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## RISKS AND SHORTCOMINGS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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### Abstract

This article is devoted to the study of the dangers of corruption in the higher education system and their impact on society. Corruption not only leads to a decrease in the quality of education, but also cause serious damage to the intellectual potential of the future generation. The main purpose of the work is to analyze the causes, manifestations and socio-economic consequences of corruption in higher education institutions.

**Keywords:** Corruption in higher education, anti-corruption policy, educational governance, institutional transparency, risk factors, implementation challenges

### Introduction

Corruption in higher education institutions is one of the most serious problems faced by the education system in Uzbekistan. This makes it difficult to get a high-quality education, reduces the level of trust in educational institutions and prevents the creation of an honest and competitive academic environment. In recent years, the fight against corruption in higher education has become an important part of Uzbekistan's state policy. Systematic measures are being taken to raise the legal awareness and culture of the population, and to form an uncompromising attitude towards corruption in society. Special laws, regulations and guidelines have been developed and implemented aimed at increasing the transparency of educational processes in response to problems of corruption in higher education institutions, ensuring impartiality in assessing students' knowledge and reducing the possibility of corrupt practices. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his speech on December 7, 2018, on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution, stated that "with corruption, we will never achieve our



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goal."<sup>1</sup> Based on various factors, we can determine that the fight against corruption in higher education institutions is an urgent problem, but the factors listed below are the highest priority.: 1) increased demand for potential personnel and the use of mature human resources services to achieve high results are crucial in a situation where the number of professions in modern public service and in the private sector is growing; 2) to live a prosperous life in a modern market economy, to occupy a worthy place in society, to be a specialist with higher education in order to achieve respectful treatment; 3) serious negative consequences caused by the interference of corruption in the relations that arise between the parties based on the above factors. As for the first one, the figures below show that the state pays great attention to higher education and needs it. Over the past 2023, 7 new higher education institutions were created, bringing the total number to 213. Of these, 116 are State-owned, 67 are non-governmental, and 30 are foreign higher education institutions. Currently, more than 1,300,000 students study at 213 universities, which indicates a 42% increase in the enrollment of young people in higher education. On the second basis, higher education institutions are singled out as an area of importance in the fight against corruption, since higher education is the final stage of continuing education, which is the direction to work. The desire for higher education is great all over the world and in our country, and strong competition in this regard increases the likelihood of corruption.

## Methods

According to the third criterion, higher education is considered the "First School of corruption", since in this activity the student, as an independent adult, enters into activities with the teacher that are directly contrary to the law, during which a corrupt personality is formed. <sup>2</sup>In the future, the occupation of a responsible position by a corrupt employee will have negative consequences. This means that the presence of corruption in higher education will pave the way for the spread of corruption in other areas. While local corruption creates ignorant students, the example of infection

<sup>1</sup> Sh. M. Mirziyoev, lecture on the 26th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, December 7, 2018, [http:// razera.uz](http://razera.uz)

<sup>2</sup> Petrov, S. N. (2019). Problems of corruption in higher education institutions: analysis and statistics. Journal of Higher Education, 12(3), 45-56.



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encourages educated students to take the path of corruption as well. Referring to negative indicators, in the past two years, 326 employees in the higher education system have been criminalized, with 317 or 97 percent committing corrupt crimes<sup>4</sup>. Also, a 2018 survey by the social thought Community Center found that 29 percent, and a 2019 survey found that 35 percent of participants recognized widespread corruption in the higher education system. Without sufficient knowledge and skills, it will be possible to deviate the spiritually poor young generation from state politics without difficulty, leading various negative paths, and this, in turn, will negatively affect the political and spiritual state in the state. Taking into account the listed important factors, intensive reforms are being carried out by the state in order to turn higher education into a truly "non-corruption sphere", focusing on it as one of the relevant areas. Despite the special attention and care given to the higher education system by the head of state, cases of corruption, serious problems and defects remain in the field. Therefore, first of all, it will be necessary to identify and eliminate the existing corrupt risks in the field of Higher Education. In this regard, the main tasks are not only the improvement of legislation, but also the practical introduction of anti-corruption mechanisms in the daily activities of higher education institutions. In higher education, it is the social relationship associated with the identification and elimination of corruption risks. In the field of higher education, regulatory legal acts regulating relations related to the identification and elimination of corruption risks, law enforcement practices, legislation and practices of some foreign countries, conceptual approaches to the issue of corruption risks, scientific-theoretical views and legal categories are studied as subjects of inquiry. It is permissible to dwell on the concept of "corruption" before covering the dangers of corruption in higher education institutions. The term corruption comes from the Latin word "corruption", which means "to incur in return for bribe"<sup>1</sup>. According to later views, the term corruption comes from the Latin word "corrumpere", meaning "perversion, nausea, decay". Corruption refers to the unlawful use of a career or authority for personal gain. It is a socio-economic problem that leads to increased injustice in society and a negative impact on social progress. Corruption in education is one of the most dangerous forms of social disease that undermines the foundation of society. This not only affects the quality of education, but also forms false values among young



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people, negatively affecting the development of the country as a whole. The causes, forms and consequences of educational corruption and the possible ways to combat it vary. The UN Convention Against Corruption (2003) states that corruption includes the following activities: 1. Bribery (bribery and bribery 2. Abuse of authority of public officials. 3. Interest in the private sector and financial fraud. Visions of corruption. Corruption takes various forms: Corruption in education can take various forms. One of the most common is the bribe that students or their parents pay to teachers or the person taking the exam for good grades, exams or diplomas. <sup>3</sup>This form of corruption is especially common in countries with low teacher salaries and high educational standards. Another type of corruption is "paid" places in educational institutions. In some countries, applicants can pay for the opportunity to enter a prestigious specialty or faculty, despite the lack of knowledge necessary for this. This leads to the fact that graduates do not have enough qualifications and cannot work effectively in their profession. In addition, corruption can manifest itself in the form of unreasonable requirements for various educational services: for example, for additional courses, textbooks or documents that must be provided for free or at a nominal price. Corruption leads to problems in the educational system, including the quality of higher education, changes in interests, and disruption of social justice. Corruption in higher education can be expressed not simply as a result of officials acting without responsibility for their own interests, but also as a result of simplifying the students' reading process or making beneficial decisions. Bribes and illegal schemes often lead to inefficient use of financial resources allocated for education. Often, funds aimed at improving infrastructure, scientific research or teacher training are directed to the pockets of dishonest officials, which reduces the chances and quality of education for students. When corruption becomes commonplace, society loses confidence in public institutions. This leads to a decrease in social stability and an increase in the discontent of citizens. People begin to doubt the fairness of the system and its ability to solve the most important problems of society. Education not only gives knowledge, but also forms ethics and moral values. When corruption flourishes in this area, it sends

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<sup>3</sup> First of all, for opinions on corruption, see: Islamov, A. (2019). Corruption and its social consequences. Tashkent: Uzbeksitan.



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messages to students that dishonesty and manipulation are common ways to succeed. It harms the formation of spiritual development and moral guidelines among young people. In spiritual life, a person strives for truth, honesty and Justice.

### Results

When corruption becomes commonplace, it undermines ideals and values that must shape a person. Students may lose faith in ideals and cause them to become so negatively ill-ill, weakening the spiritual and moral foundations of society in the long run. Education is not only a means of obtaining skills for career growth, but also a way of self-improvement and spiritual development.<sup>4</sup> When it becomes a means of achieving material goals through corruption, its true meaning disappears and becomes a simple process of obtaining knowledge without deep understanding of their importance. For example, awarding diplomas or coursework or exam results on a paid basis leads to taking into account not just the student's level of learning, but his economic capabilities. In this case, in place of the original quality of knowledge, financial interests gain power. This leads to improper attitude towards other students during the course of admission and study, to a violation of social justice. This is a spiritual effect of corruption, which reduces student confidence in education and negatively affects the social and economic development of the country in the future. Comprehensive measures to effectively combat corruption in education should be implemented. First, it is necessary to increase the salaries of teachers and improve their working conditions. This reduces the likelihood of resorting to distorted schemes to supplement their income. Secondly, it is necessary to strengthen control over educational institutions. The introduction of transparent assessment and certification systems, the creation of independent commissions, as well as the introduction of electronic technologies for examinations and knowledge assessment significantly reduce the level of corruption. Thirdly, it is important to change the public mood. To do this, it is necessary to conduct educational work between students, teachers and a wide audience, to explain why corruption in education is harmful to both personal and social development. Corruption in higher education

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<sup>4</sup> Jacques Alan. Muriel Poisson. "Corrupt schools, corrupt universities: What can be done?." International Institute of Education Planning 2014.



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institutions casts doubt on the philosophical principles of justice and ethics. If education and career are available only to those who are able to bribe, this violates the basic principles of social justice. Questions about how resources are distributed and how equality of opportunity is ensured are becoming more and more relevant. This causes a moral dilemma when people are forced to choose between self-interest and respect for moral standards, which affects their behavior and decision-making. The moral and philosophical consequences of corruption in higher education institutions apply not only to individuals, but also to society as a whole. This leads to a violation of the foundations of morality and Justice, an increase in social inequality and a decline in the educational system. In the long run, corruption in higher education institutions can affect public values, form a generation focused on the personal rather than the common good, and break the foundations of public trust and moral guidelines. <sup>5</sup>Traditionally, the image of a teacher is associated with high spiritual criteria, honesty and devotion to his work. The teacher is an example and should show students the importance of learning, development and personal efforts and success on the basis of knowledge. But when a teacher intervenes in the practice of corruption, such as taking an exam or receiving bribes to improve grades, it ruins the ideal. The image of the teacher is seen not as a guide and source of knowledge to the student, but as a "mediator" involved in corruption that applies its position in the cause of personal gain. While the Higher Education Act guarantees that the OSCE provides students with a hostel, but they have the opportunity to provide 40 percent of the students with a hostel. The general deregulation of student dormitory provision and the management of individuals has been the cause of corrupt circumstances. In a Social Survey, 6.4 percent of students received a hostel for bribes. The main reason for the corruption associated with the hostel is the lack of space. At the same time, education is a specific area, since it plays an important role in preventing corruption. The strictest laws and regulatory documents, as well as organizations that work effectively, will not be enough to stop corruption unless citizens demand accountability from the state and state structures. Therefore, the attitude of citizens is decisive in creating a system of responsible public

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<sup>5</sup> Kosimov H. "E-learning platforms: an effective anti-corruption tool". Education and science, 2022, No. 1.





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administration. Therefore, the education of intolerance to corruption should become one of the priorities of Education. Indeed, moral education of students and the younger generation can help break the scope of corruption, because today's young people are likely future leaders. This important aspect should not be overlooked, and it cannot be abandoned when developing comprehensive anti-corruption strategies. Corruption undermines the atmosphere of trust in educational institutions. If students notice that their teachers or the administration of a higher education institution are involved in corruption, their confidence in education is undermined.

### **Discussion**

This reduces the effectiveness of the educational process, as constructive communication and mutual respect between students and educators are lost. In the absence of trust between educators and students, the educational system remains only nominal. Students may perceive teachers not as authorities in the field of knowledge, but as people whose problems can be solved with the help of money or other illegal means. This reduces the level of respect for the educational process. If teachers are financially motivated by "forgiving" students' mistakes or simplifying the learning process, this will lead to a decrease in the requirements for students and a deterioration in the quality of Education. As a result, students may not receive the necessary knowledge and skills, which will affect their professional qualities in the future. Corruption can exacerbate an imbalance in the education system. For example, higher education institutions may have few potential and qualified high educators or be followed by individuals who have used corruption. In this case, educated educators may be less defined or their wages may be undesirable, regardless of their skills. This leads to a decrease in capacity personnel in the educational system and an increase in personnel with poor quality. The education system involved in corruption can disrupt the personal and professional development of students. For example, in many cases, the results of certificates, diplomas or courses in educational institutions are based not on the level of knowledge of students, but on their property or special interests. This limits the possibilities for the student to develop himself and increase professional abilities, and this can have long-term consequences, since it forms students' understanding that problems can be



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solved through money, not through strength and knowledge. This can affect their behavior in their future professional life, which supports corruption throughout society. Students who become participants in such schemes can then use similar techniques in their careers to help spread corruption in other areas. Corruption can be the basis for other problems in higher education institutions such as theft, abuse of office, and the creation of informal influence groups. This contributes to the deterioration of the psychological environment in the team, which affects the learning process and creates additional tension.

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