**The Negative Impact of Corruption on the enjoyment of human rights.**

**Answer Q 1**

Corruption leads to the violation of the commitment of the state to human rights. It stands in the way of setting effective programmes and policies to enhance human rights. Corruption affects in various ways and infringes on all the civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights. These effects can be summarized as follows:

1. Discrimination among people regarding rights:

Corruption enhances favoritism and intermediation. It involves personal relations in decision-making and drawing of policies by the official authorities when applying the law. Thus it weakens the rule of law and its enforcement. It undermines the authority of the law and causes discriminatory approach regarding:

* The right of public participation and access to information.
* Discrimination.
* Inequality.
* Absence of social justice.
* Affect the proceedings of justice and the right to a fair trial.
* Affect the principle of equality of opportunity, and consequently, the development.
* Affect the concepts of transparency; accountability; the right to education; health and decent standard of living.

1. The great negative impact on the most vulnerable categories:

As a result of discrimination and the weakness of the rule of law emanating from corruption, large violations occur that affect the categories that are most in need of care and assistance, especially women, children, the disabled, the elderly and the native people. Corruption leads to the illegal diversion of services away from those who are vulnerable towards those who are influential. Corruption also touches on the programmes that are set for those in need and help. Those vulnerable categories are then exploited by influential people, especially those in charge of them as well as those tasked with the enforcement of the law. Those categories suffer violence- like beating, sexual violence and mistreatment-due to the absence of accountability. The spread of corruption lessens control on the providers of services, whether institutions or persons.

It also leads to the deterioration of the programmes associated with the economic, social and cultural rights… like the right to education; decent and sufficient standard of living; health; work.

The spread of corruption will lessen the interest of the governmental programmes in these rights, in addition to the low level of the quality of the services provided to the people.

* The increase in the level of poverty and the deepening of the gap between the rich and the poor which negatively affect the image of the state… truing it from justice-seeking state into one that sponsors discrimination legally.
* Favoring private interest over the public one which increases the spread of corruption that causes discrimination in obtaining public services in favor of those who are able to influence the authorities so as to act in a manner that realizes their interests, through means among which is bribery. Those who are economically and politically deprived suffer disproportionately from the consequences of corruption since they depend on public commodities (the services that are provided by the state to the citizens).
* The rise in the level of crime and victims and the exploitation of the anti- crimes programmes.

1. The impact on the services and progammes of the economic, social and cultural rights.
2. The civil and political rights

* The administrative corruption weakens political participation which leaves this participation confined to the categories that have wealth and economic power who are usually in direct contact with the decision – making centers.
* Corruption may weaken the democratic institutions, whether in the new or old democracies. When corruption spreads, those occupying public positions take their decisions without regard to the public interest. Thus corruption harms the legitimacy of the democratic system in the view of many states and the loss of public for the democratic institutions. It weakens the participation of the people in exercising their civil and political rights. The forged elections and the corruption in funding the political parties constitute the direct corrupt practices regarding their undermining of the enjoyment of the civil and political rights. It may affect the morale or even the fabric of the society.

**Answer Q 2**

We believe that the best way to combat corruption is the formulation of a national integrity set that includes the following:

* Raising anti- corruption awareness through clear programmes for the various segments of society.
* The attempt to realize a balanced economic system and raising the level of the standard of living for the citizen… whether the citizen is a state official or otherwise.
* Strengthen the relationship between the media quarters and the anti-corruption institutions, since the first exposes cases of corruption, while the others fight it.
* Establishment of completely effective and independent control systems to eliminate this phenomenon and connect these with the human rights institutions in a systematic and clear manner, or reform the national anti – corruption institutions (the existence of an independent judiciary).
* Application of the anti- corruption laws whose majority falls within the realm of the procedural and final sides. Full authorities must be given to (judges, lawyers, public prosecutors, police officers, investigators, accounts reviewers to enforce the existing legal frameworks of applying the rule of law) and deepen the efforts to reform them. What is important is that corruption within the system of the rule of the law weakens the structure of accountability itself… the structures that are responsible for the protection of human rights. It contributes to the rise of the culture of impunity, since laws are not always adhered to, and punishment on illegal measures does not exist.
* Termination of all the practices that undermine the right to equality before the law and the right to a fair trial. It is very important to ensure that the deprived categories have access to justice to get their rights.
* Adherence to the principles of transparency, accountability, non-discrimination and purposeful participation.

**Answer Q3**

There is no direct cooperation between the anti- corruption agencies and the Jordanian National Centre for Human Rights. If this exists, it is limited to specific fields and cases, especially when complaints are lodged with the (JNCHR). The cooperation with the Anti - Corruption Commission was good in such cases since the Commission relies on a degree of confidentiality, detailed investigation and the serious consideration of all that comes to it.

**Answer Q 4**

* The establishment of a mechanism that enables human rights institutions to work directly with the anti-corruption institutions and guaranteeing the independence of all the partnering institutions in this effort.
* Assign a special part in the annual report regarding combating corruption, as well as special periodical reports focused on the manifestations and consequences of corruption.
* Dissemination of awareness programmes to all segments of society-including its institutions, whether governmental or otherwise – in this respect.

**Answer Q 5**

* Demand that states submit periodic reports; and the national institutions to issue shadow reports; give a role to the civil society organizations; and the appointment of an anti- corruption representative of the United Nations Secretary. General.

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