policies and agreements are not so easy to be organized and implemented, in a way they were planned. The United Nations took the decision to invite the international assistance alongside corruption in 1975. The author of the book called this declaration as a 'paper tiger', because the next resolution appeared after twenty years. According to the author, the

United Nations does not have tools to implement its own anticorruption regulations, and therefore, the effectiveness of these regulations was partial.

Citizens' efforts for fighting against corruption are anticipated. The government of Nepal arranges a competition of honesty named 'Integrity Idol' due to which, people encourage accountability and intelligibility; and discourage dishonesty and lying. This type of competitions promote healthy environment to establish vigorous social norms in the society. In the United Kingdom 'armchair auditors' are responsible to expose deception in public procurement practice of local establishments which cannot be generalized from the example of 'armchair auditors' and 'integrity Idol competition'. From reviewing these chapters, we acquire intuition for fighting against corruption which will be more successful if best measures and effective definitions are used from academic world and the public policy institutions.

However, the book is a good attempt of innovative investigation on this topic. It is a very practical work for researchers, professors, students and policy makers; who may be interested to analyze corruption. The measurement approaches and definitions of corruption in the book are somewhat similar and relevant to each other, but the general flow of arguments across the chapters and connection between chapters is well established. The book provides a mixture of basic concepts in an interesting manner. However there remain few flaws in some parts; like the organization of the sections in some chapters is perplexing, while in the other parts it has prolonged discussions. On the whole, it is a remarkable contribution that should not be missed by anybody interested in the relevant field and a unique contribution to the literature as well.

Shaista Alam

*Applied Economics Research Centre,
University of Karachi, Pakistan.*