

**LOCAL PEOPLE PERCEPTION ON PREVALENCE,  
CAUSES, AND REMEDIAL MEASURES OF CORRUPTION  
IN DAKSHINKALI MUNICIPALITY, NEPAL**

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## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled “**Local people perception on prevalence, causes, and remedial measures of corruption in Dakshinkali municipality, Nepal**” has been prepared by Ms. Alina Thapa under my guidance and supervision successfully. I, hereby recommend it in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS in PUBLIC POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION STUDIES for final examination.

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## LETTER OF APPROVAL

We certify that this thesis entitled “**Local people perception on prevalence, causes, and remedial measures of corruption in Dakshinkali municipality, Nepal** ” presented by ALINA THAPA to the programme of Public Policy, Governance and Anti-corruption Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Tribhuvan University, in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in PUBLIC POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION STUDIES has been found satisfactory and in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

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## DECLARATION

I, ALINA THAPA, declare that this thesis entitled “**Local people perception on prevalence, causes, and remedial measures of corruption in Dakshinkali municipality, Nepal**” submitted to the Programme of Public Policy, Governance and Anti-corruption Studies is my own original work unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged in the thesis. The thesis does not contain materials which has been accepted or submitted for any other degree at the University or other institution. All sources of information have been specifically acknowledged by reference to the author(s) or institution(s).

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I hope my endeavor to cover all the necessary, relevant and significant information about the research topic has been evident in this report. I have tried my best to minimize errors to the extent possible by consulting my supervisor, teachers, friends and various reference materials.

**-Alina Thapa**

## ABSTRACT

Corruption remains a critical challenge in many developing countries, including Nepal, impacting governance and development. This study explores the anti-corruption initiatives at the local level in Dakshinkali Municipality, examining their effectiveness and the community's perception. The main objectives are to investigate the causes and forms of corruption, evaluate the effectiveness of anti-corruption strategies, and assess how these strategies have influenced the trend of corruption in Dakshinkali Municipality. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews. A total of 370 respondents from different wards in Dakshinkali Municipality were selected using purposive sampling. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

The results reveal that 33.11% of respondents are slightly familiar with anti-corruption strategies, while 30.46% reported witnessing nepotism as the most common form of corruption. Additionally, 49.67% believe the local government is sometimes transparent, and 29.14% have a neutral stance on the effectiveness of the anti-corruption initiatives. Furthermore, 33.11% of respondents believe that corruption occurs often in their local government. The study concludes that while there is moderate awareness of anti-corruption strategies, significant gaps in transparency and accountability remain. The most prevalent forms of corruption are nepotism and misuse of public funds. The effectiveness of anti-corruption measures is perceived variably, highlighting the need for enhanced transparency, stronger legal enforcement, and comprehensive public education.

The findings suggest that local governments should focus on increasing community engagement, improving transparency measures, and implementing robust anti-corruption training programs. Enhancing digital technologies and ensuring adequate compensation for employees are also recommended to reduce corruption.

**Keywords:** Corruption, Anti-Corruption Strategies, Local Government, Transparency, Nepal

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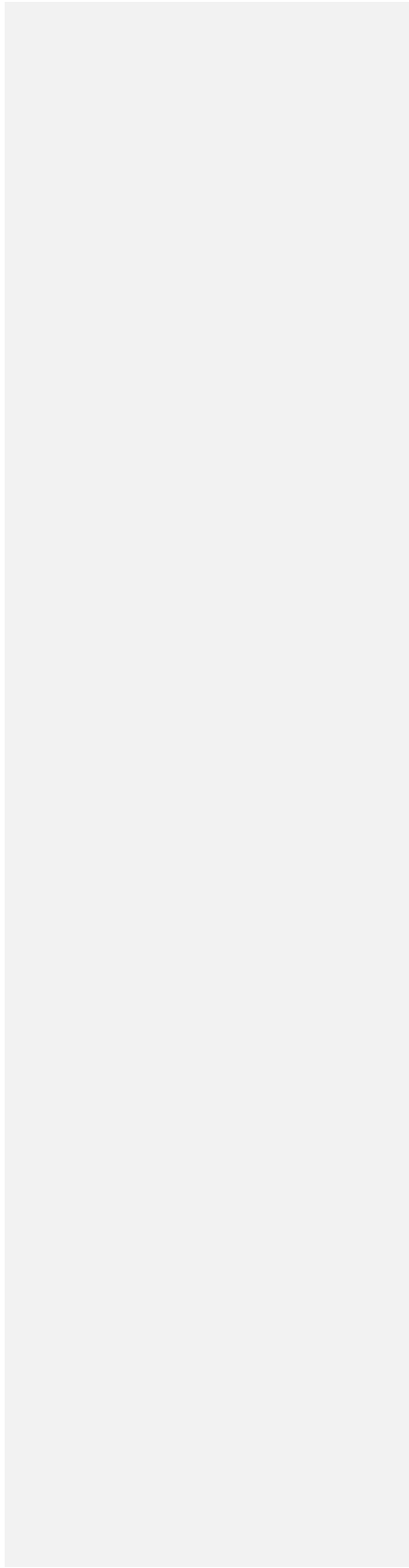
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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ACA	Anti-corruption Agencies
CIAA	Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Ref.	Reference
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

It's conceivable that the use of anti-corruption tactics is more significant than their design. The synchronization of several distinct agencies' and methods' efforts is crucial for success in this respect. It is necessary to designate a focal point that is an ultimate accountability for guaranteeing and publicizing success. It is suggested that there are two main options for this kind of focus point. Additionally, a lack of commitment behind clean-up programs and the ensuing inability to have the necessary impact in addition to trying to restrict corruption can weaken anti-corruption efforts. Campaigns against corruption are essential for increasing public awareness and fostering an environment that allows for the introduction of anti-corruption legislation and remedies. The general public's view of corruption may differ as well, and it's possible that other social and economic issues have a greater influence than anti-corruption initiatives. As a result of this relative lack of significance in the public perception, the significance of addressing the corruption problem itself is further diminished.

Paradoxically, the entire governing structure is potentially disconnected from the reality of the battle against corruption. There are steps that are regarded as best practices and ought to be the cornerstone of any strategy used to deal with dishonest officials and bribers in order to discover a way to potentially reduce corrupt behaviors in local government. Since Nepal is a developing nation where high-level corrupt practices continue to pillage the national wealth and where resources are desperately required for the restoration and rehabilitation of failing institutions, the issue of corruption is particularly important to the country. Decentralization also offers greater chances for participation, which may enhance citizens' capacity to keep an eye on government operations and hold elected officials responsible. Further research and arguments are being generated to support opinions, existing knowledge, and significant debates on this subject.

Research has also demonstrated that the "three pronged approaches"; prevention, public education, and investigation/prosecution; are effective strategies for combating corruption. These approaches are currently regarded as best practices for anti-corruption initiatives in local government. The "three pronged approaches" can still be followed within the government of Nepal's organizational structure, despite the fact that South Africa, Uganda, and other countries have for the time being embraced a more decentralized but coordinated organizational framework.

The creation of the Nepal Anti-Corruption Commission has further accelerated this process by pushing the government to work together to improve framework laws, create national anti-corruption teams to act as coordination hubs for anti-corruption initiatives, and continue to develop and implement administrative reforms in order to create a more potent anti-corruption structure. The local government may be encouraged by this attempt to strengthen its anti-corruption measures by involving business organizations, trade unions, and civil society more actively. In order to become pillars of the anti-corruption movement, the political players in the local governance system will need to put in more serious effort to maintain accountability and openness.

More reactive anti-corruption measures have also been implemented in Uganda, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and other countries in an effort to combat this systemic issue by guaranteeing total accountability and openness in their institutions. Despite having such strict policies in place, these administrations have acted quickly to alter a large number of laws and organizations. Therefore, more efforts must be made to update anti-corruption legislation to incorporate strategies that will build up mechanisms to regulate corruption in local government if Nepal is to go forward with decentralizing anti-corruption measures in the local government. One of the Public Service Anti-Corruption Strategy's main goals is the creation of a new anti-corruption act.

A practical definition of corruption ought to be included in the Anti-Corruption Bill. In order to simplify prosecution, it should also bring back the common law offense of

bribery and establish a presumption that accepting a favor is corrupt. All private individuals, governmental officials, and their representatives should be included by the Act as well. Rather than introducing piecemeal changes to the anti-bribery and anti-fraud laws, the Corruption Act need to unbundle corruption in line with contemporary worldwide legal trends. By using this method, particular corrupt behaviors are identified and outlawed.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Nepal exemplifies a well-known example of how corruption can plunge an apparently stable nation into a political and economic meltdown. Bhusal claims that the media in Nepal covers corruption cases and scandals in the administration almost every day. This sin has a repugnantly negative effect on socio-political and economic growth and development. Infrastructure development has failed as a result of corruption in the government's institutions, and millions of people are denied access to public services including security, health, and education. In order to build effective public service delivery, restore credibility to public offices, and ultimately accelerate socioeconomic progress, it is becoming more and more evident that the issue of corruption needs to be addressed (Bhusal, 2016). Nepal was chosen as the case study because it offers a variety of explanations for the reasons behind corruption, including sociopolitical, ethnohistorical, and economic issues. The decades-long battle the nation has waged against corruption provides a backdrop against which to view the tactics employed in the fight against immorality (Banerjee et al., 2012).

Corruption remains pervasive in Nepal despite the prominence of anti-corruption strategies in the nation's political architecture and constitution, raising fundamental concerns about the nature of the strategies used to combat it and, more specifically, their efficacy. Nevertheless, this issue has not received significant scholarly attention despite the tendencies in corruption in Nepal. Evaluation of the rules and initiatives put in place to stop corrupt behavior has not received much attention (Alatas, 2001).

Furthermore, a thorough review of how well the measures implemented in Nepal to combat corruption align with the underlying causes has not been carried out. By analyzing the reasons behind corruption in Nepal and the tactics used to combat it, this study aims to close this knowledge gap in the literature.

### **1.3 Research Question**

By analyzing the degree to which the anti-corruption policies address the reasons, the study will also determine how effective they are. The following questions have been set to meet the objectives of the present study:

- i. What is the perceived prevalence of corruption at local level among the residents of the study area?
- ii. What are the main causes of corruption identified by the residents of the study area?
- iii. What remedies are suggested by the residents to address and reduce corruption in their area?

### **1.4 Research objectives**

The overall objective of this thesis work understands the prevalence of local level

Corruption and ongoing remedial measures, specific objectives are:

- i. To examine the perception of local people about the corruption prevalent in the study area.
- i. To capture the local people insight about the causes of corruption in the study area.
- ii. To identify the remedies to address the corruption based on the knowledge of local people.

### **1.5 Significance of the study**

The main focus of research is to seek and investigate how a local level government helps to combat corruption and helps public for effective service delivery. The study allows us to understand the specific dynamics and challenges that exists at local level where corruption often occurs. By examining the wards service delivery, it helps to develop strategies and interventions to effectively address corruption.

The main objective of this study is to comprehend the differences in corruption patterns, degrees, and practices that exist throughout the Dakshinkali municipality's various wards. It is anticipated that the research paper's results and conclusion is useful in examining and contrasting wards, enabling the analysis of which anticorruption tactics have worked well in particular situations. Policymakers is able to approach new anticorruption efforts and manage corruption at the local level with more ease if they have a better knowledge of the research findings and how to adapt necessary laws and programs. It is beneficial to apply the best anticorruption practices; which have a great possibility of success; when tackling new anticorruption efforts through ward research.

### **1.6 Limitations of the study**

As every research has its pros and cons, the report is not far from some limitations. Some of them are listed below; The study is conducted in Dakshinkali municipality; therefore, the study's findings may be limited to the only to this municipality included in the study. The availability and quality of data may vary across different wards. The effectiveness of anticorruption measures may be influenced by external factors such as political and economic factors. In addition, the study is conducted within limited time frame, data, resources and lack of research experiments. At last, this study is conducted only for acquiring the degree of Masters in Public Policy, Governance and Anti-corruption studies, hence; there may be time, resource and budgetary constraints.

### **1.7 Organization of the study**

This chapter is about the introduction with sub-topics like background of the study, the statement of the problem, the research questions and objectives, the significance of the study and its limitations. The second chapter is allocated for literature review including empirical review, theoretical review, conceptual review and research gaps. Chapter third is about methodology where research design, nature and source of data, universe and sample, data collection methods, data analysis methods etc. are discussed. We allocate

Chapter four for analysis and discussion. We conclude in chapter five, followed by references and annex materials

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Conceptual Review**

##### **2.1.1 Corruption and forms of corruption**

It may not seem necessary to define corruption, yet its significance cannot be overstated. This is because a behavior that is deemed corrupt in one country may not be in another. Corrupt practices can mean different things to different people, depending on their discipline, political views, and cultural upbringing. The notion of corruption is not only ill-defined, but it also causes scholars to debate it greatly (Gyimah-Brempong, 2002).

Corruption is an extralegal institution that individuals or groups use to influence choices made by the bureaucracy. Since corruption is a neutral concept, one must take its purposes into account while determining whether it is advantageous or damaging. In this case, corruption serves a useful purpose because, in contrast to instances when certain public officials utilize corruption to further their own interests, other public officials are compelled to forego certain documentation in order to expedite decision-making (Leff, 1964). The definition of corruption is behavior that deviates from official duties in order to further one's own interests. This kind of behavior includes "misappropriation, nepotism, and bribery." According to him, corruption takes place every time a public official fails to fulfill their assigned duty of upholding the public interest (Nye, 1967)

The several ways that corruption is classified in literature vary widely since corruption is a highly nebulous and abstract topic. For instance, Alatas separates corruption into seven groups: autogenic, supporting, investigative, transactive, extortive, defensive, and nepotistic (Alatas, 2001). However, the USAID Anti-Corruption Assessment Handbook (2009) has classified the kind and extent of corruption based on a nation-state's developed political, economic, and democratic institutions. According to USAID, there are four distinct "syndromes" that have been established to describe corruption: the mature states corruption syndrome, the elite network states corruption syndrome, the weak transitional states corruption syndrome, and the weak undemocratic states corruption syndrome.

According to the previously cited analysis, the level of corruption in Nepal can be attributed to the phenomenon known as the "weak transitional states corruption syndrome." (USAID, 2009)

According to Khan, lawlessness and the violation of the rule of law are intimately linked to the prevalence of corrupted conduct. He is of the opinion that those in positions of authority, particularly politicians, bureaucrats, and businesspeople, abuse their power by breaking numerous laws in order to further their own interests. In a similar vein, a nation's high degree of corruption is indicative of both low levels of productivity and other developmental processes (Khan, 2017).

### **2.1.2 Causes of corruption**

Different nations may have a distinct set of elements associated with corruption. There are several factors that contribute to corruption, including the effectiveness of the government, the accountability system, the legal system, the openness of information, and the condition of information transmission (Shah, 2012). Similarly, poor pay, an opaque political system, an ineffective reporting system, an absence of meritocratic personnel policies, and government officials' self-serving attitudes are the five main drivers of corruption. When we examine the theories surrounding corruption, we find that they primarily highlight the function of institutions in conjunction with the structural and economic policies of a certain nation and its setting (Svensson, 2005).

Various research present differing opinions and empirical data. For instance, Enste discovered in an empirical study conducted over the past 20 years that, in addition to the other various causes, the endowment of natural resources, press freedom, judiciary, and cultural determinants all have a significant impact on corruption (Enste & Heldman, 2017). Politics is seen as the ruler of all policies, and it has a beneficial and bad impact on institutions. For instance, Singh discovers that the Afghan elites' political meddling has harmed the anti-corruption agency's effectiveness and encouraged corruption to proliferate (Singh, 2016).

### **2.1.3 Anti-Corruption Agencies: Success and failures**

Quah examines the success and failure variables of 42 anti-corruption agencies across 27 Asia-Pacific nations in a comparative analysis. He identifies four key elements that make up the effective anti-corruption apparatus. He believes that the political leaders' strong political will is the first and most important element. The creation of type-A anti-corruption agency with sufficient funding and staffing is the second. The third is giving the ACA the operational and legal freedom to function as an impartial watchdog free from political meddling. The fourth is broad popular support for shielding the ACA from its adversaries (Quah, 2017).

Heilbrunn highlights five key elements that are crucial in explaining why corruption hasn't decreased even with the implementation of ACAs. First, the efficacy of the ACA may be hampered by the lack of suitable legislation. Second, it depends whether or not the Affordable Care Act is totally immune to political meddling. Third, the operation is influenced by a well-defined reporting hierarchy system. Fourth, another important component that determines whether ACA is successful or not is the existence of an oversight system. Finally, the population size and geographic location can also affect how well the ACA operates (Heilbrunn, 2014).

The strategy that ACAs choose to use also has a big influence on whether they succeed or fail. Hean asserts, for instance, that Singapore fights corruption using a "total approach." Similar to this, the politicization of the anti-corruption movement weakens the actual fight against corruption by bolstering particular elites and agents or groups that support regressive ideas (Hean, 2009). Thus, the true battle necessitates a depoliticization of the anti-corruption movement through group action (Abubakar, 2018). Zhu makes a similar argument in research conducted in China, namely that as political rivalry increases, political parties exploit anti-corruption platforms more as a means of retaliation than as a means of truly combating corruption (Zhu, 2016).

#### **2.1.4 Anti-corruption agencies and their relation to other institutions**

In many nations, anti-corruption authorities are essential organizations for reducing corruption. Since corruption is now generally acknowledged as a serious societal issue, successful solutions require cooperation from the government, non-governmental organizations, and numerous other parties. For instance, Saryazdi emphasize the significance of educating the people about corruption and giving them more influence. Schools, the media, and the active involvement of civil society all play important roles in the active and successful implementation of ACAs (Saryazdi, 2007).

Sweeney emphasizes the importance of education in schools in raising students' knowledge of corruption-related activities and instilling moral values in them. Thus, cooperation with other institutions makes the battle against corruption feasible (Sweeney, 2013). On the other hand, Jain contended that the sustainability of ACA's progress in combating corruption rests on the other institutions' positive improvements. Effective and successful corruption control therefore always necessitates a redefining of warped policies and a reform of inadequate governance (Jain A. , 1998).

A powerful political will or meddling? Bad governance cannot be remedied or replaced by the mere implementation of the new ACA. In addition to having appropriate resources and training (OECD, 2013) a strong political will is critical to the effectiveness of the fight against corruption (Man-Wai, 2009). The ACA's staffing, power, and financial components must subsequently be significantly increased in order to demonstrate the political will behind them. However, some data suggests that increasing wealth might not be the only appropriate or successful way to combat corruption, particularly in nations where the financial and legal systems are weak or even tainted internally (Svensson, 2005).

#### **2.1.5 Strong-anti corruption agencies**

The political structure of a nation has both good and negative effects on how well ACAs are able to carry out their functions. For instance, Aminuzzaman & Khair have noted that while strong and committed leadership may surely aid in the ACA's work, corrupted conduct and the abuse of authority might impede the effective performance of its duties

(Aminuzzaman & Khair, 2007). For this reason, political leadership need to be morally superior and committed to spearheading the battle against corruption. Better laws and regulations will also determine whether anti-corruption organizations succeed or fail. However, the existence of these two elements does not guarantee the suppression of corruption; rather, the effectiveness of these agencies is greatly impacted by the absence of political will. Other academics think that ACA performance is enhanced by structured and predictable incentive and punishment schemes. Zhu contends that successfully and economically reducing corruption requires both the application of appropriate punishment and a robust government system for exposing corrupt individuals when appropriate (Zhu, 2016).

#### **2.1.6 Policy implementation and effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACA)**

According to Bolongaita (2010), most anti-corruption organizations in developing nations have a "bark rather than bite" mentality, and far too many of them were eventually disbanded (Bolongaita, 2010). For this reason, you must train them to bite more often than to bark. Comparably, the managerial facets of the ACAs, such as strategic and tactful leadership, competent administration, and proficiency in staffing, financial affairs, and the efficient use of available resources, are essential to their efficacy (Doig & Norris, 2012)

According to Quah (2001), effectively reducing corruption requires both comprehensive anti-corruption measures and the real commitment of political leadership. He claims that the incremental approach is ineffective in preventing corruption. In a same vein, his findings highlight the necessity of having trustworthy, honorable, and capable employees in the ACA (Quah, 2001).

In their 2007 study, Khanal, Rajkarnikar, and Karki employed case analysis and thorough examination of primary and secondary data to examine the efficacy of the CIAA and the National Vigilance Center (NVC). They examined the current laws, policies, and institutional setups using an analytical-descriptive methodology. A poll of 350 individuals from three distinct cities was conducted to ascertain the public's opinion of the efficacy of both establishments. People's perceptions of institutions point to the

existence of flaws in the anti-corruption authorities' overall structure. Similarly, it is claimed that some of the main things impeding the efficacy of anti-corruption authorities are the growing workload, the lack of sufficient resources, and the unsupportive behavior of political and bureaucratic officials. Secondary sources, particularly those from governmental and non-governmental organizations, provided the foundation for their main conclusion. Their main conclusions were supported by secondary sources, particularly those from governmental and non-governmental organizations. Given that the CIAA is one of the main organizations tackling corruption, it would seem necessary to conduct study on the organization specifically (Khanal et al., 2007).

In Quah's study, the anti-corruption departments of Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, and South Korea were compared. He examined the agencies in light of six prerequisites. ACAs must meet the following requirements: they must be uncorruptible; they must operate independently of the police and political authority; comprehensive anti-corruption legislation must exist; they must have sufficient staffing and funding; they must enforce the anti-corruption laws impartially; and their governments must be dedicated to reducing corruption in their nations. According to his evaluation, the ACAs in Singapore and Hong Kong are more successful than those in South Korea and Thailand. The political will of their various governments, which is reflected in the budget and staffing levels, was a major contributing factor in the discrepancy. Enforcing their anti-corruption legislation impartially was another crucial distinction (Quah, 2017).

### **2.1.7 Major challenges in the anticorruption movement**

Combating corruption is never easy for two key reasons: first, it's covert and can take many different forms (Svensson, 2005) . Beyond these two obstacles, anti-corruption organizations also face difficulty identifying the networks of individuals participating in corrupt activities. Zhu discovers in Chinese research that a complex network of individuals from diverse government, business, and local entities intensifies and runs the corruption network like a "syndicate." (Zhu, 2016). In a related research, Gong asserts that the participation of several stakeholders in corrupt activities through their "tactfully organized" efforts makes corruption harder to identify and more difficult to handle (Gong, 2002).

Some individuals who are referred to as "middlemen" are involved in the process of normalizing corrupt behaviors. According to Della and Vannucci (2012), the broker and those "professional" middlemen typically serve as "bridges" between the corrupted and the corruptor. These "middlemen" might put the two sides in contact, assist with talks, and even physically transfer bribes. Anti-corruption organizations find it difficult to identify and unearth such networks and covert "deals." The Supreme Court's dismissal of a high-ranking member of the CIAA in a nation like Nepal has demonstrated that the nomination procedure for the chief commissioner and the other commissioners has grown to be a significant obstacle to the fight against corruption (Della Porta & Vannucci, 2012). The ACAs are frequently challenged by political meddling in a variety of ways, such as by firing top officials, lowering authority and mandates, and slashing funding. He goes on to say that political parties typically target these delicate issues in an effort to curry favor and exert pressure on them (Sousa, 2009).

## **2.2 Theoretical review: Principal -Agent theory**

By the end of the 1970s, economics and institutional theory were combined, leading to the development of the theory of the principal and agent, which was then applied to the study of corruption (Rose-Ackerman, 2007). All theoretical studies included in the review either adhered to and explicitly declared this approach to fraud, or their consideration was closely related to this approach, according to an efficient analysis of the impact of date on the effects of corruption on economic growth (Ugur & Dasgupta, 2011).

Governments view instances of corruption as budget losses when agents have the authority and chance to violate principles, so securing gains at the expense of public interests. In order to provide a more accurate explanation of how the principal-agent theory is applied in political policy, it should be noted that the roles may vary depending on the situation. Legislators may have served as agents in the instance of political fraud, while taxpayers may have served as principals (Besley, 2017). But if we consider the example of small-scale bribery, authorities could act negatively while legislators might

grow more vigilant against criminal activity (Blackburn et al., 2012). According to this hypothesis, there may be an information imbalance whereby the actions and fervor of one side may be obscured from those of another. As such, the agent can act in their own best interests. Therefore, when the parties' interests do not align and the abusive party works to harm the principal's affair, corruption manifests as a kind of ethical danger.

As Nobel Prize-winning supply-side theorist Becker (2011) noted, the method of the principal and the agent is based on the assumption that the agent consciously chooses to engage in criminal activity, especially if the pure advantages surpass the pure values or the policy of containment. A responsible agent weighs the benefits of corruption, including the size of a bribe, against costs, which are mostly determined by the likelihood of being detained and imprisoned, in order to determine whether or not they have engaged in fraud. This cost-benefit analysis should also take into account the moralistic interpretation of crime, which is based on an individual's own moral, social, and spiritual standards and may not matter in the case of an "immoral personality in a low subculture."

Consequently, a rational agent would only engage in bribery in situations where corruption is deemed alluring to them, provided that the bribe is large enough to satisfy all moral and material standards and is effective in establishing an arrest and adjusting a fine. This figure ought to be distinguished further from the person's pay and moral products.

### **2.3 Empirical Review**

Myint (2000) states the necessity of fighting corruption stems from the fact that it has a detrimental impact on the state's social cohesion, economic growth, and harmony. According to Myint, the knowledge that corruption may have a detrimental impact on socioeconomic progress is what has sparked the search for a cure for the vice. Corruption is seen to have a significant negative influence on society, particularly in emerging nations like Africa. Throughout actuality, the widespread and seemingly unending levels of corruption throughout the continent are mostly to blame for the underdevelopment of African nations in comparison to their counterparts in the West.

According to Akqay, corruption hinders the political, social, and economic advancement of a nation and its society. Moreover, corruption hinders economic growth and development by deterring foreign investment, weakening the value of the national currency, and cutting back on public spending on services like health and education (Akqay, 2006). Spending on the military rises in tandem with the need to quell unrest. As inequality and poverty rise, there is a distortion in the distribution of resources, and the government's basic responsibility of enforcing laws and safeguarding property is also affected (Bardhan, 2000).

Ikubaje (2010) explained to combat corruption, a number of African nations have developed and put into action a number of initiatives and regulations. The problem of corruption across the continent has not been effectively addressed by these initiatives, which have varied from financial methods to political or public policies. In reality, under pressure from Western donors, African nations have enacted policies in the last ten years to promote good governance and transparency as well as sector changes to combat corruption. It has been praised that Rwanda, Liberia, Tanzania, Mauritius, and Ghana have achieved remarkable progress in the fight against corruption.

Mauro (2011) initiated the measures governments have implemented to counteract or address corrupt behaviors are known as anti-corruption policies and strategies. Aiming to address the issue of corruption in their respective nations, African governments, including Kenya's, have developed, formulated, and put into practice a number of anti-corruption policies and strategies in response to the rise in corrupt practices in the continent and the serious effects of corruption on socioeconomic development. According to Mauro, these tactics and policies include financial, legal, and public ones.

Brandolino and Luna (2006) mentioned Global initiatives to eliminate corruption have been sparked by the realization that it is a development issue that impacts human society as a whole. Through multilateral anti-corruption accords and conventions, the international community has united to combat corruption. The objective has been to formalize official commitments for the use of shared anti-corruption principles in an attempt to unite governments against the vice. UNCAC recognizes the need for a

concentrated effort on several fronts in the fight against corruption. Multilateral accords against corruption tackle a number of anti-corruption fronts, one of which is law enforcement, which acknowledges the importance of judicial, prosecutorial, and impartial investigative authorities in the prosecution of public corruption. The second topic covered by these agreements is public sector prevention.

(Brandolino & Luna, 2006) mentioned the commercial sector's prevention is also included by the agreements against corruption. Governments are urged by international accords to establish measures that have a positive impact on the private sector. These include keeping in place an efficient regulatory structure to stop people from paying bribes and from disguising their illegal payments. These also include the ban on corporate fraud and the deductibility of bribery (Mauro, 2011). The follow-up mechanism is the last item addressed in international accords on corruption. In order to overcome the inadequacies, the accords require party nations to establish procedures that might improve technical support and international collaboration. It is noteworthy that, in the modern era, national anti-corruption policies are based in the framework created by international accords against corruption (Hanna et al., 2011).

Gupta (2012) states in comparison to 2013 and 2014, Nepal's position on the global corruption index has declined somewhat in 2015. It's important to observe that the number of corruption charges filed fell sharply between 2006 and 2008, but that starting in 2008, the number began to rise. In a similar vein, it can be observed that the number of complaints received and settled throughout the year 2006–2015 did not exhibit any notable fluctuations. Between 2005 and 2015, the Far-Western Development Region recorded the fewest corruption and inappropriate allegations annually, while the Central Development Region registered the most. In a similar vein, Terai districts had the most accusations about corruption incidents between 2005 and 2013. Mahottari was frequently included among the top 10 districts registered during the years 2005 and 2015..

According to Ghimire, Nepal is one of the most corrupt nations in the world, with a wide range of corrupt practices. In a similar vein, Nepal has long had anti-corruption legislation. In 1854, the first National Code (Muluki Ain) was passed. New national

codes with a section on anti-bribery were released in 1863. This statute gave rise to a legal need to revisit charges of bribery against public officials, but not against Rana monarchs. Nepal created the Corruption Prevention Act, 1954 for the first time in 1954. Following that, a lot of anti-corruption initiatives are being carried out at the local, state, federal, and private levels. But in Nepal, anti-corruption campaigns are not succeeding. This article attempts to list the primary challenges facing Nepal's anti-corruption drive (Ghimire, 2018).

Sergio (2021)Article by Sergio, initially specifies twelve ACA ideal categories that represent their ability to reduce corruption, based on a thorough examination of the research. It then uses two case studies; Nepal and Guatemala to highlight how the ACAs have a detrimental impact on state legitimacy. The results demonstrate that ACAs may be detrimental to state legitimacy if they raise public knowledge of and criticism of corruption in state institutions or if governments obstruct the results of ACA-related investigations. When considered collectively, these results emphasize the necessity for anti-corruption strategies and reforms to take into consideration and adjust to the possibility of delegitimizing impacts on state institutions.

## 2.4 Research Gap

The study on "Local People's Perception on Prevalence, Causes, and Remedial Measures of Corruption in Dakshinkali Municipality, Nepal" employs Principal-Agent Theory to examine how perceptions of corruption are shaped and managed within this specific context. Principal-Agent Theory explores the dynamics between principals (e.g., citizens or authorities) and agents (e.g., government officials), focusing on issues of trust, accountability, and information asymmetry. By applying this theory, the study aims to uncover how perceived prevalence and causes of corruption influence public views and effectiveness of remedial measures. This approach helps in understanding the disconnects and challenges in governance and in formulating strategies to enhance transparency and accountability in addressing corruption.

The empirical review of the study on corruption in Dakshinkali Municipality reveals that public perceptions are significantly influenced by both the perceived extent and the underlying causes of corruption. The review highlights that residents believe corruption is widespread and see it as rooted in systemic issues and weak governance structures. Effective remedial measures are seen as crucial, but there's a need for better implementation and transparency.

The literature on local corruption, particularly within the context of Dakshinkali Municipality, provides valuable insights into the prevalence, causes, and potential remedial measures. Existing studies highlight various dimensions of corruption, from its impact on local governance to the factors contributing to its persistence. However, significant gaps remain in understanding the specific local manifestations of corruption in Dakshinkali, including how unique socio-cultural and economic factors influence its prevalence. Furthermore, while general causes of corruption are well-documented, there is a lack of targeted research on the local causes and how they differ from broader national trends. Additionally, while remedial measures have been proposed, there is limited empirical evidence on their effectiveness within the local context. The methodological gap in research on local corruption in Dakshinkali Municipality lies in the limited application of localized, context-specific approaches to understand and address corruption. Existing studies often rely on broad, generalized data or national-

level analyses that may not capture the unique socio-cultural and economic factors influencing corruption at the municipal level. To address this gap, methodologies such as qualitative case studies, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions with local stakeholders can provide nuanced insights into the specific manifestations and perceptions of corruption within Dakshinkali. Additionally, employing mixed-methods research, combining qualitative insights with quantitative surveys, can offer a comprehensive view of the prevalence, causes, and effectiveness of remedial measures tailored to the local context. This approach ensures a more accurate and actionable understanding of corruption in Dakshinkali, ultimately informing more effective local governance strategies.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research design**

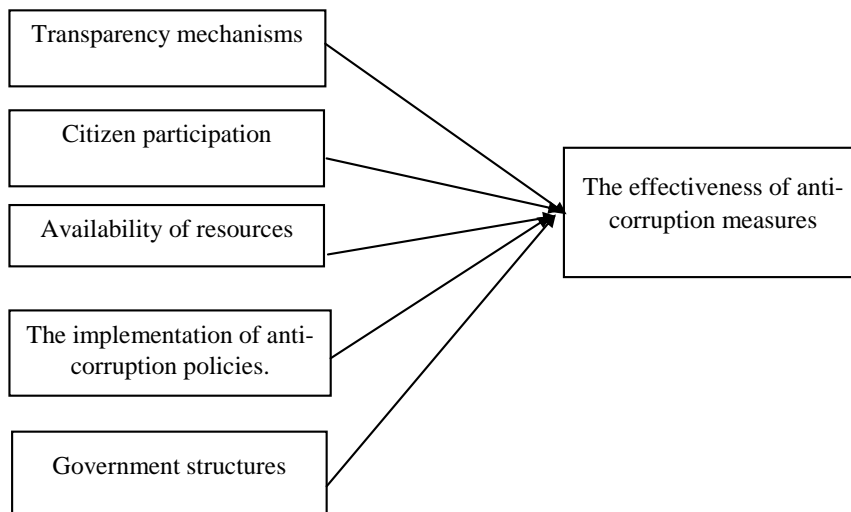
This study is conducted under exploratory and analytical research design. It is exploratory in nature as carried out to dig out the status of the corruption and the strategies of anti-corruption in the less explored local levels. Moreover, quantitative ways of data collection, presentation and analysis are applied. Some qualitative methods like unstructured interviews with the locals using the questionnaire prepared and quantitative methods such as survey are used in this study. Through the combination of these methods, this study is able to achieve a detail understanding of the outcome and the process of anti-corruption efforts at the local government of the study area.

#### **3.2 Conceptual framework**

This shows the relationship between dependent and independent variables of different wards, the researcher can analyze how these independent variables relate to the dependent variable of corruption control. This can help identify patterns, trends, and factors that contribute to effective corruption control measures.

Independent Variables

Dependent variables



*Figure 1:* Conceptual framework of the study

**Transparency mechanisms:** The transparency mechanism like the disclosure to the public and the whistleblower protections enhance the anti-corruption strategies by examining the influence on combating the corruption and increasing the accountability helps the policymakers to craft effective frameworks of governance by fostering the trust within the worldwide institutions.

**Citizen participation:** This variable assesses the active status of the citizens involved in the process of decision making like the transparency policy implementation and the accountability. The researchers measure the role of budgeting and the community consultations to foster an inclusive governance and shape effective interventions.

**Availability of resources:** This variable examines the quantity and the accessibility of the resources and how it impacts the outcomes. The researcher analyses the factors like the infrastructures, the funding, the technology accessibility for understanding the

influence on the well-being of the citizen and access the level of corruption in the local government.

**Implementation of anti-corruption policies:** This variable evaluates the effectiveness in anti-corruption strategies and studying the method these policies are put into practice through the institutional reforms and the enforcement measures is helpful in providing views into the reduction of corruption. The researcher can access the challenges and the success of the efforts of anti-corruption to promote the integrity within the governance by examining the effectiveness of enforcements level of public trust and the change in the indices of corruption perception.

**Government structure:** This variable assesses how the framework of the government influences the policies and includes studying the effect of various systems. The researcher can analyze how the structural factors is responsible for influencing the efficiency of the governance, the process of making decisions, the implementation of policies and the overall outcome of the society.

### 3.3 Universe and sample

A population is all of the events, people, or things that the researcher is interested in researching and that do have a similar set of characteristics. Moreover, a population is defined as an aggregated unit from which the researcher deduces and generates study results. The sampling frame is a list of people, places, and activities from which an appropriate sample size is selected. It is composed of a list of people, things, occasions, establishments, and organizations that may be sampled from a population (Hanna et al., 2011)

The whole population of the chosen area, or Dakshinkali Municipality, comprises the study's universe. Since it is not feasible to survey the whole population, the study relies on the sampling technique for data gathering. The purposive sampling approach is used to select 370 people in total as the sample.

### **3.4. Nature and source of data**

The data used in this study is both quantitative and qualitative in nature. The respondents' perceptions, comprehension, opinions, attitudes, behaviors, personal experiences etc. are all included in the qualitative data. This type of data helps in understanding the nuanced and context-specific aspects of corruption that cannot be quantified. Quantitative data consists of structured surveys and statistical analysis, providing measurable insights into the prevalence of corruption, its perceived causes, and the effectiveness of various remedial measures.

The data is collected using both the primary and secondary sources

#### **3.4.1 Primary sources:**

The primary source includes direct data from the community through the in-depth interviews, structured surveys and observations. The survey gathered the quantitative data in the perception of the residents regarding the corruption, its prevalence, causes and opinions on the remedial measures. The interview with the local officials, the activists and the community leaders provided the qualitative insights into the causes and the prevalence of the corruption in the study area.

#### **3.4.2 Secondary data sources:**

Secondary data sources included the existing reports, studies, and official records related to corruption and governance in Dakshinkali Municipality and similar contexts. This involved reviewing government reports, anti-corruption audits, and previous research studies to understand the broader trends and historical context of corruption. Additionally, media articles, policy documents, and academic literature are analyzed to gain insights into the general patterns of corruption and effectiveness of various anti-corruption measures. These secondary sources complemented primary data by providing background information and contextualizing the findings within a larger framework of corruption research and policy.

### 3.5 Data collection tools and techniques

The interview questionnaires are prepared including the causes of corruption in the local level, the anti-corruption strategies and the effectiveness of those strategies. A Likert scale approach is used to collect the views and ideas of the locals.

**Observation:** During the fieldwork, the researcher spent time in the field to observe the activities related to the corruption and the anticorruption measures at the study area.

**Interview:** The interview schedule is categorized into four sections i.e. the basic information of the respondents, the knowledge of corruption and anti-corruption, the anti-corruption strategies and the effectiveness of anti-corruption strategies.

### 3.6. Data analysis methods

The collected data is analyzed using percentage analysis method. For this, MS Excel is used to code the data and calculate the desired frequencies and percentage. In exploring local perceptions of corruption in Dakshinkali Municipality, Nepal, the percentage analysis method provides valuable insights into the prevalence, perceived causes, and suggested remedial measures. Surveys conducted among residents quantify perceptions on a scale (e.g., very high, high, moderate, low, and very low). For instance, if 60% of respondents indicate that they perceive corruption as high, this finding highlights significant concern within the community. Analyzing the causes; such as political influence, lack of transparency, and economic disparity; reveals which factors are viewed as most detrimental. Responses regarding remedial measures, such as increased accountability and community engagement, express preferences in percentages, determining the most favored solutions. This structured approach illustrates the scope of the issue and empowers local stakeholders to address corruption effectively based on community sentiment.

## CHAPTER IV

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1 Socio- Economic Characteristics

Socio-Economic factors provide a valuable insight in the demonstration of data analysis and Interpretation. In this study it is distinguished on the basis of Age, Gender, Marital Status, Religion, Education and Family Structure of Respondents.

##### 4.1.1 The age of the respondents

Age is a composite variable that impacts social, demographic, psychological, physical, and mental elements of life as well as institutional and social features, productivity, experience, knowledge, and perception, among other things. Respondents from the following age ranges are included in this study:

**Table 1**

Age of the respondents

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-30	181	48.92
31-40	64	17.30
41-50	78	21.08
Above 50	47	12.70
Total	370	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2024

From the responses above in the table 1, it can be seen that the total number of respondents are characterized into different age groups i.e. 18-30, 30-40, 41-50 and above 50. With the data, it is evident that 181 respondents (48.92%) belong to 18-30 age group; 64 respondents (17.30%) belong to 31-40 age group; 78 respondents (21.08%) belong to 41-50 and 47 respondents (12.70%) belong to group above 50. This means that the majority of the respondents are between 18-30 and the least is above 50 years.

#### **4.1.2 The family structure of respondents**

For accessing the effectiveness of anti-corruption strategies, the respondents belong to different family structures i.e. either nuclear or joint. Most of the respondents belonged to nuclear family which comprises of the parents and children while the joint family included grandparents and other relatives as well. This survey looked into gathering insights from all type of families and the number of respondents from each family type is presented below:

**Table 2:**

Family structure of the respondents

Family Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Nuclear	225	60.81
Joint	145	39.19
Total	370	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2024

As per the data collected, the nuclear families were presented by 225 respondents i.e. 60.81% and the other 145 respondents i.e. 39.19 percent belonged to joint family which shows that majority of the respondents were form nuclear families (Table 2).

#### **4.1.3 Marital status of the respondents**

The respondents' marital status is another attribute that affects and determines a variety of reactions in social and personal life, as well as behavior and attitudes. An individual's

social attitude varies based on their marital status. The following lists the research participants' marital statuses:

**Table 3**

Marital Status of the respondents

n=370

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Married	220	59.46
Unmarried	103	27.84
Divorced	20	5.41
Widowed	27	7.30
Total	370	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2024

According to the data presented in the table above, majority of the respondents are married which comprises of 59.46 percent of the total respondents, unmarried respondents comprise 27.84 percentage, while 5.41 percent of the respondents are divorced and 7.30 percent are widow/widower (Table 3).

#### **4.1.4The religion of the respondents**

Religion is a systematized collection of activities, rituals, beliefs, and systems that are most frequently associated with the belief in and worship of a superhuman ruling force, particularly a personal deity or gods. Different faiths have different guiding ideals, norms, ethics, morals, and ideas about how society, the country, the community, and the world should be governed. The following table presents the religion of the respondents:

**Table 4**

Religion of the respondents

n=370

Religion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Hinduism	162	43.78
Buddhism	83	22.43
Christianity	71	19.19
Islam	47	12.70
Others	7	1.89
Total	370	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The table above shows that the respondents follow different religions and have different ways of perceiving things. The religion was categorized into Hinduisms, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam; among which majority of the respondents were Hindu comprising 43.78 percent of the total population. Buddhist were the next higher percent of the religion followed by the respondents with 22.43 percent, Christianity was followed by 19.19 percent, Islam was followed by 12.70 percent while 1.89 percent followed other religions (Table 4).

#### **4.1.5 The occupation of the respondents**

A person's career, profession, or area of interest that they engage in to make a living is referred to as their occupation. Social status, stratification, wealth, prestige, expertise, aptitude, attitude, and many other characteristics are associated with a particular occupation. The respondents' occupations may also have some bearing on the attitudes

expressed in their responses to the questionnaire, in their interviews, etc. The distribution of study participants by occupation is provided below:

**Table 5:**  
Occupation of the respondents

n=370

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farmer	105	28.38
Businessman	66	17.84
Wage salary worker	110	29.73
Teacher	27	7.30
Civil servant	17	4.59
Self employed	39	10.54
Others	6	1.62
Total	370	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The table presented above shows the occupation of the respondents who took part in the survey. The result shows 28.38 percent of the respondents are engaged in farming, 17.84 percent are businessman, 29.73 percent are wage salary workers, 7.30 percent are teachers, 4.59 percent of them are civil servants, 10.54 percent are self-employed and 1.62 percent of the respondents are engaged in some other type of works (Table 5).

#### 4.1.6 Education level of respondents

Education is one of the demographic factors influencing the society which includes the career opportunities, the socio-economic status, and also critical thinking abilities, in the survey regarding the study, the level of education of the respondents indicated their perspective on the ethical government system, corruption and the strategies of anti-corruption.

**Table 6**

Education level of the respondents

Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Formal Education	27	7.30
Primary Education	71	19.19
Lower Secondary Education	20	5.41
Secondary Education	76	20.54
Intermediate	56	15.14
Bachelor Degree	42	11.35
Master Degree	42	11.35
Above Master Degree	36	9.73
Total	370	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2024

According to the table, the respondents are categorized as per their education attainment and the highest percentage of the respondents i.e. 20.54 percent have completed their secondary level education, 19.19 percent have done primary schooling, 15.14 percent have done intermediate level, 11.35 percent each have done masters and bachelor's degree while 9.73 percent of the respondents are educated above master's degree (Table 6). However, 7.30 percent of the respondents do not even have formal education which may affect the findings of the survey.

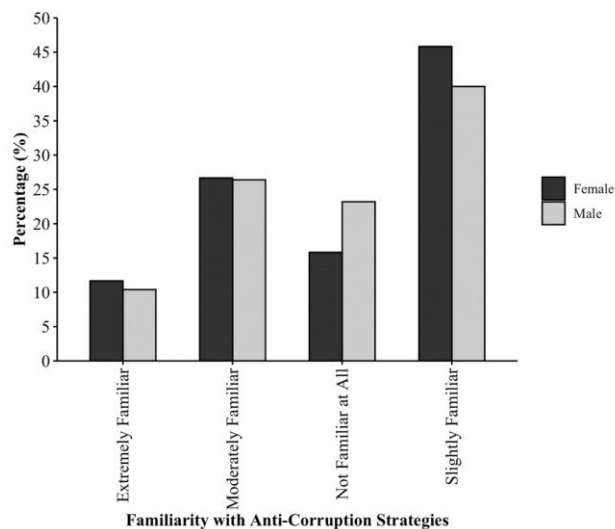
## 4.2 Prevalence of local-level corruption

In this section, data was collected to assess the prevalence of local-level corruption in Dakshinkali Municipality through a mixed-methods approach. A structured survey was conducted with 370 respondents, using purposive sampling to include a diverse range of participants across different wards. The survey gathered quantitative data on the public's familiarity with anti-corruption strategies, their experiences witnessing corrupt practices, and their perceptions of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. Additionally, qualitative interviews with local leaders and officials provided deeper insights into the underlying causes and manifestations of corruption. This analysis serves to highlight areas where corruption is most prevalent and where anti-corruption efforts are falling short.

### 4.2.1 Familiarity with Anti-Corruption Strategies

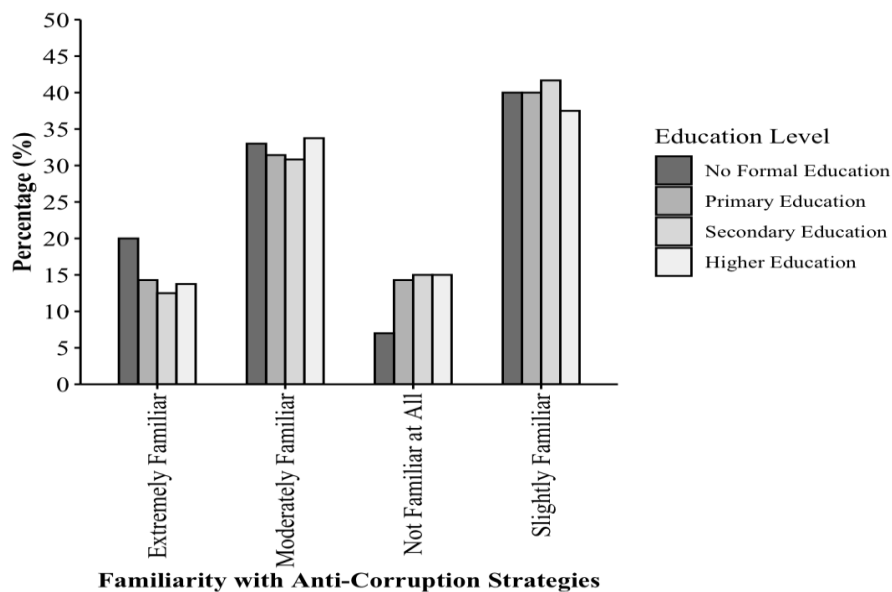
The Diagram below shows the Familiarity of local people with the Anti-Corruption Strategies.

*Figure 2:* Familiarity with Anti-Corruption Strategies



Among males (n=250), 10.4% reported being extremely familiar with anti-corruption strategies, while a slightly higher proportion of females (n=120) at 11.67% indicated the same level of familiarity. A significant proportion of both males (26.4%) and females (26.67%) identified as moderately familiar with such strategies. The majority of respondents, however, indicated only slight familiarity, with 40% of males and 45.83% of females falling into this category. Notably, a higher percentage of males (23.2%) than females (15.83%) reported being not familiar with anti-corruption strategies at all. These results suggest that while familiarity with anti-corruption initiatives is relatively common, the majority of both male and female respondents exhibit only a superficial understanding of these strategies, with fewer individuals reporting in-depth knowledge.

**Figure 3:** Familiarity with anti-corruption strategies

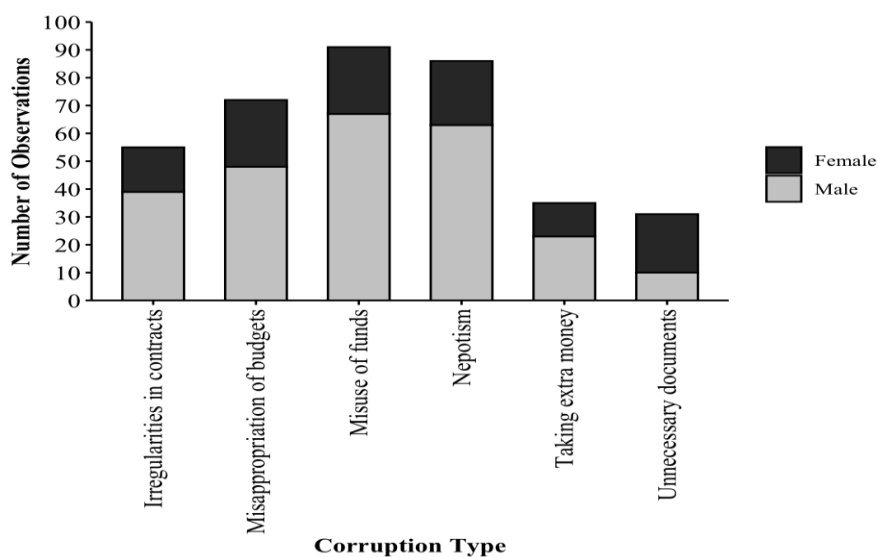


Respondents with higher education (n=100) exhibited the highest level of extreme familiarity, with 20% indicating they were well-versed in these strategies, compared to 14.29% of those with no formal education (n=70), 12.5% with primary education (n=120), and 13.75% with secondary education (n=80). Moderate familiarity was more common among those with secondary (33.75%) and higher education (33%), while those with no formal education (31.43%) and primary education (30.83%) reported slightly lower rates. A significant portion of all groups reported slight familiarity, with percentages ranging from 37.5% to 41.67%. Notably, respondents with higher education were the least likely to report being completely unfamiliar (7%) compared to other groups. Overall, familiarity with anti-corruption strategies appears to increase with education, but slight familiarity remains the most common response across all levels.

#### 4.2.2 Witnessed Corruption in Local Government

This diagram illustrates the witnessed corruption in Local Government i.e Dakshinkali Municipality by Local citizen.

**Figure 4:** Witnessed Corruption in Local Government with ref. to gender

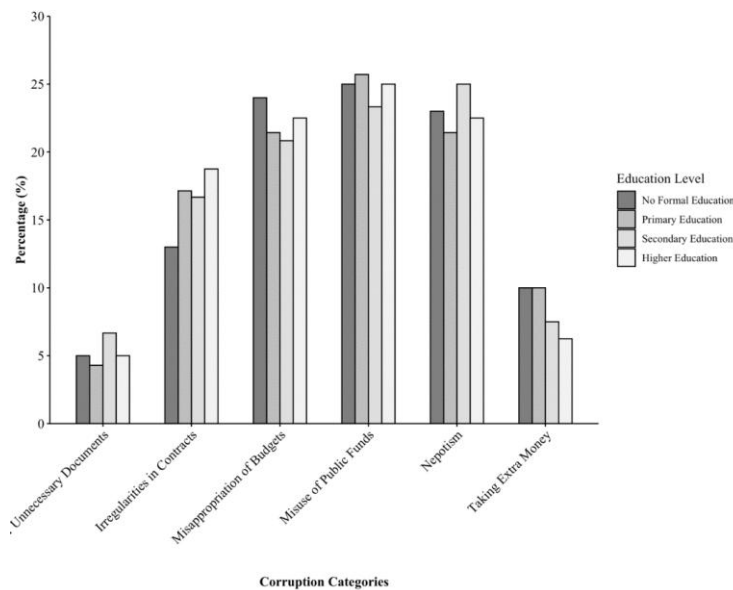


Since the p-value is less than 0.05, we can conclude that there is a statistically significant association between gender and the perception of different forms of corruption in local

government. This means gender does indeed matter at a statistically significant level in terms of how corruption is witnessed across different categories.

The results on witnessing corruption in local government reveal significant gender-based differences in the perception of various corrupt practices. Among male respondents (n=250), nepotism (25.2%) and misuse of public funds (26.8%) were the most commonly witnessed forms of corruption, while female respondents (n=120) reported slightly lower rates for both nepotism (19.17%) and misuse of public funds (20%). Misappropriation of budgets was observed by 19.2% of males and 20% of females, showing relatively equal exposure. Irregularities in contracts were reported by 15.6% of males and 13.33% of females, while taking extra money was witnessed by 9.2% of males and 10% of females. Interestingly, asking for unnecessary documents was reported by a higher percentage of females (17.5%) compared to males (4%), highlighting a gendered perception of this specific corrupt practice. Overall, the results indicate that while both genders observe corruption in local government, certain forms of corruption are perceived differently, with nepotism and misuse of public funds being the most prevalent.

**Figure 5:** Witnessed Corruption in Local Government with ref. to education



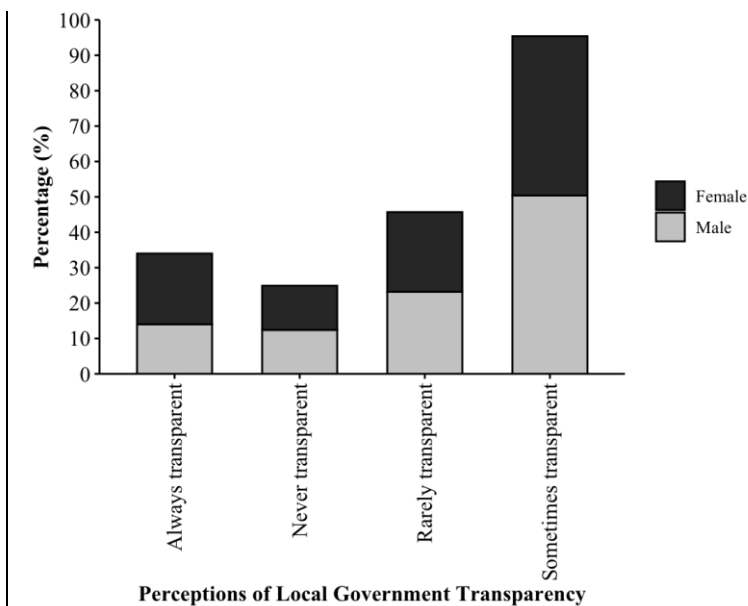
The results

on witnessing corruption in local government by educational level reveal varied perceptions across different forms of corrupt practices. Respondents with primary education (n=120) reported the highest incidence of nepotism (25%) and misuse of public funds (23.33%), while those with higher education (n=100) were most likely to witness misuse of public funds (25%) and misappropriation of budgets (24%). Among those with no formal education (n=70), misuse of public funds (25.71%) and nepotism (21.43%) were the most commonly observed. Respondents with secondary education (n=80) reported witnessing misuse of public funds (25%) and nepotism (22.5%) at similar rates. Irregularities in contracts were observed by 17.14% of respondents with no formal education, 16.67% with primary education, and 18.75% with secondary education, while only 13% of higher-educated respondents reported this. The incidence of taking extra money was relatively low across all education levels, with a slightly higher percentage among those with higher education (10%). Asking for unnecessary documents was the least reported form of corruption, with minimal variation across education levels. These results indicate that perceptions of corruption vary by education level, but misuse of public funds and nepotism are consistently observed as common practices.

### 4.2.3 Local Government Transparency

This Diagram illustrates how much Local Government is transparent regarding service delivery.

**Figure 6:** Local Government Transparency with ref. to gender

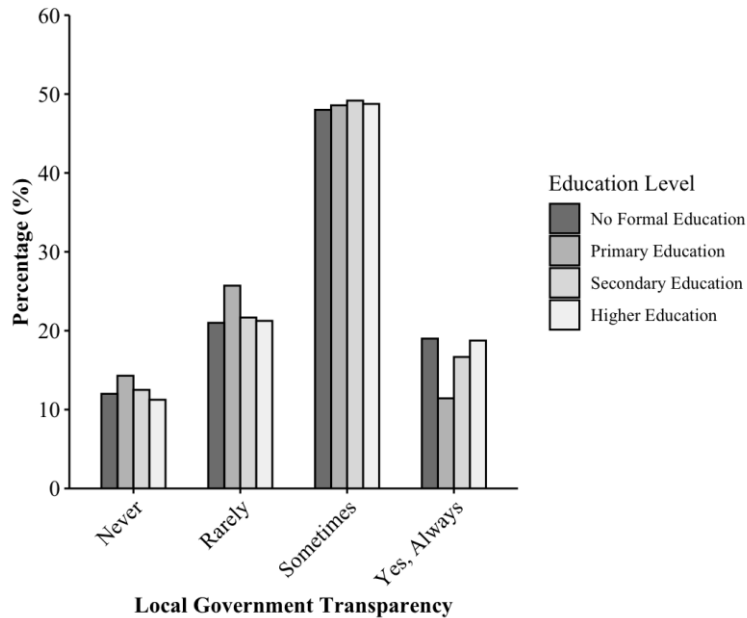


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The results on perceptions of local government transparency show that both male and female respondents largely believe transparency is inconsistent. Among male respondents (n=250), 50.4% reported that local government is sometimes transparent, while 45% of female respondents (n=120) shared the same view. Only 14% of males and 20% of females felt that local government is always transparent. On the opposite end, 12.4% of males and 12.5% of females stated that local government is never transparent. Additionally, 23.2% of males and 22.5% of females believe that transparency is rarely practiced. Overall, these findings suggest that the majority of both male and female respondents perceive transparency in local government as inconsistent, with "sometimes"

being the most common response, and relatively few believe that transparency is consistently upheld.

**Figure 7: Local Government Transparency with ref. to education**



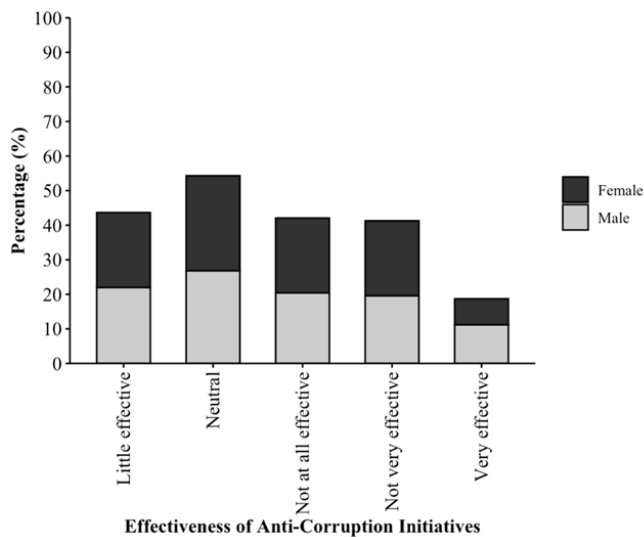
The results on local government transparency show varied perceptions across different education levels. Respondents with no formal education were the most skeptical, with 14.29% stating that local government is never transparent, compared to 12.5% with primary education, 11.25% with secondary education, and 12% with higher education. The majority of respondents across all education levels felt that local government is "sometimes" transparent, with similar rates of 48.57% to 49.17%. Fewer respondents believed that transparency is "rarely" practiced, with 25.71% of those with no formal education holding this view, while rates were slightly lower for other groups. Those with higher education were the most likely to believe that local government is always transparent (19%), compared to 18.75% with secondary education, 16.67% with primary education, and 11.43% with no formal education. Overall, the results suggest that

perceptions of transparency improve slightly with higher levels of education, though inconsistency in transparency remains a common view across all groups.

#### 4.2.4 Effectiveness of Anti -Corruption Initiatives

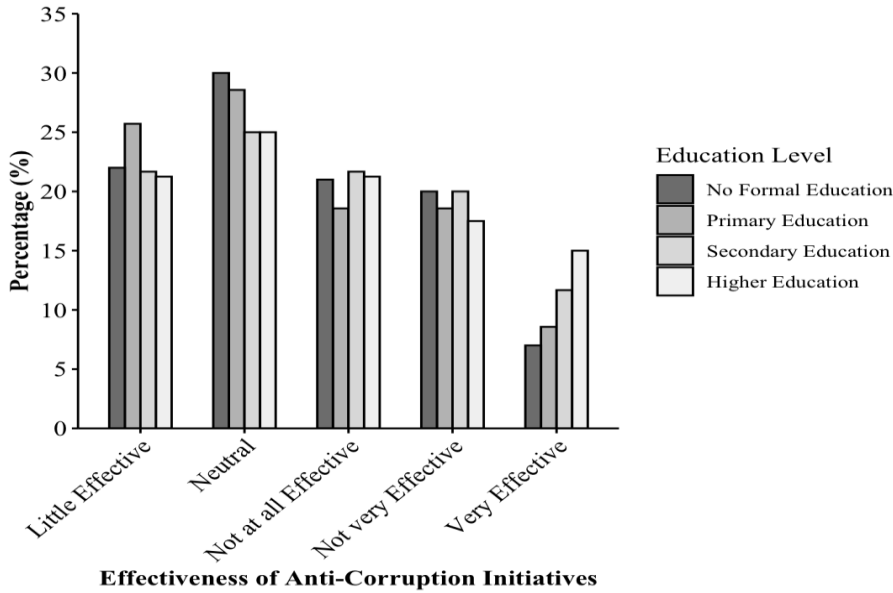
In this diagram the effectiveness of Anticorruption initiatives are shown according to analysis of local people perception.

**Figure 8:** Effectiveness of Anti -Corruption Initiatives with ref. to gender



Among males (n=250), the largest portion, 26.8%, rated the initiatives as neutral in effectiveness, while 27.5% of females (n=120) held the same view. A significant portion of respondents across both genders rated the initiatives as either "little effective" (22% of males and 21.67% of females) or "not at all effective" (20.4% of males and 21.67% of females). "Not very effective" was reported by 19.6% of males and 21.67% of females, indicating a broad sense of ineffectiveness. Only a small fraction, 11.2% of males and 7.5% of females, found anti-corruption initiatives to be very effective. Overall, the results suggest that both male and female respondents generally perceive anti-corruption initiatives as either ineffective or only marginally effective, with a very small percentage seeing them as highly effective.

**Figure 9:** Effectiveness of Anti -Corruption Initiatives with ref. to education

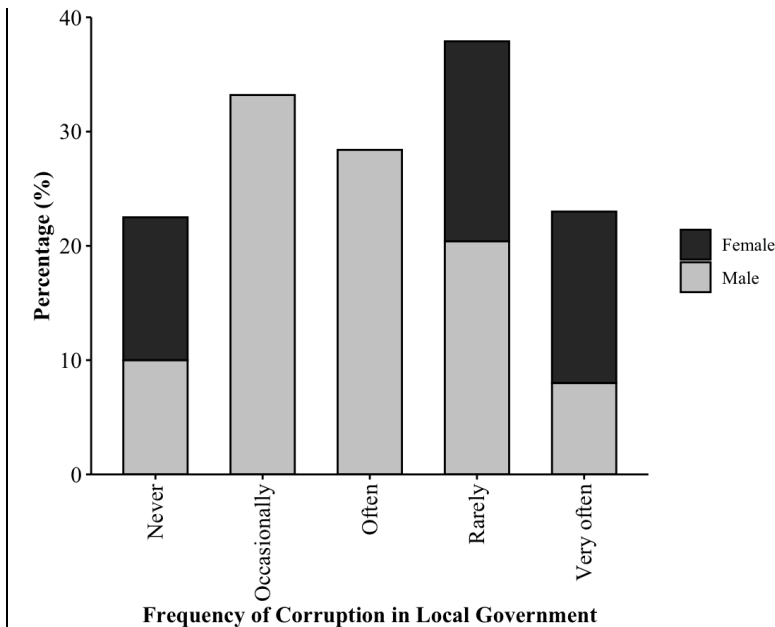


Among respondents with no formal education (n=70), 28.57% rated the initiatives as neutral, while 25% of those with primary education (n=120), 25% of those with secondary education (n=80), and 30% of those with higher education (n=100) shared this view. "Little effective" was the second most common perception, with 25.71% of respondents with no formal education, 21.67% with primary education, and 22% with higher education reporting this view. A significant portion also viewed the initiatives as "not at all effective," particularly 21.67% with primary education and 21.25% with secondary education. Only a small percentage of respondents across all education levels rated the initiatives as "very effective," with the highest confidence seen among secondary-educated respondents (15%) and the lowest among those with higher education (7%) and no formal education (8.57%). Overall, the findings suggest a broad sense of neutrality or ineffectiveness, with few respondents, regardless of education level, seeing anti-corruption initiatives as highly effective.

#### 4.2.5 Frequency of corruption in local government

In this diagram the frequency of Corruption in Local Government is shown on the perception of local people's.

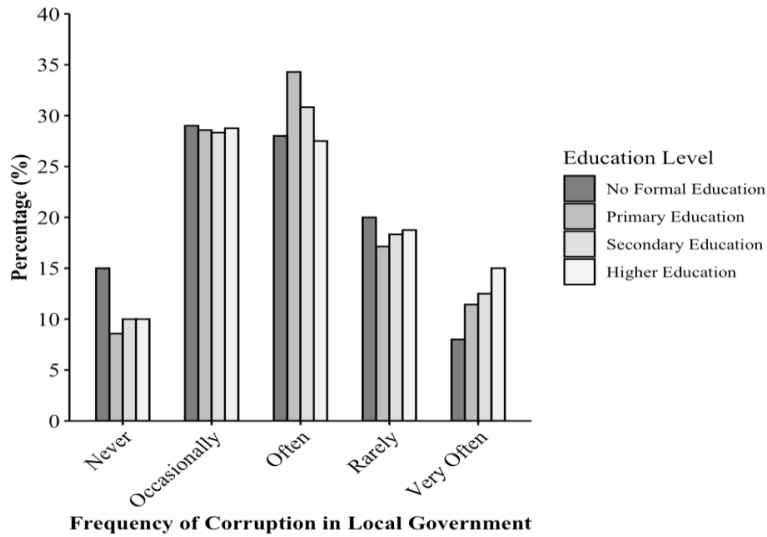
**Figure 10:**Frequency of corruption in local government with ref. to gender



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Among male respondents (n=250), 33.2% reported witnessing corruption occasionally, while 27.5% of females (n=120) shared this view. A similar percentage of both males (28.4%) and females (27.5%) reported often witnessing corruption. Rare occurrences of corruption were noted by 20.4% of males and 17.5% of females, while a smaller portion, 10% of males and 12.5% of females, claimed they had never observed corruption. Interestingly, a higher percentage of females (15%) than males (8%) reported witnessing corruption very often. Overall, these findings suggest that corruption is a recurring issue in local government, with both genders frequently encountering it, though females are more likely to report observing it very often.

**Figure 11:** Frequency of corruption in local government with ref. to education



Respondents with secondary education (n=80) were the most likely to report witnessing corruption "occasionally" (28.75%) and "often" (27.5%), while those with higher education (n=100) reported similar observations, with 29% witnessing corruption "occasionally" and 28% witnessing it "often." Among respondents with primary education (n=120), 28.33% reported seeing corruption "occasionally" and 30.83% "often." A smaller proportion of respondents across all education levels reported never witnessing corruption, with rates ranging from 8.57% (no formal education) to 15% (higher education). Interestingly, those with no formal education (34.29%) reported the highest occurrence of "often" witnessing corruption, while those with secondary and higher education were more balanced in their reports of "often" and "occasionally." The "very often" category had lower percentages across all education levels, ranging from 8% among those with higher education to 15% among those with secondary education. Overall, these findings suggest that corruption is frequently observed across all education

levels, with those having less education slightly more likely to report frequent encounters with corruption

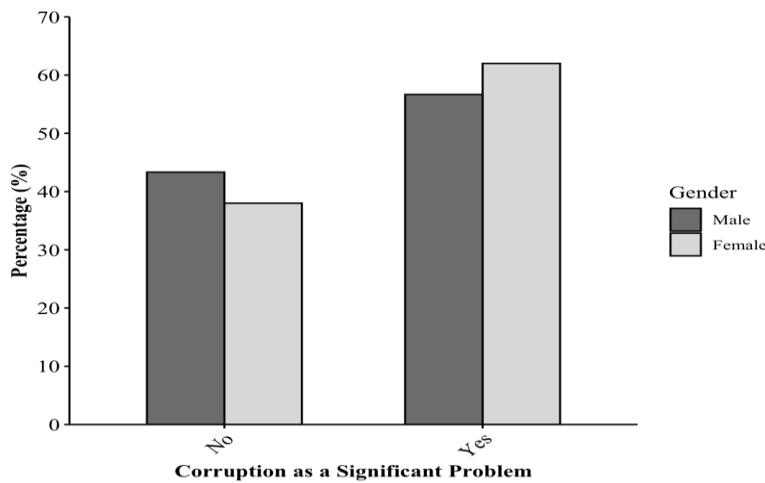
#### 4.3 Impact of Anti-corruption Strategies on local corruption levels

In this diagram, how much impact is made by Anti-corruption Strategies on local corruption levels is highlighted.

##### 4.3.1 Causes of Corruption

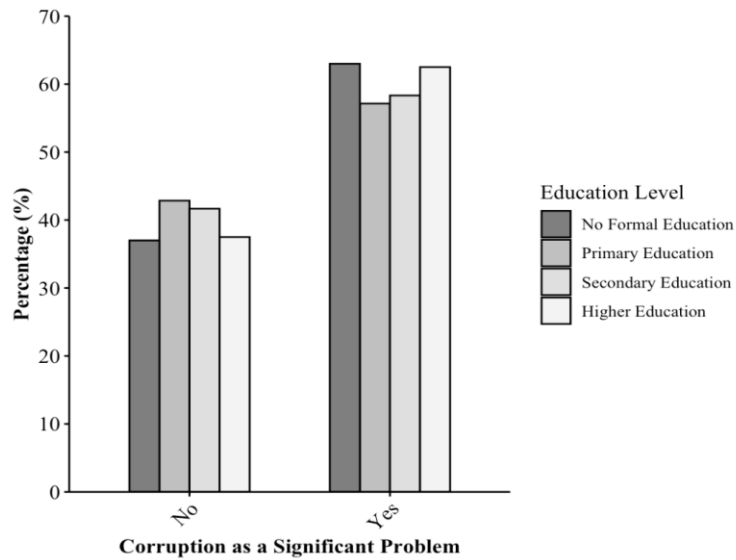
These findings suggest that the majority of both male and female respondents recognize causes of corruption, with slightly more males than females acknowledging the issue

**Figure 12:** causes of corruption with ref. to gender



Among males (n=250), 62% responded "yes" when asked whether they identified causes of corruption, while 56.67% of females (n=120) shared the same view. Conversely, 38% of male respondents and 43.33% of female respondents did not identify any causes of corruption. However, a notable portion of respondents from both genders did not report identifying specific causes of corruption, indicating a potential gap in awareness or understanding of the root causes.

**Figure 13: Causes of Corruption with ref. to education**

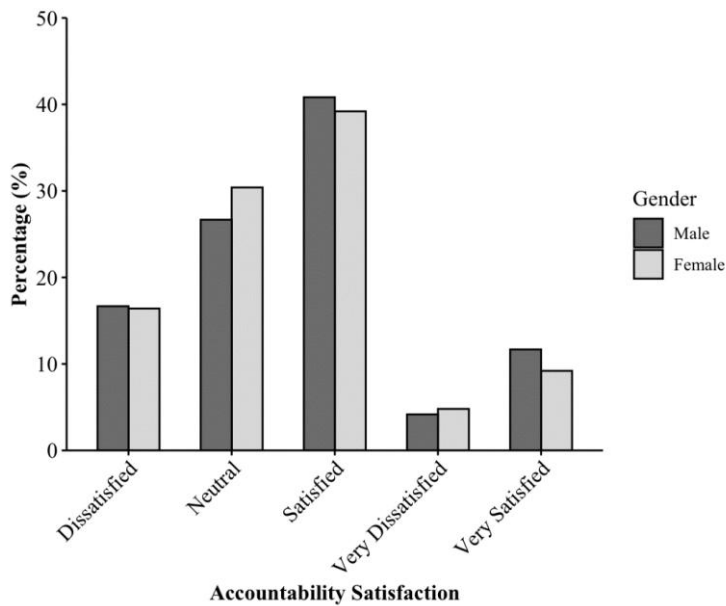


Among those with higher education (n=100), 63% responded "yes," identifying the causes of corruption, followed closely by respondents with secondary education (62.5%), primary education (58.33%), and no formal education (57.14%). Conversely, 42.86% of those with no formal education, 41.67% with primary education, 37.5% with secondary education, and 37% with higher education did not identify causes of corruption. These findings suggest that, across all education levels, the majority of respondents recognize causes of corruption, with slightly higher recognition among those with secondary and higher education. However, a significant proportion of respondents across all groups still did not identify specific causes, indicating that awareness may still vary depending on education level.

### 4.3.2 Local Government Accountability Satisfaction

The results indicate that while a significant portion of both male and female respondents are satisfied with local government accountability, a large segment remains neutral, and some dissatisfaction persists.

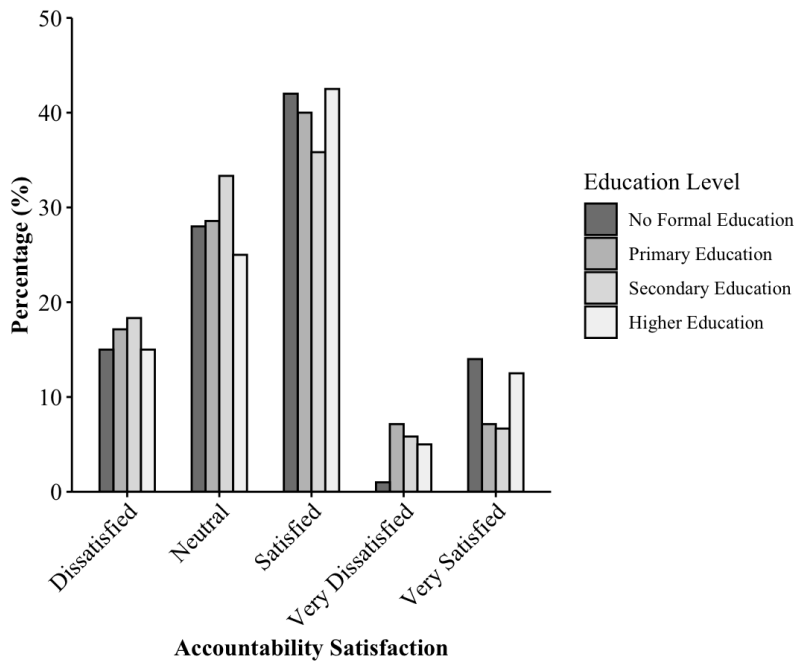
**Figure 14:** Local Government Accountability Satisfaction with ref. to gender



Among male respondents (n=250), 39.2% were satisfied with local government accountability, while 40.83% of females (n=120) reported the same. A notable portion of respondents across both genders remained neutral, with 30.4% of males and 26.67% of females indicating this stance. Dissatisfaction was also present, with 16.4% of males and 16.67% of females reporting they were dissatisfied. A smaller percentage were very

dissatisfied, with 4.8% of males and 4.17% of females reporting this view. The "very satisfied" category accounted for 9.2% of male respondents and 11.67% of female respondents.

**Figure 15:** Local Government Accountability Satisfaction with ref. to education



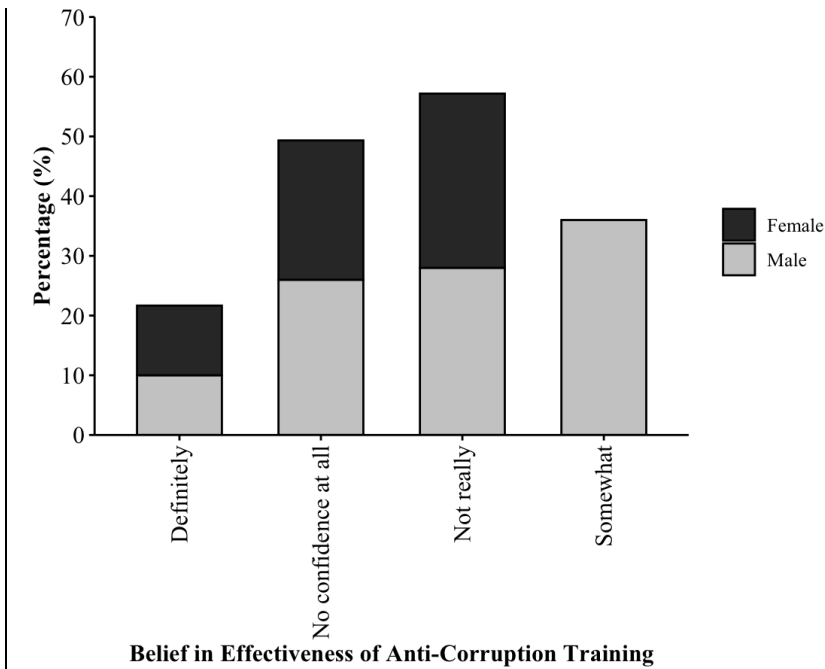
Respondents with higher education (42%) and secondary education (42.5%) were the most likely to express satisfaction, while 40% of those with no formal education and 35.83% of those with primary education reported the same. Neutrality was a common response, with rates ranging from 25% to 33.33% across all education levels. Dissatisfaction was most prominent among those with no formal education (17.14%) and primary education (18.33%), while a smaller portion of respondents across all groups expressed strong dissatisfaction. Only a small fraction of respondents, particularly those with higher education (14%) and secondary education (12.5%), reported being very

satisfied. Overall, satisfaction is highest among those with higher and secondary education, but neutrality and dissatisfaction remain prevalent across all education levels.

### 4.3.3 Local Government Anti-Corruption Training

In this diagram the results suggest that while some respondents believe anti-corruption training can be effective, many remain uncertain or lack confidence in its impact.

**Figure16:** Local Government Anti-Corruption Training with ref. to gender

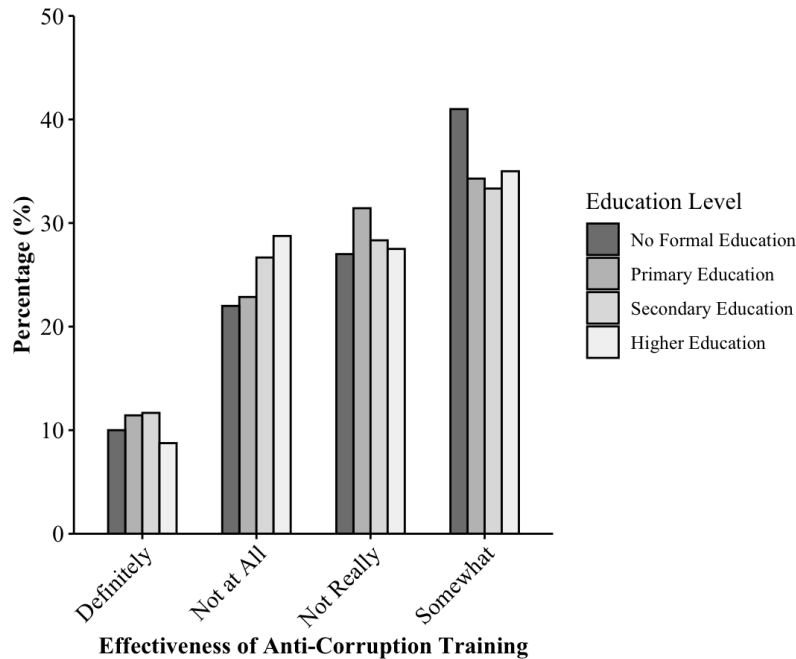


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Among males (n=250), 36% responded that they "somewhat" believe in the impact of anti-corruption training, while 35.83% of females (n=120) shared the same view. A significant portion of respondents expressed limited belief in the effectiveness of training, with 28% of males and 29.17% of females indicating they were "not really" confident in the results. Those with no confidence at all made up 26% of male respondents and

23.33% of females. Only a small portion of both genders expressed definite confidence in anti-corruption training, with 10% of males and 11.67% of females answering "definitely."

**Figure 17:** Local Government Anti-Corruption Training with ref. to education



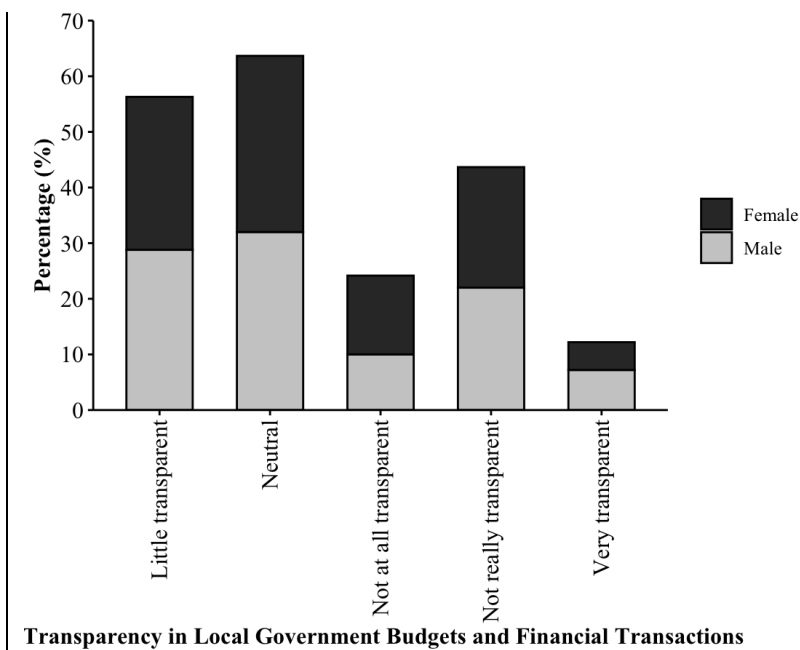
Respondents with higher education (n=100) were the most likely to "somewhat" believe in the impact of the training (41%), followed by those with secondary education (35%), primary education (33.33%), and no formal education (34.29%). Confidence was relatively low across all education levels, with only a small percentage of respondents indicating "definite" belief in the training's effectiveness, ranging from 8.75% among secondary-educated respondents to 11.67% among those with primary education. A significant portion of respondents expressed doubt, with 27.5% to 31.43% reporting they were "not really" confident in the training's impact. Similarly, a notable percentage of respondents, particularly those with secondary education (28.75%) and no formal education (22.86%), reported having no confidence at all in the effectiveness of anti-corruption training. Overall, the results suggest that while some respondents, particularly

those with higher education, "somewhat" believe in the training's impact, many remain uncertain or lack confidence in its effectiveness.

#### 4.3.4 Transparency of Local Government Budgets and Financial Transactions

In the diagram below it demonstrates the perception of local people according to the transparency of local government budgets and financial transactions.

**Figure 18:** Transparency of Local Government Budgets and Financial Transactions with ref. to gender

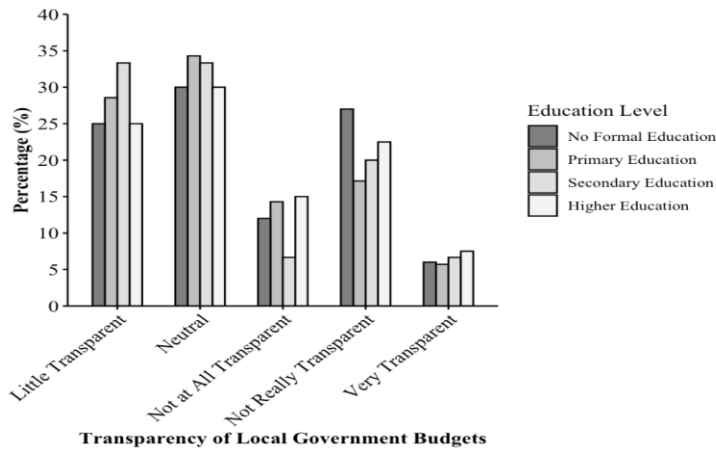


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A significant portion of respondents from both genders expressed neutral views on the matter, with 32% of males (n=250) and 31.67% of females (n=120) indicating a neutral stance. Similarly, 28.8% of males and 27.5% of females felt that local government was

"little transparent." On the less favorable side, 22% of males and 21.67% of females described local government as "not really transparent," while 10% of males and 14.17% of females felt it was "not at all transparent." Only a small fraction of respondents, 7.2% of males and 5% of females, viewed local government as "very transparent." Overall, these findings suggest that most respondents see only limited transparency in local government budgets and financial transactions, with few perceiving full transparencies and a significant portion expressing neutral or negative views.

**Figure 19:** Transparency of Local Government Budgets and Financial Transactions with ref. to education



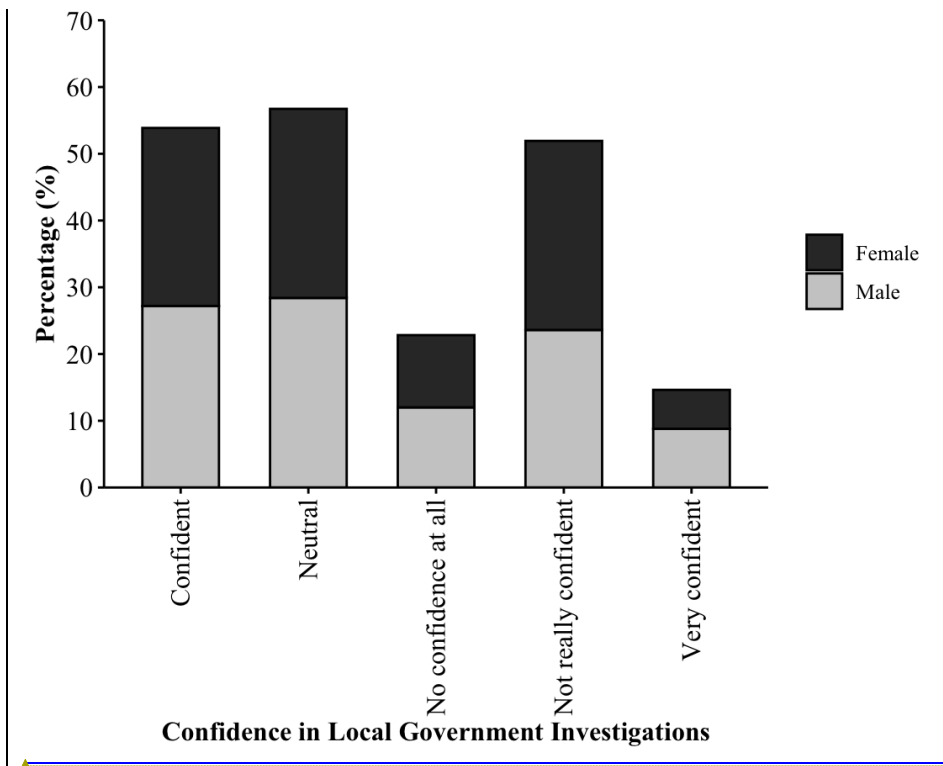
Respondents with no formal education (28.57%) and primary education (33.33%) were the most likely to describe local government as "little transparent," while similar neutral views were common across all education levels, ranging from 30% to 34.29%. A notable portion of respondents, particularly those with higher education (27%) and secondary education (22.5%), viewed local government as "not really transparent." The perception of complete lack of transparency was expressed by 14.29% of those with no formal education and 15% of those with secondary education and higher education. Very few respondents, across all education levels, considered local government to be "very transparent," with percentages ranging from 5.71% to 7.5%. Overall, the findings indicate

a general consensus that transparency in local government budgets and financial transactions is lacking, with a significant number of respondents expressing either neutral or negative views on the matter.

#### 4.3.5 Investigation of Corruption Cases by Local Government

In this analysis the prevalence of Local people is shown regarding the investigation of corruption cases by local Government.

**Figure 20:** Investigation of Corruption Cases by Local Government with ref. to gender

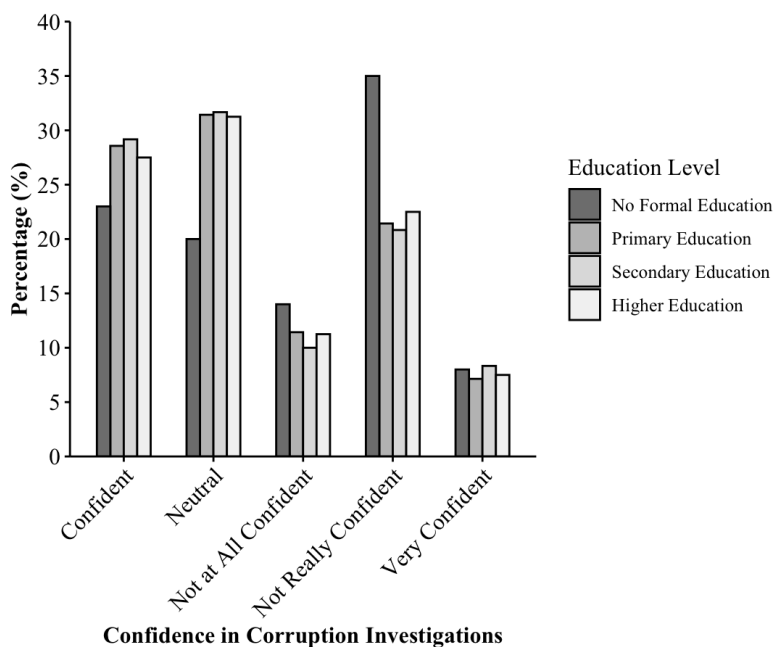


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Among males (n=250), 27.2% reported feeling confident in local government investigations, while 26.67% of females (n=120) shared the same view. Neutrality was

the most common response across both genders, with 28.4% of males and 28.33% of females indicating neither confidence nor doubt. A significant portion of respondents expressed limited confidence, with 23.6% of males and 28.33% of females being "not really confident." A smaller percentage, 12% of males and 10.83% of females, reported having no confidence at all. Only a small fraction of both males (8.8%) and females (5.83%) felt "very confident" in local government investigations. Overall, the findings suggest that while some respondents feel confident in the investigation of corruption cases, many remain uncertain or skeptical, with neutral and doubtful responses being the most prevalent.

**Figure 21:** Investigation of Corruption Cases by Local Government with ref. to education



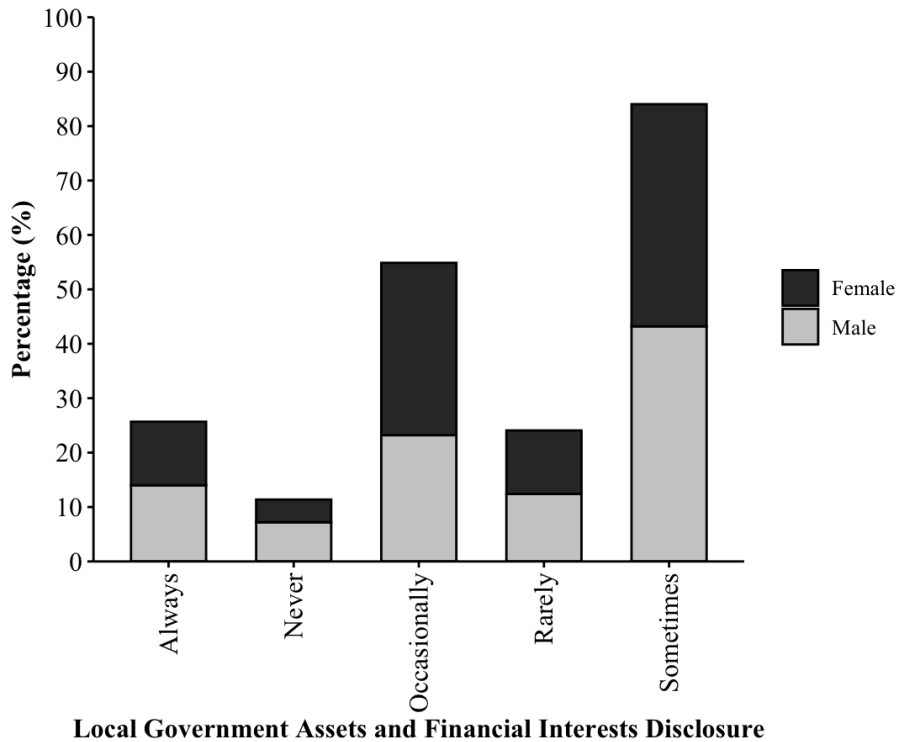
The results on confidence in local government's investigation of corruption cases reveal a mix of opinions across education levels. Respondents with primary education (29.17%) were the most confident, followed by those with secondary education (27.5%) and no formal education (28.57%). Neutrality was common across all groups, with approximately 31% of respondents from each education category expressing neither

confidence nor doubt. A significant portion of respondents, especially those with higher education (35%), expressed limited confidence in the investigations. Additionally, 11.43% to 14% of respondents across all education levels reported having no confidence at all. Only a small fraction, with the highest being 8.33% among those with primary education, expressed feeling "very confident" in the effectiveness of local government investigations. Overall, the results suggest that while some respondents are confident, many remain uncertain or skeptical about the ability of local governments to investigate corruption cases.

#### **4.3.6 Transparency of Local Government Assets and Financial Interests Disclosure**

In this interpretation the perception of Local people are shown regarding transparency of Local Government in Assets and Financial Interest Disclosure.

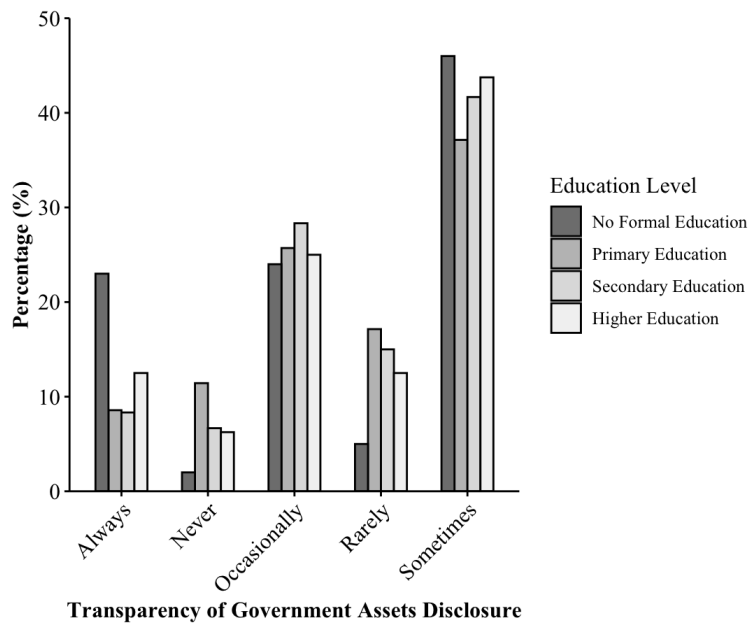
**Figure 22:** Transparency of Local Government Assets and Financial Interests Disclosure with ref. to gender



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The results on the transparency of local government assets and financial interests' disclosure indicate varied perceptions between male and female respondents. Among males (n=250), 43.2% believed that transparency is sometimes practiced, while 40.83% of females (n=120) shared the same view. A significant portion of respondents felt that transparency is only occasionally practiced, with 23.2% of males and 31.67% of females expressing this opinion. Additionally, 14% of males and 11.67% of females believed transparency is always maintained. On the lower end, 12.4% of males and 11.67% of females felt transparency is rarely achieved, while 7.2% of males and 4.17% of females stated that transparency is never practiced. Overall, these findings suggest that while some respondents acknowledge occasional or consistent transparency in local government disclosures, many remain skeptical, with the majority seeing transparency only sporadically practiced.

**Figure 23:** Transparency of Local Government Assets and Financial Interests Disclosure with ref. to education



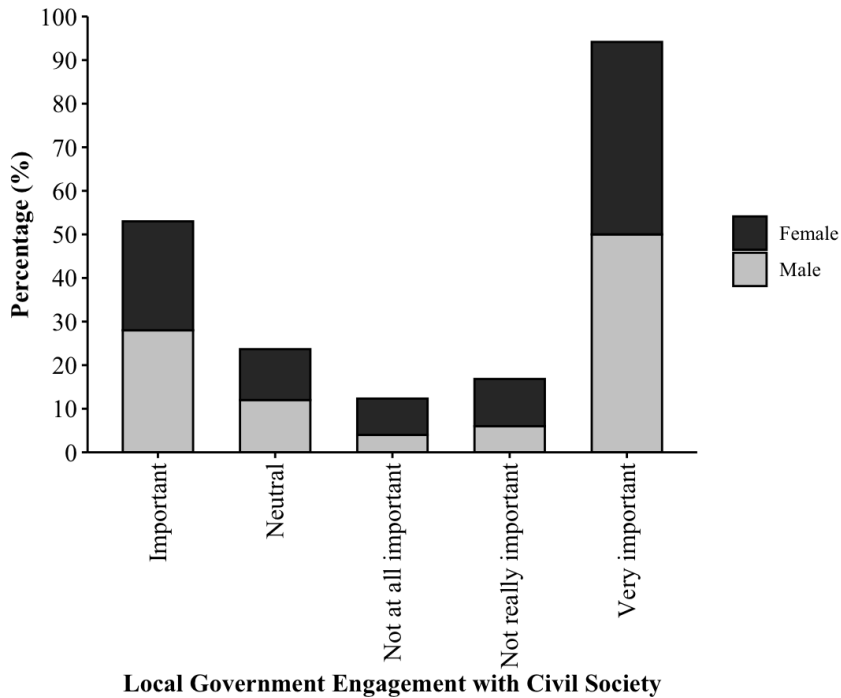
The results on the transparency of local government assets and financial interests' disclosure across different education levels show varied perceptions, with respondents generally viewing transparency as inconsistent. Those with higher education were the most likely to believe that transparency is always practiced (23%), compared to lower rates among those with secondary (12.5%), primary (8.33%), and no formal education (8.57%). The majority of respondents across all education levels believed transparency is "sometimes" practiced, particularly among those with higher education (46%) and secondary education (43.75%). A significant portion of respondents, especially those with no formal education (25.71%) and primary education (28.33%), felt transparency is only "occasionally" practiced. Fewer respondents saw transparency as "rarely" practiced, with the highest percentage among those with no formal education (17.14%) and the lowest among those with higher education (5%). A small fraction, especially those with no formal education (11.43%), felt transparency is never practiced. Overall, these

findings suggest that transparency is perceived as inconsistent, with higher education respondents showing slightly more confidence in its regular practice.

#### **4.3.7 Local Government engagement with civil society**

The engagement of Local Government engagement with civil society is highlighted on the perception of local people.

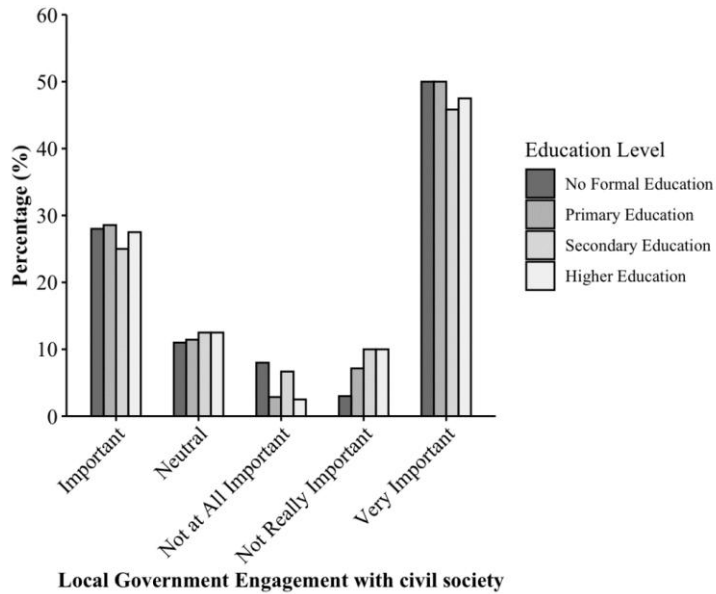
**Figure 24:** Local Government engagement with civil society with ref. to gender



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The results on the importance of local government engagement with civil society show a strong consensus among both male and female respondents on its significance. Among male respondents (n=250), 50% considered such engagement to be very important, while 44.17% of female respondents (n=120) shared this view. A significant portion also regarded it as important, with 28% of males and 25% of females expressing this opinion. Neutral responses were less common, with 12% of males and 11.67% of females reporting indifference. A smaller percentage of respondents felt that engagement was "not really important," with 6% of males and 10.83% of females indicating this, while 4% of males and 8.33% of females believed it was "not at all important." Overall, the findings suggest that a majority of both male and female respondents view local government engagement with civil society as important, though slightly more males consider it very important, while a smaller portion remains indifferent or skeptical.

**Figure 25:** Local Government engagement with civil society with ref. to education

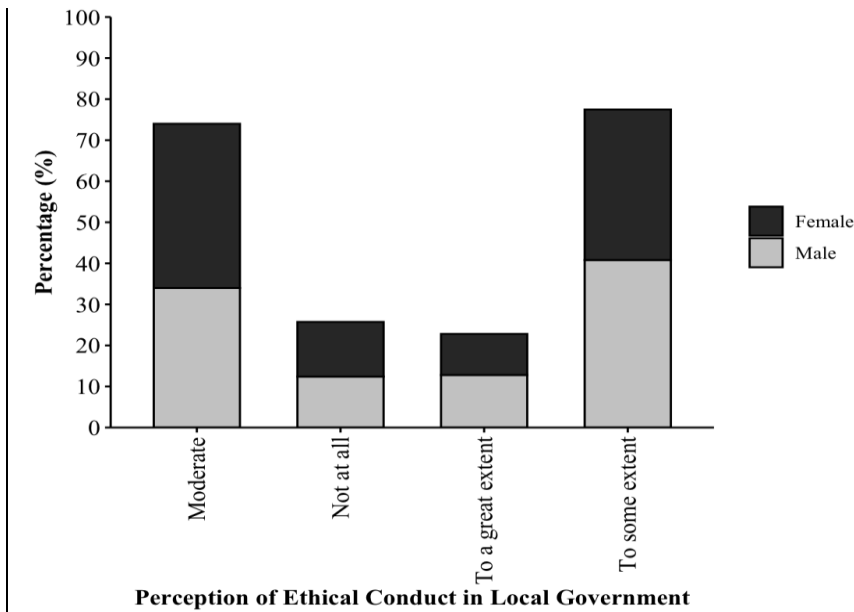


The results on the importance of local government engagement with civil society across different education levels indicate broad support for its significance. Respondents with higher education (50%) and no formal education (50%) were the most likely to consider such engagement "very important," followed by those with secondary education (47.5%) and primary education (45.83%). A substantial portion also viewed it as "important," with 28.57% of respondents with no formal education, 25% with primary education, 27.5% with secondary education, and 28% with higher education expressing this opinion. Neutral views were less common, with approximately 11% to 12.5% of respondents across all education levels indicating indifference. Only a small percentage of respondents felt that engagement was "not really important" or "not at all important," with rates being slightly higher among those with primary education (10% and 6.67%, respectively) and lower among those with higher and secondary education. Overall, the results suggest strong support for local government engagement with civil society, with most respondents, regardless of education level, viewing it as important or very important.

### 4.3.8 Ethical Conduct of Local Government Representatives

In this analysis the perception of local individual is analyzed either ethical code of conduct is followed by Local Government Representatives or not.

**Figure 26:** Ethical Conduct of Local Government Representatives with ref. to gender

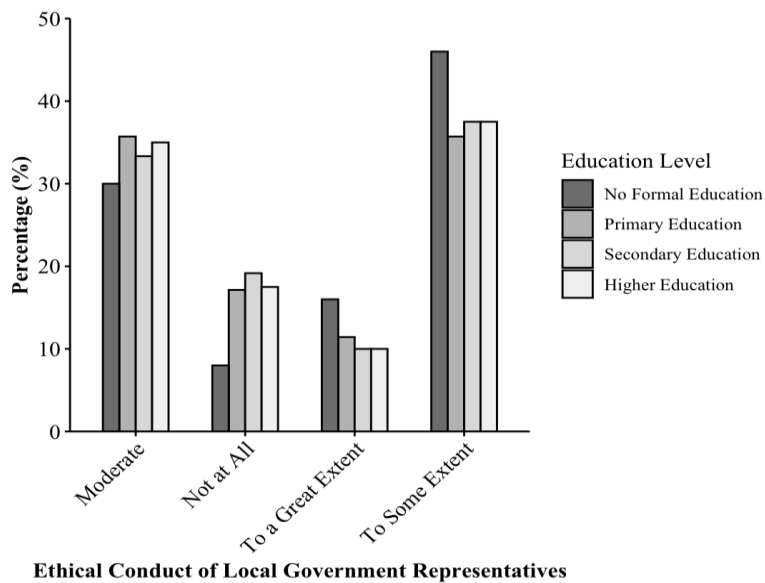


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The results on the ethical conduct of local government representatives show varied perceptions among male and female respondents. Among male respondents (n=250), 40.8% believed that ethical conduct was upheld "to some extent," while 36.67% of female respondents (n=120) shared this view. A notable portion of respondents indicated moderate ethical conduct, with 34% of males and 40% of females expressing this opinion. Fewer respondents felt that ethical conduct was upheld "to a great extent," with 12.8% of males and 10% of females holding this belief. On the other end, 12.4% of males and 13.33% of females felt that ethical conduct was not upheld at all. Overall, these findings suggest that the majority of both male and female respondents perceive ethical

conduct in local government as being upheld to some or a moderate extent, though there remains a significant portion that sees a lack of ethical conduct entirely.

**Figure 27:** Ethical Conduct of Local Government Representatives with ref. to education



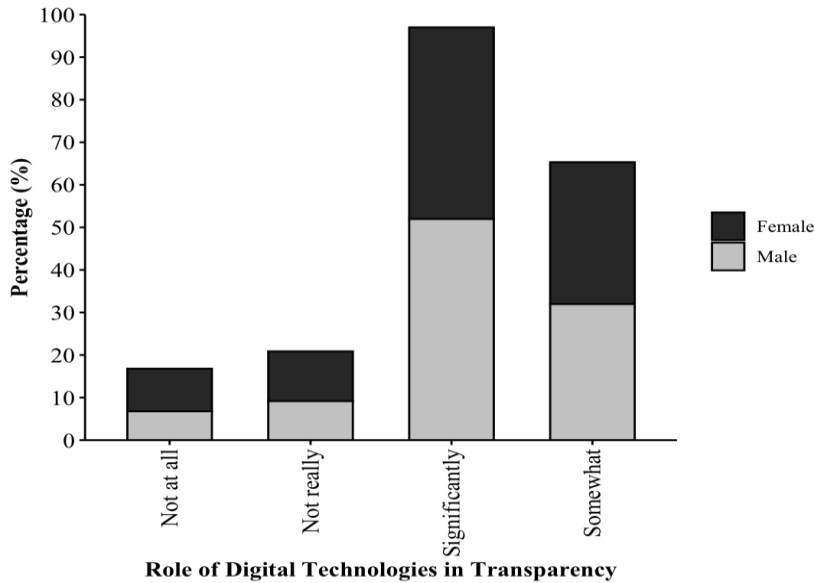
The results on the ethical conduct of local government representatives across education levels indicate varying perceptions. Respondents with higher education (16%) were the most likely to believe ethical conduct is upheld "to a great extent," followed by 11.43% of those with no formal education and 10% of both primary and secondary education respondents. The majority of respondents across all education levels felt that ethical conduct is upheld "to some extent," with 46% of those with higher education and 37.5% of those with both primary and secondary education expressing this view. Similar proportions of respondents with no formal education (35.71%) and secondary education (35%) believed that ethical conduct is upheld to a moderate extent. A smaller but significant portion of respondents felt that ethical conduct is not upheld at all, particularly those with primary education (19.17%) and secondary education (17.5%). Overall, the findings suggest that most respondents, regardless of education level, believe ethical

conduct is maintained to some or a moderate extent, though a notable minority believe it is not upheld at all.

#### **4.3.9 Digital Technologies and Transparency in local government**

In this study the role of Digital Technologies and Transparency are analyzed either it makes the corruption control in local level or not.

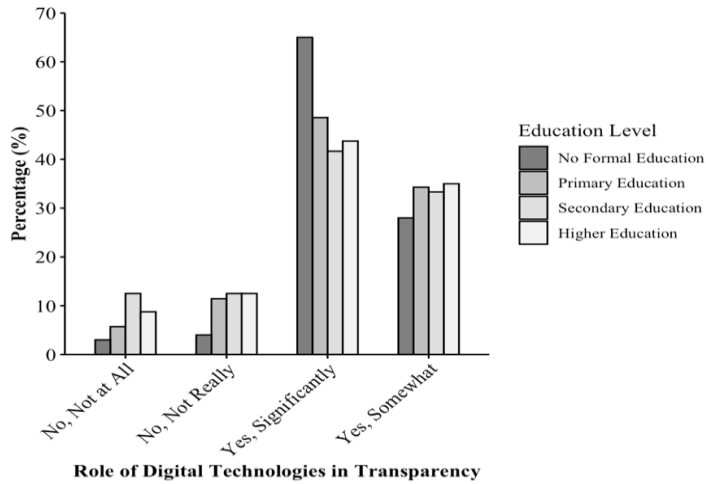
**Figure 28:** Digital Technologies and Transparency in local government with ref. to gender



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The results on the role of digital technologies and transparency in local government reveal that a majority of both male and female respondents believe digital technologies significantly enhance transparency. Among male respondents (n=250), 52% felt that digital technologies contributed significantly to transparency, while 45% of female respondents (n=120) shared this view. Additionally, 32% of males and 33.33% of females felt that digital technologies somewhat improved transparency. A smaller portion of respondents expressed doubt about the impact of digital technologies, with 9.2% of males and 11.67% of females indicating that digital technologies "did not really" contribute to transparency. Meanwhile, 6.8% of males and 10% of females believed digital technologies did not contribute to transparency at all. Overall, the results suggest that most respondents, across both genders, recognize the positive role of digital technologies in improving transparency, though a small percentage remains skeptical.

**Figure 29:** Digital Technologies and Transparency in local government with ref. to education

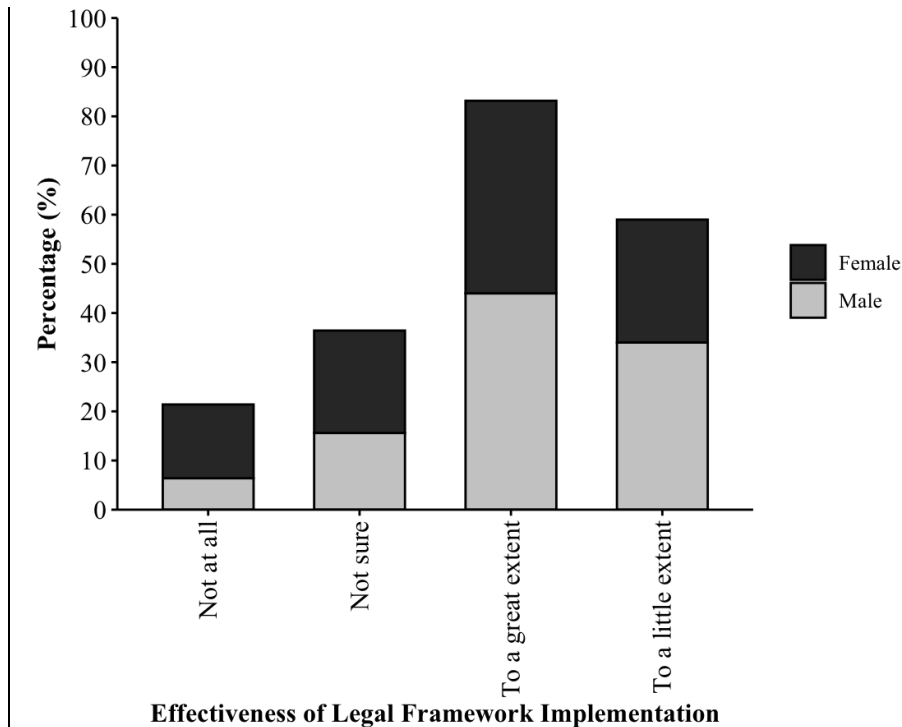


The results on the role of digital technologies in enhancing transparency in local government show strong support across all education levels. Respondents with higher education (65%) were the most likely to believe that digital technologies significantly improve transparency, followed by 48.57% of those with no formal education, 43.75% with secondary education, and 41.67% with primary education. A substantial portion of respondents across all education levels also believed that digital technologies somewhat improve transparency, ranging from 28% to 35%. However, a smaller group expressed skepticism, with 11.43% to 12.5% of respondents across different education levels indicating that digital technologies "did not really" contribute to transparency. A minority, particularly those with primary (12.5%) and secondary education (8.75%), felt that digital technologies did not contribute at all. Overall, the findings suggest widespread recognition of the positive impact of digital technologies on transparency, though some skepticism persists, particularly among those with lower education levels.

#### 4.3.10 Legal Framework Implementation to combat Corruption

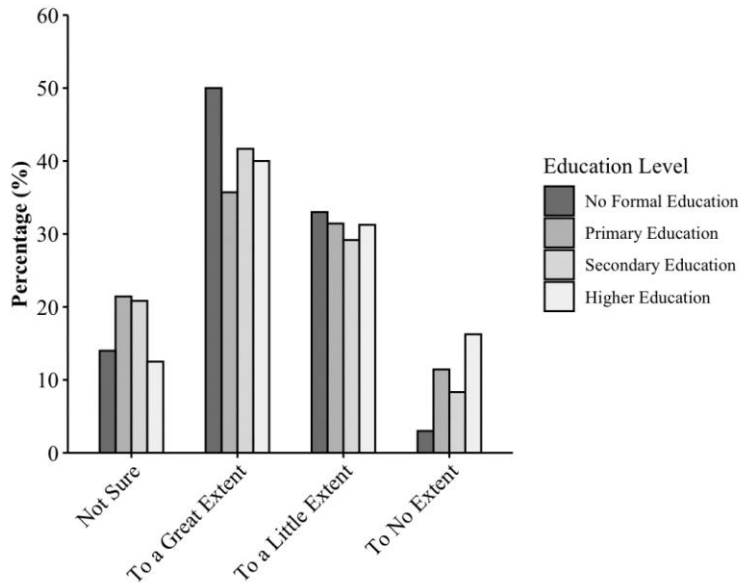
In this diagram the local people perception are interpreted either legal framework implementation are implemented to combat corruption or not.

**Figure 30: Legal Framework Implementation to combat Corruption with ref. to gender**



The findings on the implementation of the legal framework to combat corruption reveal that a significant portion of both male and female respondents believe that the framework is effective "to a great extent." Among male respondents (n=250), 44% expressed this view, while 39.17% of female respondents (n=120) agreed. Additionally, 34% of males and 25% of females believed that the legal framework was effective "to a little extent." A smaller percentage of respondents were uncertain, with 15.6% of males and 20.83% of females indicating they were "not sure." Only 6.4% of males and 15% of females felt that the legal framework was not implemented at all to combat corruption. Overall, the findings suggest that most respondents, across both genders, believe that the legal framework is at least somewhat effective in combating corruption, though uncertainty and skepticism still exist, particularly among female respondents.

**Figure 31:** Legal Framework Implementation to combat Corruption with ref. to education



**Legal Framework Implementation to Combat Corruption**

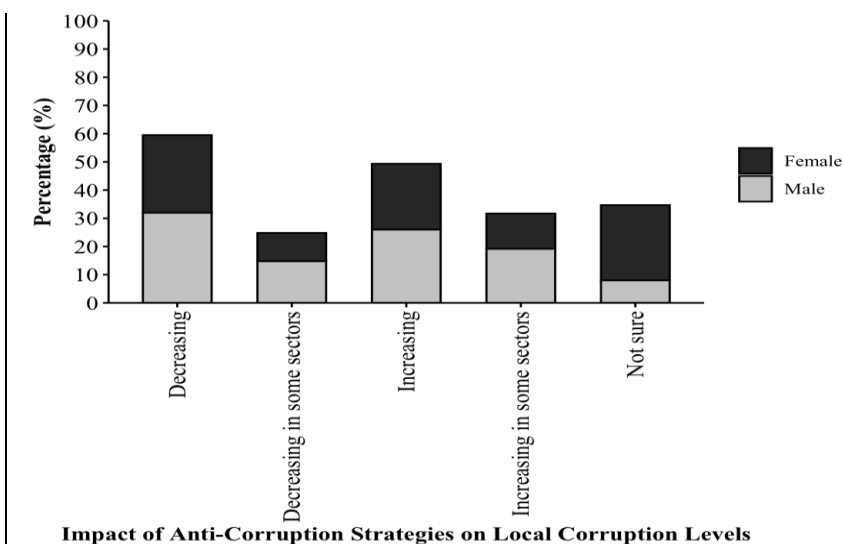
The results on the implementation of the legal framework to combat corruption across education levels show that the majority of respondents view the framework as effective to some degree. Those with higher education (50%) were the most likely to believe it is effective "to a great extent," followed by 40% of respondents with secondary education, 41.67% with primary education, and 35.71% with no formal education. A significant portion across all education levels also felt the framework is effective "to a little extent," with 33% of those with higher education and around 31% of those with no formal or secondary education expressing this view. Uncertainty was more common among respondents with no formal education (21.43%) and primary education (20.83%). Only a small fraction, particularly among those with secondary education (16.25%) and no formal education (11.43%), felt that the legal framework is not implemented at all. Overall, the results suggest that while there is a general belief in the effectiveness of the

legal framework to combat corruption, uncertainty and skepticism remain more prominent among those with lower education levels.

#### 4.4. Impact of Anti-Corruption Strategies on Local Corruption Levels

In this analysis the local people perception is analyzed either anticorruption strategies are increasing or not in order to combat corruption.

**Figure 32:** Impact of Anti-Corruption Strategies on Local Corruption Levels with ref. to gender

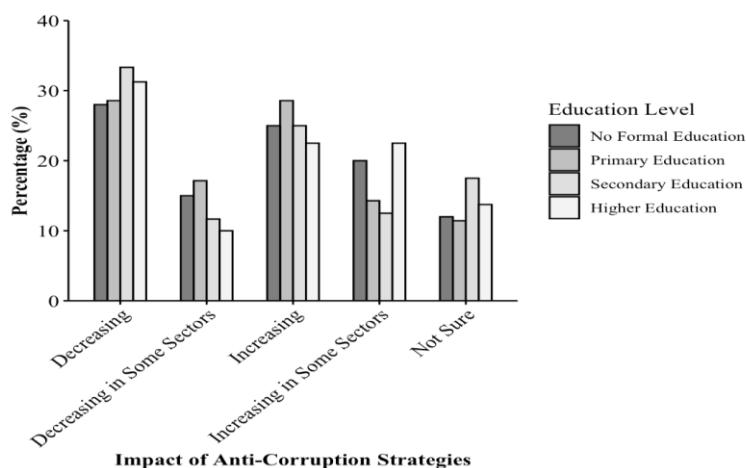


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Among males (n=250), 32% believed that corruption is decreasing due to these strategies, while 27.5% of females (n=120) shared this view. A notable portion of respondents felt that corruption is decreasing only in some sectors, with 14.8% of males and 10% of females expressing this opinion. However, 26% of males and 23.33% of females believed that corruption is increasing, while 19.2% of males and 12.5% of females reported that corruption is increasing in some sectors. Uncertainty was more prevalent among females, with 26.67% indicating they were "not sure," compared to only 8% of males. Overall, the findings suggest that while a significant number of respondents believe anti-corruption

strategies are reducing corruption, many still see it as increasing or are uncertain about the strategies' effectiveness, particularly among female respondents.

**Figure 33:** Impact of Anti-Corruption Strategies on Local Corruption Levels with ref to education



The findings on the impact of anti-corruption strategies on local corruption levels across education levels show a range of perceptions. Respondents with primary education (33.33%) were the most likely to believe that corruption is decreasing due to these strategies, followed by 31.25% of those with secondary education, 28.57% with no formal education, and 28% with higher education. A smaller portion of respondents felt that corruption is decreasing only in some sectors, with 17.14% of those with no formal education and 11.67% of those with primary education expressing this view. On the other hand, 28.57% of respondents with no formal education and 25% of those with primary and higher education believed corruption is increasing. Additionally, 22.5% of respondents with secondary and higher education felt corruption is increasing in some sectors. Uncertainty was most common among respondents with primary education (17.5%), while other education levels showed lower rates of uncertainty. Overall, these findings suggest that while many respondents across all education levels believe anti-corruption strategies are reducing corruption, a significant portion remains skeptical or uncertain, particularly regarding sector-specific changes.

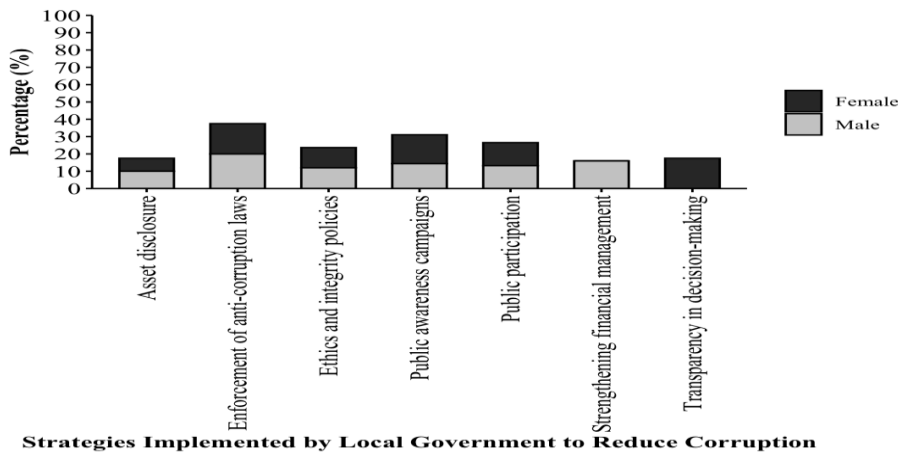
#### 4.5 Result from Anti-corruption strategies

According to these diagram, the perception of local people are analyzed in regards to Which initiatives might be effective in order to control corruption in local level.

##### 4.5.1 Strategies implemented by local government to reduce corruption

The strategies are analyzed on the basis gender and education of local people either which initiatives might be effective in order to control corruption in local level.

**Figure 34:** Strategies implemented by local government to reduce corruption with ref. to gender

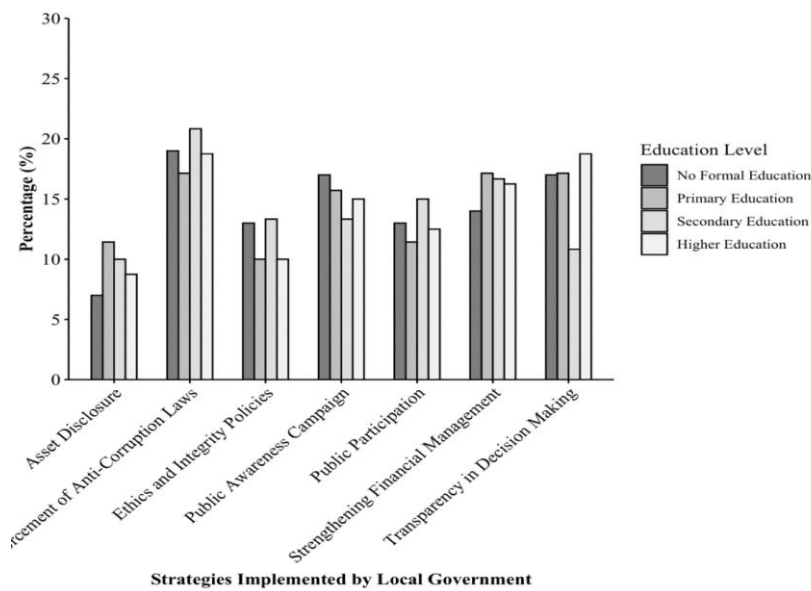


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The findings on the strategies implemented by local government to reduce corruption reveal varied perceptions between male and female respondents. Among males (n=250), the most recognized strategies were the enforcement of anti-corruption laws (20%), strengthening financial management (16%), and public awareness campaigns (14.4%). Female respondents (n=120) shared similar views, with 17.5% acknowledging both the enforcement of anti-corruption laws and transparency in decision-making as key

strategies, while 16.67% noted public awareness campaigns. Asset disclosure was recognized by a smaller portion of respondents, with 10% of males and 7.5% of females acknowledging it as a strategy. Similarly, ethics and integrity policies were noted by 12% of males and 11.67% of females. Public participation received moderate acknowledgment from both males (13.2%) and females (13.33%). Overall, the findings suggest that respondents recognize various strategies being employed by local governments, with the enforcement of anti-corruption laws and financial management improvements being the most commonly noted strategies, while asset disclosure and ethics policies were less frequently mentioned.

**Figure 35:** Strategies implemented by local government to reduce corruption with ref. to education



The results on local government strategies to reduce corruption, analyzed by education level, reveal differing levels of awareness across educational backgrounds. Respondents with higher education (n=100) were more likely to recognize public awareness campaigns (17%) and transparency in decision-making (17%), alongside enforcement of anti-corruption laws (19%). Those with secondary education (n=80) similarly highlighted

the enforcement of anti-corruption laws (18.75%) and transparency initiatives (18.75%). Respondents with primary education (n=120) emphasized the enforcement of anti-corruption laws (20.83%) and public participation (15%) as key strategies, while those with no formal education (n=70) were more likely to acknowledge strengthening financial management (17.14%) and transparency efforts (17.14%). Across all education levels, enforcement of anti-corruption laws, strengthening financial management, and public awareness campaigns were commonly recognized, while asset disclosure and ethics and integrity policies were mentioned less frequently. Those with higher education appeared to be more aware of transparency initiatives and public awareness strategies.

#### **4.5.2 Anti-Corruption Strategies in Local Government**

While there is some recognition of anti-corruption measures, there is considerable room for enhancing transparency, legal enforcement, and public education to build greater confidence and effectiveness in combating corruption at the local level.

**Table 7: Anti-Corruption Strategies in Local Government**

n-370

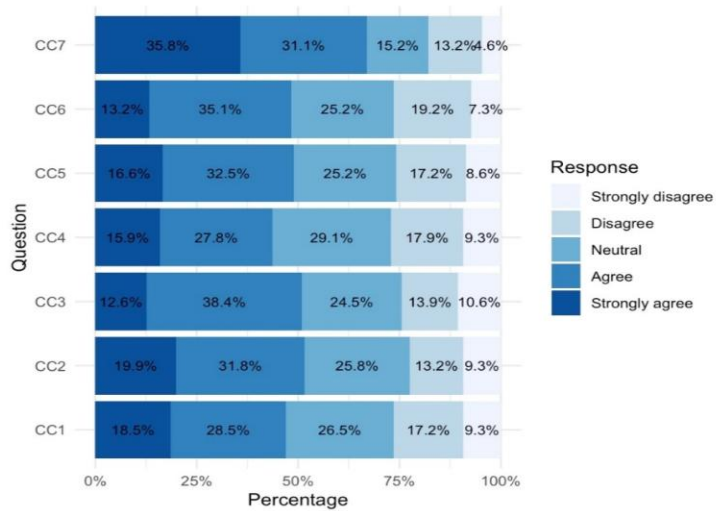
S.N	Question	Min	Max	Mean	Standard Deviation
CC1	Do you agree that the anti-corruption strategies have been employed in your local government?	1	5	3.3	1.22
CC2	Do you agree that the local government has formulated and implemented policies to fight corruption?	1	5	3.4	1.21
CC3	Do you believe that there is strong legal penalty for the corrupted in the local level?	1	5	3.29	1.18
CC4	Are the public audits of local government finances strong enough to prevent and detect corruption?	1	5	3.24	1.19
CC5	Do you believe that enough has been done to reduce corruption at your local government?	1	5	3.32	1.19
CC6	Do you agree that the existing legal framework are effective enough in addressing the problem of corruption at your local level?	1	5	3.28	1.14
CC7	Do you feel that there is more need of education and awareness regarding corruption and anticorruption at your locality?	1	5	3.81	1.2

Source: Field survey, 2024

Respondents moderately agreed that anti-corruption strategies are being implemented in their local government, with a mean score of 3.3 (SD = 1.22). Similarly, there was moderate agreement on the formulation and implementation of anti-corruption policies (M = 3.4, SD = 1.21) (Table 7). The perceived strength of legal penalties for corruption at

the local level also received moderate agreement ( $M = 3.29$ ,  $SD = 1.18$ ). Opinions on the effectiveness of public audits to prevent and detect corruption were slightly lower, with a mean score of 3.24 ( $SD = 1.19$ ). Respondents felt that sufficient efforts to reduce corruption have been made ( $M = 3.32$ ,  $SD = 1.19$ ), and the effectiveness of the existing legal framework was rated similarly ( $M = 3.28$ ,  $SD = 1.14$ ). Notably, there was a strong agreement on the need for increased education and awareness about corruption and anti-corruption measures ( $M = 3.81$ ,  $SD = 1.2$ ). These findings indicate a general perception of moderate effectiveness in current anti-corruption efforts and a significant call for more educational initiatives.

**Figure 36:** Anti-Corruption Strategies Opinion



A significant portion of respondents (46.97%) agree or strongly agree that anti-corruption strategies have been employed, though a substantial number remain neutral or disagree, indicating mixed confidence in these efforts. Similarly, 51.66% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the local government has formulated and implemented policies to fight corruption, yet 25.83% remain neutral, and 22.52% disagree or strongly disagree, reflecting a need for more visible and effective policy measures.

The perception of strong legal penalties for corruption is also varied, with 51.99% agreeing or strongly agreeing, while 24.50% are neutral and 24.51% disagree or strongly disagree. The effectiveness of public audits in preventing and detecting corruption is seen positively by 43.7% of respondents, but 27.15% remain neutral and 27.15% view them as not effective. Satisfaction with the efforts to reduce corruption is moderate, with 49.01% agreeing or strongly agreeing that enough has been done, yet 25.83% are neutral and 25.83% dissatisfied. The effectiveness of the existing legal framework is seen positively by 48.35% of respondents, though 25.17% remain neutral and 26.49% view it as ineffective. Notably, there is a strong consensus (66.89%) on the need for increased education and awareness regarding corruption, highlighting a critical area for improvement in anti-corruption efforts.

#### **4.6 Data Analysis Methods**

After the research collects all the necessary data, the data is processed and put into MS Excel for additional analysis. The result of the data is presented in the form of tables after analysis to make it easier to understand. The table presented shows the frequency of respondents and the percentage ratio as well.

#### **4.7 Discussion**

The study revealed significant findings regarding the perceptions of corruption at the local level, illustrating widespread issues related to anti-corruption strategies, transparency, and accountability in governance. Respondents from various demographic backgrounds, particularly across gender and education levels, generally exhibited only superficial familiarity with anti-corruption strategies. Despite some level of awareness, there was a notable lack of in-depth knowledge among the respondents. Corruption was frequently observed across all demographics, with females and individuals with lower education levels reporting higher instances of witnessing corrupt practices. Nepotism, misuse of public funds, and bureaucratic inefficiencies were some of the most common forms of corruption observed. Additionally, transparency in local government was seen as inconsistent, with many respondents expressing doubts about the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives. This lack of confidence points to a broader issue of mistrust in local governance and its ability to effectively combat corruption.

Regarding the prevalence of corruption, the findings align with existing literature that highlights the persistence of local-level corruption in decentralized governance systems (Sapkota, 2019; Panta, 2016). Nepotism and the misuse of public funds emerged as the most frequently observed corrupt practices, particularly among male respondents, who reported higher incidences of witnessing these specific forms of corruption. In contrast, female respondents were more likely to experience bureaucratic corruption, such as unnecessary documentation requests, which mirrors the additional bureaucratic challenges that women often face when interacting with local government systems (Sithole, 2013; Furqan, 2019). Corruption was reported frequently, regardless of education level, indicating that it remains a pervasive issue in local governance

structures. This widespread prevalence of corruption is consistent with previous studies that document the challenges faced by rural and decentralized governance systems (Shah, 2006; Furqan, 2019).

The study also provided insights into the perceived causes of corruption. Respondents with higher education were more likely to identify structural and systemic factors driving corruption, such as political interference and the lack of financial oversight. This finding aligns with the research of Panta (2016), which emphasizes the role of education in equipping individuals with the knowledge to engage with governance issues and recognize the causes of corruption. However, the limited recognition of these causes among less-educated respondents highlights the gap in public understanding of the root causes of corruption. Setiyono (2017) and Naz (2017) also underscore the importance of educating the public about corruption's systemic drivers. The findings suggest that while some respondents are aware of these factors, a significant portion remains uninformed, pointing to the need for targeted public education campaigns aimed at raising awareness about the underlying causes of corruption.

In terms of anti-corruption strategies, the study revealed mixed results regarding the effectiveness of these efforts at the local level. While some respondents recognized the enforcement of anti-corruption laws and improvements in financial management as key strategies, there was a general lack of awareness about other measures, such as asset disclosure and ethics policies. This limited recognition indicates that these strategies may not be adequately communicated to the public or effectively implemented. Respondents expressed skepticism about the impact of anti-corruption training programs, with many perceiving them as superficial or ineffective. Furthermore, the inconsistent transparency in local government operations, particularly in financial transactions, was another key concern, reflecting findings from previous research (Shah, 2006). The study underscores the need for stronger enforcement of anti-corruption laws, more robust public participation in governance, and greater transparency to foster public trust in local government efforts.

In conclusion, the study emphasizes that while anti-corruption initiatives are in place at the local level, their perceived effectiveness is limited, and significant challenges remain

in addressing corruption. The findings align with existing research that highlights the limitations of current anti-corruption strategies, particularly in terms of enforcement and public awareness (Sapkota, 2019; Shah, 2006). Public familiarity with anti-corruption strategies is generally superficial, and there is widespread skepticism about the effectiveness of these efforts. The frequent observation of corrupt practices, especially among females and those with lower education levels, further highlights the need for more comprehensive and targeted anti-corruption strategies. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach, including stronger legal frameworks, enhanced transparency, and greater public engagement in governance processes. The role of education emerges as a crucial factor in shaping public perceptions, underscoring the need for more effective public education campaigns to increase awareness of both the causes and strategies for combating corruption (Setiyono, 2017; Naz, 2017).

## **CHAPTER V**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Findings**

This chapter presents a summary of the key findings from the study on perceptions of local-level corruption and the effectiveness of anti-corruption strategies. It highlights differences in perception based on gender and education level and provides a comprehensive analysis of respondents' views on anti-corruption initiatives, transparency, and the role of local governments in reducing corruption.

The results indicated that a significant portion of both male and female respondents were only slightly familiar with anti-corruption strategies. This trend was prevalent across all education levels, though respondents with higher education showed slightly more familiarity with these strategies. Despite some understanding, deep knowledge of anti-corruption initiatives was lacking, suggesting that more robust education and awareness efforts are necessary. Corruption was commonly witnessed by both genders, with nepotism and misuse of public funds being the most frequently observed forms. Females were more likely to report witnessing specific corrupt practices, such as being asked for unnecessary documents, while both genders showed general consistency in reporting misuse of funds and nepotism.

Transparency in local government was another critical issue explored in the study. Both males and females expressed concerns about inconsistent transparency, with most respondents believing that local government was only "sometimes" transparent. This perception was mirrored across educational levels, with skepticism about transparency being more common among those with less education. There was also significant skepticism regarding the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives. Many respondents perceived these efforts as either ineffective or marginally effective, with very few expressing confidence in the current measures. Even among those with higher education, who were more familiar with anti-corruption strategies, confidence remained low, highlighting a broader societal issue of trust in governance and anti-corruption mechanisms.

The study found that corruption in local government was frequently observed, with females reporting higher instances of witnessing corruption very often compared to males. Similarly, respondents with less education were more likely to encounter corruption frequently, suggesting that local governance structures may be more

vulnerable to corrupt practices in areas with lower education levels. There was also notable variation in the perceived causes of corruption, with slightly more males than females recognizing these causes. This recognition increased with education, suggesting that those with more formal education were more aware of the underlying issues driving corruption.

Local government accountability and satisfaction with anti-corruption measures revealed mixed results. While some respondents expressed satisfaction with the level of accountability, a large portion remained neutral or dissatisfied. This trend was consistent across both gender and education levels, with the educated respondents showing slightly more satisfaction. Respondents also expressed a lack of confidence in anti-corruption training, with many feeling that such efforts were insufficient to make a significant impact. Transparency in local government budgets and financial transactions was perceived as lacking by most respondents, with very few reporting full transparency in these areas.

One of the key findings from the study was the limited confidence in local government investigations into corruption cases. While some respondents felt that investigations were conducted properly, many remained skeptical or neutral, with respondents across all education levels sharing similar concerns. This skepticism extended to the perceived effectiveness of the legal framework in combating corruption. Although some respondents felt that the legal framework was somewhat effective, uncertainty and doubt were prevalent, particularly among females and those with lower education.

Digital technologies were widely recognized as playing a role in enhancing transparency, with many respondents acknowledging the positive impact of these tools. However, a small portion of respondents remained skeptical about their effectiveness, especially those with lower education levels. Overall, respondents across all demographics recognized the importance of transparency in local government, though few believed it was consistently achieved.

The impact of anti-corruption strategies on local corruption levels was viewed with mixed opinions. While a significant portion of respondents believed that these strategies were helping to reduce corruption, many expressed uncertainties or felt that corruption

was increasing. This uncertainty was more pronounced among females and respondents with lower education. Similarly, while respondents recognized various anti-corruption strategies implemented by local governments, such as the enforcement of anti-corruption laws and strengthening financial management, they also identified gaps in asset disclosure and ethics policies.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

The study concludes that while anti-corruption initiatives are in place at the local level, their perceived effectiveness is limited, and significant challenges remain in achieving meaningful reductions in corruption. The data reveals that there is widespread familiarity with anti-corruption strategies, but this familiarity is mostly superficial, with few respondents, regardless of gender or education, demonstrating in-depth knowledge. This suggests that current efforts to educate the public on anti-corruption strategies are insufficient and must be expanded to foster a more comprehensive understanding of the issue.

Corruption remains a pervasive issue at the local level, with frequent instances of nepotism, misuse of public funds, and irregularities in financial management. These issues are observed across all demographics, though females and those with lower education levels report witnessing corruption more frequently. The study highlights that while there is recognition of anti-corruption measures, such as the enforcement of laws and financial transparency initiatives, these strategies are not seen as consistently effective. Transparency in local government operations is viewed as irregular, with many respondents feeling that local government is only occasionally transparent. This inconsistency undermines public trust and confidence in local governance and reinforces the need for stronger and more visible transparency measures.

There is also significant skepticism regarding the effectiveness of anti-corruption training and the legal framework designed to combat corruption. Many respondents, particularly those with lower education levels, expressed doubt about the ability of these initiatives to make a meaningful impact. While digital technologies are recognized for their role in improving transparency, their implementation alone is not enough to fully address the issue of corruption.

In conclusion, the study underscores the need for more comprehensive anti-corruption strategies that go beyond the enforcement of laws and policies. A multifaceted approach is required; one that includes better education, stronger legal penalties, enhanced transparency, and greater public participation.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

- The findings suggest that local governments need to prioritize education and awareness campaigns to foster a deeper understanding of anti-corruption measures among the public.
- Additionally, while legal frameworks and anti-corruption policies exist, their enforcement must be strengthened to ensure that they are effective in deterring corrupt practices.
- There is also a need for more robust public participation in governance processes to increase accountability and transparency. Respondents' calls for greater public engagement indicate that there is significant potential to involve citizens in the fight against corruption, particularly through mechanisms such as public audits and transparency in decision-making.
- In order to enhance communication with local residents, municipalities can implement communication channels like social media, community newsletter, and public meetings to reach broader audience which should include marginalized individuals as well.
- Likewise training municipal staffs in effective communication skills and actively listening to residents' concerns and feedbacks can foster mutual relationship between staffs and residents which contributes for effective service delivery.

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## ANNEXES QUESTIONNAIRE

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Age:**

**Gender:** a) Male b) female c) others

**Family structure:** a) Nuclear b) joint

**Marital Status:** a) married b) unmarried c) divorced d) widow/widower

**Religion:** a) Hinduism b) Buddhism c) Christian d) Islam e) others

**Occupation:**

- a) Farmer
- b) Businessman
- c) Wage salary worker
- d) Teacher
- e) Civil servant
- f) Self employed
- g) Others

**Education:**

- a) No formal education
- b) Primary education
- c) Lower secondary education
- d) Secondary education
- e) Intermediate
- f) Bachelor degree
- g) Master degree
- h) Above master degree

## **CORRUPTION AND ANTI CORRUPTION**

1. How familiar are you with the concept of anti-corruption strategies that is implemented by your local government?
  - a) Not familiar at all
  - b) Slightly familiar
  - c) Moderately familiar
  - d) Very familiar
  - e) Extremely familiar
2. Have you ever witnessed any form of corruption in your local government? If yes, what are they?
  - a) Nepotism
  - b) Misuse of public fund
  - c) Taking extra money for providing timely service
  - d) Misappropriation and allocation of budgets
  - e) Asking for unnecessary documents
  - f) Irregularities in the awards of contracts and tenders
  - g) Not seen
3. According to you, is the local government transparent about their decision-making process?
  - a) Yes, always
  - b) Sometimes
  - c) Rarely
  - d) Never
4. How effective is the anti-corruption initiatives implemented by the local government according to you?
  - a) Very effective
  - b) Little effective
  - c) Neutral
  - d) Not very effective
  - e) Not at all effective

5. How often do you think corruption occur in your local government?
  - a) Very often
  - b) Often
  - c) Occasionally
  - d) Rarely
  - e) Never
6. Do you think that the poorly paid employees are the main cause of corruption?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
7. Are you satisfied with the accountability level of your local government towards the public?
  - a) Very satisfied
  - b) satisfied
  - c) Neutral
  - d) Dissatisfied
  - e) Very dissatisfied
8. Do you think that your local government receive adequate training regarding anti-corruption measures?
  - a) Definitely
  - b) Somewhat
  - c) Not really
  - d) Not at all
9. How transparent is the local government regarding the budgets and financial transactions?
  - a) Very transparent
  - b) Little transparent
  - c) Neutral
  - d) Not really transparent
  - e) Not at all transparent
10. Are you confident that the cases or reports of corruption are investigated and addressed by the local government?

- a) Very confident
- b) Confident
- c) Neutral
- d) Not really confident
- e) Not at all confident

11. Do you believe that the local government disclose their assets and financial interest transparently?

- a) Always
- b) Sometimes
- c) Occasionally
- d) Rarely
- e) Never

12. How important do you think it is for the local government to engage with the civil society and community groups to promote transparency and accountability, thereby reducing corruption?

- a) Very important
- b) Important
- c) Neutral
- d) Not really important
- e) Not at all important

13. To what extent do you believe that local government representatives uphold moral principles and conduct in an ethical manner?

- a) To a great extent
- b) To some extent
- c) Moderate
- d) Not at all

14. Do you think that the digital technologies enhance the transparency and accountability in the local government and help to reduce corruption?

- a) Yes, significantly
- b) Yes, somewhat
- c) No, not really

- d) No, not at all

#### **ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGIES**

15. Do you agree that the anti-corruption strategies have been employed in your local government?

- a) Strongly agree
- b) Agree
- c) Neutral
- d) Disagree
- e) Strongly disagree

16. Do you agree that the local government has formulated and implemented policies to fight corruption?

- a) Strongly agree
- b) Agree
- c) Neutral
- d) Disagree
- e) Strongly disagree

17. Do you believe that there is strong legal penalty for the corrupted in the local level?

- a) Strongly agree
- b) Agree
- c) Neutral
- d) Disagree
- e) Strongly disagree

18. Are the public audits of local government finances strong enough to prevent and detect corruption?

- a) Very strong
- b) Strong
- c) Neutral
- d) Not really strong
- e) Not at all strong

19. Do you believe that enough has been done to reduce corruption at your local government?
- a) Strongly agree
  - b) Agree
  - c) Neutral
  - d) Disagree
  - e) Strongly disagree
20. Do you agree that the existing legal framework are effective enough in addressing the problem of corruption at your local level?
- a) Strongly agree
  - b) Agree
  - c) Neutral
  - d) Disagree
  - e) Strongly disagree
21. Do you feel that there is more need of education and awareness regarding corruption and anticorruption at your locality?
- a) Strongly agree
  - b) Agree
  - c) Neutral
  - d) Disagree
  - e) Strongly disagree
22. Is there any institution to fight corruption in local government in your area?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
23. To what extent do you agree that the local government has implemented the legal framework to combat corruption?
- a) To a great extent
  - b) To a little extent
  - c) To no extent
  - d) Not sure

24. Compared to the previous years, do you think the corruption at your local level increased or decreases after implementing anti-corruption strategies?
- a) Increasing
  - b) Decreasing
  - c) Not sure
  - d) Increasing in some sectors
  - e) Decreasing in some sectors
25. If yes, what type of strategies do you think the local government has implemented to reduce corruption?
- a) Transparency in decision making
  - b) Ethics and integrity policies
  - c) Strengthening financial management
  - d) Public participation
  - e) Asset disclosure
  - f) Enforcement of anticorruption laws
  - g) Public awareness campaign