Addis Ababa University,

College of Social Sciences, Department of Philosophy, Graduate Program

MORAL, PSYCHO-SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CORRUPTION

BY:

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JUNE, 2025

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY (GRADUATE PROGRAMME) IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY

JUNE, 2025
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis performed by Abel Andarge Agegnehu, titled- "MORAL, PSYCHO-SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CORRUPTION", and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Philosophy complies with the regulations of the University and meets the required standards with respect to originality and quality.

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Date: June 08, 2025

STATEMENT OF DECLARATION

I hereby affirm that the thesis titled- "Moral, Psycho-Social, and Political Perspectives on Corruption", is my own original work and has never previously been submitted for any academic purpose at any other university or institution. I assure as well that all sources referenced in the thesis have been appropriately acknowledged.

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Date: June 08, 2025

Acknowledgements

Numerous individuals have played pivotal roles in the writing and completion of this thesis, and I am deeply grateful for their support.

Foremost, I extend my deepest appreciation to my supervisor, Dr. Tenna Dewo (PhD), for his unwavering moral, intellectual, and material support throughout this academic journey. His patient guidance, thoughtful feedback, and steady encouragement have been invaluable to the successful completion of this thesis.

I am equally grateful to Dr. Fasil Merawi (PhD), Chairperson of the Department of Philosophy at Addis Ababa University, for his continuous encouragement, insightful advice, and inspiring leadership, all of which have greatly enriched my academic experience.

My heartfelt thanks also go to Dr. Biruk Shewadeg and Dr. Getahun Dana for their meticulous review and evaluation of this thesis. Their constructive comments, intellectual rigor, and critical insights have helped refine and strengthen my work.

I further wish to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Bekele Gutema, Dr. Dagnechew Asefa, Dr. Christopher Bernard, Dr. Setargew Kenaw, and Dr. Habiba Nuredin for their inspiring lectures, and for their generous support in both academic and administrative matters, particularly with course-related guidance and registrar affairs. I am also deeply thankful to them for recommending and providing me with relevant books, articles, and other reading materials that served as valuable inputs for the development of my thesis.

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge and thank all members of my family, whose constant love and encouragement have provided me with the peace and happiness necessary to embark upon my academic responsibilities with vigor and determination; to my father, Mr. Andarge Agegnehu, my mother, Amakelech Tilahun, my beloved wife, Mahlet Muruts, and my cherished children, Ezana, Minas, and Maya, I am forever grateful for your unwavering support and understanding.

Abstract

This thesis examines the moral, psycho-social, and political dimensions of corruption, focusing on how dishonesty undermines trust, justice, and governance. By integrating insights from philosophy, psychology, sociology, and political theory, it investigates the root causes of corruption and its pervasive effects on social cohesion, public institutions, and human well-being. The study situates corruption not only as a legal or economic problem but also as a deeply ethical one, requiring reconciliation between individual self-interest and collective integrity. It argues for a shared responsibility among all stakeholders, proposing pragmatic strategies informed by various theoretical frameworks such as agnosticism, empiricism, and social contract theory. Besides, it attempts to reconcile the pursuit of self-interest with moral excellence, offering insights into promoting integrity within diverse socio-political contexts and highlighting the role of governance structures, transparency, and accountability mechanisms. Generally, the thesis contributes to the ongoing discourse on nurturing trust and integrity, offering an eloquent insight based on multi-dimensional views and actionable recommendations for addressing pervasive challenges to peace and social welfare.

Keywords: Conatus, Corruption, Dishonesty, Integrity, Self-interest, Social contract, Societal Harmony and Trust.

Table of Contents

Topics **Page Numbers**

Chapter One: Introduction

1.1. Background

Corruption permeates to varying extents across nations, with some being particularly susceptible due to factors like inadequate governance structures, opacity, and deficient accountability mechanisms. It's crucial to acknowledge that the intensity, magnitude and frequency rate of corruption varies across all countries, necessitating a comprehensive and sustained approach to address it effectively (*Transparency International, Corruption Perception Index, 2022*).

According to the Corruption Perceptions Index 2020 by Transparency International, countries such as Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany, and Luxembourg are perceived to have the lowest corruption indices, indicating a relatively favorable stance in combating corruption. These countries have relatively more internal socio political economic stability and peace. Conversely, developing countries like Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, and Iraq face significantly higher corruption rates. These nations grapple with issues such as political turmoil, conflict, institutional weaknesses, and restricted access to justice, exacerbating their susceptibility to corruption.

Since this thesis is made in Ethiopia by an Ethiopian writer, let's see Ethiopia's global position in this ranking system. Ethiopia has long struggled with corruption, significantly impacting its development and governance. Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2022 ranks the country as the 94th most corrupt out of 180 countries. This places Ethiopia ahead of 93 countries but behind 86 others concerning corruption (Transparency International, *Corruption Perception Index, 2022*).

The repercussions of corruption in Ethiopia are complex. It causes inequitable resource distribution and inadequate service delivery by taking public resources away from necessities like infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Besides, corruption tarnishes the business climate in Ethiopia by deterring foreign investment and impeding private sector expansion. This situation creates an uneven playing field, where individuals with connections or bribery capabilities gain unfair advantages. Corruption worsens social inequality and “poverty” in Ethiopia, undermining the rule of law, eroding public trust in institutions, and hindering economic growth and development. This often results in the misallocation of resources, benefiting select individuals or groups at the expense of the majority, perpetuating a cycle of “poverty” and marginalization, particularly among vulnerable communities.

While the Ethiopian government has recently announced measures to combat corruption, including high-profile arrests and prosecutions of implicated officials, the efficacy of these efforts has been questioned both domestically and internationally. There remains a pressing need for sustained efforts to bolster institutions, promote transparency, and enhance accountability across all levels of government (*Anti-Corruption Authorities, Profiles, Ethiopia, 2022*), (Elias Meseret, 2018).Even though this thesis is made in Ethiopia by an Ethiopian writer, it is thematically constructed in order to contribute for the endeavors in addressing dishonesty and corruption not only in Ethiopia but in any of existing countries globally as well.

Although this thesis is made in Ethiopia by an Ethiopian writer, it is important to note that the theme of the thesis is conceptualized and structured based on global contexts. In societies worldwide, the cultivation of ethical values and the fight against corruption stand as imperative endeavors, requiring multifaceted approaches and involvement from various entities. Institutions, educational systems, philosophers, and individual backgrounds all play crucial roles in this ongoing struggle.

Institutions, ranging from governmental bodies to civil society organizations (CSOs) and international entities, hold significant responsibility in fostering ethical values and combating corruption. These entities function as checks and balances, ensuring accountability and advocating for reforms to address dishonesty and corruption (*Argandona, 1991*).

Education serves as a powerful tool in the fight against corruption. By incorporating moral education into curricula and promoting ethical behavior, educational institutions contribute to shaping a future generation committed to integrity (*Nazarov, 2021*). Teachers, students, and academics within educational settings play pivotal roles in instilling ethical values and reducing the propensity for criminal activities.

Philosophy, as a discipline, offers unique insights into ethical dilemmas and corruption. Philosophy students and academicians contribute to this endeavor through ethical education, research and analysis, moral advocacy, ethical leadership, consultation, and collaboration with other institutions (*Nazarov, 2021*).

Personal backgrounds and the prevailing cultural, social, and political climates significantly influence the perspectives and interests of researchers. The quest for integrity, trust, and good governance reflects current global, continental, and national concerns, shaping the topics which researchers choose to explore (Nazarov, 2021). While personal backgrounds influence researchers' perspectives, maintaining "objectivity" in that regard involves seeking diverse viewpoints and critically evaluating evidence. That's what has been done in the case of this thesis.

In general, the cultivation of ethical values and the fight against corruption require collaborative efforts from institutions, educational systems, philosophers, and individual researchers. By recognizing the multifarious nature of these endeavors and leveraging diverse perspectives, we the global societies can work towards creating a more ethical and transparent future.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The global community faces an array of interrelated challenges that significantly undermine human security and well-being. Among these, environmental degradation and climate change are critical concerns, manifesting through rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss. These environmental changes threaten ecological stability and intensify problems related to food and water security, economic stability, and cause forced migration (*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2021*). There is an urgent need for a sustainable transition to renewable energy sources, as inaction could exacerbate conflicts over dwindling resources (*Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation, 2019*).

In relation to that, Environmental ethics addresses our moral responsibilities to nature and future generations, stressing sustainability and justice (Light, 2020). Corruption involves abusing power for personal benefit, leading to misallocated resources and diminished accountability (Basiago, 2015). Corruption can hinder climate initiatives by diverting funds and undermining environmental regulations (Higgins, 2018). Emphasizing environmental ethics can enhance transparency and reduce corruption in governance (Caldwell, 2021).

Climate change disproportionately impacts marginalized communities, highlighting the need for social justice in climate policies, which corruption can worsen (Robinson et al., 2021). Increased awareness of corruption can drive activism for ethical governance and sustainable practices (Della Porta &Vannini, 2018). Corruption weakens international climate efforts, whereas strong ethical standards can enhance global cooperation (Bennett, 2020). Addressing climate change requires robust environmental ethics and efforts to combat corruption for fair and sustainable resource management.

Beyond environmental challenges, global health crises have further exposed vulnerabilities in healthcare systems. The lasting impacts of physical injuries, chronic and infectious diseases, mental illnesses, and other health-related conditions have highlighted deep inequalities in access to care (World Health Organization [WHO], 2023). Current concerns, particularly the growing burden of mental health issues, the rising prevalence of chronic diseases, and the threat of future pandemics, underscore the urgent need for stronger international cooperation and preparedness to enhance global public health resilience (Katz et al., 2022).

The healthcare system involves the organization, financing, delivery, and regulation of health services, aiming for quality care and equitable access (Barker, 2019). Healthcare ethics encompasses moral principles guiding healthcare, such as beneficence, nonmaleficence, autonomy, and justice, ensuring providers act in patients' best interests (Beauchamp & Childress, 2019).

Corruption in healthcare includes bribery, fraud, and favoritism, undermining trust, compromising care quality, and distorting resource allocation (Harris et al., 2019). Corruption often conflicts with ethical principles, prioritizing profit over patient welfare (Baker, 2020). It erodes public trust, leading to avoidance of care and negative public health outcomes (Gonzalez & Shultz, 2021). Corruption skews resource allocation, harming vulnerable populations. Effective policies and regulations are essential to combat corruption and uphold ethics in healthcare (Olafsdottir et al., 2021). Educating healthcare professionals on ethics can reduce corrupt practices (Davis, 2022). Strengthening ethics and combating corruption are vital for effective healthcare delivery, trust, health equity, and improved outcomes (Tavares, 2022).

Food security is also increasingly fragile, impacted by supply chain vulnerabilities rooted in both conflict and climate change, leading to shortages and price increases that disproportionately affect marginalized populations (*Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2021*). Such food scarcity poses a risk of social unrest and conflict, destabilizing already vulnerable regions (Schmidt et al., 2022).

Political polarization intensifies these complications, leading to governance failures and increased social discord in numerous countries (Drew & Meyer, 2021). This polarization threatens democratic institutions, undermines social cohesion, and aggravates environments conducive to unrest (Vogel, 2021). Concurrently, widespread human rights violations, including discrimination and repression, continue to destabilize societies and contribute to prolonged conflicts *(Amnesty International, 2023)*.

Access to education remains a critical issue, with persistent disparities, especially for girls and marginalized communities, reinforcing cycles of poverty and limiting socioeconomic mobility *(UNESCO, 2021)*. Geopolitical tensions, such as those witnessed in conflicts involving major powers, complicate the global landscape and necessitate urgent diplomatic efforts to promote stability (Smith, 2022).

Economic inequality, evident both within and between nations, further undermines social cohesion and heightens the risk of political instability (Piketty, 2020). This growing divide demands immediate attention to promote equitable growth and prevent widespread disenfranchisement (Stiglitz, 2020). Transitioning to renewable energy also poses monumental challenges, particularly for economies dependent on fossil fuels, calling for careful management to avoid economic disruptions (WEC, 2023). Besides, the increasing reliance on technology raises cyber security concerns that threaten national security and individual privacy (NIST, 2022).

Migration and refugee crises, driven by a combination of political instability, conflict, and climate change, challenge the integration capacities of host countries and contribute to potential social discord *(International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2023).* The persistent threat of terrorism and extremism complicates global security dynamics and necessitates comprehensive strategies to confront the root causes of radicalization (Kalyvas, 2022).

In addition to that, corruption remains an invasive issue across all facets of society, weakening economic stability, exacerbating social inequalities, and eroding public trust in governance *(Transparency International, 2022).* Corruption diverts resources away from essential services, grants undue advantages to powerful individuals, and contributes to human rights violations, ultimately hindering the achievement of critical global goals, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) *(United Nations, 2022).*

Corruption and dishonesty represent critical challenges that have insidious implications for societies worldwide, triggering a multitude of severe issues. These challenges profoundly impact economic performance, social equity, political stability, human rights, public health, and global security (Bardhan, 2018).

Firstly, corruption leads to substantial economic repercussions, characterized by inefficiencies in market mechanisms that result in the misallocation of resources (Smith, 2020). Essential public services, such as healthcare and education, often suffer as funds are redirected into private hands (Johnson & Lee, 2019). Additionally, high levels of corruption deter foreign direct investment, as investors prioritize stable and transparent environments, ultimately hampering economic growth (Brown et al., 2021). This situation is compounded by increased operational costs for businesses, which may pass on the burden of bribery and corrupt practices to consumers through inflated prices (Adams, 2018).

Secondly, the social ramifications of corruption manifest in widening inequalities. Those in positions of power exploit systems to their advantage, further marginalizing vulnerable populations (Thompson, 2022). The erosion of public trust in institutions, spurred by dishonesty in governance, engenders social unrest and diminishes civic engagement (Parker, 2020).

Political instability is another critical concern, as corruption undermines the rule of law and democratic processes, leading to weakened governance structures (Chen, 2023). This instability may foster authoritarian regimes that prioritize personal gain over public welfare, exacerbating the cycle of corruption and oppression (Evans, 2019).

In addition to that, human rights violations often arise from corrupt practices, where the abuse of power by officials translates into the silencing of dissent and targeting of marginalized groups (Garcia, 2021). A compromised judicial system exacerbates this issue by obstructing individuals' access to justice, leaving victims unable to hold powerful actors accountable (Miller, 2020).

The effects of corruption also extend to public health and safety, where compromised services, particularly in healthcare, can result in inadequate care due to the diversion of funds for personal gain (Roberts, 2022). Regulatory dishonesty can further lead to environmental degradation, as companies may bribe officials to overlook their violations (Harris, 2019).

In general, corruption poses significant threats to global security by facilitating organized crime and terrorism (Martin, 2021). Corrupt officials may permit illegal activities to flourish, motivated by personal financial gain rather than the public good (White, 2020).

The severity of these issues varies across regions, with the most profound effects typically felt in developing countries where institutional weaknesses are prevalent (Khan, 2022). The long-term impact of corruption not only hinders socio-economic development but also perpetuates cycles of "poverty", creating barriers to essential global initiatives, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Taylor, 2023).

Hence, the multitude of interconnected global challenges including climate change, public health crises, food insecurity, political polarization, human rights violations, educational disparities, geopolitical tensions, economic inequality, energy transitions, cyber-security threats, migration crises, and corruption, underscore the imperative for a coordinated, holistic international response (Sanchez, 2023). Addressing these complex issues in an integrated manner is essential for fostering a secure, equitable, and prosperous future for all. In relation to that, the challenges posed by corruption and dishonesty are multifaceted and deeply entrenched, necessitating immediate and concerted efforts at local, national, and international levels (Walker, 2019). We the global societies can effectively address these persistent issues through promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity. (Nguyen, 2022).

As human beings, we often exhibit a self-centered nature, placing a premium on our safety and security. However, we are not actually self-sufficient; rather, we flourish through interdependence and collective living. Social connections are vital for our well-being and sense of safety. Accordingly, this thesis seeks to explore a path that harmonizes self-interest with the collective good while emphasizing the importance of ethics, integrity, and trust, all without compromising individual self-care.

Despite repeated reforms, policies, and global declarations, the resilience of corruption suggests that technical solutions alone are insufficient. Legal definitions and regulatory responses often fail to explore how corruption is morally rationalized, culturally normalized, or philosophically justified. Furthermore, existing approaches frequently ignore the conflict between personal, professional, and institutional ethics, and overlook the socio-economic and psychological contexts that influence ethical decision-making.

Without a philosophical framework that addresses both individual conscience and systemic responsibility, interventions will remain reactive, fragmented, and ultimately ineffective. Accordingly, this thesis contends that the fight against corruption must begin with ethical analysis.

1.3. Purposes of the Study

1.3.1. Broad Purpose

The general aspiration of this thesis is to provide insights conducive to peace-making, peace-building, and peace-keeping efforts on global, continental, international, national, societal and interpersonal scales. In order to bring about peace in all these respective scales, it is important to enhance trust and integrity. By examining in depth the root causes of dishonesty and corruption through multidisciplinary lenses such as psychology, moral philosophy, and political theory, the study endeavors to propose constructive avenues for enhancing integrity, trust, and good governance within societal and socio-political landscapes.

1.3.2. Specific Purposes

- Clarifying the definitions, nuances, and interpretations of dishonesty, corruption, and associated terms.
- Categorizing and elucidating the various forms, features and classifications of dishonesty and corruption.
- Scrutinizing the underlying causes and repercussions of dishonesty and corruption.
- Examining the intricate relationships among integrity, trust, and good governance.
- Analyzing how dishonesty and corruption undermine trust and effective governance.
- Exploring avenues for enhancing integrity, trust, and good governance within society.
- Identifying strategies to curtail dishonesty and corruption in social and political contexts.

1.4. Significance of the Study

Addressing the scourge of corruption and dishonesty holds paramount importance in societal and socio-political milieus. Therefore, fostering awareness about the imperative of promoting integrity, trust, and good governance is indispensable. The discourse presented in this thesis holds significant implications:

- It serves as a scholarly resource for interested researchers to study concepts such as Morality, Ethics, integrity, trust, good governance, and Anti-corruption Policies.
- The thesis offers a plethora of hypotheses for interdisciplinary research endeavors.
- Policy makers and relevant institutions can derive valuable insights for shaping ethical and anti-corruption initiatives.
- Individual readers gain a deeper appreciation for the pivotal roles of integrity and trust in individual wellbeing as well as societal cohesion and progress.

The selection of this study stems from its unique approach, filling a void in philosophical discourse concerning dishonesty and corruption vis-à-vis integrity, trust, and good governance.

1.5. Questions to be raised

- What are the definitions and different forms of dishonesty and corruption, as well as their root causes?
- What psychological and environmental factors both contribute to and are influenced by dishonesty and corruption?
- In what ways do dishonesty and corruption impact socio-economic, socio-political, and political-economic situations?
- How is "Good Governance" defined, and what is its significance in fostering trust and integrity within society?
- What strategies can be implemented to promote ethical values and reduce the occurrence and effects of dishonesty and corruption?

1.6. Scope and Limitations

Even though topics related to integrity and trust could be very wide in scope, the scope of this thesis is restricted in the context of good governance and the impacts of corruption. And in terms of conceptual framework, it attempts to deal with the concepts "integrity" and "trust" in their exclusive aspects which are usually impacted by dishonesty and corruption.

The thesis employs concept analysis and thought experiments as its primary methodologies. Among the numerous philosophical theories that have emerged throughout human history, the focus here is narrowed to twelve key frameworks: (1) Agnosticism, (2) Empiricism, (3) Positivism, (4) Pragmatism, (5) Secularism, (6) Egoism, (7) Social Contract Theory, (8) Anthropocentrism, (9) Egalitarianism, (10) Pluralism, (11) Democracy, and (12) Meritocracy.

1.7. Methods

The thesis employs concept analysis and thought experiments as primary techniques. Drawing from a selection of the aforementioned twelve philosophical frameworks, it offers a nuanced exploration. As a philosophical inquiry, the thesis does not include primary empirical data collection methods like surveys or interviews. Instead, it relies on a diverse array of scholarly sources, conventional and digital, supplemented by personal observations and insights gleaned from everyday experiences and media sources, both local and international.

Established facts and commonly accepted scientific theories are used as premises of the arguments. Therefore, the arguments are more likely to be inductive by indorsing interdisciplinary theories as premises.

1.8. Conceptualization and theoretical frameworks

1.8.1. Metaphysical Framework

Immanuel Kant distinguishes reality into two domains; *noumena* and *phenomena*. The phenomenal realm consists of what can be sensed, experienced, and perceived, while the *noumenal* realm designates the dimension of things as they exist independently of human perception and cognition. In other words, *phenomena* are things as they appear to us, whereas *noumena* function as the limiting concept of things in themselves, beyond the scope of possible experience. Scientific inquiry necessarily operates within the phenomenal realm, which explains why scientific claims are never absolute or final but always provisional and open to revision. Since the *noumenal* realm remains inaccessible to human understanding, this thesis adopts an attitude of agnosticism toward it, while embracing empiricism and positivism in dealing with the *phenomenal* realm.

Thus, the thesis endorses perspectives of agnosticism, empiricism, and positivism within its ontological and metaphysical frameworks. In examining these frameworks, it is important to clarify the distinctions, parallels, and interconnections among the concepts of reality, fact, and truth. Reality refers to the totality of existence, encompassing both the physical world and abstract entities. It includes what is “known” and what remains “unknown”, extending beyond immediate human perception. Ontology, a fundamental branch of metaphysics, is devoted to examining questions about being, existence, and the nature of reality (Saridakis, 2016).

Facts, by contrast, are determinate states of affairs that exist independently of personal belief or perception. They represent what is the case in reality and can be expressed in propositions subject to verification or falsification. For example, the claim “The Earth revolves around the Sun” corresponds to a fact about the cosmos, while historical occurrences such as Socrates’ sentencing to death represent factual events that retain their status regardless of individual perspectives (Anscombe, 1958).

Truth is closely connected to both reality and fact, but it refers specifically to the property of propositions that accurately describe reality. Under the correspondence theory, truth is established when a statement aligns with actuality and factual accuracy. Unlike speculative assertions, truths are grounded in evidence and supported by their conformity to reality (Burgess & Burgess, 2011). It should be noted, however, that alternative accounts of truth exist, including coherence and pragmatic theories, which emphasize consistency within a system of beliefs or practical utility rather than direct correspondence.

Within this framework, agnosticism signifies a refusal to make categorical claims about the noumenal realm, including theological or metaphysical questions such as the existence of deities. It acknowledges the limits of human reason in addressing matters beyond possible experience (Rowe, 1998). Empiricism and positivism, aligned with agnosticism, prioritize empirical observation, scientific inquiry, and logical analysis over speculative interpretations or unverifiable metaphysical assertions. These philosophical stances converge in their shared emphasis on observable phenomena and verifiable data (Rowe, 1998).

The thesis adopts a scientific metaphysical framework, primarily rooted in positivism within the epistemological paradigm of empiricism, under the broader umbrella of agnosticism. This approach is termed "*prima facie*" which means "at first glance". The prima facie approach emphasizes initial evidence-based assessments and acknowledges five foundational pillars: (1) laws of nature, (2) necessity, (3) kinds and essences, (4) reduction, and (5) space-time (Göhner, 1995). Agnosticism serves as the core metaphysical framework of the thesis, guiding the incorporation of disciplines such as biology, psychology, sociology, and political science. These disciplines, characterized by empirical and positivist methodologies, provide valuable insights within this framework.

1.8.2. Epistemological Framework

1.8.2.1. “Ordinary” and “Extraordinary” Types of “Knowledge”

Dividing “knowledge” into two hypothetical categories, ordinary and extraordinary, offers a well-rounded understanding. Extraordinary “knowledge” encompasses miraculous phenomena, such as spiritual insight, communication with divine entities, memory of past lives, and profound healing abilities. These transcendental capabilities or “knowledges” are often supposed to be associated with enlightened individuals and spiritual revelations (Fiordalis, 2021; Nato Lagidze, 2022). In contrast, ordinary “knowledge” stems from acquaintance, empirical observation, sense experience and verification including insights gained through scientific inquiry. This distinction allows us to navigate the realm of “knowledge” with greater clarity and discernment, focusing on observable and scientifically supported evidence (Bianca &Piccari, 2015).

1.8.2.2. “Belief” and “Knowledge”

In formulating an epistemological framework, it’s important to demarcate between belief and “knowledge”. Belief denotes a personal conviction in the truth of a proposition, whether supported by evidence or not. Philosophically, beliefs encompass both potentially true and untrue worldviews (Jenson, 2016). “Knowledge”, however, involves justified true belief; distinction that emphasizes true, factual support and strong justification over mere belief (Bolisani & Bratianu, 2018). In its more strict sense, “Knowledge” necessitates direct experience, true memory and verification.

1.8.2.3. “Knowledge” in Psychology

Psychology, as the scientific study of human behavior and cognition, diverges from traditional notions of “knowledge”. Rather than focusing on objective truths, psychology as a discipline examines individual perceptions and cognitive processes. Terms like sensation, perception, memory, object permanence, discrimination, association, familiarity, conditioning, habituation, conceptualization and awareness explain the convoluted functionings of the human mind*(Encyclopedia Britannica; Psychology Today; Mcleod; Cherry; Schmid, Wilson, & Rankin).* While these processes inform our understanding of the world, psychology refrains from defining them as "knowledge" in the strictest sense, acknowledging the subjective nature of human experience.

1.8.2.4. Rationalism vs. Empiricism

The philosophical debate between rationalism and empiricism centers on the sources and validation of "knowledge". Rationalists assert that reason serves as the primary source and test of "knowledge", emphasizing deductive reasoning over sensory experience (Cottingham, 1984). In contrast, empiricism prioritizes sensory experience as the foundation of "knowledge", viewing it as provisional and subject to continuous refinement (Aune, 1970). This ongoing discourse underscores the complexity of defining and accessing "knowledge", necessitating an awareness of fallibilism.

1.8.2.5. Gullibility, Verisimilitude, Credulity and Fallibilism

In the realm of epistemology, it's important to comprehend four key concepts:- Gullibility, Credulity, Verisimilitude, and Fallibilism.

Gullibility refers to a susceptibility to deception, often stemming from a lack of critical thinking or skepticism. Individuals who are gullible are easily misled or persuaded into unjustified or unreliable belief or improper actions. This tendency shares some similarities with credulity, which involves accepting improbable claims as true without sufficient evidence or justification. Vulnerability to gullibility is a trait of all human beings; however, it could be observed relatively in higher rate in particular demographics, including children, the elderly, and individuals with developmental disabilities. This thesis draws upon empirical evidence rather than relying on mythical or religious claims. The premises of the thesis have been restricted to empirically supported claims; so as to be aware of the concept "gullibility".

Credulity refers to a tendency to accept beliefs or claims without sufficient evidence or critical evaluation. It involves openness to propositions that may lack rigorous scrutiny regarding their truth or reliability. While often used interchangeably with gullibility, a useful distinction can be made: gullibility represents the extreme form of credulity, marked by susceptibility to deception, whereas credulity in a more moderate sense reflects the unavoidable acceptance of some claims in the face of uncertainty. In this sense, credulity is an inevitable part of human life, since no one can be entirely free from it in a world where knowledge is always incomplete. Accordingly, this thesis has sought to avoid gullibility while acknowledging a measured role for credulity in approaching unidentified and mysterious aspects of reality.

Verisimilitude, as introduced by Karl Popper, concerns the idea of truth-likeness. It suggests that theories, propositions, or beliefs may approximate truth to varying degrees, even if they are not absolutely accurate. For instance, scientific theories often progress by becoming closer to truth, even when they remain fallible. This framework reinforces the need for balance: while gullibility must be avoided, a cautious allowance for credulity enables us to engage with claims and evaluate them in terms of their approximation to truth.

1.8.2.6. Operational Definition for "Knowledge"

The concept of "knowledge" encompasses both a strict and a practical interpretation. In its strictest sense, "knowledge" denotes a precise and error-free comprehension of a subject or a situation. Conversely, in its practical application, "knowledge" refers to a blend of sensory input, perception, memory, and well-founded beliefs regarding a subject or a situation. While the former emphasizes accuracy without allowance for errors, the latter acknowledges the potential for unforeseen inaccuracies.

In the view of this thesis, "knowledge" implies a degree of certainty and reliability, while "belief" carries inherent uncertainty and susceptibility to errors. However, asserting absolute perfection and freedom from errors in "knowledge" proves challenging. That's why, many disciplines, such as biology and psychology, refrain from explicitly using the term "knowledge".

Accordingly, this thesis concedes that attaining comprehensive "knowledge" may elude human grasp. Since absolute truth remains inaccessible, absolute "knowledge" likewise remains beyond reach. Nonetheless, various methods, including sensory experience, observation, scientific inquiry, mathematical analysis, logical reasoning, thought experiments, and conceptual scrutiny, offer pathways toward understanding and approximating truth. This understanding, albeit imperfect, constitutes a form of "knowledge" in a pragmatic sense, aligning with the principles of Verisimilitude, Fallibilism and Credulity.

For the purposes of this thesis, “knowledge” is operationally defined as possessing sufficient information, familiarity, awareness, or comprehension of a subject, albeit with the potential for unforeseen errors. Alternatively, “knowledge” may be viewed as access to specific information or understanding of particular phenomena, acknowledging the inherent possibility of errors. This operational definition promotes alertness against “Gullibility”, by accommodating and integrating the three key concepts that “Verisimilitude”, “Credulity”, and “Fallibilism”.

Given the contentious nature of the term “knowledge,” it is consistently enclosed in quotation marks throughout this thesis paper.

1.9. Logical framework

Immanuel Kant’s distinction between noumena and phenomena offers a framework for understanding reality. The noumenal realm refers to things as they are in themselves, independent of human perception, while the phenomenal realm refers to things as they appear to us through experience. This thesis focuses primarily on the phenomenal world, that is, reality as it is accessible to human understanding, while at the same time acknowledging the mysterious and inaccessible aspects of noumenal reality. Classical logic provides the tools for describing and analyzing phenomena, whereas the reconciliation between the noumenal and the phenomenal may be more adequately approached through Saptabhangi logic, which allows for a multidimensional treatment of paradox and multiple perspectives.

This thesis advocates for the adoption of “Saptabhangi Logic”(Jainist logic) as a logical framework. In their pursuit to uphold the concept of pluralism, ancient Jainist philosophers and scholars in India devised the seven-value Jainist logic. This system introduces seven distinct semantic predicates, or truth values, facilitating nuanced argumentation (Jonardon Ganeri, 2002). In the realm of Jainist logic, the term “unassertible” holds significant relevance in the quest for truth. Entities and circumstances that remain inaccessible are marked by uncertainty until they are brought to light. These “unknown” or undiscovered elements are classified as “unassertible”. Jainist logic is favored precisely for its accommodation of such “unknown” entities, circumstances, and factors.

While Saptabhangi logic is highly valued for its ability to address paradoxical, mysterious, and unidentified phenomena, this thesis relies on classical logic because it focuses on identifiable, empirical, and observable situations for pragmatic reason. Classical logic emphasizes clear, unambiguous reasoning and is widely applied in empirical sciences, mathematics, and everyday argumentation.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Saptabhangi Logic</th><th>Saptabhangi Logic</th><th>Aristotelian logic</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>It is (P)</td><td>It is (P)</td><td>It is (P)</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>It is not (P')</td><td>It is not (P')</td><td>It is not (P')</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>It is and It is not (P^P')</td><td>It is and It is not (P^P')</td><td rowspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>It is unassertible (U(P))</td><td rowspan="4">It is neither (P^P')'</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>It is and it is unassertible (P^U(P))</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td>it is not and it is unassertible (P'^U(P))</td></tr>
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Classical logic is primarily built on the principles of the law of identity (every entity is identical to itself), the law of non-contradiction (a statement cannot be both true and false at the same time), and the law of excluded middle (every statement is either true or false, with no middle ground). By providing strict rules for inference, deduction, and proof, it allows for precise analysis of observable phenomena and supports consistent conclusions based on verified premises. While highly effective for empirical and identifiable situations, classical logic is less equipped to handle paradoxes, ambiguity, or phenomena that involve uncertainty, subjectivity, or multiple perspectives.

Therefore, this thesis employs classical logic as a tool to support its arguments, while simultaneously acknowledging the existence of inaccessible and mysterious aspects of reality, in line with Kant’s distinction between noumena and phenomena.

1.10. Structural Framework and the Twelve Conceptual Pillars

This thesis is underpinned by a comprehensive framework of twelve fundamental concepts and theories, each serving as a critical pillar that supports the overall argument. These foundational ideas are Empiricism, Agnosticism, Positivism, Pragmatism, Secularism, Egoism, Social Contract Theory, Anthropocentrism, Egalitarianism, Pluralism, Democracy, and Meritocracy. These positions provide a diverse range of outlooks through which various premises and conclusions are drawn.

By meticulously integrating these concepts, the thesis offers a nuanced exploration of the subject matter, allowing for a multi-dimensional analysis that emphasizes the interplay of different philosophical viewpoints. Each pillar not only strengthens the thesis's core arguments but also enriches the discussion, highlighting the complexity of the issues at hand and inviting further inquiry into their implications. In this way, the selected theories and concepts act as lenses through which the analysis unfolds, ultimately offering a robust and well-rounded examination of the topic.

Positivism: Positivism, which focuses on observable phenomena and scientific methods, supports the objective study of integrity and dishonesty. This approach typically involves quantitative research to measure and analyze ethical behavior. Auguste Comte(1853) and other positivist scholars argue that integrity can be assessed based on its measurable impact on societal functions, while dishonesty is viewed as a quantifiable deviation from ethical norms. The positivist perspective emphasizes the need for empirical validation in understanding these concepts. In corruption research, positivism advocates for using rigorous methodologies to uncover objective truths about corruption (Bayley, 1966). Positivist studies often rely on quantitative data and formal models to explain the causes and effects of corruption, aiming to produce generalizable findings that can inform policy.

Pragmatism: Pragmatism, which emphasizes the practical consequences of beliefs and actions, offers a dynamic view of integrity and dishonesty. From this perspective, the value of integrity is assessed by its effects on individual and collective well-being. William James and John Dewey, key figures in pragmatism, argue that ethical behaviors, including honesty, should be evaluated based on their practical outcomes (James, 1907; Dewey, 1922). Dishonesty, therefore, is judged by its practical consequences and its impact on achieving desired results. In the context of corruption, pragmatism focuses on the effectiveness and feasibility of anti-corruption strategies. This approach evaluates various interventions based on their real-world impact and adaptability to different contexts and challenges (Della Porta &Vannucci, 1999). Pragmatic scholars prioritize actionable solutions and practical effectiveness in combating corruption.

Secularism: Secularism, which advocates for the separation of religion from public affairs, shapes the understanding of integrity and dishonesty. In secular contexts, ethical behavior is typically based on rationality and humanistic values rather than religious doctrines. Richard Dawkins (2006) argues that integrity should be upheld through reason and mutual benefit rather than divine command. Dishonesty, in this framework, is problematic because it undermines rational discourse and trust. Secularism stresses that corruption should be tackled through secular rather than religious frameworks (Peiffer & Marquette, 2018). This perspective supports legal and institutional reforms independent of religious doctrines, promoting a universal approach to combating corruption.

Egoism: Egoism, which prioritizes self-interest, provides a unique view on integrity and dishonesty. According to ethical egoism, actions are morally right if they serve one's self-interest (Ayn Rand, 1964). In this framework, integrity is evaluated based on how well it aligns with personal goals and benefits. Dishonesty may be justified if it leads to personal gain, contrasting with theories that consider broader ethical implications beyond individual self-interest. In the context of corruption, individuals might engage in corrupt practices to maximize their own benefits, often ignoring broader ethical or societal concerns (Akerlof & Kranton, 2000). Egoism offers insights into personal motivations to combat corruption.

Understanding egoistic motivations can help design policies that align personal incentives with ethical behavior. This thesis attempts to minimize the gap between self-interest and collective interest by cordially bridging them. The demerits of egoism consequently could be minimized.

Social Contract Theory: Social Contract Theory, as discussed by philosophers like Thomas Hobbes (1651) and John Rawls (1971), interprets integrity and dishonesty through the framework of societal consensus and norms. Integrity is viewed as adherence to the social contracts and agreements that ensure social order and mutual benefit. Dishonesty disrupts these agreements, undermining trust and cooperation. This perspective highlights the importance of upholding agreed-upon norms to maintain social stability. In this context, corruption is seen as a breach of the social contract, damaging trust and cooperation (Rousseau, 1762). Social Contract Theory emphasizes the need to restore trust and ensure that public officials fulfill their responsibilities as part of the social contract.

Anthropocentrism: Anthropocentrism, which prioritizes human interests and values, shapes the understanding of integrity and dishonesty. From this viewpoint, integrity is evaluated based on its benefits to human society and well-being, while dishonesty is seen as harmful to human relationships and social structures. This perspective emphasizes the human-centric nature of ethical evaluations and the importance of maintaining trust and reliability in human interactions. In corruption studies, anthropocentrism emphasizes how corruption affects human well-being and societal development (Dreher et al., 2007). This approach highlights the need to address corruption to improve quality of life and ensure equitable resource distribution.

Egalitarianism: Egalitarianism, which emphasizes equality and fairness, affects the interpretation of integrity and dishonesty. From this perspective, integrity involves treating others with fairness and upholding principles of equality. Dishonesty is seen as problematic because it can result in unequal treatment and exploitation. John Rawls (1971) and other scholars who advocate fairness argue that maintaining integrity is important for ensuring fairness and equal opportunities for everyone. Egalitarianism highlights the role of fairness in addressing corruption, which exacerbates social inequalities and undermines justice (Seligson, 2002). This approach advocates for reforms that promote equal opportunities and reduce disparities, aiming to create a more just and equitable society by tackling the root causes of corruption.

Pluralism: Pluralism values diversity in unity. In terms of worldview, pluralism encourages accommodating and harmonizing diverse views to make a synergy. In a pluralistic society, integrity is seen as adherence to a range of ethical principles that may vary across cultures and individuals. Dishonesty is evaluated based on how it aligns with or deviates from these diverse ethical frameworks, highlighting the importance of understanding and respecting different moral viewpoints. Integrated approach as a method of combating corruption is favored by pluralism. Pluralistic political system is important to insure peace in a country since it gives room to different group of people's values and thoughts. When addressing corruption, a pluralistic approach acknowledges that multiple perspectives and strategies may be necessary for effective solutions *(Multicultural Perspectives on Corruption, 2016).* This approach supports integrating various cultural, political, and social methods to develop comprehensive anti-corruption measures.

Democracy: Democracy, which prioritizes participatory governance and the will of the people, shapes the understanding of integrity and dishonesty. In democratic systems, integrity is vital for ensuring transparency, accountability, and public trust. Dishonesty undermines democratic processes by eroding trust and misrepresenting the will of the people. Scholars like Robert A. Dahl (1989) emphasize that integrity is essential for maintaining a fair and functional system of governance. Democracy also plays a key role in preventing and addressing corruption. Democratic theories assert that transparent, accountable, and participatory governance structures are important to combating corruption (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). Democracy supports mechanisms like checks and balances, public accountability, and citizen engagement to reduce corruption and enhance good governance.

Meritocracy: Meritocracy, which values individual achievement and abilities, offers a perspective on integrity and dishonesty centered upon performance and qualifications. Integrity is viewed as adherence to standards of excellence and fairness, while dishonesty undermines meritocratic principles by distorting evaluations of ability and achievement. Scholars like Michael Young (1958) argue that dishonesty in a meritocratic system can compromise the legitimacy of merit-based assessments. Meritocracy asserts that positions of power and influence should be awarded based on individual merit and performance. In combating corruption, meritocratic principles advocate for appointing officials based on competence rather than connections, aiming to reduce favoritism and corruption (Young, 2009). Meritocracy as a method supports reforms that ensure fair evaluation and promotion processes within institutions.

This thesis integrates the aforementioned twelve varieties of theoretical perspectives to offer a comprehensive understanding of integrity and dishonesty. Each theory provides unique insights and highlights different aspects of these complex ethical concepts.

1.11. The Central Thesis

1.11.1. Thesis Statement

“Corruption, rooted in both psychological self-interest and socio-political structures, undermines trust, justice, and governance; overcoming corruption requires an interdisciplinary philosophical framework that reconciles individual self-interest with ethical integrity, demonstrating that lasting social harmony and good governance depend on fostering trust, moral responsibility, and collective accountability”

1.11.2. Components of the Central Thesis

The central thesis unfolds into five interrelated elements, which together represent the holistic idea of the thesis:

Corruption undermines trust, justice, and governance at every level of society. It cannot be addressed through institutional reforms alone; rather, it requires a comprehensive philosophical and ethical framework that reconciles individual self-interest with collective integrity, drawing upon insights from various disciplines.

Understanding and combating corruption requires an interdisciplinary approach that integrates philosophy, psychology, sociology, and political theory, thereby providing a holistic framework for addressing both the moral and structural dimensions of corruption.

Corruption arises from both psychological (self-interest) and socio-political structures, and overcoming it requires harmonizing human drives for self-preservation with the pursuit of ethical integrity, thereby promoting trust, social harmony, and good governance.

Since human beings are not self-sufficient but inherently interdependent, self-interest ultimately aligns with collective interest; therefore, ensuring peace, security, and well-being rationally requires building trust and harmony, which in turn sustains individual advantage.

Since self-interest aligns with the collective good, and peaceful coexistence depends on trust, ethical integrity and moral excellence are essential.

Chapter Two: Corruption and Its Features

2.1. Overview of the chapter

Corruption, a persistent issue in both public and private sectors, manifests in various forms, each with distinct classifications and consequences. Among these classifications, “Petty Corruption” and “Grand Corruption” stand out as major delineations. Petty Corruption, also “known” as administrative or bureaucratic corruption, involves small-scale acts of bribery or abuse of power by lower-level public officials, commonly observed in interactions between citizens and government agencies, such as obtaining permits or licenses (Nyman Gibson Miralis, 2020). On the other hand, Grand Corruption refers to corruption at the highest levels of government or within top leadership positions, characterized by large-scale embezzlement, bribery, or abuse of power for personal gain (Nyman Gibson Miralis, 2020).

In the realm of professional, business, and public service contexts, corruption poses significant ethical challenges, undermining principles of honesty, integrity, and fairness essential to these domains (Asmus Leth Olsen, Frederik Hjorth, Nikolaj Harmon and Sebastian Barfort: 2020 Pp. 572-590). Corporate corruption encompasses a spectrum of illicit activities within the business sector, including bribery, fraud, money laundering, and insider trading, affecting both private enterprises and public institutions (*IBID*). Such practices distort competition, hinder economic development, and tarnish organizational reputations, highlighting the ethical imperative to combat corruption across sectors.

Besides, “personal ethics”, “business ethics”, and “professional ethics” serve as guiding frameworks in navigating ethical dilemmas and fostering integrity within organizations and professions.

Personal ethics, rooted in individual values and principles, influence decision-making in both personal and professional spheres, encompassing attributes such as empathy, honesty, and loyalty (*Indeed Editorial Team, 2022*). Business ethics, delineated by formal corporate statements and industry-specific standards, provide a framework for ethical conduct in organizational settings, guiding interactions with employees, stakeholders, and the public (*Indeed Editorial Team, 2022*). Professional ethics, a subset of business ethics, delineate ethical standards governing conduct within specific professions, ensuring adherence to principles such as accountability, professionalism, and protection of the public interest (Gaurav Mamgain, 2023). These standards aim to prevent professional misconduct, encompassing various categories such as fraud, subversion, unprofessional conduct, and violations of legal or regulatory rules (*American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, 2023*).

While personal, business, and professional ethics share common principles and ethical decision-making processes, they exhibit distinctions in scope, stakeholders, and structural frameworks. Personal ethics primarily focus on individual moral values and beliefs, while business ethics extend to organizational conduct and stakeholder interests (*Indeed Editorial Team, 2022*). Professional ethics, tailored to specific professions, accentuate obligations towards clients, colleagues, and the broader profession, reflecting role-specific responsibilities and legal obligations (*Indeed Editorial Team, 2022*).

Despite these distinctions, instances may arise where personal, business, and professional ethics intersect or conflict, necessitating careful consideration and ethical deliberation to navigate complex ethical dilemmas (*Indeed Editorial Team, 2022*). As such, promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical governance emerges as a collective endeavor, requiring concerted efforts from individuals, organizations, and society to uphold ethical standards and mitigate the adverse effects of corruption in all its forms.

In sum, understanding the complex nature of corruption, its implications across sectors, and the role of ethics in guiding conduct is essential in fostering integrity, accountability, and trust within organizations and professions. By embracing ethical principles and adopting proactive measures to combat corruption, individuals and institutions can contribute to building a more transparent, fair, and ethical society.

In this segment of the thesis, we explore the complex world of dishonesty and corruption, focusing on expounding various types of deceitful and corrupt practices along with their classifications and defining characteristics. Rather than taking an argumentative stance, this part of the thesis aims to provide a comprehensive overview of these phenomena, offering definitions, descriptions, explanations, and analysis.

At the outset, the chapter delineates key terminologies such as dishonesty, cheating, scam, fraud, theft, and corruption, clarifying their similarities, differences, and interrelationships. It also sheds light on the types of dishonesty and corruption prevalent across professions, businesses, and public services, unraveling the intricate web of personal ethics, business ethics, and professional ethics, and expounding instances of misconduct within these domains.

A significant portion of the chapter is dedicated to exploring various manifestations of dishonesty and corruption within different spheres. It meticulously examines workplace politics, organizational politics, office politics, and the distinct forms of corruption categorized as blue-collar, pink-collar, and white-collar corruptions.

Within the realms of professional and business conduct, the chapter meticulously examines the nuances of professional misconduct and business misconduct. It outlines a plethora of unethical, dishonest, and corrupt activities, categorizing them based on their unique characteristics. Notable examples include trade and financial scams, healthcare fraud, cybercrime, surveillance abuse, corruption in mass communication and broadcasting services, academic dishonesty, sports-related misconduct, sexual misconduct, police misconduct, military and war crimes, security and intelligence agents' misconduct, international corruption, diplomatic corruption, prosecutorial fraud, and political corruption.

By providing a comprehensive analysis of these types of unethical behaviors and corrupt practices, this chapter serves as a foundational resource for understanding the complexities inherent in dishonesty and corruption across various sectors. It emphasizes the importance of addressing these issues through robust ethical frameworks and stringent regulatory measures to safeguard the integrity of professions, businesses, and public services. Ultimately, it highlights the imperative of fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct to mitigate the adverse impacts of dishonesty and corruption on society at large.

2.2. Definitions of Dishonesty, Corruption, and Related Terms

In examining the intricacies of dishonesty, corruption, and related terms, it becomes apparent that these concepts are interconnected through their common thread of deceitful and unethical behavior. While they share similarities, each term possesses unique characteristics that distinguish it from the others. Let us see the definitions and distinctions of dishonesty, cheating, scam, fraud, theft, and corruption, shedding light on their individual nuances and implications.

Dishonesty: Dishonesty encompasses a spectrum of deceitful actions, ranging from small lies to larger deceptions. It involves a lack of integrity, deceit, perfidy, corruption, or betrayal. Crimes such as fraud, which involve the acquisition, conversion, and transfer of property through deception, are rooted in dishonesty. Essentially, any deliberate act of lying or deceiving others falls under the umbrella of dishonesty, regardless of scale or context.

Cheating: "Cheating" involves the circumventing laws or rules to gain unfair advantages. This can manifest in various forms, including corruption, cronyism, and nepotism, where individuals receive preferential treatment through inappropriate means. The identification of cheating behavior may rely on subjective assessments, as it often breaches unwritten codes of conduct based on morals, ethics, or custom. Whether in the realms of academia, sports, economics, or the workplace, cheating involves employing dishonest techniques to gain an unfair edge over others.

Scam: A scam is a fraudulent scheme designed to deceive individuals for financial gain. Scammers exploit trust, gullibility, sympathy, and greed to trick people into parting with their money or personal information under false pretenses. Confidence scams, in particular, prey on individuals' vulnerabilities, exploiting traits such as naivety, irresponsibility, and greed for monetary gain.

Fraud: Fraud entails deliberately deceiving others for personal benefit or to harm them. This can involve making misleading claims, distorting the truth, or manipulating data to deceive individuals. Fraudulent activities aim to mislead and exploit victims for financial gain, often through deception or misrepresentation.

Theft: Theft refers to the unlawful taking of another person's property without their consent, with the intention of depriving the rightful owner of that property. It encompasses a range of crimes, including larceny, robbery, embezzlement, extortion, and blackmail. While theft typically involves tangible property, it can also extend to intangible assets or resources.

Corruption: Corruption involves the abuse of authority or position for personal gain or to unlawfully assist others. This can take various forms, including bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and influence peddling. In the realms of commerce, bureaucracy, politics, and public administration, corruption undermines trust and fairness, distorting systems and perpetuating inequalities.

Thus, while the terms dishonesty, cheating, scam, fraud, theft, and corruption often overlap or intersect in certain contexts, each carries its own distinct connotations and implications. Understanding these nuances is essential for addressing and combating unethical behavior in society. By recognizing the various manifestations of deceit and corruption, individuals and institutions can work towards the improvement of integrity, transparency, and accountability in all aspects of life.

2.3. Dishonesty and Corruption in Professions, Businesses and public services (Corporate Corruption)

Corruption is a serious ethical issue that can occur in professional, business and public service contexts. It involves the abuse of power or position for personal gain, often through dishonest or unethical means. Corruption goes against the principles of honesty, integrity, and fairness that are central to both professional ethics and business ethics. (Asmus Leth Olsen, Frederik Hjorth, Nikolaj Harmon and Sebastian Barfort. Pp. 572-590).

This refers to corrupt practices within the business sector, such as bribery, fraud, money laundering, or insider trading. It can involve both private companies and public institutions. (Armando Castro, Nelson Phillips and Shaz Ansari, 2020).

In the context of professional ethics, corruption undermines the trust and credibility of a profession. Professionals have a responsibility to act in the best interest of their clients or the public, and corruption violates this duty. It can lead to compromised quality of work, biased decision-making, and a lack of accountability.

In the realm of business ethics, corruption can have far-reaching consequences. It can distort competition, hinder economic development, and damage the reputation of organizations. Corrupt practices such as bribery, embezzlement, or fraud not only harm stakeholders but also erode public trust in businesses. Therefore, corruption is a significant ethical issue that affects both professional ethics and business ethics. It undermines trust, fairness, and integrity in these domains. (AsmusLeth Olsen, Frederik Hjorth, Nikolaj Harmon and Sebastian Barfort. Pp. 572-590).

Preventing and addressing corruption requires a collective effort from individuals, organizations, and society as a whole to uphold ethical standards and promote transparency and accountability. Addressing the issue of corruption requires a comprehensive approach that includes legal measures, enforcement, and a strong ethical framework. Organizations should establish clear policies and codes of conduct that explicitly prohibit corrupt practices. They should also promote a culture of integrity, where employees feel empowered to report any unethical behavior they witness.

On the other hand, it is expected from professionals, to stick on ethical standards that are formulated and imposed by their respective professions and actively resist dishonesty and corruption. They should prioritize the well-being and interests of their clients or patients, and avoid engaging in any activities that compromise their professional integrity.

2.4. Personal ethics, business ethics and professional ethics

2.4.1. Personal Ethics: Personal ethics can be a helpful place to start when learning about corporate ethics because they can be used as a standard for comparison. The rules that guide our decisions in our daily personal lives are called personal ethics. Personal ethics likely encompass things like our guiding principles, our diligence, and how we handle difficult circumstances. In addition to being largely individualistic, systems of personal ethics can also take into account the social, family, and community groupings of which we are members.

It is also common for people to approach their own personal ethics system differently depending on what personal values they prioritize. Their personal ethics may include, among others, the following values: empathy, individualism, compassion, respect, honesty and loyalty. (Indeed Editorial Team, 2022).

2.4.2. Business ethics: The rules we adhere to when making judgments in our work, job, business, professional related aspects of lives are called business ethics. These may differ from our personal principles or be very similar. It is also common for various industries to place more or less emphasis on particular business ethics.

Formal corporate ethics statements, which describe an organization's values and serve as a guide for high-level decisions and day-to-day operations, are frequently developed by businesses and organizations. These statements may contain policies on how a company should manage its personnel, deal with people and other organizations, and deal with customers and the public. This can sometimes even make it easier to follow relevant rules and can be a useful tool to support moral decisions in the workplace. (Indeed Editorial Team, 2022).

2.4.3. Professional Ethics: Professional ethics is part of business Ethics. Professional ethics refers to the ethical principles and standards that govern the behavior and decisions of professionals in their specific fields. The personal and organizational standards of behavior expected of professionals are included in professional ethics. (Gaurav Mamgain, 2023).

Professional ethics cover a wide range of professions, including medicine, law, engineering, accounting, teaching, and others. Each profession has its own set of ethical standards that are designed to guide the behavior of its members. Professional ethics play a major role in ensuring that professionals maintain the highest standards of conduct and provide quality services to their clients or stakeholders. Some specific objectives of professional ethics are (1). Protection of the Public, Promotion of Professional Values, (2).Maintenance of Professional Standards, (3). Prevention of Unethical Behavior and (4). Accountability. (Gaurav Mamgain, 2023).

Professional Misconduct is classified as follows:

1. Fraud/scam or Deceptive activities
   - 1.1. Fraud/scam Involving Certification and Registration
   - 1.2. Fraudulent Communication Regarding Credentials
   - 1.3. Fraudulent Billing Practices
2. Subversion: - It means violating the power and authority of a conventionally or institutionally established system or undermining it.
   - 2.1. Assessment and self-assessment or Examination Subversion
   - 2.2. Education Requirements Subversion
   - 2.3. Failure to Cooperate for investigation with concerned authority (Organization)
3. Unprofessional Conduct
   - 3.1. Failure to Conform to Minimal Acceptable Standards
   - 3.2. Sexual Misconduct

3.3. Unethical Conduct (Such as theft, vandalism, bullying, quarreling etc…)

4. Deliberate Incompetence in Scope of Practice
    4.1. Technical Incompetence
    4.2. Improper Supervision in Practice
    4.3. Improper Delegation or Acceptance of a Function
5. Unfitness to Practice
    5.1. Actual or Potential Inability to Practice
    5.2. Inability to Practice by Judicial Determination
6. Improper Management of customers' Records
    6.1. False or Deceptive Entries
    6.2. Failure to Protect Confidential customers' Information
    6.3. Knowingly Providing False Information
7. Violation of National, Federal, State or local Laws or Regulatory Rules
    7.1. Violation of Narcotics or Controlled Substances Law
    7.2. Violation of Regulatory Authority or Certification Board Rule
    7.3. Criminal Proceedings
8. Missing Duty to Report
    8.1. Failure to Report Violation
    8.2. Failure to Report Error

Source:- (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), "STANDARDS OF ETHICS", PP. 2-6; September 1, 2023).

2.4.4. Distinction between personal and business ethics

Personal ethics, business ethics, and professional ethics are interconnected but have distinct differences. They have distinct scopes and considerations. While personal ethics influence behavior in business and professional settings, each domain has its own set of ethical standards and principles that guide decision-making and conduct. Personal ethics influence business and professional ethics. An individual's personal ethics can shape his/her behavior in a business or professional setting. Personal values and beliefs can guide decision-making and ethical conduct within these contexts. Here are some more similarities between them;

- **Similarity in overlapping principles:** Many ethical principles are applicable across personal, business, and professional domains. Personal ethics and business ethics often overlap in meaningful ways. For example, honesty, fairness, and respect are valued in personal relationships, business transactions, and professional interactions.
- **Similarity in Values and principles:** All three types of ethics are concerned with guiding behavior based on a set of values and principles. These values often include honesty, integrity, fairness, and respect for others.
- **Similarity in Ethical decision-making:** Personal ethics, business ethics, and professional ethics all involve making decisions that align with ethical standards and principles.
- **Similarity in Impact on relationships:** Each type of ethics has the potential to impact relationships. Adhering to ethical standards can build trust, foster positive relationships, and contribute to a healthy work environment.
- **Similarity in Transferability:** Both personal and business ethics can usually be applied to multiple situations, especially when those situations have similar elements or challenges.
- **Similarity in Value types:** Many values that people include in their personal ethics systems overlap with business ethics principles. Honesty, integrity and accountability are common ethical values. Most of moral and ethical values are common in all the three. They are important to many people in their personal, professional as well as business lives.
- **Similarity in Development process:** The process of developing personal and business ethics is often similar in that it involves reflection, prioritization and articulating our values.

  (Indeed Editorial Team, 2022).

Personal ethics and business ethics might also depart from one another, depending on the circumstances. Here are some possible differences between personal and business ethics:

- **Distinction based on Scope:** Personal ethics primarily focus on an individual's moral values and beliefs that guide his/her behavior in personal life. Business ethics, on the other hand, specifically address ethical conduct within a business or organizational context. Professional ethics refer to the ethical standards and principles that govern a particular profession or occupation.

- **Collective vs individualized:** The degree to which groups of people share personal and business ethics can sometimes vary. Personal ethics might be shared with a family or social group, depending on how those groups develop shared values. Business ethics are often integrated into the structure of an organization and formally required of all team members. (IBID)
- **Distinction based on Structure:** Business ethics are often highly structured and even formalized as a mission or values statement. Personal ethics can sometimes be more flexible or informal. (IBID)
- **Distinction based on Stakeholders:** Personal ethics typically consider the well-being and values of oneself and immediate relationships. Business ethics take into account the interests of various stakeholders, including employees, customers, shareholders, and the broader community. Professional ethics focus on the responsibilities and obligations towards clients, colleagues, and the profession as a whole.
- **Distinction based on Role-specificity:** Sometimes, business ethics can vary depending on our role and industry. For instance, a bank manager, a university professor a military General and a medical doctor might prioritize their values differently.
- **Distinction based on Situational nature:** Since the types of values a person might prioritize often overlap between personal and business ethics, the difference sometimes has to do with how they are applied and in what situations. (Indeed Editorial Team, 2022).
- **Distinction based on Legal obligations:** While personal ethics are not legally binding, business ethics and professional ethics often intersect with legal obligations. Businesses must comply with laws and regulations, and professionals are often bound by codes of conduct specific to their field.

Source: (Indeed Editorial Team, "Personal Ethics and Business Ethics Compared", Posted online by: Indeed.com; July 21, 2022). https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/personal-ethics-vs-business-ethics

There may be instances where personal ethics, business ethics, and professional ethics come into conflict. Individuals may face dilemmas where their personal values clash with the ethical expectations of their profession or the interests of their employer. Navigating these conflicts requires careful consideration and balancing of various ethical obligations.

2.4.5. Workplace Politics, Organizational Politics and Office Politics

The terms "office politics," "organizational politics," and "workplace politics" all refer to the practices, attitudes, and actions used in a business or organization to gain or maintain power or advantage. These concepts describe the agenda of each employee within a company and the actions they take to obtain, develop, and use resources and authority to achieve the desired outcome.

Most organizations have workplace policies, organizational policies, and office policies. Whether in a good or bad way, employees typically feel the effects of organizational policies throughout their careers. Climbing the career ladder and being as efficient and productive as possible at work are two different things for some people. For others, it means participating in office gossip or belonging to a clique.

Source:-*AIHR, Academy to Innovate HR, "Organizational Politics" HR Glossary/ Organizational Development/ Organizational Politics; Accessed on October 26, 2023. https://www.aihr.com/hr-glossary/organizational-politics/*

2.4.6. Corruption in Blue-Collar, Pink Collar and White-Collar professions

There are distinctions and parallels between white collar, blue collar, and pink collar corruption. The three types can occasionally overlap even though they have distinct purposes and locations. These types of corruption may have comparable motivations. All three types have common factors, such as monetary gain, professional success or personal enrichment. Depending on the type of task being performed, different methods can be used. Because they have direct access to real items, blue-collar workers can steal or take bribes, while white-collar workers can falsify financial records or engage in fraudulent activities.

Although the situations, vocations, and techniques used in each type of corruption vary, pink-collar, blue-collar, and white-collar corruption generally involve dishonest activity.

Understanding these distinctions and connections can make it easier to detect and effectively address unscrupulous activities across many industries.

- **A blue-collar Dishonesty:** A person from the working class who engages in skilled trades or manual labor is "known" as a blue-collar worker. Both skilled and unskilled labor can be found in blue-collar jobs. Manufacturing, technician jobs, warehousing, mining, excavation, power plant operations, electricity generation, mechanic jobs, plumbing, carpentry, maintenance, custodial work, farming, animal husbandry, milking, commercial fishing, logging, landscaping, pest control, food processing, oil field work, waste collection and disposal, recycling, construction, shipping, driving, trucking, security guard jobs, and many other physical labor jobs are examples of blue collar jobs.

  Work in the blue collar industry frequently entails physical construction or maintenance. Fraud or deceptive practices, subversion, unprofessional conduct, willful ineligibility to practice or work within the scope of one's profession, negligence, improper record-keeping of customers, breaking state or federal laws or regulatory rules, neglecting one's duty to report, and so forth are examples of dishonesty in the blue collar professions. (Travis Peeler, Jose Rivera and Jose Rivera, 2022).

  Blue-collar dishonesty and crime, because of the more limited means of the people committing it, tends to be straight. It may include robbery, theft, cheating, burglary, assault vandalism etc. In contrast, white-collar criminals are more often in a position that enables to commit more sophisticated widespread and complex fraud schemes. (CFI Team, "White-Collar Crime", 2023).

- **Pink-collar Dishonesty:** A person employed in care-giving or in professions traditionally and culturally associated with women is referred to as a "pink-collar worker." Jobs in the beauty industry, upholstery, social work, customer service, teaching, banking, telephone operator, sales, flight attendant (hostess), nursing, kindergarten teachers and caregivers' jobs, barberry, child care, waitress jobs, chef or kitchen assistants' jobs, laundry jobs, janitors' jobs, house kipping jobs, and so forth may fall under this category.

  Dishonesty in the Pink collar professions include Fraud or Deceptive Practices, Subversion, Unprofessional Conduct, deliberate unfitness to Practice or , deliberate missing to work within the scope of practice, negligence, Improper Management of customers' Records, Violation of State or Federal Law or Regulatory Rule, Missing the Duty to Report and so on.

Pink collar misconduct includes also Passive-aggressive behavior, negligence, carelessness, Taking credit for others' work, Exaggerating qualifications or experience and sabotaging colleagues. These types of dishonesty are not exclusive to the pink collar workforce but they can also occur in any profession and among individuals of any gender.

- **White-collar Dishonesty**: A person who works in professional services, office work, management or administration is "known" as a white-collar worker. White-collar work may be done in an administrative setting, such as an office. Politics, consulting, academia, accounting, business and executive management, customer service, design, economics, engineering, market research, finance, human resources administration, research, marketing, public relations, information technology, networking, law, Healthcare, architecture, and research and development are among the career paths associated with white-collar workers.

  The distinction between white-collar and blue-collar crimes arises from the diversity of illicit activities in which the offender may be involved. (CFI Team, "White-Collar Crime", 2023).

  "White-collar crime" is the term used to describe financially motivated, non-violent, or indirectly violent crimes committed by private citizens, businesses, and government employees. White-collar crime is a type of non-violent crime where money or political power is usually the driving force. Criminals from white-collar backgrounds generally hold powerful and/or prestigious jobs that pay much more than the norm. (CFI Team, "White-Collar Crime", 2023).

  White-collar crime is commonly subdivided into two broad, general categories:

  - **Individual crimes:** Financial crimes that are perpetrated by a single person or by a group of people are "known" as individual crimes. One instance of a lone white-collar crime is a Ponzi scheme. This category also includes any one of several fraud schemes, identity theft, hacking, and counterfeiting. (CFI Team, "White-Collar Crime", 2023).

- **Corporate crimes:** There are levels of activity where white collar crime occurs. For example, a brokerage firm may allow insider trading by its trading staff. Legal entities can also engage in money laundering. (CFI Team, "White-Collar Crime", 2023).

  Source:- CFI Team, "White-Collar Crime", Published online by CFI Education Inc. © 2015 to 2023. https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/esg/white-collar-crime/

2.4.7. Trade and financial scams (Frauds)

Beyond the concerns of honesty and ethical behavior on the part of employees or employers, the concept of integrity may also be relevant in business circumstances, particularly in marketing or branding scenarios. Some people believe that a brand's "integrity" is a desirable result for businesses that want to keep a clear, consistent image in the eyes of their target market. In order to preserve visual integrity in marketing communications, a set of graphics standards is frequently used together with consistent language. (Henry DeVries, 2021).

- **Ponzi scheme:** An investment scam "known" as "Ponzi scheme" uses money obtained from new investors to pay off old investors. Ponzi scheme operators often make broken promises to invest our money and make large returns with little or no risk. However, the scammers in many Ponzi schemes do not actually invest the money. Instead, they can keep part of it and use the rest to repay previous investors. Ponzi schemes, with little or no real revenue, need a constant flow of new funds to stay afloat. These programs typically fail when it becomes difficult to attract new investors or when a significant portion of current investors pay up.
- **Rent-seeking:** The practice of increasing one's current wealth through manipulation of the social or political environment without producing new money is "known" as rent-seeking. The rest of society is negatively impacted by rent-seeking actions. Due to misallocation of resources, decreased wealth creation, loss of government revenue, increased income inequality, increased risk of political corruption and possible national decline, they lead to a decrease in economic efficiency. Attempts to take control of regulatory agencies in order to establish a coercive monopoly can benefit rent-seekers in

a market while harming their dishonest rivals. Rent-seeking behavior can manifest itself in many ways. (Arye L. Hillman, 2013, P. 307).

- **Artificial scarcity**: Artificial scarcity is the lack of certain goods, even in the face of advanced production technology or great sharing capacity. The most common reasons are monopolistic pricing structures, which may be enabled by anti-competitive legislation or high fixed costs in a given sector. Formally, the inefficiency caused by artificial scarcity is called deadweight loss. (Mustafa AKSU, Güzide Öncü E. PEKTAŞ and Kazım KARABOĞA: 2011, pp. 52-56).
- **Adulteration**: "Making (something, such as food, drink or medication) impure or weaker by adding something of poor quality," is how the Britannica Dictionary defines "adulteration." To put it simply, falsification is the debasement of an item. Adulteration is generally characterized as the mixing or replacement of a genuine or original product or medicine with an inferior, defective or dangerous material. (Dictionary.com); https://www.dictionary.com/browse/adulteration. In this context, we can think of food and drinks that are culturally or spiritually permitted or forbidden by the community (that we call "*haram*" and "*halal*"). For example, Selling nonedible (*haram*) things as if they are edible (*halal*) is a big crime which is categorized in adulteration.
- **Tax evasion**: The purposeful misrepresenting of a taxpayer's financial situation to tax authorities with the aim of minimizing their legal tax obligations is "known" as tax evasion. Along with dishonest tax filing, overstating deductions, declaring income, profits, or gains below real earnings, bribing officials in nations with high levels of corruption, and concealing money in hidden locations are all considered forms of tax evasion. (Julia Kagan, 2022).
- **Smuggling:** The illegal transfer of products, materials, information or people across international borders, into or out of prisons, or from homes or other institutions, in violation of law or other regulations, is "known" as smuggling. Social scientists define smuggling more generally as the intentional crossing of a border in violation of applicable laws. (The Free Dictionary by FARLEX). https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Smuggling

  The motives behind people's smuggling are numerous. These include engaging in criminal activity such as trafficking in drugs, illegal weapons, prostitution, kidnapping, trafficking in exotic wildlife, theft of artwork, diamonds extracted from blood, robberies, chop shops, evading import/export regulations, tax evasion, providing contraband to prisoners, or stealing items that are smuggled. Contraband is defined as something whose nature forbids its sale or possession. It covers goods that the legislator deems to be inherently offensive or unduly harmful. Products that are legally possessed but may be subject to seizure because they have been used in criminal behavior and are therefore of illegal origin are called “contraband derivative products”.

- **Embezzlement:** The act of withholding assets with the intent of converting them, by one or more people to whom the assets were entrusted, to be held or used for particular reasons is “known” as embezzlement. An example of financial fraud is embezzlement. (The Free Dictionary by FARLEX).
  https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/embezzlement
- **Black market:** An underground market or set of transactions that involve an element of illegality or are defined by disobedience to an institutional system of norms is “known” as a “black market” or “underground economy”. Illegal financial transactions, human trafficking, prostitution (where prohibited) and drug trafficking are some examples. Income tax evasion related to tax law violations is considered participation in the undeclared or underground economy.

  There are many underground economies rather than just one. These underground economies are ubiquitous and can be found in both centrally planned and market-oriented countries, whether developed or developing. The institutional framework of rights, laws and sanctions that governs formal agents involved in production and exchange is avoided, circumvented or excluded by those involved in underground operations economics (Fontinell, Amy, 2021).

  Different underground operations are classified based on the specific institutional regulations they violate: (1) the illegal economy, (2) the unreported economy (3) the unrecorded economy (4) the informal economy

  (Amy Fontinell, “How Black Markets Work” Posted online by Investopedia, December 31,2021). https://www.investopedia.com/articles/economics/12/mechanics-black-market.asp

- **Money laundering**: Illegally concealing the source of funds acquired through illegal activities, including drug trafficking, corruption, embezzlement or gambling, by transforming them into funds from a legitimate source, is "known" as money laundering. Many jurisdictions have different definitions of what constitutes a crime. This is usually a large organized crime operation. Money laundering has gained prominence in political, economic and legal discourse as financial crime has become more complex and financial intelligence has been recognized as a valuable tool in the fight against international crime and terrorism. "Smurfing", or "structuring," is a popular method of money laundering. A "smurf" is a money launderer who divides large transactions into a series of smaller transactions that are all below reporting level in order to avoid being investigated by government agencies. Smurfing is an illegal behavior with potentially disastrous consequences. (James Chen, 2023).

  James Chen, "Money Laundering: What It Is and How to Prevent It" Posted online by Investopedia March 28, 2023.

  https://www.investopedia.com/terms/m/moneylaundering.asp

- **Human trafficking:** "Human smuggling" and "People smuggling" are other terms for people trafficking. There is a similar procedure that is distinguished by the smuggled person's agreement. Through exploitation and coercion, smuggling scenarios can turn into human trafficking. Coercive measures are used to keep trafficked individuals against their will and force them to labor or render services to the trafficker or others.

  - The trade in people with the goal of utilizing them for forced labor, sexual enslavement, or for the profit of the trafficker or others is "known" as human trafficking. This could entail offering a partner in an arranged marriage or extracting organs or tissues, as in the cases of egg retrieval and surrogacy. Human trafficking can occur both domestically and internationally.
  - The coercive restriction of victims' freedom of movement and their commercial exploitation are the reasons behind the classification of human trafficking as a crime against humanity. Human trafficking is the term for the trafficking of individuals, particularly women and children, and it does not usually entail the victim being moved from one location to another.

US. Department of State, July 1, 2021. "Understanding Human Trafficking".https://www.state.gov/understanding-human-trafficking/

- **Organized crime:** Transnational, national or local groups of highly centralized businesses exploited by criminals to engage in illicit activities (usually for profit), are classified as organized crime. While organized crime is typically thought of as a type of unlawful trade, certain criminal organizations, such as terrorist groups, rebel forces, and separatists, have political motivations as well. Certain forms of organized crime operate solely to supply the illegal market for goods within a state or to facilitate the trade in goods and services that may be illegal under the law, including illegal narcotics or guns. Other names for a criminal organization include a syndicate, mafia, gang, mob, or (crime) ring. The network and way of life of the group of criminals involved in organized crime are collectively referred to as the "underworld" or "gangland". The production, distribution, and sale of illegal narcotics take place in the worldwide black market "known" as the illicit drug trade, sometimes called drug trafficking.

  Most governments utilize drug prohibition laws to outlaw the sale of a wide variety of drugs unless they are sold with a license.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), "Defining organized crime" April, 2018. https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/organized-crime/module-1/key-issues/defining-organized-crime.html

- **Mortgage Fraud:** Using one's real estate as a guarantee for a loan is "known" as a mortgage. There is a debtor and a creditor in a mortgage. The property belongs to the debtor, while the loan belongs to the creditor. At the time of the mortgage transaction, the debtor recovers the funds and undertakes to repay the loan. Eventually, the creditor will get his/her money back plus interest usually in the form of regular payments from the debtor. The creditor can take possession of the mortgaged property in place of the loan if the debtor fails to repay the loan. The term for this is foreclosure. (Edwards, Matthew A. 2019).

  The intentional falsification or omission of facts used by a mortgage underwriter or lender to finance, acquire, or insure a mortgage loan is referred to as mortgage fraud.

Both mortgage lenders and borrowers may be guilty of it. (Katie Ziraldo, 2023), (Edwards, Matthew A. 2019).

There are two primary categories of mortgage fraud:

- ❖ **Fraud for profit:** This kind of fraud is typically carried out by industry insiders, such as bank staff members, appraisers, mortgage bankers, and others. These insiders exploit their insider "knowledge" of the industry to commit fraud by misusing the mortgage process to steal money and equity from homeowners or lenders.
- ❖ **Fraud for property:** This kind of fraud is typically carried out by industry insiders, such as bank staff members, appraisers, mortgage bankers, and others. These insiders exploit their insider "knowledge" of the industry to commit fraud by misusing the mortgage process to steal money and equity from homeowners or lenders. (Katie, 2023), (Edwards, Matthew A., 2019).

- *Edwards, Matthew A., The Concept and Federal Crime of Mortgage Fraud (March 9, 2019). American Criminal Law Review, Vol. 57, No. 1, 2020, Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=3551235*
- *Katie Ziraldo, "Mortgage Fraud: What You Need To Know", March 14, 2023. Published online by: Rocket Mortgage. https://www.rocketmortgage.com/learn/mortgage-fraud*

- ➢ **Cheque fraud:** When checks are used for purposes other than those authorized by the account holder, to earn or borrow money that is not legally theirs, it is called "check fraud" or "check fraud". Most strategies involve extracting these funds by taking advantage of the float or the interval between the negotiation of the check and its clearing with the check issuer's financial institution.

  Source:- Bustathief.com, "Types of Check Fraud & How to Prevent It" https://www.bustathief.com/cheque-fraud-cheque-scams/

  - ❖ **Cheque kiting:** Check kiting, in which funds are deposited before the floating period in order to hide fraud, and paper hanging, in which the bank fund offers the possibility of printing counterfeit checks but the account is never replenished, are two distinct forms of check fraud. . Using the float to gain an advantage and delay reporting the missing money is called "check kiting." (IBID)

- **Embezzlement:** Some people who steal checks with the intention of making their accounts better are referred to as “paper hangers”, but others just want to “take the money and run”. (IBID)
- **Bad cheque writing:** In the hopes that the recipient will not suspect that the check will not clear, a check is issued to a retailer or other designated recipient. After that, the buyer will receive the money, goods or services he paid for with the check and hope that the recipient will not act or act in vain. (IBID)
- **Check Conversion:** A check is fraudulently cashed or deposited after being endorsed by a non-payee. After that, the non-recipient can keep the money and hope that the real recipient won’t find out for a very long time. (IBID)
- **Abandonment:** A check that the paper holder “knows” to be false or bogus is deposited into his account. When the bank decides that the funds are available, which is often the next business day, the paper dispenser then withdraws the money, but not before informing the bank that the check is invalid. The criminal will leave the account and steal the money even though he or she “knows” the check will bounce and the resulting account will be in debt. Petty thieves typically use these types of crimes to quickly embezzle money, and they are usually committed under a false or stolen identity in order to conceal the identity of the real culprit. (IBID)
- **Forgery**: The preferred technique for scamming a bank is counterfeiting. Check counterfeiting falls into three categories: (1) Counterfeit. This check is made authentic on non-bank paper. It has to do with a true story. (2) Forged signature. Although the signature on the check is not the account holder's, the check is real. (3) Fraudulently altered. In this case, a legitimate customer issued a check, but the fraudster forged it. Usually, the fraudster does this by changing the recipient’s name or adding words, numbers, or other characters to inflate the amount. (4) Another example is void account passing, in which the offender attempts or passes a check that he or she wrote himself/herself; but which represents a fictitious account. (IBID)
- **Check washing:** Erasing information from checks so they can be redone is “known” as “check washing”, and it is typically done for illegal activities such as fraudulently removing money from a victim's bank account. (IBID)

- **Insurance fraud:** Any act intended to deceive an insurance process is considered insurance fraud. A claimant may attempt to obtain a benefit or advantage to which he or she is not legally entitled, or an insurer may intentionally refuse to provide a benefit to a claimant who is legally entitled to it. Insurance claims filed with the intention of deceiving an insurer are called false claims. In order to fabricate false or exaggerated insurance claims and then demand payment from the insurer, fraudulent networks or groups may stage fatal events or accidents on the road.

Insurance claims adjusters and other individuals who fabricate police records in order to process claims could be involved in the ring. (*Ashley Kilroy, 2023).*

Even if there is a genuine accident, the dishonest owner could use the occasion to add a variety of prior small vehicle damages to the garage bill linked to the actual event. Exaggerated personal injuries are also possible, especially whiplash. Claiming damage to the vehicle that was not caused by the collision described in the claim is another example of an overblown claim in an insurance fraud case. There are two types of insurance fraud; soft fraud and hard fraud. Hard fraud is when someone plans or makes up a loss that is insured against, such as a theft, fire, or car accident, with the goal of getting paid for damages. Criminal rings can occasionally be a part of hard fraud schemes with the potential to steal millions of dollars. (*Ashley Kilroy, 2023).*

Opportunistic fraud is another term for soft fraud, which is much more widespread than hard fraud. Policyholders who engage in this sort of fraud typically inflate claims that might otherwise be valid. For instance, an insured party may declare greater damage than was actually sustained in an auto accident. When someone applies for a new health insurance policy and makes up information regarding prior or present medical conditions in order to lower the premiums, this is also "known" as soft fraud. (*Ashley Kilroy, 2023).*

2.4.8. Banking Scams

Banking serves as a major apparatus in managing and safeguarding financial resources, serving as a fundamental pillar for both individuals and businesses. Financial institutions, including banks and credit unions, act as intermediaries by collecting deposits from customers and providing loans as needed.

Alongside these essential functions, banks also offer various financial services that help people save, manage, and invest their money effectively. However, amidst the critical importance of banking, there is a dark side that emerges in the form of banking scams, which have grown increasingly sophisticated and widespread. Scammers continually develop new methods to carry out traditional schemes, often targeting unsuspecting individuals through various channels such as emails, text messages, phone calls, letters, or in-person interactions. Consequently, it is vital for individuals to recognize warning signs and exercise caution when navigating financial transactions.

One prevalent tactic employed by scammers is the overpayment scam, which primarily targets individuals providing services or selling products online. In this scenario, scammers typically initiate contact by sending a counterfeit check or money order that exceeds the amount owed for the service or product. After successfully persuading the victim to deposit the fraudulent money into their account, the scammer asks them to forward the excess funds. Unfortunately, when the check fails to clear, the victim is left facing a returned check fee, losing both the funds transferred to the scammer and the product if it has already been shipped.

Another common scam involves the exploitation of individuals' kindness through check cashing fraud. In this case, the scammer approaches the victim near a bank, claiming they need assistance cashing a check because they do not have an account at that particular institution. The victim, wishing to help, deposits the check and withdraws the requested funds, handing them over to the scammer. However, as the check may take several days to clear, the victim may find their account on hold when the check ultimately bounces, leaving them in a vulnerable financial position.

Unsolicited check fraud is another deceitful strategy that involves victims receiving unexpected checks in the mail. These checks may be billed as rebates or refunds, but cashing them often leads unwitting victims into binding agreements. Scammers exploit this tactic to trick individuals into authorizing memberships or loans, resulting in considerable financial losses. It is essential for recipients to approach unexpected rebate or refund checks with skepticism to avoid falling victim to these deceptive practices.

While automatic withdrawals can provide convenience in managing finances, they also present an opportunity for fraudsters to exploit victims. Scammers often send communications stating that the victim has won a prize or is eligible for a special offer, requesting sensitive banking information. With this data, the scammers can create demand drafts, which function similarly to checks but do not require a signature. Victims may only realize they have been scammed if they fail to monitor their banking transactions closely.

Phishing scams represent yet another tactic commonly utilized by fraudsters. In these cases, scammers leverage texts and emails to entice individuals into disclosing sensitive information such as passwords, Social Security numbers, and account details. These scams are pervasive due to the ease with which scammers can reach large audiences through electronic communication. Often, fraudulent emails and texts impersonate reputable companies, urging victims to click on malicious links that lead to compromised accounts.

Government imposter scams are also prevalent, where fraudsters pose as government officials to mislead victims. They may contact individuals, falsely claiming they have won a prize but must pay taxes or processing fees. Threats of legal action often accompany these claims, pressuring victims to settle the alleged debts. It is crucial for individuals to note that legitimate institutions do not demand payments over the phone, and scammers often use fictitious names that resemble official agencies to enhance their credibility.

Charity scams further exploit individuals' goodwill, with fraudsters impersonating charitable organizations to solicit donations. Employing tactics such as manipulating caller IDs to display local area codes enhances the scammer's credibility. Identifying these scams can be challenging, as they often feature vague claims and lack transparency regarding how donations will be utilized. Additionally, scammers may adopt names that closely resemble legitimate charities, thus deceiving individuals into contributing funds.

Lastly, employment scams have emerged as another deceptive scheme where scammers present themselves as offering promising job opportunities while seeking to extract sensitive banking information from their targets. These fraudsters may request upfront fees or banking details under the pretense of transferring commissions for guaranteed work. Such scams can proliferate through emails, phone calls, and even postal mail. Occasionally, fraudulent job postings appear on legitimate job websites, further complicating the detection of these scams.

To put it briefly, the landscape of banking scams is vast and ever-evolving, presenting ongoing challenges for individuals attempting to navigate their financial lives. By recognizing common tactics employed by scammers and exercising vigilance, individuals can better protect themselves from falling victim to these fraudulent schemes. Awareness and education are critical in the fight against banking scams, underscoring the importance of staying informed about potential risks and taking proactive measures to safeguard personal financial information.

2.4.9. Frauds in construction sector

The construction sector, which encompasses the creation and development of infrastructure through architectural and civil engineering practices, relies heavily on effective multitasking and oversight by construction managers. In this dynamic environment, workers and craftsmen play indispensable roles in bringing projects to fruition. However, the construction and maintenance of buildings, regardless of their type, remain vulnerable to a range of fraudulent activities that can undermine the integrity of the industry.

Common scams prevalent in this field include the misrepresentation of credentials, where individuals falsely claim to hold licenses, insurance, or bonding required for legal operation. Additionally, some contractors engage in the practice of performing services without a written contract, thereby complicating the ability of consumers to assert their rights should disputes arise. The request for cash payments further indicates potential unreliability and raises suspicions about the contractor’s legitimacy. Similarly, some contractors charge for services, products, or materials that were neither included in the contract nor explicitly requested by the homeowner.

There are also serious concerns regarding safety, as some contractors neglect to adhere to established safety standards, endangering workers. In addition, the use of inferior quality materials is not uncommon, with contractors opting for less expensive substitutes than those agreed upon and paid for. Misleading claims about compliance with local code requirements often occur, as does the assertion that all necessary permits and approvals have been procured, sometimes shifting this responsibility onto the homeowner instead.

In addition, unscrupulous practices, such as demanding full payment upfront, pressuring building owners for immediate decisions, and offering unreasonably short or long warranties, exacerbate the challenge for consumers. Add to this the failure to provide appropriate privileges for subcontractors and the filing of fraudulent or inaccurate privileges for mechanics and laborers, and it becomes clear that the construction industry faces a significant threat from various forms of deceit and malpractice. Addressing these issues is critical for safeguarding both consumers and the long-term viability of the construction sector as a whole.

2.4.10. Industrial Corruption

Corruption and dishonesty in factories and industries can manifest at multiple levels, from owners to managers to workers, each with distinct types and motivations. Understanding these behaviors is essential to fostering ethical practices in industrial settings.

Owners of factories or industries may engage in corrupt practices to maximize profits at the expense of safety, quality, or compliance. One common form is tax evasion, where owners hide or misreport profits to avoid paying taxes. Another example is bribery, where owners pay officials to overlook safety violations or environmental regulations. Additionally, some owners cut costs by hiring under-qualified workers or avoiding legally required worker benefits, undermining employees' rights and well-being.

Managers, as intermediaries between owners and workers, may misuse their position for personal gain. This often includes embezzlement or misallocation of company funds for personal use. They might also inflate expenses or falsify production data to meet unrealistic targets set by owners or to secure bonuses. In some cases, managers engage in nepotism, hiring or promoting friends and family over more qualified candidates, which can harm productivity and employee morale.

Workers may also commit dishonest acts within factories or industries. Theft of materials, tools, or finished products is a frequent issue. Additionally, time theft, such as falsifying hours or "buddy punching" (clocking in for an absent colleague), is another form of dishonesty. Some workers may also misuse company resources or intentionally underperform to exploit lenient oversight, which can affect overall productivity and workplace morale.

So, corruption in factories and industries involves different actors engaging in diverse unethical behaviors. Owners, managers, and workers each have opportunities to exploit the system in unique ways. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive ethical guidelines, robust monitoring, and a commitment to transparency and accountability across all levels.

2.4.11. Health care fraud and Medical misconduct

Clinical medicine practice and associated scientific research are examined in the applied field of medical ethics. In cases of doubt or disagreement, professionals may consult a set of principles that serve as the cornerstone of medical ethics. Respect for individual liberty, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice are some of these ideals. These principles could help medical professionals, caregivers, and families develop a treatment plan and collaborate toward a single objective. *(Dara Rosal, Kirsti Skovdahl, Mervyn Gifford and Annica Kihlgren, Gifford, and Annica Kihlgren; 2017 P. 341).*

Another area of applied ethics that addresses matters pertaining to nursing practice is nursing ethics. Numerous ethical concepts, including beneficence, non-maleficence, and respect for autonomy, are shared by medical and nursing ethics. It stands out due to its focus on human dignity, relationships, and teamwork in healthcare. (*Kathleen Gaines, 2023).*

A popular framework for analyzing medical ethics is the “four principles” method. It recognizes four fundamental moral precepts, each of which must be evaluated and compared to others while keeping in mind the context in which they are applied. There are four principles in that regard:

(1). Autonomy is respected; patients are free to accept or refuse treatment. (2) Benefit: A professional must behave in the best interest of the patient. (3) Non-malfeasance: refraining from causing harm and “Utility”, doing more good than harm. (4) Justice: Justice involves allocating limited medical resources and deciding who receives what care. (Zbigniew Bankowski, Ethics and Health, PP. 2-6).

The following are some identified scams and frauds in healthcare services.

- **Snake oil marketing:** A scam, health care fraud, or deceptive marketing are all referred to as “snake oil.” Comparably, the term “snake oil salesman” is sometimes employed to characterize someone who offers, endorses, or generally supports a worthless or deceptive treatment, remedy, or solution. (Lakshmi Gandhi, 2013).

- **Quackery:** The marketing of questionable or fraudulent medical techniques is "known" as quackery; the terms are sometimes used synonymously with health fraud. A swindler in this case is a "fraudulent or ignorant pretender to medical skill" as well as "a person who pretends, professionally or publicly, to have skill, knowledge, qualification or credentials they do not possess; a charlatan or snake oil salesman". (Stephen Barrett, 2009).
- **False sick leave:** One example of act to be considered as misconduct is Prescribing false sick leave for a patient to be presented to the employer. That is to be done in order to get a paid sick leave from the employer. There are also several different schemes used to defraud the health care system.
- **Billing for services not rendered:** This activity is often carried out to bill Medicare for occurrences that never occurred. This may entail using bribes or "kickbacks" to dishonest medical personnel as well as falsifying the signature of Medicare enrollees.

  U. S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation FINANCIAL CRIMES SECTION CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION. "Financial Crimes Report 2006", FISCAL YEAR 2006 OCTOBER 1, 2005 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2006.
- **Upcoding of services:** This is the act of charging Medicare programs for services that surpass the cost of the performed treatment. (IBID)
- **Upcoding of items:** This is a kind of like service upcoding, except with medical equipment involved. One instance would be to provide a patient with a manual wheelchair and charge Medicare for a power-assisted wheelchair. (IBID)
- **Duplicate claims:** In order to charge Medicare twice for the same service, a provider in this instance submits a slightly different bill (for example, by changing the date) instead of the exact same one. The same service is invoiced twice in an effort to be paid twice, as opposed to a single claim being filed twice. (IBID)
- **Duplicate Charges (Double billing):** In this case, the same medical services are billed more than once under a double billing arrangement. Sometimes service providers will send more than one invoice to the same client. To avoid being discovered, they can alter the service's date, description, patient, or provider identities. An alternative approach

would be allowing service providers to bill several organizations (like the government and a private insurer) for identical services. (IBID)

- **Unbundling:** Invoices and bills for a certain service seem to be sent out gradually, in pieces. Combining these treatments would normally result in a lower cost, but Medicare is charged more when the claim is false, increasing the amount paid to the fraudster. (IBID)
- **Excessive Services:** This happens when Medicare is billed for more care than is necessary for the patient's level of need. This can apply to both services and equipment connected to medicine. (IBID)
- **Unnecessary Services:** This fraudulent scheme, in contrast to overuse of services, is when claims are made for therapy that has no bearing on the patient's health. For example, an echo cardiogram could be claimed for a patient who has sprained their ankle. (IBID)
- **Kickbacks:** Kickbacks are bribes given to medical practitioners to encourage them to use certain medical services. These can take the form of cash, jewelry, free trips, corporate-sponsored retreats, or other opulent gifts.(IBID)

U. S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation FINANCIAL CRIMES SECTION CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION. "Financial Crimes Report 2006", FISCAL YEAR 2006 OCTOBER 1, 2005 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2006.
file:///C:/Users/aandarge/Downloads/publicrpt06.pdf

2.4.12. Computer fraud /Cyber crime

The use of computers, the Internet, Internet-connected devices, and Internet-based services to defraud individuals or groups to gain money is "known" as computer fraud. Computer fraud can take several forms, such as; disseminating fake emails, breaking into unapproved computers, Using malware and spyware to mine data, breaking into computer networks to get unauthorized access to sensitive data, like Social Security numbers or credit card details, sending worms or computer viruses with the intention of damaging the computer or system of another person. Though not all of them are well-known, some common strategies used to impede service or access another's network are phishing, social engineering, malware, and DDoS attacks. (Computer Hope, 10/18/2022: https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/computer-fraud.htm).

One component of computer fraud is cybercrime. It is the use of a computer to facilitate illicit activities, like identity theft, fraud, the trafficking of child pornography and intellectual property, and invasions of privacy. The prevalence of cybercrime, particularly via the Internet, has increased as computers have become essential for government, entertainment, and business. (Peter Goldmann, 2009 pp. 149-161).

Cybercrime includes a wide variety of actions. At one end of the spectrum are crimes involving basic violations of private or corporate rights, like attacks on the confidentiality of data stored in digital depositories and the use of digital data obtained unlawfully for the purpose of intimidating, threatening, or blackmailing an individual or a business institution. (Peter Goldmann, 2009 pp. 149-161).

Within the broad category of cybercrime, "wire fraud" is one of the more notable subtypes. With wire fraud, the global scope of cybercrime is especially clear. Another term for wire fraud is mail fraud. It is the unlawful use of the mail service to defraud individuals of their money or private information in order to commit identity theft or other crimes. Scams that employ the mail in a variety of ways fall under the umbrella of postal fraud. It includes scams that start over the phone or online and lead the victim to utilize the mail to complete fraudulent transactions, as well as phony come-ons that are delivered to the victim's mailbox. (Adam Hayes, 2021).

A sort of cybercrime fraud or deceit "known" as "internet fraud" involves the use of the Internet to conceal information or provide false information in an attempt to deceive people out of money, property, or inheritance. Internet fraud refers to a variety of unlawful and illicit acts carried out in cyberspace rather than being regarded as a single, distinct crime. However, it differs from stealing in that the victim gives the offender the information, cash, or property voluntarily and intentionally in this instance. It is also unique in that it involves offenders who are separated both in time and space.

- **Computer viruses:** Another type of cybercrime is the deliberate spread of malicious computer viruses.
- **Hacking:** While violating privacy in order to identify cybercrime is effective; however, it is more commonly referred to as "hacking" when the crimes entail information theft and misuse.

- **Identity theft:** Privatization is what identity theft is. Identity theft is a type of fraud where a thief obtains personal data from a victim and utilizes it for his own gain.
- **ATM fraud:** More common forms of fraud are also enabled by computers. Take the example of the automated teller machine (ATM), which is now used by many people to obtain cash. A user provides a card and a personal identification number (PIN) to access an account.

  (Britannica, ATM fraud). https://www.britannica.com/topic/cybercrime/ATM-fraud.
- **Counterfeiting and forgery:** The issue with copies extends beyond intellectual property file sharing. The fact that digital technology may create almost flawless replicas of physical items is another, more commonplace feature. Consider the classic crime of forging counterfeit goods. (Peter Goldmann, 2009 pp. 149-161).
- **Email spoofing:** The act of creating email messages using a fake sender address is known as email spoofing. Email spoofing means emails that appear to be from addresses that are not the sender's; correspondence sent to those addresses may bounce or be delivered to a fictitious party. Spoofing emails is a scam. Disposable email addressing (DEA), sometimes referred to as "dark mail" or "masked email," is a strategy that employs a different email address for each contact or business, either once or just sometimes.
- **Phishing:** Phishing is a type of social engineering fraud in which fraudsters trick victims into downloading malware or disclosing personal information. Phishing attacks are increasingly sophisticated forms of cybercrime that frequently make blatant copies of the target website. This gives the attacker complete control over the victim's browsing experience and allows them to bypass any additional security measures. (K. Jansson & R. von Solms, 2011, pp 584-593).
- **Bogus offers (Fake Offers):** Proposals sent by email to buy products or services could be attempts at fraud. A popular product or service is usually offered in a fraudulent offer at a significantly discounted price. This scam has several subtypes, including the "Need to sell fast scam'', the "Fake Offer Up website scam," the "Overpayment scam", the "Multiple posting scam", and the "Overly interested buyer scam". (Jaime Stathis, 2023.)
- **Requests for help:** Emails asking for financial supports as well as assistance in one way or another are sent in the "request for help" variety of email fraud. But there's a catch a

reward that comes with this assistance, serving as a “hook”. A sizable sum of money, a treasure, or an allegedly valuable antique could be the reward. At the end of the day, both the story told and the promised reward will be seen fictitious.

- **Advance-fee scam:** The terms “Nigerian scam,” “Nigerian bank scam,” and "Nigerian money offer" are other names for advance-fee scams. It is regarded as one of the several variations within the sort. The Nigerian fraud is also referred to as the “419 scam”; the number refers to the particular provision of Nigerian law that the scheme breaches. This scam occasionally uses the Nigerian emblem. **(**Suleman Lazarus, Geoffrey U. Okolorie, 2019). (Chris Bluvshtein, 2023).
- **Investment schemes:** emails promoting investments with low to no risk and great rates of return. This type of fraud is commonly referred to as a Ponzi scheme.
  US. Securities and Exchange Commission: Ponzi scheme, Posted online by: Investor.gov. Accessed on September 13, 2023.https://www.sec.gov/
- **Lottery scam:** In the case of lottery scams, false information is frequently provided to the targeted victim, making it appear as if a marketing company sponsored and used a random computer ballot to select their name or email address.
- **Romance scam:** Typically starting on an online dating site, romance scams quickly spread to private emails, online chat rooms and social media platforms. In this version, scammers (posing as men or women) establish virtual connections with their victims before asking them for money. They say they need money because they were beaten or mistreated, lost their money (or had their luggage stolen), and need to leave the country to take a flight to country of origin of the victim
  Federal Trade Commission, “What to Know About Romance Scams”, Posted online by: An official website of the United States government, August 2022
  https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/what-know-about-romance-scams#whatis
- **Dating extortion scam:** An individual is baited into private discussions and then told to pay or risk having their conversations publicized online and being called out as a cheater. (Digital Investigation, “Extortion Scams on Dating Sites” Published online by Digitalinvestigation.com, 21, MARCH 2023, https://digitalinvestigation.com/blog/dating-scam/extortion-scams-on-dating-sites/).

- **Domain name scams:** A subset of trust and intellectual property scams are frauds involving domain names. Here, dishonest domain name registrars try to trick companies into buying, listing, or transferring a domain name in order to make money for the con artist. Domain name scams are divided into two categories "domain name registration scams" and "domain name renewal scams." *Office of Fair Trading, Types of business Scams, "Domain name scams" Posted online by: Office of Fair Trading, 16, May 2010.* https://web.archive.org/web/20111010102229/http://www.oft.gov.uk/business-advice/protect-your-business-from-scams/types/domain
- **Marriage agency scam:** They set up profiles on dating sites and translate messages under the guise of marriage agencies or translation services, but they never get in touch with real brides. When a victim is involved, they will ask for payment for "agency fees" in addition to the costs of communication, which include phone, video, and translation services. They pretend to be brides instead of assisting them in finding spouses. It's possible that real ladies are unaware that someone is impersonating them.

  FBI Cautions Public to be Wary of Online Romance Scams, FBI Washington February 7, 2018:https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/washingtondc/news/press-releases/fbi-cautions-public-to-be-wary-of-online-romance-scams

- **Secret shopper:** Usually, after the victim's resume is uploaded to a job search website, the targeted victim receives an email asking them to act as a "secret shopper." Following their engagement, the victim receives a fake check, employment forms and instructions to become a secret shopper. Usually, the instruction involves making a number of small transactions at nearby establishments and documenting one's experiences on a form that appears official. The victim is always asked to initiate a large bank transfer and rate their experience. To achieve the specified goals, the fake check is cashed at the financial institution of the unwary victim.

  AARP, "Secret Shopper Scams", Published Online by AARP, October 13, 2021, ://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2021/secret-shopper.html

- **Word of Mouth:** This kind of spam email claims that the recipient must pay a charge to view the message, which was posted by an anonymous individual and contains a secret about him.

*Dr. Gennius, "Danger of Negative Word of Mouth (WOM)", Posted online by Dr. Gennius, August 06, 2020".*https://doctorgenius.com/blog/danger-of-negative-word-of-mouth-wom/

- **Job Scams:** The victim uploads his résumé to any job website in an attempt to find employment. After finding the résumé, the con artist sends the victim an email pretending to be a reputable employment board and stating that their client is seeking a worker with the victim's qualifications. The victim is encouraged to apply for the job by clicking on a link. When the victim clicks on the link, he is directed to a job description tailored to the experience and skills listed on his resume, offered very high compensation, and encouraged to "click here" to apply. By clicking on the "apply" link, the victim is directed to an "application" form which requests standard job application details, in addition to the victim's date of birth, social security number, his name and the account number of the bank where he wishes to obtain his file. Paycheck to be deposited, as well as information on a "relative" reference. Armed with this data, the scammer can open an account with any online financial institution and use the victim's credit to make online purchases, which they can then send to other scammers.
  Kathryn Vasel, "Job scams are on the rise. Watch out for these red flags", Posted online by CNN Business, Updated 1:14 PM EDT, Wed June 8, 2022.

  https://edition.cnn.com/2022/06/08/success/job-scams/index.html

- **PayPal scam:** emails claiming to be from fraudsters informing the victim that the money has been transferred to their account, but that the transaction will not be finalized until the victim has delivered the product. Selling goods to people overseas is the main way this fraud occurs. (Chris Bluvshtein, 2023).

2.4.13. Surveillance abuse

The use of technology or surveillance techniques to track someone or a group of people in a way that goes against societal standards or legal requirements is "known" as surveillance abuse. An abuser may be violating several laws if they electronically monitor someone or record a private discussion without that person's permission. There are state-specific regulations that cover recording conversations over the phone, online, or in person. Some recognized forms of surveillance abuse are described in the list of points that follows.

Source:-WomensLaw.Org. "Abuse Using Technology" Posted Online by: WomensLaw.Org. Updated March 202, 2021.https://www.womenslaw.org/about-abuse/abuse-using-technology/ways-abusers-misuse-technology/electronic-surveillance-spying-2

- **Wiretap:** A wiretap is an electronic surveillance technique in which a person records or monitors phone conversations. Most often, wiretapping is associated with law enforcement tracking down criminals or obtaining evidence that implicates them. On the other hand, abusers and stalkers have also recorded and listened in on phone conversations using wiretaps. (IBID)
- **Interception:** When someone who is not participating in a conversation utilizes technology to obstruct communication in order to overhear or record the conversation, this is known as interception. (IBID)
- **Invasion of privacy (Voyeurism):** Voyeurism, also known as invasion of privacy, is the term used to describe circumstances in which a perpetrator abuses technology; such as a surveillance system, to watch, record, or observe someone's private or intimate actions. This could involve recording or photographing him/her in the nude or partially nude without his/her permission. (IBID)
- **Eavesdropping:** The act of listening in on or recording someone else's private discussion without that person's or both of their consent is "known" as eavesdropping. There are several techniques to eavesdrop, some of which might not require sophisticated technology.
- **Impersonation:** Impersonation is a type of surveillance abuse. Impersonation generally refers to when someone uses a false identity and commits acts that will result in personal gain or that will deceive or harm another person. "Spoofing" is also another type in that regard.
- **Sexting:** Sending and receiving sexually explicit text messages, images, or videos, mostly via a mobile device, is referred to as "sexting". An abuser can send these pictures via a mobile texting app or a standard text message. (Kendall K. Morgan, 2023).

- **Nonconsensual image sharing:** Sharing or distributing intimate, sexual, nude or semi-nude photos or films of a victim without his/her consent is “known” as sharing non-consensual images; it is also “known” as non-consensual pornography. This is sometimes called “revenge porn”, but the phrase implies that someone rejected by their relationship posted intimate photos of themselves in order to “get revenge”, which is not necessarily the case.

  Most of the time, the abuser shares the pictures online or makes threats to do so in an effort to control and dominate partner, to harass the victim, or to inflict pain, humiliation, and shame on them. Non-consensual sharing of images/pornography includes both images and films that were initially shared with permission within a close relationship and those that were taken without permission using cell phone cameras. hidden cameras, sexual assault cameras or device hacking.(IBID)

  WomensLaw.Org. “Abuse Using Technology” Posted Online by: WomensLaw.Org. Updated March 202, 2021.https://www.womenslaw.org/about-abuse/abuse-using-technology/ways-abusers-misuse-technology/electronic-surveillance-spying-2

2.4.14. Corruption in Mass Communication and Broadcasting services

Media are the channels or instruments used in communication to store and distribute content. In general, the term refers to elements of the mass communications sector, including publishing, photography, cinema, radio and television, print media, news media, digital media and advertisement. Unlike interpersonal and organizational communication, mass communication focuses on specific resources that disseminate information to a large number of recipients.

The main focus of the study of mass communication is how the information and content that is disseminated widely influences or persuades the recipients of the information in terms of their behavior, attitude, opinion, or emotion. Mass communication, narrowly defined, is the dissemination of messages to numerous recipients simultaneously. Mass communication, however, can be broadly defined as the practice of widely disseminating information both domestically and internationally. The process of distributing and exchanging information to sizable population segments via mass media is known as mass communication. It makes use of a variety of media because technology has improved the efficiency of information distribution.

Journalism and advertising are two of the most common examples of platforms that are used and studied within the realm of Mass Communication. (Adam Volle, 2023). Broadcasting is a part of mass communication. It is the technique of using any electronic mass communications medium.
but primarily one that uses radio waves or the electromagnetic spectrum, to broadcast audio or video material in a one-to-many model to a distributed audience. (Roger Manvel & Gorge A. Camacho 2003).

There are a number of misconducts in media and broadcasting. Let us see some of them:

- **Gossiping:** Talking without purpose or spreading untruths about someone else's personal or private matters is called gossip. It is sometimes referred to as dishing or tattling. Evolutionary psychologists have studied gossip and shown that it is a crucial way for individuals to keep an eye on cooperative reputations and, thus, sustain broad indirect reciprocity.

  A social transaction known as "indirect reciprocity" occurs when one actor assists another and then reaps benefits from a third party (Hirotaka Imada , Angelo Romano and Nobuhiro Mifune ; 2023 pp. 373-383). Robin Dunbar, an evolutionary biologist explains that gossip sometimes helps social bonding in large groups. (Mark Travers, 2019).To disparage someone while they are not there is known as "backbiting" or "tale-bearing." In the blood sport of bearbaiting, backbiting originally meant an unsportsmanlike strike from behind. (Shalin Giri, 2023). Depending on how much influence the gossiper has over the recipient, which in turn affects how the gossip is perceived, workplace gossip can be extremely severe.

  In written media like newspapers, electronic social media, radio and books, gossiping could be transmitted by journalists and authors. Conspiracy theorizing could be taken as an example of gossiping.

- **Fake News:** False or misleading information presented as news is "known" as fake news. The goal of fake news is frequently to harm someone or something's reputation in order to profit from advertising. According to certain definitions, stories that use sensationalist or click-bait headlines that aren't supported by the content are considered fake news, as are satirical pieces that are mistaken for real news. Researchers are starting to favor information disorder as a more objective and informative phrase due to the variety of misleading news that exists. (Elle Hunt, 2016).

- **False advertising:** The act of printing, sending, or otherwise making a false claim or statement in an advertisement with the deliberate (or careless) goal to promote the sale of real estate, products, or services is "known" as false advertising. (Merriam Webster Dictionary, 2020). If the advertiser purposefully misleads the consumer instead of doing it accidentally, then the advertisement qualifies as deceptive. Regulations are used by several governments to restrict deceptive advertising.
- **Photograph manipulation:** Photo manipulation is the process of modifying or retouching an image. Some image manipulations are considered works of art created by experts, while others, especially those intended to deceive, are considered unethical acts. Images may be edited for humor, entertainment, political propaganda, or to enhance the appeal of a subject.

  Some photographic manipulations are considered art because they involve the creation of original images and, in some cases, iconic artistic expressions by photographic artists, depending on the application and purpose. For example, burning (darkening) and blurring (lightening) a photo using darkroom exposure procedures.

  There are also Some other methods in this case such as airbrushing, double exposure, ink or paint retouching, putting together images or negatives in the darkroom, and scratching instant films. Professional applications and simple imaging software for everyday users are among the software tools used with digital photographs. As a generalized trademark of Adobe Photoshop, "photoshopping" refers to the process of manipulating photographs. "Photoshopping" or Photo manipulation may be carried out to defame a person. (Brian Le, 2016).
- **Hate speech:** A public statement that encourages violence or displays hatred toward an individual or group based on their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation is "known" as hate speech. Hate speech is generally understood to include expressions of hatred or disparagement directed against an individual or group because of a characteristic of the group, such as race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion or sexual orientation. Different countries have different legal definitions of hate speech.

  The topics of hate speech, hate speech laws, and free speech have all been hotly debated. Legal definitions of hate speech may vary across countries. In some countries it includes actions, words, deeds, writings or displays that denigrate or threaten a group or individual based solely on their membership in that group, or that incite violence or harmful actions against that group or individual. Certain traits may be used by law to identify protected groups. *(*Michael Herz and Peter Molnar, 2012) & (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, “Hate Speech” *First published Tue Jan 25, 2022),*

- **Conspiracy theory:** Conspiracy theories are explanations of events or circumstances that claim the existence of powerful, evil organizations involved in political conspiracies. The phrase generally conveys an unpleasant idea, as if prejudice, strong feelings, or lack of evidence are the main factors contributing to a conspiracy theory’s appeal. A conspiracy theory is a well-speculated hypothesis with certain qualities, including confronting the accepted “knowledge” of experts who are best suited to judge its veracity, like historians or physicists. A conspiracy is not the same thing as a conspiracy theory. Fake news, gossiping, defaming, false advertising, photograph manipulation, mythical narrations, pseudo history and pseudo archeology are typical characteristics of conspiracy theory. (Britannica, “Conspiracy Theory”, August 03, 2023).
- **Myth**: Mythology is a subset of folklore that includes tales fundamental to a culture, such as origin myths. The term "myth" is in most cases used to refer to stories that are not objectively authentic; for this reason, the classification of a tale as a myth can be very controversial.

  This is why many religious followers reject the naming of myths in the traditional stories of other religions, because they consider the stories told in their own religious traditions to be historically accurate and indisputable. Since different cultures perceive religious stories differently from each other, some researchers may therefore classify all religious stories as "myths" for pragmatic reasons, such as to avoid devaluing a particular tradition. Some scholars may choose to refrain from using the word "myth" in order to avoid giving a negative connotation to sacred stories. Unauthentic information, pseudo history and mythical narration can be transmitted through printed and audiovisual media channels pretending to be true stories.(Claude Lévi -Strauss, 1955, P. 428).
- **Pseudohistory:** A type of pseudos-cholarship “known” as pseudohistory aims to falsify or distort the historical record, frequently by utilizing techniques that are similar to those of scholarly historical study. The word “cryptohistory” refers to pseudohistory that stems from the occultists' inherent superstitions. Pseudoscience and pseudoarchaeology are

related to pseudohistory, and the phrases are sometimes used interchangeably. The use of pseudohistory is nearly always driven by a modern political, religious, or personal purpose, despite the fact that pseudohistory takes many different forms.

Scholars have found a number of similar elements that tend to be present in pseudohistorical works. Additionally, sensational assertions or outright lies regarding historical facts are commonly presented in pseudohistory, necessitating an unjustifiable alteration of the historical record. (The Critical review: or, Annals of literature, Volume 1, ed. Tobias George Smollett, 1815, p. 152).

- **Pseudoarchaeology:** Outside of the archaeological scientific community, pseudoarchaeology is the interpretation of the past that denies the field's approved methods of data collection and analysis. Other names for it include cult archaeology, fantasy archaeology, alternative archaeology, fringe archaeology, and eerie archaeology. The claims made by the pseudo-archaeologists are supported by hypotheses that are not substantiated by science whether it comes to materials, items, or locations in these pseudo-scientific interpretations. The use of fallacies, dramatic or romanticized conclusions, and exaggerated evidence are some of the techniques. (Robert Witcher and Robin Skeates, pp. 524-531).

2.4.15. Dishonesty in Academic Settings

Any behavior on the part of students that deviates from the expectations of a school, university, or other educational institution is referred to as academic dishonesty, academic misconduct, or academic fraud. If students use neutralization as an excuse to cheat even once, they are more likely to do so in the future, which could lead to a life of cheating.

In some cases, dishonesty could be committed not only by students but also by teachers, instructors, educators and lecturers. Furthermore, dishonesty in academic setting could be sometimes committed by academic directors as well as the administrative seniors or managers of educational institutions. Dishonesty in academia poses problems for educators. Since it is the teacher's responsibility to provide “knowledge”, deceitful activities have has a great deal of negative socio-economic impacts. Additionally, instances of cheating often result in emotional anguish among faculty members, as many perceive it as an insult to them or a betrayal of their trust. (Jasper Roe, 2022, P 2).

The following are some types of dishonesty that could be seen in academic settings:

- **Academic cheating:** Academic cheating is a significantly common occurrence in high schools and colleges. Cheating on a test is the process of using unauthorized means or methods for the purpose of obtaining a desired test score or grade. This may range from bringing and using notes during a closed book examination; copying another test taker's answer or choice of answers during an individual test, to sending a paid proxy to take the test. These days, academic cheating is being assisted by electronic devices and some students may commit that activity by using smart-phones, texting and receiving texts from another person, to find answers for the questions on the test.

  A number of widely used strategies have been used to stop cheating. Among these is the deployment of several proctors or invigilators to keep an eye on test takers throughout the testing session. Test developers may construct multiple variants of the same test to be administered to different test takers at the same time, or write tests with few multiple-choice options, based on the theory that fully worked answers are difficult to imitate. Sometimes instructors may delegate the responsibility of administering tests to other instructors or invigilators instead of themselves. This could suggest that the invigilators are unfamiliar with the applicants, in which case some sort of identification could be needed. (Philip A. Pecorino, 2017 P.2).
- **Plagiarism:** The dishonest portrayal of another person's words, ideas, thoughts, or sentiments as one's own unique creation is "known" as plagiarism. Such portrayals are typically regarded as transgressing social norms of learning, teaching, research, justice, respect, and accountability in many cultures, in addition to academic integrity and journalistic ethics. Plagiarism could be committed by students when doing their research, thesis or assignment term papers. Plagiarism could be committed also by some academicians or educators when preparing reading materials such as modules handouts or books as teaching aid for students. (Eaton, S.E., 2017, pp271-281).
- **Copyright infringement**: Copyright infringement is sometimes referred to as piracy. It is a kind of breach by using copyright-protected works for which authorization is needed, without that authorization, so violating the copyright holder's exclusive rights, including the right to make derivative works and to reproduce, distribute, display, and perform the protected works. The copyright holder is typically the work's creator, or a publisher or

other business to whom copyright has been assigned. Copyright infringement could be committed by students, educators or administrative officials. (Anjaneya Reddy N M & Lalitha Aswath P. 51).

- **Data fabrication**: Data fabrication in academic and scientific research refers to purposeful misrepresentation of study findings. Similar to other types of scientific misconduct, fabrication is distinguished from scientists fooling themselves by the deliberate purpose to mislead. There are numerous methods for falsifying data. It is possible to create experimental data by publishing results from never-conducted studies, and it is also possible to alter or falsify legitimate data in order to achieve a certain goal. (*Wilmshurst, Peter 2007 pp. 1-10).*
- **Diploma Mill:** A company or group that poses as a school of higher education and charges money for fake degrees and diplomas is called a diploma mill. It is possible that the diplomas are fraudulent, falsified or distorted or virtually absent. These credentials should not be confused with valid prior learning assessment programs, although they may promise to grant credit for relevant life experience. To reinforce the impression of legitimacy, they can also claim that they evaluate career paths or require the submission of thesis or dissertations for evaluation. Credential mills are typically created to give the impression of validity and serve as a support system for diploma mills. Diploma Mill as a fraud could be committed by administrative workers, secretaries, registrar office workers directors and management officials.

  U.S. Department of Education, Diploma Mills and Accreditation - Diploma Mills, https://www2.ed.gov/students/prep/college/diplomamills/diploma-mills.html
- **An accreditation mill:** An accreditation mill is an organization that purports to award educational accreditation to higher education institutions without having government authority or recognition from mainstream academia to operate as an accreditor. The phrase suggests that the "factory" requires few, if any, qualifications for this type of accreditation. Similar to diploma mills, accreditation mills are often closely related to diploma mills. The "accreditation" they provide is simply used in diploma mill marketing to attract students; it has no legal or academic significance.

  Some organizations receive their certification from a nonprofit organization whose requirements are lax. In other situations, the organization forms what appears to be its own independent accrediting body and then accredits itself. This gives the impression that the teaching provided at school has the support of a third party.

U.S. Department of Education, Diploma Mills and Accreditation - Diploma Mills, https://www2.ed.gov/students/prep/college/diplomamills/diploma-mills.html

- **Forgery:** Forgery is the crime of creating a false document, altering a document, or writing a false signature for the illegal benefit of the person doing the forgery. This includes signing a blank document incorrectly or using inappropriate language. A fake document is a device used by writers to add authenticity to their works of fiction by creating, adding to, or referencing articles that appear real. Convincing the audience that what is being presented is factual is the goal of a fake article. In academic settings, forgery as a fraud could be committed to produce illegitimate credentials or to modify students' results marks or grades.

  (Marko Cabric, "Forgery: in Corporate Security Management", 2015 Journal Article, Published by Elsevier, 2023). https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/medicine-and-dentistry/forgery

- **Scientific misconduct:** When professional scientific research is published, scientific misconduct may occurs when standard norms of conduct are broken, including ethical behavior. Phrases, views, or behaviors that purport to be true and scientific yet deviate from the scientific method are classified as pseudoscience. Pseudoscience is characterized by claims that are contradictory, exaggerated, or unfalsifiable; reliance on confirmation bias rather than rigorous attempts at refutation; lack of openness to evaluation by other experts; lack of systematic practices when developing hypotheses; and persistence in adhering to pseudoscientific theories long after they have been disproven experimentally. (*Wilmshurst, Peter 2007 pp. 1-10) & (Henric Rudolph 2013).*

  Sources: -

  - (The Free Dictionary by Farlex); https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Fraud
  - Insider Fraud: What it is and how to stop it: Published online by Fraud.net. https://fraud.net/n/insider-fraud-what-it-is-and-how-to-prevent-it/

2.4.16. Dishonesty in sports

Cheating in sport refers to the deliberate disregard of the rules of a certain sport. In sports, cheating can also take the form of actions taken with the intention of giving an unfair advantage to a player or team.

Cheating can occur before, during, or after a game and can take many different forms. In sports, cheating refers to deliberately breaking the rules in order to gain an advantage over rival teams or players. Specific customs and regulations relating to permitted and prohibited actions both inside and outside of event control sports. The use of performance-enhancing drugs, or "doping," is a common example of an illegal act. It also covers deliberate intimidation or harm to rival players, as well as the use of equipment that deviates from regulations or is modified during use. ("The Psychology of Cheating in Sports", Posted online by Aurora University, August 16, 2019). https://online.aurora.edu/psychology-of-cheating-in-sports/

2.4.17. Gender-Based Violence and Corruption

Gender-based violence (GBV) and corruption are deeply intertwined social issues that fuel one another and perpetuate inequality across various settings, including households, organizations, and academic institutions. Both are manifestations of power abuse that undermine human rights and the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

In households, GBV often manifests as domestic violence, where power dynamics and cultural norms enable perpetrators to maintain control over victims. Corruption may appear in the form of law enforcement officials who fail to intervene in GBV cases due to bribes, connections, or discriminatory beliefs. This inaction can create a culture of impunity, enabling abusers to escape justice and perpetuate violence.

Within organizations, gender-based violence can include sexual harassment, discrimination, and coercion, often targeting women and other marginalized groups. Corruption in these settings may involve trading favors for silence or career advancement, as perpetrators may use their positions to shield themselves from accountability. This not only silences victims but also reinforces hierarchical structures that maintain abusive environments.

In academic settings, gender-based violence and corruption manifest through harassment, exploitation, and the abuse of authority by individuals in power, such as professors or administrators. Students may face pressure to exchange sexual favors for grades, admissions, or scholarships, leading to a toxic environment where academic integrity is compromised, and victims often remain silent due to fear of retaliation.

At the household level, the impact of GBV and corruption includes emotional trauma, economic instability, and a cycle of dependency. This affects not only victims but also children, who may grow up in an environment where violence and abuse of power are normalized, perpetuating the cycle of violence.

In organizations, GBV and corruption foster hostile workplaces, reduce productivity, and damage morale. Victims may feel unsafe, leading to high turnover and diminished career growth, especially among women. Such environments deter talented individuals and can tarnish the organization’s reputation, limiting its success.

In academic institutions, the effects include a diminished quality of education, where merit and learning are undermined by coercion and corruption. This can discourage students from achieving their full potential and damage the institution’s credibility.

Hence, gender-based violence and corruption are interconnected issues that reinforce unequal power structures and hinder social and economic progress. Addressing both is essential to creating safe and fair environments in households, workplaces, and educational institutions.

2.4.18. Sexual misconduct

Sexual misconduct refers to wrongdoing of a sexual nature that can vary widely and include a variety of sexual actions deemed inappropriate. This includes actions deemed immoral by society or an individual, as well as unlawful sexual harassment and/or sexual assault.

However, from a strictly legal perspective, sexual misconduct is generally considered a “lay term” denoting a boundary that has been crossed, as dictated by a code of moral conduct. This is especially true in situations where the behavior is normally non-sexual and therefore unusual, or when there is a personal power or authority dynamic that makes sexual behavior inappropriate. A recurring theme and rationale for the term “misconduct” is that these transgressions occur at work or in situations where there is an unequal distribution of power, such as sexual harassment. Criminal; transgressing a person’s personal space regarding intimate relationships and sexuality.

Sexual misconduct is defined as acting against a person without their consent, when consent is impossible to obtain, or when the power dynamics of the relationship are challenged in an attempt to redefine what constitutes appropriate consent in the circumstances. The alleged misbehavior can take many different forms, including exposure of the genitals, violence, forceful advances, pleading, or even failing to notice nonverbal signs of discomfort. The concept of sexual misconduct is “far from clear.” (Joanne Laucius, 2018).

- **Infidelity:** There are several synonyms for the phrase “infidelity” include “cheating,” “straying,” and “adultery.” “misguidement,” “Being unfaithful”, “two-timing”, or “having an affair”. It is an affront to the emotional and/or sexual exclusivity of a marriage and often breeds jealously, rivalry, and resentment. What constitutes adultery in a partnership is determined by expectations. It is common to assume exclusivity in married couples. The psychological damage caused by infidelity can include loss of self-esteem and sexual confidence, feelings of betrayal and estrangement, and even post-traumatic stress disorder. If an act of adultery is made public, people of both sexes may face social repercussions; however, the type and severity of these consequences may vary depending on the gender of the disloyal person.

  Emotional honesty in a close relationship means letting the other partner “know” who the other partner is. As it impacts the relationship and deprives the other party of their freedom of choice and informed action, infidelity encompasses a variety of behaviors such as making evasive or ambiguous statements, telling half-truths, manipulate information through emphasis, exaggeration or minimization, and conceal information, feelings or information that are important to someone who has a right to know.(Mayo Clinic Staff, “Defining infidelity”, P. 1).
- **Adultery:** Adultery is how extramarital sex is characterized. It refers to premarital sex shared by a spouse or had by an engaged person, but considered inappropriate for moral, legal, societal, or religious reasons. Adultery, commonly known as extramarital sex, is when a married person engages in a sexual relationship with someone else. The expression can be used when a single person has sex with a married person. The concept

of adultery is shared by many civilizations, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, despite differences in definitions and the social, theological, and legal ramifications associated with it. Many legal systems view adultery as a moral violation that violates the vows of marriage.(JoAnne Sweeny, 2014 P. 132), & (Merriam-webster Dictionary), https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fornication

- **Fornication:** Fornication is defined as unethical sexual interactions between two unmarried individuals. Adultery occurs when there is a marriage between one or more individuals having consensual sexual intercourse. Regarding moral dilemmas arising from sexual interactions between consenting heterosexual individuals of the age of consent, common law prosecutors have generally approached these cases as questions of morality rather than as criminal prosecutions.(JoAnne Sweeny, 2014 P. 132) & (Merriam-webster Dictionary), https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fornication

  There is a distinction between fornication and adultery in legal terms. Fornication is the term used to describe consensual sexual relations between two unmarried people. However, adultery is only used when at least one of the parties involved, male or female, is married. (JoAnne Sweeny, 2014 P. 132). & (Merriam-webster Dictionary), https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fornication

2.4.19. Corruption in religion and spirituality

Cheating and corruption in religious institutions and spirituality can manifest in various ways, often shaped by both organizational structures and individual actions. Financial corruption is one of the more visible forms, with embezzlement as a common example. Leaders or other officials may misappropriate funds meant for charitable or religious purposes, redirecting them for personal gain. Bribery is another issue, as individuals may offer or accept bribes for favors, blessings, or positions within the institution. This type of exploitation also extends to the misuse of donations, where leaders might take advantage of the generosity or guilt of followers to amass personal wealth rather than directing these funds towards intended communal or charitable goals.

Spiritual exploitation, a form of corruption often less immediately noticeable, involves the manipulation of followers' beliefs for control. Spiritual exploitation, includes false revelation, false prophecy, false-healing, false-exorcism and Magical tricks. For instance, spiritual abuse can occur when leaders use religious teachings to coerce followers, instilling fear or guilt to maintain obedience and control. False claims of miracles are another method, where leaders stage or exaggerate miraculous events to attract followers and secure donations. Some leaders also commercialize spiritual practices by charging for blessings, prayers, or other forms of spiritual intervention, turning what should be sincere spiritual acts into profit-making enterprises.

Corruption in religious institutions also extends to moral and ethical failures, often leading to disillusionment among followers. Hypocrisy, where leaders do not practice the values they preach, is particularly damaging. An example might be leaders advocating humility while indulging in luxurious lifestyles. Sexual misconduct is another disturbing issue, with some religious authorities engaging in or covering up inappropriate behavior, often taking advantage of their position of power or perceived closeness to the divine. Additionally, nepotism and favoritism are prevalent, with influential roles granted to family members or loyalists regardless of their qualifications or commitment to spiritual principles.

Doctrinal manipulation is a form of corruption that impacts the spiritual integrity of religious teachings. Leaders might twist or selectively interpret religious doctrines to justify authoritarian control or discrimination, thereby consolidating power over followers. This manipulation can give rise to a “cult of personality,” where the focus shifts from the core spiritual teachings to the glorification of a particular leader, fostering psychological dependency and enabling further financial or spiritual exploitation.

The misuse of institutional power also plays a significant role in corruption. Some religious institutions align with political entities to mutually benefit from this association, which can compromise the organization’s mission and spiritual integrity. Furthermore, institutions may exploit tax-exempt statuses or other legal privileges for profit, eroding public trust and damaging the credibility of the religious organization.

Intellectual dishonesty is another dimension of corruption within religious institutions. For example, some leaders promote pseudoscientific beliefs or practices, misleading followers and sometimes profiting from their faith or lack of scientific knowledge. Additionally, institutions may suppress dissent by silencing critical voices within the community. This lack of accountability stifles dialogue and fosters an environment where unethical practices can continue unchecked.

Such forms of cheating and corruption profoundly impact the morale and trust of followers, often eroding the legitimacy of religious institutions. In contrast, religions and spiritual movements that prioritize accountability, transparency, and ethical conduct are generally more successful in building strong, trustworthy communities. By upholding these values, they foster an environment of genuine faith and mutual respect, which enhances both the institution's credibility and the spiritual growth of its members.

2.4.20. Police Misconduct

This type of corruption involves the manipulation of political processes or institutions for personal or partisan gain. It includes actions such as vote-buying, nepotism, or the misuse of public funds for political campaigns. (Inge Amundsen, 1999).

Police corruption involves unethical conduct by law enforcement officers, such as accepting bribes, protecting criminals, or abusing their power for personal gain. It undermines public trust in law enforcement and hampers effective crime prevention and justice.

Law enforcement personnel or police officers who engage in unethical behavior are considered to be engaging in police misconduct. Among these are actions like taking bribes, defending criminals, or exploiting their position of authority for one's own benefit. Justice and effective crime prevention are hampered by police misbehavior, which also erodes public confidence in law enforcement. (*Rich Martin, M.S.,2011).* The following listed are some types of unethical activities that may be committed by some police members.

Police corruption and Soliciting are some activities to be categorized in police misconduct. Police corruption is a type of wrongdoing whereby law enforcement officials violate their state obligations and misuse their authority for their own benefit. One or more officers may be involved in this kind of corruption. Public confidence, the consistency of departmental policy, human rights, and legal infractions with grave repercussions are all at risk from internal police corruption. Bribery is one of the various ways that police corruption manifests itself and one part of corruption is “Soliciting” (*Rich Martin, M.S.,2011).*

Soliciting is a part of corruption. Requesting or accepting bribes or any other inappropriate reward, such as sex or property, in return for withholding information about criminal conduct or other violations of state, federal, county, or local laws that are prohibited is soliciting.
(Cambridge Dictionary "Solicit"). https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/solicit

Flouting and Selective enforcement are also some activities to be categorized in police misconduct. Using fabricated evidence to win convictions of suspects and civilians is one example of flouting according to the police code of conduct. In some cases, some members of Law enforcement official's staff may occasionally consciously and consistently take part in organized crime themselves.

(*Legal Dictionary "*Police Misconduct*", written by: Content Team,February 8, 2017): https://legaldictionary.net/police-misconduct/*

Selective enforcement is also one aspect of police misconduct. Internal affairs departments look into claims of police misbehavior, including selective enforcement, in the majority of big cities. Police officers have several opportunities to gain personally from their status and authority as law enforcement officers. Scholars have proposed various typologies of corruption within the police force. The following categories however might be used to group prevalent corrupt behaviors that some police personnel typically commit:

Source: (*Legal Dictionary "*Police Misconduct*", written by: Content Team,February 8, 2017): https://legaldictionary.net/police-misconduct/*

Types of Corrupt Acts in police misconduct:

- **Corruption of authority**: Accepting money, free food, drinks, and other gratuities for police officers is considered corruption of authority. This creates an impression of corruption, whether it is done intentional or unintentional. (IBID)
- **Extortion/ bribery:** requesting or getting payment for crimes, ignoring a crime or potential future crime. Bribery can take many different forms, such as selling criminal information, destroying evidence, changing testimony, and protecting illicit activity. One of the most prevalent forms of corruption is bribery. (IBID)

- **Noble cause corruption**: In this case, the officer erroneously believes that the favorable outcome justifies the unethical actions utilized to achieve it. Alternatively put, "the ends justify the means." (IBID)
- **Burglary:** Burglaries are defined as when an officer or department takes something from a suspect, victim, or corpse. Examples include utilizing narcotics for personal use during a drug bust and stealing personal belongings from a deceased individual at the scene of a crime. Another risk is theft within the department. An officer may remove anything from the evidence rooms or department property for personal use. (Roebuck & Barker, 1973).
- **Racial profiling (Ethnic Profiling):** Using a person's race or ethnicity as grounds to suspect them of committing a crime is "known" as racial/ethnic profiling. (IBID)
- **Shakedowns**: Shakedowns occur when a police officer "knows" about a crime and the perpetrator, but chooses not to arrest the offender in exchange for a bribe. (Roebuck & Barker, 1973).
- **Ticketing:** In some cases, police officers occasionally waive traffic fines as a favor to friends and family of other officers involved in the illicit activity; this is called "ticket fixing". (Roebuck and Barker, 1973).
- **Police brutality**: The excessive and unjustified use of force by law enforcement against a person or organization is referred to as "police brutality". There have been grave abuses by the police and violations of civil rights. A few examples of police brutality are incorrect takedowns, excessive Taser use, beatings, torturing, shootings, and asphyxiation. (Legal Dictionary, "Police brutality" Written by: Content Team. January 21, 2017). https://legaldictionary.net/police-brutality/
- **Fixing**: The act of undermining or sabotaging criminal proceedings through court testimony, judge buyoffs, or self-interest is "known" as "fixing."
- **Perjury**: Perjury is the act of lying in court or during a departmental investigation in order to justify oneself or other officials.
- **Internal payoffs**: Internal payoffs are the bought and paid privileges and requirements of law enforcement agencies, such as holidays and shift work.
- **The "frame-up"**: The planting or adding to evidence, especially in severe criminal cases.

  (*Legal Dictionary* "Police Misconduct", *written by: Content Team, February 8, 2017): https://legaldictionary.net/police-misconduct/*

2.4.21. Military misconduct and war crime

In ethical military conduct, individuals are expected to prioritize the greater good and adhere to principles such as honesty, integrity, and loyalty to the organization and its mission. However, in military settings, misconduct, dishonesty, and corruption can take various forms. War crimes are also serious violations of international humanitarian law committed during armed conflicts. They are considered to be among the most severe forms of misconduct and can include acts such as the following listed. (Nyman Gibson Miralis, 2019).

- **Misuse of power:** This can involve military personnel abusing their authority for personal gain or to harm others. For instance, bullying, torturing, using their position to extort money or favors from subordinates or engaging in nepotism by favoring friends or family members.

  (ACLU, "Top Ten Abuses of Power Since 9/11", 2024 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) , September 6, 2006). https://www.aclu.org/documents/top-ten-abuses-power-911
- **Use of prohibited weapons:** The use of chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons, as well as weapons that cause excessive or indiscriminate harm to civilians, is prohibited under international law. (Nyman Gibson Miralis, 2019).
- **Targeting civilians:** Deliberately attacking or causing harm to civilians, including through indiscriminate bombings or attacks on civilian infrastructure, is a war crime.
- **Attacking protected sites:** Targeting hospitals, schools, cultural heritage sites, or other protected locations is a violation of international law. (Nyman Gibson Miralis, 2019).
- **Torture and inhumane treatment:** Subjecting prisoners of war, detainees, or civilians to torture, cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment is prohibited under international law.

  (ACLU, "Top Ten Abuses of Power Since 9/11", 2024 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) , September 6, 2006). https://www.aclu.org/documents/top-ten-abuses-power-911
- **Forced displacement:** Forcing civilians to leave their homes or communities through violence, threats, or coercion is considered a war crime.(Nyman Gibson Miralis, 2019).
- **Genocide:** Acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, including killing members of the group or causing

serious bodily or mental harm, are considered genocide. That is a war crime. (George J. Andreopoulos, 2024).

- **False flag:** An act carried out with the intention of hiding the true source of accountability and assigning blame to a different party is "known" as a "false flag operation." Using or displaying flags, logos, and insignia of humanitarian organizations, international organizations, educational institutions, places of worship, hospitals, civilian ambulances, and the like as a mask in a fictitious situation is a violation of international law. That is what we call "false flag".

  The act of staging attacks against oneself and disguising them as terrorist or foreign assaults to offer the attacked country a pretext for internal repression or external military action is "known" as "false flag" operations. The legal phrase "frame-up," "stitch up," or "setup" is more commonly used, but "false flag operations" is also used to refer to comparable misleading actions carried out by people or nonprofit organizations during peacetime. (Roland Martin, 2023).

  Sometimes supporters of certain political or religious beliefs resort to false flag operations. It can be used to discredit or accuse competing groups, create the impression that there are adversaries when there are none, or create the impression that persecution is systematic and deliberate. This can be used to persuade organizational members that their views are under threat and require protection, or to attract sympathy and attention from outsiders, particularly the media. (Mary T. Hall, 1989, pp. 51-62), (Paul Melshen, 1986, pp. 1-80).

  This strategy has a long history in political campaigning and has been used in print, online, and in-person settings. This can involve one politician's supporters passing for another's supporters or acting as "straw men" for their own candidate in an oppositional discussion. This may occur "knowing" or "not knowing" the candidate. Promoters of conspiracy theories frequently use this phrase to allude to the clandestine activities of different governments and purported cabals. (Douglas C Youvan, 2023, pp 1-26).

  In the world of espionage, the phrase "false flag" describes the practice of enlisting agents through operatives posing as supporters of a cause that the prospective agents are sympathetic to, or even as the agents' own government. (Usckinski, Joseph, 2018).

Pseudo-operations are actions by which the forces of a power appear to be at odds with each other. For example, to help teams of agents infiltrate rebel areas, a state authority could take the form of rebels and call on defectors.

Such pseudo-operations could have different objectives which could be the implementation of real operations, such as the assassination of important enemies or the collection of short or long term intelligence. However, as the risks of exposure increase rapidly and intelligence gathering ultimately leads to violent combat, they often need both. Pseudocenters can be managed by the police, the army or both types of authorities. While the military provides the framework to support such pseudo-operations with military intervention soldiers, police officers are generally best prepared for intelligence work. (Paul Melshen, 1986, pp. 1-80). (Usckinski, Joseph, 2018).

- **Treason:** Treason is defined as the act of betraying one's own country by levying war against it or by providing aid and comfort to its enemies. In this case, the military leader is deliberately negotiating with a hostile party and allowing the conquest of their own brigade, which can be seen as aiding the enemy and betraying their own team or country.

References:-

- (Lagal Dictionary, "Treason", written by Content Team. March 2, 2016). https://legaldictionary.net/treason/
- (Open Libraries, "Crimes Involving National Security", Published online by Open Libraries- University of Minnesota 2015). https://open.lib.umn.edu/criminallaw/chapter/13-1-crimes-involving-national-security/

There are various types of treason that can be considered military crimes. Some examples include:

- **Espionage:** This involves gathering or providing information to an enemy country or organization that can be used against one's own country. It often involves spying or infiltrating sensitive military operations.
- **Sedition:** This refers to inciting rebellion or insurrection against the government or military authorities. It involves actively encouraging others to take up arms or engage in actions against their own country.

- ❖ **Mutiny:** This occurs when members of the military rebel against their superiors or refuse to follow orders. It typically involves a group of soldiers attempting to overthrow their commanding officers or disrupt military operations.
- ❖ **Desertion:** This is the act of abandoning one's post or duty in the military without permission. It involves leaving the military and failing to return, often with the intention of avoiding further service or facing potential danger.
- ❖ **Treachery:** This can encompass a range of acts that involve betraying one's own country or military unit. It may include actions such as sabotaging military operations, collaborating with the enemy, or intentionally causing harm to fellow soldiers.

These are just a few examples of the types of treason that can occur within a military context. The severity of these crimes can vary, but they all involve betraying one's own country or military organization.

- (Lagal Dictionary, Treason written by Content Team. March 2, 2016). https://legaldictionary.net/treason/
- (Open Libraries, "Crimes Involving National Security", Published online by Open Libraries- University of Minnesota 2015). https://open.lib.umn.edu/criminallaw/chapter/13-1-crimes-involving-national-security/

2.4.22. Misconducts of agents in National Security and Intelligence

Security and Intelligence agents' misconducts have a number of common elements with that of police misconducts and military misconducts since these three institutions are law enforcement units functioning under the executive branch of a governments. In most cases, these three institutions work together hand in hand. However, there are also some unique aspects of Security and Intelligence agents' misconducts which are special.

In some cases, there are some types of dishonesty and corruption committed by some staff members of national security and intelligence institutions. One in this case is the use of black money. Funds acquired by illegal or illegitimate means, such as bribery, corruption, criminal activity, or tax fraud, are referred to as "black money." Within the domain of intelligence and national security organizations, "black money" may pertain to monies acquired through illicit means and utilized for financing clandestine operations, compensating informants, or financing further endeavors not sanctioned or made public. A misuse of black money can have detrimental effects on the stability integrity of financial systems as well as the overall economy.

The other types of corruption in that setting are Security breaches and improper use of classified information. These are considered serious crimes in the ethics of intelligence and national security institutions for several reasons. Foremost, the unauthorized disclosure or mishandling of classified information can compromise national security and put lives at risk. This information is often sensitive and can provide valuable insight into the activities and capabilities of a country's adversaries. Additionally, security breaches and inappropriate use of classified information can undermine the trust and credibility of intelligence and national security institutions.

These institutions are entrusted with protecting the country's interests and upholding the rule of law, and any breach of that trust can have far-reaching consequences for their ability to effectively carry out their missions. Additionally, the mishandling of classified information can have legal implications, as it may violate laws and regulations related to the protection of sensitive information. Individuals found to have engaged in such activities may face severe consequences, including legal action, loss of security clearance, and potential imprisonment.

Hence, security breaches and improper use of classified information are considered serious crimes in the ethics of intelligence and national security institutions due to their potential to harm national security, undermine trust in institutions, and violate laws and regulations designed to protect sensitive information.

Double Agent: A double agent is an individual who works as a spy or intelligence operative for one country or organization while secretly providing information to another country or organization. Essentially, a double agent pretends to be loyal to one side while actually working on behalf of the other. Double agents are often recruited by intelligence agencies to infiltrate enemy organizations or gather information from rival countries. They can provide valuable insights into the plans, operations, and strategies of the opposing side. (*Tom Lundborg, 2021 pp. 443–459).*

Double agents may be motivated by various factors, such as financial gain, ideology, personal grievances, or coercion. The role of a double agent is highly dangerous and requires great skill in deception and espionage. They must maintain the trust of both sides while carefully navigating the complex web of intelligence operations.

Double agents often face significant risks, including the possibility of being discovered by either side, which could lead to imprisonment, torture, or even death. The use of double agents is a common practice in intelligence and security work, as they can provide valuable and often unique information. However, their presence also introduces significant risks and challenges for the agencies that employ them. (*Tom Lundborg, 2021 pp. 443–459).*

The following listed are some related types of dishonesty and corruption sometimes to be committed by some workers at national security and intelligence services.

- Unauthorized surveillance or eavesdropping on individuals or organizations without proper legal authorization.
- Misuse of classified information or unauthorized disclosure of sensitive intelligence to unauthorized individuals or entities.
- Manipulation or falsification of intelligence reports or analysis to fit a particular agenda or narrative.
- Engaging in illegal or unauthorized covert operations, including sabotage, assassinations, or other criminal activities.
- Accepting bribes, kickbacks, or other forms of corruption in exchange for providing sensitive information or other favors.
- Violating the rights and privacy of individuals through illegal searches, seizures, or other forms of abuse of power.
- Engaging in inappropriate relationships with foreign agents or individuals that could compromise national security.
- Engaging in activities that could lead to the compromise of intelligence sources and methods, including the use of insecure communication channels or careless handling of sensitive information.
- Discrimination, harassment, bullying, torturing murder or other forms of misconduct and crimes towards colleagues, subordinates, or individuals outside the organization.

- Engaging in criminal activities such as drug trafficking, money laundering or other illegal behavior that could undermine the integrity and credibility of the intelligence agency.

The above mentioned are some common types of misconducts and crimes that can pose a significant risk to the integrity and credibility of the intelligence agency and they can also compromise national security. (*Tom Lundborg, 2021 pp. 443–459)* (Roebuck & Barker, 1973). (*Rich Martin, M.S., 2011).*

References:

- *Tom Lundborg, International Political Sociology, "Secrecy and Subjectivity: Double Agents and the Dark Underside of the International System" Volume 15, Issue 4, December 2021 pp. 443–459. https://academic.oup.com/ips/article/15/4/443/6298659*
- *Legal Dictionary "*Police Misconduct*", written by: Content Team, February 8, 2017.https://legaldictionary.net/police-misconduct/*
- Legal Dictionary, "Police brutality" Written by: Content Team. January 21, 2017.
- *JIM MUSTIAN, JOSHUA GOODMAN AND BLOOMBERG, 'Culture of secrecy': CIA employees say agency tries to 'cover up' rampant sexual misconduct that includes lewd remarks and assaults; posted online by: Fortune Media, August 24, 2023. https://fortune.com/2023/08/24/cia-sexual-misconduct-complaints/*

2.4.23. International corruption (crimes)

This type of corruption involves corrupt practices that cross national borders, often involving multinational corporations, international organizations, or cross-border transactions. It can include bribery of foreign officials, money laundering, or illicit financial flows.

International crimes in general, refer to serious offenses that are recognized as criminal acts under international law. These crimes are typically considered to be of grave concern to the international community as a whole, and they often involve significant violations of human rights or threats to global peace and security (Jonathen Birchall, 2016).Some of the main types of international crimes include:

- **Aggression:** The use of force by a state against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, or political independence of another state, in violation of the international conventions. (Charter of the United Nations, Article 39).
- **Terrorism:** Acts of violence committed with the intention to create fear and intimidate populations or governments, often for political, ideological, or religious purposes. (Williamson, Myra, 2009, p. 38).
- **Piracy:** Acts of robbery or violence committed at sea, typically for private gain. (Pennell, C. R., 2001, p. 56).
- **Organized crime:** Illicit activities carried out by organized groups, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling, or money laundering. (Encyclopedia Britannica).
- **War crimes:** Violations of the laws and customs of war, such as targeting civilians, using prohibited weapons, torture, or inhumane treatment of prisoners of war. (Nyman Gibson Miralis, 2019).
- **Crimes against humanity:** Widespread or systematic attacks directed against any civilian population, including murder, extermination, enslavement, torture, rape, and enforced disappearances. (Jonathen Birchall, 2016). United Nation, Office on Genoside Privention and the Responsibility to Protect, "Crime Against Humanity". https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/crimes-against-humanity.shtml
- **Genocide:** The intentional and systematic extermination of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. (United Nation, Office on Genoside Privention and the Responsibility to Protect, "Genoside") https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide.shtml

These crimes are considered to be offenses against the international community as a whole, rather than just against individual states. As such, there is an increasing focus on holding individuals accountable for these crimes through international tribunals, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) or ad hoc tribunals established for specific conflicts or regions.

International corruption specifically refers to the abuse of power or authority by individuals or organizations in positions of influence, involving cross-border transactions or activities. It involves the illicit exchange of favors, bribes, or kickbacks to gain unfair advantages in international business dealings, politics, or governance. There are several types of international corruption:

- **Bribery:** The offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of something of value as a means to influence the actions or decisions of individuals in positions of power. (Delia Ferreira Rubo, 2020).
- **Embezzlement:** The misappropriation or theft of funds or resources by individuals entrusted with their management, often involving international transactions or operations.
  - (The Free Dictionary by FARLEX). https://legal dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/embezzlement
  - FBI NEWS, "19 Indicted in International Fraud and Money Laundering Schemes, Investigators in the U.S. and Abroad Arrest 17". March 1, 2017. https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/19-indicted-in-international-fraud-and-money-laundering-schemes
- **Extortion:** The act of obtaining money, property, or services through coercion or threats, often used to secure favorable treatment or contracts in international business dealings. (Legal Information Institute (LLI), "18 U.S. Code § 878 - Threats and extortion against foreign officials, official guests, or internationally protected persons" https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/878
- **Money laundering:** The process of disguising the origins of illegally obtained money by passing it through a complex sequence of banking transfers or commercial transactions, making it appear legitimate. (U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Treasury Disrupts International Money Laundering and Sanctions Evasion Network Supporting Hizballah Financier", April 18, 2023). https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1422
- **Fraud:** The deliberate deception or misrepresentation of facts to gain an advantage or financial benefit, often involving international transactions or schemes.
- **Nepotism and favoritism:** The practice of showing undue favoritism towards family members, friends, or associates in matters such as hiring, promotions, or awarding contracts, often at the expense of fair competition and meritocracy. (Judy Nadler and Miriam Schulman, 2006).
- **Influence peddling:** The use of personal connections, relationships, or networks to gain advantages or favors in international business or political environments. "Collins. Dictionary,

"Influence.peddling".https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/influence-peddling.

These types of international corruption can have severe economic, social, and political consequences, undermining development, distorting markets, eroding public trust, and hindering fair competition. Efforts to combat international corruption involve legal frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, international cooperation, and transparency initiatives.

2.4.24. Diplomatic Corruption (crime)

Diplomatic crime refers to illegal activities committed by diplomats or individuals with diplomatic immunity, who abuse their privileges and engage in unlawful behavior. Diplomatic corruption, on the other hand, involves the abuse of diplomatic immunity, positions or power for personal gain through bribery, embezzlement, or other illicit activities. (Reg. v. Madan, 1961, pp. 131-134). (Yuliya Zabyelina 2016 pp. 88-102).

Not all diplomats engage in criminal or corrupt activities. However, diplomatic immunity can provide a shield against legal prosecution, making it challenging to hold diplomats accountable for their actions. There are several types of diplomatic crime and corruption:

- **Bribery:** Diplomats may in some cases accept bribes in exchange for favors, such as granting visas, facilitating trade deals, or providing confidential information.
- **Embezzlement:** Diplomats may in some cases misappropriate funds meant for official purposes, diverting them for personal use.
- **Smuggling:** In some cases, diplomats may engage in smuggling activities, using their immunity to transport contraband goods across borders without being subject to customs inspections.
- **Human trafficking:** Diplomats in some cases may be involved in human trafficking networks, exploiting their immunity to facilitate the movement of individuals across borders for forced labor or sexual exploitation.
- **Money laundering:** Diplomats in some cases may use their diplomatic status to launder money obtained through illegal means, making it appear legitimate.
- **Fraud:** Diplomats in some cases may engage in fraudulent activities, such as forging documents, issuing fake visas, or participating in financial scams. This includes foreign currency exchange in a black market basis.

- **Espionage:** Diplomats in some cases may engage in espionage activities, such as gathering classified information or conducting intelligence operations or becoming a double agent in the host country.
  (Reg. v. Madan, 1961, pp. 131-134). (Yuliya Zabyelina 2016 pp. 88-102).

2.4.25. Prosecutorial fraud (Judicial Corruption)

Judicial corruption occurs when judges or court officials engage in unethical practices, such as accepting bribes, influencing court decisions, or obstructing justice. This undermines the fairness and integrity of the legal system. (Victoria Jennett, 2014)

According to legal doctrine, illegal action or inaction on the part of the prosecutor, especially an attempt to persuade the jury to find a defense attorney guilty or to impose too harsh a sentence, is called prosecutorial misconduct and Prosecutorial fraud/scam is part of it. Actually, a bit like selective prosecution Law enforcement officials are subject to a set of guidelines that specify impartial and fair behavior.(*Legal Dictionary "Prosecutorial misconduct", written by: Content Team,February 8, 2017): https://legaldictionary.net/prosecutorial-misconduct/*

- **Exculpatory evidence**: Evidence that is advantageous to the defendant and clears or tends to clear the defendant of guilt is "known" as exculpatory evidence. It is not the same as "inculpatory evidence," which usually implies guilt.
  (*Legal Dictionary* "exculpatory", *written by: Content Team,November 8, 2015):* https://legaldictionary.net/exculpatory/
- **False Evidence:** Admission to a guilt or crime that the confessor did not commit is called a false confession. Implanted, corrupted, parallel-constructed, and deleted evidence are examples of common types of false evidence. False evidence is information that has been produced or obtained unlawfully with the intention of influencing the outcome of a judicial proceeding. It can be phony, forged, concocted, or tainted. Though these admissions appear illogical, they can be forced through coercive interrogation methods or offered willingly, maybe to protect a third party.
  The Encyclopedia of World Problems & Human Potential UIA; "Falsification of Evidence", http://encyclopedia.uia.org/en/problem/falsification-evidence

- **Malicious prosecution**: A willful or intentional tort under the common law constitutes malicious prosecution. Similar to the tort of abuse of process, its elements consist of (1) bringing a civil or criminal lawsuit without a good reason, (2) acting maliciously in the course of the lawsuit's initiation and prosecution, and (3) dropping the case in the victim of the abusive prosecution's favor. Some countries refer to the improper start of a criminal case as "malicious prosecution," whereas the phrase "malicious use of process" relates to the improper start of a civil proceeding. (Legal Dictionary, 2015: https://legaldictionary.net/malicious-prosecution/)
- **Retaliatory arrest** (**retaliatory prosecution**): A retaliatory arrest or retaliatory prosecution is an arrest or prosecution undertaken in retaliation for a person's exercise of his/her civil rights. It is a form of prosecutorial misconduct. (David L. Hudson Jr., 2019).
- **Selective prosecution**: Selective prosecution is a procedural defense in case law when defendants claim that the criminal justice system discriminated against them in choosing to prosecute, and therefore they should not be held legally responsible for violating the law. The defendants essentially argue in the selective prosecution charges that the prosecutions are based on illegal motives, regardless of whether they broke the law. Such a claim could, for example, include a claim that the accused is only being prosecuted because of bigotry and that people of different ages, races, religions or genders have committed the same crimes for which the accused is tried but have not been prosecuted. (*Encyclopedia of American Law, edition 2*. (2008)).
- **Subornation of perjury:** Subornation of perjury is the crime of persuading or permitting a person to commit perjury, which is the swearing of a false oath to tell the truth in a legal proceeding, whether spoken or written. (*Garner, Bryan A.; Black, Henry Campbell,1999 p. 1440).*
- **Attorney misconduct:** Attorney misconduct is when a lawyer or attorney engages in unethical or illegal behavior. Three common instances of attorney misconduct are: failure to exercise due diligence; false advertising; and customer abandonment. Attorney misconduct also includes things like conflicts of interest, overbilling, declining to represent a client for political or professional reasons, making false or misleading statements, knowingly starting frivolous lawsuits, hiding evidence, forsaking a client,

omitting crucial information, taking sides without disclosing their legal history, and having sex with a client. (*Lorri Kobe,2004 pp. 79-95)*.

2.4.26. Political corruption

The use of authority for illegal private gain by public servants or those in their network is "known" as political corruption. The following is a list and short descriptions of the several types of political corruption.

- **Extortion:** Extortion is the act of using force to one's advantage. This is likely to constitute a criminal offense in the majority of jurisdictions. Theft is the most common and basic type of extortion. The term "protection racket" is sometimes used to describe extortion. Indeed, in this case, actors often present their demands as payment for "protection" against real or perceived threats from unknown third parties; however, this "protection" is almost always implicit and involves avoiding harm from the same party. Extortion is a tool commonly used by organized crime; and it could also take the form of unfounded threats with the aim of gaining an unfair competitive advantage. (Sitkoff, Robert H. 2002).

  Certain countries do not require that the victim actually get the benefit; instead, merely threatening to use violence and implying that property or money must be paid in order to prevent further violence qualifies as a crime. Exaction, according to its formal meaning, also includes the inflicting of pain and suffering or subjecting someone to unpleasant circumstances. It also relates to extortion, which is the act of demanding and getting something by force. (JAMES CHEN, 2022).
- **Cronyism:** Cronyism is a spoils system; and it is one particular kind of favoritism or partiality. In politics, the term "cronyism" is used disparagingly to refer to the buying and selling of favors, including votes in legislative bodies, favors to organizations, and desired ambassadorships to far-off locations, among other things.

  Cronyism is the spoils system practice of favoring friends or reliable colleagues above others when granting jobs and other benefits, particularly in the political arena and between elected officials and organizations that provide support. Gnobyism, for instance, is the practice of elevating "cronies" to positions of responsibility despite their lack of qualifications. This is not the case under a meritocracy, where appointments are determined on qualifications. (Judy Nadler and Miriam Schulman, 2006).

- **Nepotism:** A benefit, privilege, or position given to family members in a profession or industry is “known” as nepotism. These domains might encompass, but are not restricted to, government organizations, commerce, governance, higher education, amusement, athletics, physical fitness, faith, and additional pursuits. (Judy Nadler and Miriam Schulman, 2006).
- **Favoritism:** Favoritism being the most comprehensive of these words, we will begin by defining it. Basically, favoritism is exactly what it sounds like: it’s praising other persons for something other than their performance, whether it's their membership in a favorite group, their likes and dislikes, or anything else. Favoritism can manifest itself in the selection, execution or awarding of contracts. Favoritism is a related concept in which civil service positions are awarded to individuals who may have contributed to the election of the holder of the appointing power. (Judy Nadler and Miriam Schulman, 2006).
- **Parochialism:** Cosmopolitanism and parochialism are comparable, particularly when applied negatively. An analogous meaning for the term “island-related insularity” is “limited exposure.” The mentality of parochialism is concentrating on narrow aspects of a problem without taking into account its larger context. In a broader sense, it involves having a limited focus. That’s why it's synonymous with “provincialism”. It can be compared to cosmopolitanism, especially if used negatively. Similar to this, the word "island-related insularity" can also mean “limited exposure.” (Donghyun Danny Choia, Mathias Poertnerb and Nicholas Sambanisa, 2019).
- **Patronage:** Patronage is the support, encouragement, privilege, or financial aid that an organization or individual bestows on another. (Domonic A. Bearfield, 2009).
- **Spoils:** The spoil system is similar to the patronage system and incorporates cronyism and nepotism. A political party rewards its friends, family, and supporters with the benefit of holding government positions after an election victory to encourage them to remain loyal to the party and for their hard work to achieve victory. We call this the spoil system. This type of system contrasts with a merit system, in which positions are awarded

based on some measure of merit, regardless of political activity. (Robert McNamara, 2020).

- **Influence peddling**: The act of leveraging one’s contacts or influence in government to secure a favor or favorable treatment for another, typically in exchange for money, is “known” as “influence peddling.” Another name for it is trade in influence or trafficking of influence. (Law Insider 2023).
- **Graft:** The dishonest use of a politician's position of power for one’s own benefit is known as graft, which is a type of political corruption. When money meant for public initiatives is purposefully diverted to maximize the advantages to private interests, it is called political corruption. (Clinton Rogers Woodruff ,1914, pp. 468-479).
- **Money laundering:** The phrase “money laundering” refers to illicit activities that involve converting revenues from crimes like drug trafficking, corruption, embezzlement, or gambling into funds acquired legitimately. Money laundering is the illicit practice of disclosing the source of monies obtained through illicit activity. In several jurisdictions, this criminal action is defined differently. Usually, this is the work of an organized crime group. (Panicos Demetriades, 2023, pp. 2-5).
- **Political repression:** When a state entity uses force to maintain political control over its inhabitants, this is called political repression. This generally aims to restrict or prohibit the ability of citizens to engage in political activities within society, thereby diminishing their position in relation to other citizens. Repression tactics target citizens most likely to disagree with the state's political position, with the aim of maintaining government control. (David Bondia Garcia, 2021).
- **Pretext**: A pretext is an explanation, an elaborate setup, or a fictitious reason offered as a rationale for stating or doing in an untruthful manner. Pretexts can be created within the framework of a deceptive fabrication or they might be founded on a partial truth. Pretexts have been employed to mask the underlying intention or reasoning behind statements and deeds. They frequently appear in speeches about politics. (Mariam Begadze, 2022).
- **Lobbying:** Terms related to politics, such as advocacy, persuasion, government relations, advocacy, and sometimes legislative affairs or legislative relations, refer to the legal process of legally attempting to influence the decisions, policies, or actions of public

officials, often through mutual benefits and legislative relationships. That could be Payments as well.

A common target audience for lobbying is members of Congress, judges, and regulatory agency staff. In addition to individuals acting in their individual capacity as private citizens, lobbying is also carried out by private sector corporations serving their own interests, by non-profit and non-governmental organizations in the voluntary sector, by fellow legislators or by government officials who influence each other through legislative affairs (legislative assistance) in the public sector and through advocacy groups (interest groups). Lobbying usually includes direct, cooperative, face-to-face communication with support staff who may or may not meet in person. (Nauro F. Campos and Francesco Giovannoni, 2006 pp. 1-37).

Numerous criticisms of lobbying center on the possibility that conflicts of interest could result in agent misdirection or deliberate failure on the part of an agent to carry out their duties on behalf of an employer, client, or constituent. An example of agent misdirection is when public servants fail to act in the public interest due to lobbying by special interests that benefit the official. Because of this, lobbying is thought to be a contributing factor to the democratic deficit. (Coskun Can Aktan PP. 47-62). *(Francesco Bosso, Maíra Martini and Iñaki Albisu Ardigó,2014, pp. 2-5).*

- **Electoral fraud:** Fair elections are the cornerstone of a democratic political system. Violations of electoral legitimacy put democracy at risk. Therefore, it is expected that the government and other relevant organizations are committed to protecting the right to vote of every citizen. While different governments oversee elections, national security agencies such as law enforcement should also be heavily involved in protecting the nation's interests and preventing violations of individuals' constitutional rights. Other terms for electoral fraud include vote rigging, voter fraud, and election manipulation. (Joned, Douglas, 2005, pp. 178-179).

  Election fraud is classified as a high level criminal act; there are two types of election offenses; voter fraud as well as candidate fraud. Voter fraud involves providing fraudulent such as false citizenship claims and so on while registering to vote, casting multiple ballots, voting more than once, and voting under someone else's name.

On the other hand, fraud committed by a candidate is considered fraud committed by an election/campaign official or other person. This includes manipulating the results of an election or engaging in other corrupt activities as an election official; offering money or other items of value to voters in exchange for their support of a particular candidate or party in a federal election; threatening physical or financial harm to voters if they abstain from voting or vote in a certain way; and attempting to prevent eligible voters from voting by fabricating information about the time, date, or location of an election (voter suppression). By giving voters a stamp to use when mailing in their absentee ballots, using exaggerated claims about oneself or another candidate, fabricating or manipulating nomination petitions, conducting a campaign too close to polling stations and allowing voters to take time off work or have transportation to their homes and polls.

Likewise, campaign finance crimes such as exceeding the legal limit on contributions, conduit contributions or paying someone back for making a campaign contribution (straw donor schemes), contributions from unapproved sources, and using campaign funds for personal or unauthorized purposes are all considered forms of fraud committed by the candidate.

(Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), "Election Crimes", An official website of the United States Government. Accessed on January 05, 2024). https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/public-corruption/election-crimes

- ❖ **Threats against Election Workers:** Democracy is at risk when an election worker or volunteer is threatened. Threats and intimidation should not prevent election workers from doing their duty. A dedicated law enforcement task force should include police and other national security agencies in its investigation and prosecution of these threats. Election workers should have access to security resources from police and other national security organizations. (Jimmy Balser, 2022, pp. 1-6).
- ❖ **Voter Suppression:** Not all voting information made available to the public is reliable, and some of it is shared in an attempt to mislead people and prevent them from voting. Malicious actors are spreading false information about voting using various platforms, including social networking sites, text messages, and peer-to-peer messaging apps on mobile devices. They could provide misleading

information about the day, time and location of the election. This can include spreading inaccurate information about election laws or procedures, such as the idea that text voting is allowed or incorrect election dates. This is illegal in many places. Voter suppression is the unethical practice of knowingly misrepresenting eligible voters in order to prevent them from voting.

(American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), "Block The Vote: How Politicians are Trying to Block Voters form the Ballot Box" 18, 2021). https://www.aclu.org/news/civil-liberties/block-the-vote-voter-suppression-in-2020

2.4.27. Systemic Corruption and Moral decadence

Systemic Corruption: Systemic corruption refers to corruption that is deeply ingrained in a society or institution. It becomes a norm or part of the system, making it difficult to eradicate. This type of corruption often requires systemic reforms and changes to address its root causes. (Camila Vergara, 2020, pp. 1-9).

"Decadence" is the term used to describe a situation in which individuals act in a way that others consider immoral. "Decadent" is the adjective. Originally meaning "decline" in an abstract sense, the word decadence is now most commonly used to describe what is seen as a decline in standards, morals, dignity, religious faith, honor, discipline, or the ability to govern among the elite of a very large social structure, such as an empire or a nation-state.

A decline in moral principles and ethical standards within a community or individual is called moral decadence. It is distinguished by a disregard for morality and ethics, as well as a lack of honesty, integrity and consideration for others. Increased crime, corruption, dishonesty, and immoral behavior are examples of Moral Decadence. It can also lead to widespread indifference to society's problems and a lack of empathy and sympathy for others. Furthermore, moral decadence can cause the breakdown of social norms and ideals, undermining community cohesion and trust.

Moral decadence has far-reaching consequences that can harm both individuals and society as a whole. This can lead to a breakdown of social order and stability as well as a decline in trust in authorities and organizations. Social discontent, injustice and inequality can all result from moral degeneration.

Moral decadence can also have negative effects on mental and emotional well-being, as individuals may struggle with feelings of disillusionment, alienation, and hopelessness. In addition, moral decadence can hinder personal and professional growth, as it may lead to a lack of accountability, responsibility, and motivation.

Moral decadence is a gross and severe decline in moral standards within a community. Moral degeneration therefore appears to be a decline in the moral standards of society. In that case, there appears to be a failure in preserving the norms, values, beliefs and ethical standards of our society. As a result, a situation of this type can have serious and detrimental consequences for individuals as well as society, leading to a breakdown of social cohesion and trust as well as a reduction in moral principles and ethical standards.

2.5. Lying and Dishonesty

2.5.1. Lying explained by Philosophers

Plato presented arguments to justify the use of "noble lies" in his book "Republic". In Plato's The Republic, a "noble lie" is a myth or a lie knowingly propagated by elite to maintain social harmony. Plato presented the noble lie in the fictional tale known as the myth or parable of the metals in Book Three. In it, Socrates provides the origin of the three social classes who compose the republic proposed by Plato. Socrates speaks of a socially stratified society as a metaphor for the soul, wherein the populace are told "a sort of Phoenician tale".

Aristotle believed no general rule on lying was possible, because anyone who advocated lying could never be believed, he said.

Although the philosophers St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, condemned all lying, Thomas Aquinas did advance an argument for lying, however. According to all three, there are no circumstances in which, ethically, one may lie. Even if the *only* way to protect oneself is to lie, it is never ethically permissible to lie even in the face of murder, torture, or any other hardship. Each of these philosophers gave several arguments for the ethical basis against lying, all compatible with each other. (Decosimo David, 2010 p. 661), (Matthew Puffer, 2016, pp. 685-719).

Among the more important arguments are: (1) Lying is a perversion of the natural faculty of speech, the natural end of which is to communicate the thoughts of the speaker; and (2) When one lies, one undermines trust in society. (Matthew Puffer, 2016, pp. 685-719)

The taxonomy of lies articulated by St. Augustine of Hippo gives analysis about lying. Augustine wrote two books about lying. (1) *On Lying* ("*De Mendacio"*) and (2) *Against Lying* ("*Contra Mendacio"*). He describes each book in his later work, *Retractationes*. The first work, *On Lying*, begins, His topic entitled "*There is a great question about Lying*". From his text, it can be derived that St. Augustine divided lies into eight categories, listed in order of descending severity: (1) Lies in religious teaching, (2) Lies that harm others and help no one, (3) Lies that harm others and help someone, (4) Lies told for the pleasure of lying, (5) Lies told to "please others in smooth discourse" (6) Lies that harm no one and that help someone materially, (7) Lies that harm no one and that help someone spiritually and (8) Lies that harm no one and that protect someone from "bodily defilement". (Matthew Puffer, 2016, pp. 685-719).

Despite distinguishing between lies according to their external severity, Augustine maintains in both treatises that all lies, defined precisely as the external communication of what one does not hold to be internally true, are categorically sinful and therefore, ethically impermissible. Augustine wrote that lies told in jest, or by someone who believes or opines the lie to be true are not, in fact, lies. (Matthew Puffer, 2016, pp. 685-719)

Sun Tzu was a Chinese military general, strategist, philosopher, and writer who lived during the Eastern Zhou period of 771 to 256 BCE. He declared that all warfare is based on deception.

> *"All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must appear inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near."*

(Sun Tzu, "The Art of War", Translated from Chinese to English BY LIONEL GILES, M.A. May 1994. https://www.gutenberg.org/files/132/132-h/132-h.htm).

In the 16th century, Niccolò Machiavelli proposed his advice regarding how a prince should behave, how prince should conduct themselves before their enemies and their people; in his book "*The*

Prince" he advised the political ruler saying that a prince must hide his behaviors and become a "great liar and deceiver."

Utilitarian philosophers have supported lies that achieve good outcomes white lies. In his 2008 book, "How to Make Good Decisions and Be Right All the Time", Iain King suggested a credible rule on lying was possible, and he defined it as:

> *"Deceive only if you can change behaviour in a way worth more than the trust you would lose, were the deception discovered (whether the deception actually is exposed or not)."* (Lain King, 2008).

Stanford Law professor Deborah L. Rhode articulated three rules she says ethicists generally agree distinguish "white lies" from harmful lies or cheating:

- A disinterested observer would conclude that the benefits outweigh the harms
- When there is no alternative
- If everyone in similar circumstances acted similarly, society would be no worse off

Thomas Hobbes wrote in Leviathan: "In war, force and fraud are the two cardinal virtues."

Friedrich Nietzsche, in his book "Human, All Too Human", suggested that those who refrain from lying may do so only because of the difficulty involved in maintaining lies. This is consistent with his general philosophy that divides (or ranks) people according to strength and ability; thus, some people tell the truth only out of weakness.*(Friedrich Nietzsche, "Human, All Too Human", Translated to English by Alexander Harvey, November 26, 2011, A Book for Free Spirits. https://www.gutenberg.org/files/38145/38145-h/38145-h.htm).*

Sam Harris argues in his book "Lying", that lying is negative for the liar and the person who's being lied to. To say lies is to deny others access to reality, and often we cannot anticipate how harmful lies can be. The ones we lie to may fail to solve problems they could have solved only on a basis of good information. To lie also harms oneself, makes the liar distrust the person who's being lied to. Liars generally feel badly about their lies and sense a loss of sincerity, authenticity, and integrity. Sam Harris asserts that honesty allows one to have deeper relationships and to bring all dysfunction in one's life to the surface. (Sam Harris, "Lying", September 1, 2011).

2.5.2. Lying explained by Biological Science

According to Biological science, it is asserted that the capacity to lie is a talent human beings possess universally. The evolutionary theory proposed by Charles Darwin states that only the fittest will survive and by lying, we aim to improve other's perception of our social image and status, capability, and desirability in general.

Possession of the capacity to lie among non-humans has been asserted during language studies with great apes. Deceptive body language, such as feints that mislead as to the intended direction of attack or flight, is observed in many species. A mother bird deceives when she pretends to have a broken wing to divert the attention of a perceived predator including unaware humans from the eggs in her nest, instead to her, as she draws the predator away from the location of the nest, most notably a trait of the killdeer. (Rebecca Coffey 2014).

Scientific studies have shown that humans begin lying at a mere age of six months, through crying and laughing, to gain attention. The presumption is that humans are individuals living in a world of competition and strict social norms, where they are able to use lies and deception to enhance chances of survival and reproduction. "Pseudologiafantastica" is a term applied by psychiatrists to the behavior of habitual or compulsive lying. (King, B. H. and Ford, C. V. 1988). "Mythomania" is the condition where there is an excessive or abnormal propensity for lying and exaggerating. (Mike Robinson, 2023).

2.5.3. Types of lying

- **White Lie:** A white lie is a harmless or trivial lie, especially one told in order to be polite or to avoid hurting someone's feelings or stopping them from being upset by the truth. A white lie also is considered a lie to be used for greater good (pro-social behavior). It sometimes is used to shield someone from a hurtful or emotionally-damaging truth, especially when not knowing the truth is deemed by the liar as completely harmless. **(**Changing Minds, *How we change what others think, feel, believe and do,* http://changingminds.org/explanations/behaviors/lying/four_lies.htm, *2022-2023).*
- **Gray Lie:** A gray lie is told partly to help others and partly to help ourselves. It may vary in the shade of gray, depending on the balance of help and harm. Gray lies are, almost by definition, hard to clarify. For example someone can lie to help a friend out of trouble but

then gain the reciprocal benefit of the friend lying for him while those they have harmed in some way lose out. ***(****Changing Minds , How we change what others think, feel, believe and do, http://changingminds.org/explanations/behaviors/lying/four_lies.htm), 2022-2023)*

- **Blue Lie:** A blue lie is a form of lying that is told purportedly to benefit a collective or "in the name of the collective good". The origin of the term "blue lie" is possibly from cases where police officers made false statements to protect the police force, or to ensure the success of a legal case against an accused. This differs from the blue wall of silence in that a blue lie is not an omission but a stated falsehood. (Fu, Genyue; Evans Angela D., Wang, Lingfeng; July, 2008). (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2570108/)

- **Red Lie:** A red lie is about spite and revenge. It is driven by the motive to harm others even at the expense of harming oneself. When someone is angry at others, perhaps because of a long feud or where he feels he has wronged him in some way, he feels a sense of betrayal and so seeks retributive justice, which he may dispense without thought of consequence. **(**Changing Minds , *How we change what others think, feel, believe and do*, http://changingminds.org/explanations/behaviors/lying/four_lies.htm), 2022-2023

- **Black Lie:** A black lie is about simple and callous selfishness. They are usually told when others gain nothing, and the sole purpose is either to get oneself out of trouble (reducing harm against oneself), or to gain something one desires (increasing benefits for oneself). **(**Changing Minds , *How we change what others think, feel, believe and do,* http://changingminds.org/explanations/behaviors/lying/four_lies.htm), 2022-2023

- **Confabulation/ Honest lie:** An honest lie or "confabulation" may be identified by verbal statements or actions that inaccurately describe the history, background, and present situations. There is generally no intent to misinform and the individual is unaware that their information is false. Because of this, it is not technically a lie at all since, by definition, there must be an intent to deceive for the statement to be considered a lie. (Daniel Pendick, 2000 *Memory Loss and the Brain*, The Truth About Confabulation; https://web.archive.org/web/20130103034502/http://www.memorylossonline.com/pastissues/summer2000/confabulation.html)

- **Straight-up lying:** Straight-up lying is actually speaking an untruth. Common varieties of lies include exaggerations or minimizations. Making the thing appear more or less important. (Pamela Meyer),*The Honesty Experiment, May 6, 2013,* https://honestyexperiment.wordpress.com/tag/lying/
- **Lying by vagueness or ambiguity:** Lying by vagueness or ambiguity is when someone says something that is not technically untrue but either suggests an untruth or could have multiple meanings. (Pamela Meyer), *The Honesty Experiment, May 6, 2013,* https://honestyexperiment.wordpress.com/tag/lying/

- **Lying by omission:** Lying by omission is telling a story or giving a description and omitting important details. (Pamela Meyer), *The Honesty Experiment, May 6, 2013,* https://honestyexperiment.wordpress.com/tag/lying/

- **Dishonesty by actions:** Dishonesty by actions is the manner of a person that even if he/she doesn't verbally say anything, he/she can still be a skilled deceiver with his/her dress, gestures, and facial expressions. That is what we call "Dishonesty by actions" (Pamela Meyer), *The Honesty Experiment, May 6, 2013,* https://honestyexperiment.wordpress.com/tag/lying/

- **Withholding:** Withholding is failing to reveal something important. For instance, in the romantic world, that might range from an uncomfortable emotion to a Sexually Transmitted Disease. The difference from lying by omission is that the committer doesn't bring up the subject and omit something; but simply doesn't bring it up at all. (Pamela Meyer, the Honesty Experiment, May 6, 2013).https://honestyexperiment.wordpress.com/tag/lying/

- **Tacit dishonesty:** Tacit dishonesty is saying nothing and letting the other person assume an untruth. The difference between withholding and tacit dishonesty is context. When the committer withholds information, the other person might not even think about it; here, they actively assume the opposite. (Pamela Meyer), *The Honesty Experiment, May 6, 2013,* https://honestyexperiment.wordpress.com/tag/lying/

- **Barefaced, (Bold-faced) lie**: A “barefaced”, “bald-faced” or “bold-faced” lie is an impudent, brazen, shameless, flagrant, or audacious lie that is sometimes but not always undisguised and that it is even then not always obvious to those hearing it. **(**Michael Quinion, 1996, retrieved May, 2013 http://www.worldwidewords.org/qa/qa-bal2.htm)
- **Big Lie:** A “big lie” is one that attempts to trick the victim into believing something major, which will likely be contradicted by some information the victim already possesses, or by their common sense. When the lie is of sufficient magnitude it may succeed, due to the victim's reluctance to believe that an untruth on such a grand scale would indeed be concocted. (Oxford, Lexico, US Dictionary, 2021, “Big lie” https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/the_big_lie)
- **Bullshit:** Bullshit does not necessarily have to be a complete fabrication. While a lie is related by a speaker who believes what is said is false, bullshit is offered by a speaker who does not care whether what is said is true because the speaker is more concerned with giving the hearer some impression. Thus, bullshit may be either true or false, but demonstrates a lack of concern for the truth that is likely to lead to falsehoods. (Harry G. Frankfurt , *On Bullshit*, 2005).
- **Cover-up:** A cover-up may be used to deny, defend, or obfuscate a lie, errors, embarrassing actions, or lifestyle, and/or lie(s) made previously. One may deny a lie made on a previous occasion, or alternatively, one may claim that a previous lie was not as egregious as it was. For example, to claim that a premeditated lie was really “only” an emergency lie, or to claim that a self-serving lie was really "only" a white lie or noble lie. This should not be confused with confirmation bias in which the deceiver is deceiving themselves. *(Timothy G. “Understanding When and Why Cover-Ups Are Punished Less Severely”, Academy of Management Journal).*
- **Defamation:** Defamation is the communication of a false statement that harms the reputation of an individual person, business, product, group, government, religion, or nation. (Encyclopedia Britannica, “Defamation”, May 9, 2023, https://www.britannica.com/topic/defamation)

- **Disinformation:** Disinformation is intentionally false or misleading information that is spread in a calculated way to deceive target audiences. (Encyclopedia Britannica, "Defamation", May 9, 2023, https://www.britannica.com/topic/defamation).

- **Deflection: To** deflect is to avoid the subject that the lie is about, not giving attention to the lie. In the case of deflection, when attention is given to the subject, the lie is based around, deflectors ignore or refuse to respond. Skillful deflectors are passive-aggressive, who when confronted with the subject choose to ignore and not respond. (Better Healp Editorial Team & Andrea Brant; "How Deflection Can Hurt your Mental Health", March 22, 2023;https://www.betterhelp.com/advice/psychologists/what-is-deflection-psychology-explains-this-defense-mechanism/)

- **Half-truth:** A half-truth or partial truth is a deceptive statement that includes some element of truth. The statement might be partly true, the statement may be totally true, but only part of the whole truth, or it may employ some deceptive element, such as improper punctuation or double meaning, especially if the intent is to deceive, evade, blame, or misrepresent the truth. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2023 "Half-truth", https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/half-truth)

- **Puffery:** Puffery is an exaggerated claim typically found in advertising and publicity announcements, such as "the highest quality at the lowest price", or "always votes in the best interest of all the people". Such statements are unlikely to be true; but cannot be proven false and so, do not violate trade laws, especially as the consumer is expected to be able to determine that it is not the absolute truth. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "Puffery"; April, 2023.

- **Hyperbole or Exaggeration:** A Hyperbole is an exaggeration. It occurs when the most fundamental aspects of a statement are true, but only to a certain degree. It also is seen as "stretching the truth" or making something appear more powerful, meaningful, or real than it is. Saying that someone devoured most of something when they only ate half would be considered an exaggeration. An exaggeration might be easily found to be a hyperbole where a person's statement (i.e. in informal speech, such as "He did this one million times already!") is meant not to be understood literally. (Literary Devices, Definition and Examples of Literary Terms; "Hyperbole" & "Exaggeration" https://literarydevices.net/hyperbole/ & https://literarydevices.net/exaggeration/)

- **Minimization:** Minimization is the opposite of exaggeration. It is a type of deception involving denial coupled with rationalization in situations where complete denial is implausible. *(George Simon (PhD), Minimization: Trivializing Behavior as a Manipulation Tactic; Counseling Resource; 2022-2023.*

- **Lying by omission**, Lying by omission is also "known" as a "continuing misrepresentation" or "quote mining", it occurs when an important fact is left out in order to foster a misconception. Lying by omission includes the failure to correct pre-existing misconceptions. An omission is when a person tells most of the truth, but leaves out a few key facts that therefore, completely obscures the truth. (Sally Clarke; "How Lying By Omission Harms Us And Our Relationships" May 2021 https://salcla.medium.com/how-lying-by-omission-harms-us-and-our-relationships-db7585bf714e)

- **Paltering:** Paltering is the active use of selective truthful statements to mislead. (Todd Rogers, Richard Zeckhauser, Fransesca Gino, Michael I Norton, Maurice E Schzer; "Artful paltering: The risks and rewards of using truthful statements to mislead others" 2017, National Library of Medicine: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27936834/).

- **Weasel word:** A weasel Word is an informal term for words and phrases aimed at creating an impression that a specific or meaningful statement has been made, when in fact only a vague or ambiguous claim has been communicated, enabling the specific meaning to be denied if the statement is challenged. A more formal term is equivocation. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2021, "Weasel words" https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/weasel-words)

- **Fake news:** Fake news is supposed to be a type of yellow journalism that consists of deliberate misinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional print and broadcast news media or online social media. Sometimes the term is applied as a deceptive device to deflect attention from uncomfortable truths and facts, however. (Elle Hunt, *What is Fake News? How to spot it and what you can do to stop it;* The Guardian; Dec 2016 , https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/dec/18/what-is-fake-news-pizzagate)

- **Hoax:** A hoax is a distinct concept that involves deliberate deception without the intention of gain or of materially damaging or depriving a victim.
- **Fib:** A fib is a lie that is easy to forgive due to its subject being a trivial matter; for example, a child may tell a fib by claiming that the family dog broke a household vase, when the child was the one who broke it. **(**Dictionary.com "Fib", 2023, https://www.dictionary.com/browse/fib)
- **Paternalistic deception:** A Paternalistic deception is a lie told because it is believed (possibly incorrectly) that the deceived person will benefit. **(**Bernard Gert and Charles M. Culver, Philosophy & Public Affairs, Vol. 6, No. 1 (Autumn, 1976), pp. 45-57 Published By: Wiley. (https://www.jstor.org/stable/2265061)).
- **Lie-to-children:** A Lie-to -children is a phrase that describes a simplified explanation of technical or complex subjects as a teaching method for children and laypeople. While lies-to-children are useful in teaching complex subjects to people who are new to the concepts discussed, they can promote the creation of misconceptions among the people who listen to them. **(**Jack Cohen and Ian Stewart; "The Collapse of Chaos: Discovering Simplicity in a Complex World" 1994).
- **Jocose lies:** Jocose lies are lies meant in jest, intended to be understood as such by all present parties. Teasing and irony are examples. A more elaborate instance is seen in some storytelling traditions, where the storyteller's insistence that the story is the absolute truth, despite all evidence to the contrary (i.e., tall tale), is considered humorous. **(**Julia Chaitin, "Narratives, and Storytelling", Beyond Intractability, July 2003, http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/narratives)
- **Mutual deceit:** A Mutual deceit is a situation wherein lying is both accepted and expected or that the parties mutually accept the deceit in question. This can be demonstrated in the case of a poker game wherein the strategies rely on deception and bluffing to win. (The Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential, "Mutual deceit", 2023 http://encyclopedia.uia.org/en/problem/mutual-deceits)
- **To bluff:** To bluff is to pretend to have a capability or intention one does not possess. Bluffing is an act of deception that is rarely seen as immoral when it takes place in the context of a game, such as poker, where this kind of deception is consented to in

advance by the players. For instance, gamblers who deceive other players into thinking they have different cards to those they really hold, or athletes who hint that they will move left and then dodge right are not considered to be lying (also known as a feint or juke). In these situations, deception is acceptable and is commonly expected as a tactic. *(The Britannica Dictionary, "Bluffing", 2023, https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/bluff)*

- **Noble lie:** A noble lie which also could be called a strategic untruth, is one that normally would cause discord if uncovered, but offers some benefit to the liar and assists in an orderly society, therefore, potentially being beneficial to others. It is often told to maintain law, order, and safety. ***(****Daniel A. Dombrowski, History of Political Thought, Vol. 18, No.4 pp. 565-578. "Plato's Noble Lie")*

- **Vranyo:** Vranyo expresses white lies or half-lies told without the intention of (maliciously) deceiving, but as a fantasy, suppressing unpleasant parts of the truth. *(David Shulman,2007, From Hire to Liar: The Role of Deception in the Workplace, page 79 :)*

- **April fool:** An April fool is a lie or hoax told/performed on April Fools' Day. **(**Encyclopedia Britannica, Apr 10, 2023 "April Fools' Day", https://www.britannica.com/topic/April-Fools-Day)

- **A polite lie:** A polite lie is a lie that a politeness standard requires, and that usually is known to be untrue by both parties. Whether such lies are acceptable is heavily dependent on culture. A common polite lie in international etiquette may be to decline invitations because of "scheduling difficulties", or due to "diplomatic illness. Similarly, the butler lie is a small lie that usually is sent electronically and is used to terminate conversations or to save face. ***(****"UNDERSTANDING POLITE LIES!", Social Skills, NOVEMBER 19, 2021, ttps://www.badgerstatespeeechy.com/understanding-polite-lies/)*

- **Speaking with a forked tongue:** The phrase "speaking with a forked tongue" means to deliberately say one thing and mean another or, to be hypocritical, or act in a duplicitous manner.

  (Meriam Webster Dictionary, "Forked Tongue" May 2023. https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/forked%20tongue)

- **Lying in trade**: This type of lie occurs when the seller of a product or service may advertise untrue facts about the product or service in order to gain sales, especially by competitive advantage. Many countries and states have enacted consumer protection laws intended to combat such fraud.
- **Fraud:** Fraud is act of inducing another person or people to believe a lie in order to secure material or financial gain for the liar. Depending on the context, fraud may subject the liar to civil or criminal penalties. ***(****Dictionary Law.com: "fraud"' 2023, ALM GLOBAL, LLC.* https://dictionary.law.com/default.aspx?selected=785)
- **Perjury:** Perjury is the act of lying or making verifiably false statements on a material matter under oath or affirmation in a court of law, or in any of various sworn statements in writing. Perjury is a crime, because the witness has sworn to tell the truth and, for the credibility of the court to remain intact, witness testimony must be relied on as truthful. (Encyclopedia Britannica, "Perjury" , May 2023, https://www.britannica.com/topic/perjury)
- **Memory Hole:** A memory hole is a mechanism for the alteration or disappearance of inconvenient or embarrassing documents, photographs, transcripts, or other records, such as from a website or other archive, particularly as part of an attempt to give the impression that something never happened.
- **Pathological Lying:** In psychiatry, pathological lying is a behavior of habitual or compulsive lying. The individual may be aware he is lying, or may believe he is telling the truth, being unaware that they are relating fantasies. Other names of pathological lying are "compulsive lying", "Pseudologiafantastica", and "mythomania".

  (*Christian L. Hart Ph.D., The Nature of Deception, What Is Pathological Lying? September 2020, Psychology Today. (https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-nature-deception/202009/what-is-pathological-lying)*
- **Self-lying:** Humans lie not only to others, but also to themselves. In fact, self-deception is part of being human; and in that sense, it is necessary for a person's inner growth. Although most people fail to notice it, it is inevitable to lie to oneself frequently. Most people aren't willing to explore their hidden tendencies and face the truth. Since Self-lying is related to defense mechanism, everyone lies to himself. Shahram Heshmat points

out four reasons of self-lying and here are the reasons why a person lies to himself; (1) It's comfortable; he/she doesn't have to face the hard truth (2) It's convenient; he/she can keep doing the same thing without having to change anything, (3) It makes him/her feel better about him/herself (preserves self-esteem), and (4) It helps him/her to avoid self-responsibility for his/her actions. (Shahram Heshmat, 2017).

2.5.4. Consequences of lying

In most cases, lies aim to deceive, so the hearer may acquire a false belief or at least something that the speaker believes to be false. When deception is unsuccessful, a lie may be discovered. The discovery of a lie may discredit other statements by the same speaker, thereby staining that speaker's reputation. In some circumstances, it may also negatively affect the social or legal standing of the speaker. Lying in a court of law, for instance, is a criminal offense (perjury).

Lies, by their very nature, have to be changed. A lying government has constantly to rewrite its own history. On the receiving end someone may get not only one lie a lie which he could go on for the rest of his days ; but he gets a great number of lies, depending on how the political wind blows." (Dr. Sophie van der Zee, 2022).

2.5.5. Lying and Corruption

Lying and corruption have a strong relationship in certain contexts. Lying involves intentionally deceiving others by providing false information, while corruption refers to the abuse of power or position for personal gain or to benefit others unfairly. In some cases, lying can be a means of facilitating or covering up corrupt activities. For example, a corrupt politician may lie about his/her involvement in illegal activities in order to avoid detection or punishment. Similarly, a person engaged in corrupt business practices may lie about his/her actions or intentions to deceive stakeholders and maintain their illicit gains.

However, lying and corruption are distinct concepts and can exist independently of each other. Not all lies involve corruption, as there can be situations where lying is considered morally acceptable or even necessary, such as in cases of protecting someone from harm or preserving privacy. Hence, lying and corruption can have a relationship in certain situations where lies are used to facilitate or conceal corrupt activities. However, they are not inherently linked, and lying can occur without involving corruption.

Source:- (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), "STANDARDS OF ETHICS", PP. 2-6; September 1, 2023).

Chapter Three: Root causes of dishonesty and corruption

3.1. Is Corruption Choice or Necessity?

Corruption is often debated in terms of its origins and persistence. Is it a deliberate choice made by individuals, or a necessity driven by systemic pressures? This question probes deeply into the realms of moral philosophy, challenging us to consider the nature of human agency and the ethical structures within which we operate.

3.1.1. A Choice and agency

From a moral standpoint, corruption as a choice hinges on the concept of individual agency. Individuals possess the capacity to distinguish right from wrong, and, in making a conscious decision to engage in corrupt activities, they exercise their moral agency. This perspective asserts that corruption is a moral failing, a deliberate deviation from ethical conduct. Those who choose corruption do so out of greed, personal gain, or a lack of integrity, fully aware of the ethical implications of their actions. The existence of laws and regulations against corrupt practices underscores the expectation that individuals can and should choose to act ethically.

3.1.2. Necessity and Systemic Pressures

Conversely, the argument for corruption as a necessity examines the systemic pressures and constraints that individuals face. In environments where corruption is rampant, it may be seen as a survival mechanism or the only viable path to achieve certain ends. Structural inequalities, poverty, lack of access to resources, and flawed institutional frameworks can coerce individuals into corrupt practices. From this viewpoint, corruption is not a reflection of individual moral failure but a response to an environment that necessitates such actions for personal or communal survival. In such scenarios, ethical choices are constrained, and individuals may feel that they have no real alternative but to engage in corruption.

3.1.3. The Intersection of Choice and Necessity

Moral philosophy must grapple with the intersection of choice and necessity in the context of corruption. It challenges us to consider whether systemic changes can alleviate the pressures that drive individuals toward corrupt behavior, thereby restoring the space for ethical decision-making. It also prompts us to question the extent of individual responsibility within corrupt systems and the moral obligations of those who have the power to effect change.

Ultimately, the dichotomy between choice and necessity in corruption is not clear-cut. It reflects the complex interplay between individual morality and systemic factors, urging a profound multidimensional understanding that encompasses both personal agency and the broader socio-economic context. Addressing corruption, therefore, requires both individual ethical commitment and systemic reforms that mitigate the conditions that make corruption seem necessary.

3.2. Internal antecedents of Individual's Dishonesty

Understanding the internal antecedents of individual dishonesty necessitates a comprehensive exploration, encompassing both psychological and biological perspectives. This section of the chapter explores the physical, biological, psychological and social bases underlying human behavior, analyzing concepts such as entropy, negentropy, conatus, and the interplay between the life and death drives.

Humans, as entities with independent existence, share common biological characteristics with other organisms. Biological explanations position humans as organisms with inherent survival instincts, rooted in the desire for self-preservation and security. These instincts, manifesting as curiosity and the pursuit of understanding, contribute to significant discoveries and adaptations crucial for survival (West & Kiers, 2009).

Entropy, a fundamental concept in thermodynamics, describes the tendency of systems to become disordered over time. Conversely, negentropy represents the opposing force, driving systems towards organization and complexity. While entropy leads to decay and destruction, negentropy fosters preservation and maintenance, highlighting the perpetual struggle between order and disorder in the natural world (Britannica, "Entropy").

The concept of conatus, introduced by Spinoza, elucidates the innate drive of all living beings to persist and develop. Conatus parallels negentropy, as both underscore the inclination towards self-preservation and the resistance to entropy's effects. This philosophical concept aligns with biological instincts, reflecting the intrinsic desire of organisms to ensure their continuity and well-being (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy).

3.2.1. Life drive and Death drive

Freud's conceptualization of the life drive (Eros) and death drive (Thanatos) further elucidates human behavior. Eros represents the instinct for life and preservation, fostering positive emotions and pro-social behaviors conducive to community cohesion. Conversely, Thanatos embodies the counterforce, driving individuals towards self-destruction and negative emotions associated with antisocial behaviors (Cherry, 2023).

3.2.2. Human Self-centeredness

Analyzing conatus within the realm of human behavior unveils inherent self-centeredness. Human self-centeredness, rooted in the multifaceted concept of self, encompasses various aspects such as self-concept, awareness, and agency. Human self-centeredness is the extension of conatus and self-preservation. In most cases, dishonesty is sourced from self-centeredness since the interplay between the interpersonal self, agents's self, and biological instincts shape human actions and decision-making processes (Perron, Roger, 20018).

3.2.3. Conatus and Self-preservation

Conatus aligns closely with the concept of self-preservation, wherein organisms strive to avoid harm and ensure their survival. This innate drive manifests across biological species, facilitating adaptive responses to environmental challenges. Self-preservation encompasses not only instinctive behaviors but also rational actions aimed at ensuring continued existence (Wupperman & Drevitch, 2015).

In general, human behavior is intricately intertwined with biological drives and psychological constructs. Entropy and negentropy govern the natural world, shaping the inclination towards preservation and decay. As a manifestation of self-preservation, Conatus is the innate desire for survival evident across living organisms. Freud’s conceptualization of the life and death drives further explains the complex interplay between biological instincts and psychological motivations. Understanding these internal antecedents provides valuable insights into the dynamics of human behavior and decision-making processes.

3.2.4. Psychological Basis of Dishonest Behavior

Dishonesty is a complex phenomenon deeply rooted in various psychological processes. Understanding the psychological underpinnings of dishonest behavior sheds light on why individuals engage in deceptive acts and unethical conduct. While attempting to understand psychological causes of dishonesty, it is important to grasp several psychological concepts, including self-serving bias, defense mechanisms, cognitive dissonance, rationalization, impression management, abnormality, narcissism, asociality, and antisocial behaviors, in order to explain the intricate dynamics of dishonesty.

3.2.5. Self-serving Bias

Self-serving bias, a cognitive phenomenon driven by the need to preserve self-esteem, plays a pivotal role in fostering dishonest behavior (Legg, 2018). Individuals tend to attribute success to their own abilities while blaming external factors for failure, thus protecting their self-esteem from threats. This bias manifests in various contexts, such as academia, workplaces, and interpersonal interactions, where individuals selectively perceive and interpret information to bolster their self-image. Self-serving bias in some cases can be a root cause of dishonesty.

3.2.6. Cognitive dissonance

Cognitive dissonance, the discomfort arising from conflicting beliefs or behaviors, motivates individuals to rationalize their actions and engage in dishonesty to restore cognitive harmony (Neuhaus, 2021). By altering perceptions or avoiding contradictory information, individuals seek to alleviate the psychological tension associated with cognitive dissonance, often resorting to self lying and untruthful behavior.

3.2.7. Defense mechanisms

Humans are naturally endowed with defense mechanisms by which they could regulate their internal instabilities; however, in most cases dishonest behaviors can be caused by defense mechanisms. Defense mechanisms, unconscious strategies to alleviate anxiety and protect the ego, contribute to dishonest behavior by distorting reality and justifying one's actions. Mechanisms like Suppression, Identity, Rationalization, Regression, Projection, Reaction formation, and Sublimation enable individuals to evade uncomfortable truths and mitigate cognitive dissonance, thereby facilitating dishonest conduct (Mcleod, 2023).

3.2.8. Rationalization

Rationalization, a defense mechanism characterized by the post-hoc justification of behaviors, serves as a mechanism for individuals to alleviate guilt and uphold their self-image (Cushman, 2020). By fabricating plausible explanations for their actions, individuals protect their ego and mitigate cognitive dissonance, thereby perpetuating false information and dishonesty.

3.2.9. Impression management

Impression management involves consciously or unconsciously manipulating social perceptions to enhance self-esteem and garner approval from others (Sanaria, 2016). Individuals may resort to dishonesty to cultivate favorable impressions, employing tactics like self-presentation and self-handicapping to bolster their sense of self-worth.

3.2.10. Abnormal Behavior

Abnormal behavior, characterized by deviations from societal norms and impairment in functioning, can predispose individuals to dishonest and unethical acts (Mcleod, 2023). Mental problems, Mood disorders, such as high level of depression, anxiety and frustration may cause someone to act dishonestly when that person attempts to cop up with such internal instabilities. In addition to that, personality disorders like narcissistic behavior as well as pathological lying such as "compulsive lying", "Pseudologia fantastica", and "mythomania" could be manifested in dishonest behaviors. Therefore, these abnormal behaviors may influence perceptions of reality and moral judgment, leading to dishonest behavior.

3.2.11. Narcissism

Narcissism, which is characterized by an exaggerated feeling of self-importance and a lack of empathy, can lead people to act dishonestly and manipulatively in order to preserve their perception of themselves. Although narcissism is a spectrum disorder, those who suffer from pathological levels of the disorder may display persistent deceit and disrespect for the rights of others. Narcissist personality disorder can be a cause for dishonest behaviors.

3.2.12. Asocialitiy and Antisocial Behaviors

Asociality, characterized by a lack of interest in social interactions, and antisocial behaviors, which violate societal norms and infringe upon others' rights, are associated with dishonest conduct (APA Dictionary of Psychology). Individuals with antisocial personality disorder, in particular, exhibit a pattern of deceitfulness, impulsivity, and disregard for moral principles, contributing to dishonest and criminal behaviors (David Porter, MA, LADC, Antisocial Personality Disorder DSM-5 301.7 (F60.2), 2023).

3.2.13. Summing up

In sum, dishonest behavior is intricately intertwined with various psychological factors, behaviors and mental processes, including self-serving bias, defense mechanisms, cognitive dissonance, rationalization, impression management, abnormality, narcissism, asociality, and antisocial behaviors. By expounding these psychological underpinnings, we can gain deeper insights into the motivations and mechanisms driving dishonest conduct, paving the way for more effective interventions and ethical decision-making frameworks.

3.3. External Factors and Social Influence in Individuals' Dishonest Behavior

3.3.1. External causes

This section of the chapter explores the external antecedents of individual dishonesty, focusing particularly on the role of social influence and other environmental factors. Drawing upon credible sources from renowned psychologists and scholars, let us have a look at various dimensions of social influence, including compliance, identification, and internalization, as well as related concepts such as conformity, group polarization, and abusive power and control.

Social influence, as defined by Allport and Kelman, encompasses a spectrum of behaviors through which individuals adjust their attitudes and actions to align with perceived social norms. Compliance, identification, and internalization represent distinct mechanisms through which individuals respond to social pressure (Allport, 1920&Kelman, 1958). Compliance involves outwardly agreeing with others while maintaining differing beliefs internally, often driven by obedience or a desire to avoid conflict. Identification occurs when individuals adopt behaviors or attitudes of admired individuals, such as celebrities, while internalization entails the genuine acceptance of social norms into one's value system.

In addition to that, social influence is amplified by factors such as expertise, attractiveness, and media access, which enhance the persuasiveness of influential figures (Allport 1920&Kelman, 1958). Bibb Latané's "*Social Impact Theory*" and Robert B. Cialdini's "*Weapons of Influence*" further elucidate the mechanisms through which individuals succumb to societal pressures and persuasive tactics (Latané, 1981; Cialdini, 2001). These insights highlight how social influence can lead individuals to engage in dishonest or corrupt behaviors, perpetuating a cycle of unethical conduct.

3.3.2. Kelman's Varieties

Herbert Kelman's framework delineates three stages of attitude change; compliance, identification, and internalization. Each of these stages represent distinct pathways through which individuals conform to social expectations (Kelman, 1958). Compliance involves superficial acquiescence to social demands, while identification entails adopting behaviors of respected individuals or groups. Internalization, the most profound form of attitude change, reflects a genuine alignment with social norms based on intrinsic rewards. In some cases, while individuals attempt to confirm social influence by performing compliance, identification and internalization, they may commit lying, self-lying, pretention, imitation and other types of untruthful behaviors.

3.3.3. Minority Influence and Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

Minority influence, self-fulfilling prophecy, and other psychological phenomena contribute to dishonest behavior within social contexts. Minority influence occurs when the behavior of a minority group influences the majority, challenging prevailing norms and fostering change (Siedlecki, Szwabiński, &Weron, 2016). Self-fulfilling prophecy, on the other hand, entails the manifestation of beliefs as reality through a feedback loop between behavior and belief (Fabrizio Butera, Juan Manuel Falomir- Pichastor, Gabriel Mugni and Alain Quiamzade 2016). These processes underscore the malleability of individual behavior within social dynamics.

3.3.4. Conformity, Social Contagion, and Group Dynamics

Conformity, as evidenced by social psychology research, manifests in various forms, including independence, anti-conformism, and congruence, reflecting individuals' responses to group pressure (Patryk Siedlecki, Janusz Szwabiński and Tomasz Weron, 2016).Besides, social contagion, group polarization, and groupthink elucidate how group dynamics shape individual behavior, sometimes leading to extreme or irrational decision-making (APA Dictionary of Psychology). These phenomena highlight the susceptibility of individuals to external influences and the potential for dishonest behavior within group settings.

Therefore, the interplay between social influence and external factors significantly influences individuals' propensity for dishonest behavior. By understanding the mechanisms through which social norms are established and maintained, society can implement interventions to mitigate unethical conduct. Addressing issues such as abusive power and control, propaganda, and psychological manipulation requires a multifaceted approach that considers both individual agency and systemic influences. Ultimately, fostering a culture of integrity and accountability is essential for promoting ethical behavior in all facets of society.

3.4. Factors that aggravate dishonesty and corruption in a society

In societies around the world, dishonesty and corruption persist as formidable challenges, undermining the fabric of trust and integrity upon which stable communities are built.

Oppression emerges as a fundamental precursor to dishonesty and corruption within societies. Monnica Williams, Muna Osman, and Chrysalis Hyon (2023) explain how oppressive administrations and regimes cultivate environments where individuals perceive corrupt practices as necessary for survival or advancement. The erosion of accountability under such unwarranted systems further enables corrupt behavior to flourish unchecked. Notably, Louise Morales-Brown and Janet Brito (2020) corroborate these findings, emphasizing the detrimental impact of oppressive systems on fostering cultures of entitlement and self-serving agendas among leadership.

In addition to that, oppression engenders socio-economic disparities that perpetuate cycles of dishonesty and corruption. Denied access to education and opportunities, marginalized individuals may resort to unethical means to achieve their goals. This underscores the interconnectedness between systemic injustices and the proliferation of corrupt practices within societies.

Concurrently, the historical legacy of slavery and its contemporary manifestations exacerbate dishonesty and corruption. Defined by the exploitation of vulnerable populations, slavery breeds environments conducive to corrupt exploitation. Modern forms of slavery, including human trafficking, forced labor, under-wage, child labor and labor exploitation perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality, fostering conditions ripe for corrupt practices to thrive (Monnica Williams et al., 2023; Louise Morales-Brown & Janet Brito, 2020).

Efforts to combat dishonesty and corruption must also confront the scourge of labor exploitation. AEQUITATE (2018) underscores how abusive labor practices perpetuate power differentials that facilitate corrupt behavior within socio-political and economic contexts. Exploited workers, deprived of fair wages and basic rights, resort to corruption as a means of securing their livelihoods amidst precarious conditions.

Addressing the roots of dishonesty and corruption necessitates a multifaceted approach. Governments must rigorously enforce labor laws to hold exploitative employers accountable (AEQUITATE, 2018). Transparency in labor practices empowers workers and consumers to make informed choices, while initiatives to educate and empower workers bolster resistance against exploitation (Monnica Williams et al., 2023). In addition to that, monitoring supply chains and promoting fair wages and benefits are integral to fostering ethical labor practices (Louise Morales-Brown & Janet Brito, 2020).

Therefore, the fight against dishonesty and corruption demands concerted action on multiple fronts. By addressing systemic injustices, promoting accountability, and empowering marginalized populations, societies can cultivate environments where honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior prevail. Through collaborative efforts guided by evidence-based strategies, we can aspire towards a future where trust and transparency form the bedrock of social and economic interactions.

3.5. Lying and Dishonesty

3.5.1. Lying as per the Outlooks of Different Philosophers

Some philosophers argued totally against lying while some others in contrast permitted conditional and contextual lies.

In his "Republic," Plato justified the use of "noble lies." According to Plato, a "noble lie" is a story or falsehood spread by the affluent to maintain social order. In the third book, Plato introduced the noble lie through the metals' fable. In Plato's ideal republic, Socrates explains the origins of the three social classes, likening it to a socially stratified mind. Aristotle, on the contrary, contended that trusting those who endorse lying was impossible, therefore no universal law allowed lying.

Although the philosophers St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas and Immanuel Kant, condemned all lying, Thomas Aquinas did advance an argument for lying, however. According to all three, there are no circumstances in which, ethically, one may lie. It is never morally acceptable to lie, not under any circumstances; not even in the face of torture, murder, or other forms of abuse; even if it is the only way to defend oneself. These thinkers each provided a number of coherent justifications for the moral prohibition against lying. (Decosimo David, 2010 p. 661), (Matthew Puffer, 2016, pp. 685-719).

Some of the key arguments include: (1) Lying distorts the natural purpose of speech, which is to convey the speaker's thoughts; and (2) Lying erodes trust within society.(Matthew Puffer, 2016, pp. 685-719)

Analysis of lying can be found in St. Augustine of Hippo's taxonomy of falsehoods. Augustine wrote about lying in two of his works: (1) On Lying ("De Mendacio") and (2) Against Lying

(*“Contra Mendacio”).* In his later work *“Retractationes”*, he discusses each book. The topic *“There is a great question about Lying”* introduces the first work *“On Lying.”*

St. Augustine categorized lies into eight groups, ranked by severity: (1) Lies in religious teaching, (2) Lies that harm others without benefit, (3) Lies that harm others but benefit someone, (4) Lies for the sake of lying, (5) Lies to please others in conversation, (6) Lies that benefit someone materially without harm, (7) Lies that aid someone spiritually without harm, and (8) Lies that harm no one and that safeguard someone from “bodily defilement”.(Matthew Puffer, 2016, pp. 685-719).

In both treatises, Augustine argues that all falsehoods are fundamentally immoral and, therefore, ethically forbidden, despite being categorized by their perceived severity. He specifically defines lies as the external communication of something that one does not believe to be true internally.

Augustine wrote that lies told in jest, or by someone who believes or opines the lies to be true is not, in fact, lies. (Matthew Puffer, 2016, pp. 685-719)

A Chinese military commander, strategist, philosopher, and author Sun Tzu lived from 771 to 256 BCE, during the Eastern Zhou dynasty. He famously stated that deception is the cornerstone of all warfare.

> *“All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must appear inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near.”*
>
> (Sun Tzu, *“The Art of War”,* Translated from Chinese to English BY LIONEL GILES, M.A. May 1994. https://www.gutenberg.org/files/132/132-h/132-h.htm).

In the 16th century, Niccolò Machiavelli proposed his advice regarding how a prince should behave, how prince should conduct themselves before their enemies and their people; in his book “*The Prince”,* he advised the political ruler saying that a prince must hide his behaviors and become a “great liar and deceiver.”

Utilitarian philosophers have supported lies that achieve good outcomes and such lies are called “white lies”.

In his 2008 book, *"How to Make Good Decisions and Be Right All the Time"*, Iain King suggested a credible rule on lying was possible, and he defined it as:

> *"Deceive only if you can change behaviour in a way worth more than the trust you would lose, were the deception discovered (whether the deception actually is exposed or not)."* (Lain King, 2008).

Stanford Law professor Deborah L. Rhode articulated three rules. She says in that regard that ethicists generally agree to distinguish "white lies" from harmful lies or cheating:

- A disinterested observer would conclude that the benefits outweigh the harms
- When there is no alternative
- If everyone in similar circumstances acted similarly, society would be no worse off.

Thomas Hobbes wrote in Leviathan: *"In war, force and fraud are the two cardinal virtues."*

Friedrich Nietzsche, in his book *"Human, All Too Human",* suggested that those who refrain from lying may do so only because of the difficulty involved in maintaining lies. This aligns with his overarching theory, which categorizes and separates individuals according to their abilities and power; consequently, some only reveal the truth in moments of vulnerability; this means that for Nietzsche, it is a weakness not to lie*(Friedrich Nietzsche, "Human, All Too Human", Translated to English by Alexander Harvey, November 26, 2011, A Book for Free Spirits). https://www.gutenberg.org/files/38145/38145-h/38145-h.htm).*

When it comes to the contemporary philosophers, in his book "Lying," Sam Harris makes the case that lying has detrimental effects on the teller as well as the victim. Telling lies deprives others of the truth, denying them access to reality. Moreover, the potential harm caused by lies is often unpredictable. The individuals we deceive by lying may not be able to address issues they could have with accurate information. Telling lies also harms oneself, makes the liar distrust the person who's being lied to. Those who lie often experience negative emotions and perceive a decline in their genuineness, honesty, and moral character. Sam Harris asserts that honesty allows one to have deeper relationships and to bring all dysfunction in one's life to the surface. (Sam Harris, *"Lying"*, September 1, 2011).

3.5.2. Lying explained by Biological Science

Biological science asserts that the capacity for lye or deception is a trait shared not only by humans but also by non-human species. The evolutionary theory proposed by Charles Darwin states that only the fittest will survive and by lying, we aim to improve other's perception of our social image and status, capability, and desirability in general. It has been claimed that non-human animals are capable of lying based on linguistic research done with large apes. Deceptive body language, such as feint that mislead as to the intended direction of attack or flight, is observed in many species. The life skill of a mother bird could be a good example in this case. In order to divert attention from the eggs in her nest and onto herself, a mother bird willfully pretends to have a broken wing. This helps the bird escape injury and is especially helpful when the predator is misidentified as a killdeer. (Rebecca Coffey 2014).

Based on scientific research, individuals begin to engage in lying and deception as early as six months old, using laughter and crying to seek attention. The assumption is that humans, as individuals in a competitive world governed by strict social norms, may use lies and deception to improve their chances of survival and reproduction.

"Pseudologia fantastica" is a term applied by psychiatrists to the behavior of habitual or compulsive lying. (King, B. H. and Ford, C. V. 1988). "Mythomania" refers to a condition characterized by an excessive or abnormal tendency to lie and exaggerate.(Mike Robinson, 2023).

3.5.3. Types of lying

- **White Lie:** A white lie is any harmless or insignificant falsehood, particularly one that is said out of courtesy, to spare someone's feelings, or to prevent them from being offended by the truth. In some cases, a white lie could be viewed as one that is told in support of pro-social or greater good initiatives. It can occasionally be employed to protect someone from an unpleasant or emotionally destructive truth, particularly when the liar believes that not "knowing" the truth makes the lie totally harmless.(Changing Minds, 2022-2023).

- **Gray Lie:** A gray lie is told partly to help others and partly to help ourselves. Depending on the balance between good and bad, the shade of gray can vary. Gray lies are inherently challenging to pin down in practical terms. For instance, someone can tell a falsehood to save the day for a friend and then profit reciprocally from the friend's deception, at the expense of the people the friend has wronged. (Changing Minds, 2022-2023).

- **Blue Lie:** A blue lie is a form of lying that is told purportedly to benefit a collective or "in the name of the collective good". The term "blue lie" may have originated from situations in which law enforcement officials provided false testimony to protect their department or assist in advancing a suspect's case. This differs from "lying by omission" in that a "blue lie" is not an omission but a stated falsehood.

  (Fu, Genyue; Evans Angela D., Wang, Lingfeng; July, 2008). (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2570108/)

- **Red Lie:** A "red lie" is about spite and revenge. It is driven by the motive to harm others even at the expense of harming oneself. When someone is angry at others, perhaps because of a long feud or where he feels he has wronged him in some way, he feels a sense of betrayal and so seeks retributive justice, which he may dispense without thought of consequence. (Changing Minds, 2022-2023).

- **Black Lie:** A black lie is about simple and callous selfishness. They are usually told when no one else benefits and the only goals are either to get out of difficulty by reducing harm done to oneself or to obtain something that will increase benefits to oneself.(Changing Minds, 2022-2023).

- **Confabulation/ Honest lie:** An honest lie, or "confabulation," refers to verbal statements or actions that inaccurately portray past events, background, or current situations. In such cases, there is typically no intent to mislead, and the individual is often unaware that their information is incorrect. Because there is no intention to deceive, these statements are not classified as lies. (Daniel Pendick, 2000)

- **Straight-up lying:** Straight-up lying is actually speaking an untruth. Common varieties of lies include exaggerations or minimizations. Making the thing appear more or less important. (Pamela Meyer, 2013).

- **Lying by vagueness or ambiguity:** Lying by vagueness or ambiguity is when someone says something that is not technically untrue but either suggests an untruth or could have multiple meanings. (Pamela Meyer, 2013).

- **Dishonesty by actions:** Dishonesty by actions is the manner of a person that even if he/she doesn't verbally say anything, he/she can still be a skilled deceiver with his/her dress, gestures, and facial expressions. That is what we call "Dishonesty by actions" (Pamela Meyer, 2013).

- **Lying by omission:** Lying by omission is also "known" as a "continuing misrepresentation" or "quote mining", it occurs when an important fact is left out in order to foster a misconception. Lying by omission is telling a story or giving a description and omitting important details. Lying by omission includes the failure to correct pre-existing misconceptions. When someone tells the majority of the truth but omits a few crucial details, that person is committing the sin of omission, which totally obscures the truth. (Sally Clarke, May 2021) & (Pamela Meyer, 2013).

- **Withholding:** Withholding is failing to reveal something important. The difference from lying by omission is that the committer doesn't bring up the subject and omit something; but simply doesn't bring it up at all. (Pamela Meyer, 2013).

- **Tacit dishonesty:** Tacit dishonesty is saying nothing and letting the other person assume an untruth. The difference between withholding and tacit dishonesty is context. When the committer withholds information, the other person might not even think about it; here, they actively assume the opposite. (Pamela Meyer, 2013).

- **Barefaced, (Bold-faced) lie**: A "barefaced", "bald-faced" or "bold-faced" lie is an impudent, brazen, shameless, flagrant, or audacious lie that is sometimes but not always undisguised and that it is even then not always obvious to those hearing it. (Michael Quinion, 19960).

- **Big Lie:** A "big lie" is one that attempts to trick the victim into believing something major, which will likely be contradicted by some information the victim already possesses, or by their common sense. An excessively high extent of lie has the potential to succeed because the victim will find it difficult to accept that such a massively false statement could really be made. (Oxford, Lexico, 2021).

- **Bullshit:** Bullshit does not necessarily have to be a complete fabrication. Bullshit is uttered by someone who doesn't care about the truth but is focused on impressing the audience rather than speaking the truth, while lies are told by someone who "knows" the statement is false. Bullshit may be true or false, but it demonstrates a lack of concern for the truth that often leads to falsehoods.(Harry G. Frankfurt , *On Bullshit*, 2005).

- **Cover-up:** A cover-up may be used to deny, defend, or obfuscate a lie, errors, embarrassing actions, or lifestyle, and/or lie(s) made previously. One can choose to remove a prior lie or, conversely, argue that the prior lie was not as bad as it seemed. Examples of such comments include when someone describes a deliberate falsehood as "just" an emergency deception, or when a self-serving lie is labeled as "just" a noble or white lie. This should not be confused with confirmation bias in which the deceivers are deceiving themselves. *(Timothy G. "Understanding When and Why Cover-Ups Are Punished Less Severely", Academy of Management Journal).*

- **Defamation:** Defamation involves the communication of a false statement that damages the reputation of an individual, whether it be a person, celebrity, politician, business, product, group, government, religion, or nation.(Encyclopedia Britannica, "Defamation", May 9, 2023), https://www.britannica.com/topic/defamation

- **Disinformation:** Disinformation is intentionally false or misleading information that is spread in a calculated way to deceive target audiences. (Encyclopedia Britannica, "Disinformation", May 9, 2023),https://www.britannica.com/topic/disinformationtion

- **Deflection:** Deflection involves avoiding the subject of a lie, diverting attention away from it. When the topic of the falsehood is raised, those who deflect either dismiss it or refuse to engage. Skilled deflectors often employ passive-aggressive tactics, choosing to ignore or remain unresponsive when confronted with the issue. (Better Healp Editorial Team & Andrea Brant; March 22, 2023).

- **Half-truth:** A half-truth or partial truth is a deceptive statement that includes some element of truth. The statement may have some false elements, such as faulty punctuation or double meaning, or it may be entirely truthful but only partially so. This is especially likely if the intention is to mislead, avoid, blame, or deceive others. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2023 "Half-truth", https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/half-truth)

- **Puffery:** Puffery is an exaggerated claim often seen in advertising and publicity, like "the best quality at the lowest price" or "always votes in the best interest of everyone." While these statements are likely untrue, they do not breach trade laws as they are not verifiable, and consumers are assumed to understand their exaggerated nature. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "Puffery"; April, 2023).

- **Hyperbole or Exaggeration:** A Hyperbole is an exaggeration. It occurs when the most fundamental aspects of a statement are true, but only to a certain degree. It is all about or exaggerating any given thing's significance, scope, frequency, intensity, or realistic element. Saying that someone devoured most of something when they only ate half would be considered an exaggeration. An exaggeration might be easily found to be a hyperbole where a person's statement is meant not to be understood literally. In informal speech for example, if someone says exaggerated statements such as "He did this one million times already!" that is a "hyperbole". It is termed in other words as "stretching the truth". (Literary Devices, 2023).
- **Minimization:** Minimization is the opposite of exaggeration. In circumstances where total denial is implausible, it is a form of deception that combines denial with justification. (George Simon, 2022-2023).

- **Paltering:** Paltering is the active use of selective truthful statements to mislead. (Todd Rogers, Richard Zeckhauser, Fransesca Gino, Michael I Norton, Maurice E Schzer; 2017).

- **Weasel word:** The term "equivocation" is synonym and more formal for "Weasel word". "Weasel Word" is an informal term used to describe words and phrases that give the impression of a definite or meaningful statement, but actually only make vague or ambiguous assertions. This ambiguity allows the specific meaning to be challenged if the statement is questioned.(Cambridge Dictionary, 2021, "Weasel words" https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/weasel-words)

- **Fake news:** Fake news is supposed to be a type of yellow journalism that consists of deliberate misinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional print and broadcast news media or online social media. In some cases, the phrase is used as a trick to distract from difficult facts and realities. (Elle Hunt, 2016).

- **Hoax:** A hoax is a distinct concept that involves deliberate deception without the intention of gain or of materially damaging or depriving a victim.
- **Fib:** A fib is a lie that is easy to forgive due to its subject being a trivial matter; for example, a six years old child may tell a fib by claiming that his younger one year old brother broke a mug, when the bigger child was the one who broke it. **(**Dictionary.com “Fib”, 2023, https://www.dictionary.com/browse/fib)
- **Paternalistic deception:** A Paternalistic deception is a lie told because it is believed (possibly incorrectly) that the deceived person will benefit. **(**Bernard Gert and Charles M. Culver, 1976, pp. 45-57)
- **Lie-to-children:** A Lie-to -children is a phrase that describes a simplified explanation of technical or complex subjects as a teaching method for children and laypeople. Although “lies to children” can be useful in educating those who are unfamiliar with difficult topics or complex ideas, they can also lead to the spread of false beliefs among those who hear them. (Jack Cohen and Ian Stewart, 1994)
- **Jocose lies:** Jocose lies are lies meant in jest, intended to be understood as such by all present parties. Teasing and irony are examples. A more sophisticated example can be seen in some storytelling traditions, where the storyteller maintains that the story is true even in the face of conflicting information, such as crazy stories considered humorous.(Julia Chaitin, 2003).
- **Mutual deceit:** Mutual deceit occurs when lying is both accepted and expected, or when all parties involved agree to the deception. This concept is exemplified in games like poker, where strategies often depend on deception and bluffing to achieve victory.(The Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential, “Mutual deceit”, 2023)http://encyclopedia.uia.org/en/problem/mutual-deceits
- **To bluff:** To bluff is to pretend to have a capability or intention one does not possess. In the context of a game like poker, when players voluntarily consent to this form of deception, bluffing is a deceptive act rarely considered immoral. It is not considered

lying, for example, for athletes to suggest that they would go to the left and then dodge to the right, or for players to trick other players into believing that they had different cards from the ones they actually have. This move is often called a "feint" or "juke." Lying is common and accepted in these situations as a tactic. (The Britannica Dictionary, "Bluffing", 2023). https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/bluff

- **Noble lie:** A noble lie which also could be called a strategic untruth, is one that normally would cause discord if uncovered, but offers some benefit to the liar and assists in an orderly society, therefore, potentially being beneficial to others. It is often told to maintain law, order, and safety. (Daniel A. Dombrowski, pp. 565-578).
- **Vranyo:** Vranyo expresses white lies or half-lies told without the intention of (maliciously) deceiving, but as a fantasy, suppressing unpleasant parts of the truth. (David Shulman, 2007, P.79).
- **April fool:** An April fool is a lie or hoax told/performed on April Fools' Day. **(**Encyclopedia Britannica, April 10, 2023 "April Fools' Day"), https://www.britannica.com/topic/April-Fools-Day
- **A polite lie:** A polite lie is a lie that a politeness standard requires, and that usually is "known" to be untrue by both parties. Whether such lies are acceptable is heavily dependent on culture. In international etiquette, accepting an invitation and subsequently declining it on the grounds of "scheduling difficulties" or "diplomatic illness" is a common example of polite lying. Similarly, the butler lie is a small lie that usually is sent electronically and is used to terminate conversations or to save face.

  (Social Skills, "Understanding Polite Lies", November 19, 2021). ttps://www.badgerstatespeeechy.com/understanding-polite-lies/)
- **Speaking with a forked tongue:** The phrase "speaking with a forked tongue" means to deliberately say one thing and mean another or, to be hypocritical, or act in a duplicitous manner. (Meriam Webster Dictionary, "Forked Tongue" May 2023). https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/forked%20tongue
- **Lying in trade**: This type of lie occurs when the seller of a product or service may advertise untrue facts about the product or service in order to gain sales, especially by

competitive advantage. Many countries and states have enacted consumer protection laws intended to combat such fraud.

- **Fraud:** Fraud is act of inducing another person or people to believe a lie in order to secure material or financial gain for the liar. Depending on the context, fraud may subject the liar to civil or criminal penalties. **(**Dictionary Law.com: "fraud"' 2023, ALM GLOBAL, LLC.) https://dictionary.law.com/default.aspx?selected=785
- **Perjury:** Perjury is the act of lying or making verifiably false statements on a material matter under oath or affirmation in a court of law, or in any of various sworn statements in writing. Given that the witness has pledged to tell the truth and the credibility of the court relies on the witness's testimony being accepted as true, perjury is considered a criminal offense. (Encyclopedia Britannica, "Perjury" , May 2023), https://www.britannica.com/topic/perjury
- **Memory Hole:** A memory hole is a technique used to alter or delete embarrassing photos, transcripts, documents, or other records from a website or archive, typically to give the impression that the event never occurred.
- **Pathological Lying:** In psychiatry, pathological lying is a behavior of habitual or compulsive lying the individual may be aware he is lying, or may believe he is telling the truth, being unaware that he/she is relating fantasies. Other names of pathological lying are "compulsive lying", "Pseudologia fantastica", and "mythomania". (Christian L. Hart 2020).
- **Self-lying:** Humans lie not only to others, but also to themselves. In fact, self-deception is part of being human as it is part of coping mechanism and defense mechanism. In that sense, it is necessary for a person's inner growth in the optimal level. Although most people fail to notice it, it is inevitable to lie to oneself frequently. Most people are not willing to explore their hidden tendencies and face the truth. Since Self-lying is related to defense mechanism, everyone lies to himself. Shahram Heshmat points out four reasons of self-lying and here are the reasons why a person lies to himself; (1) It's comfortable; he/she doesn't have to face the hard truth (2) It's convenient; he/she can keep doing the same thing without having to change anything, (3) It makes him/her feel better about

him/herself (preserves self-esteem), and (4) It helps him/her avoid self-responsibility for his/her actions. (Shahram Heshmat, 2017).

3.5.4. Lying and Corruption

Lying and corruption have a strong relationship in certain contexts. Lying involves intentionally deceiving others by providing false information, while corruption refers to the abuse of power or position for personal gain or to benefit others unfairly. In some cases, lying can be a means of facilitating or covering up corrupt activities. Corrupt persons in different positions and responsibilities such as business operators, professionals, celebrities or politicians may lie about their involvement in illegal activities in order to avoid detection or punishment. Similarly, a person engaged in corrupt business practices may lie about his/her actions or intentions to deceive stakeholders and maintain his/her illicit gains.

On the other hand, lying and corruption are in some cases distinct activities and can exist independently of each other. Not all lies involve corruption, as there can be situations where lying is considered morally acceptable by the norm or even necessary, such as in cases of protecting someone from harm or preserving privacy. Hence, lying and corruption can have a relationship in certain situations where lies are used to facilitate or conceal corrupt activities. However, they are not inherently linked, and lying can occur without involving corruption.

Source:- (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), "STANDARDS OF ETHICS", PP. 2-6; September 1, 2023).

3.5.5. Consequences of lying

In most cases, lying erodes trust between individuals and among people. Secondly, lying causes perpetual lies so as to hide the risk of being discovered. Typically, falsehoods are intended to mislead, giving the listener the impression that the speaker is telling the truth, or that something is incorrect. When deception fails, it's possible to uncover a falsehood. When a falsehood is exposed, it can undermine the credibility of other claims made by the same speaker, damaging his/her reputation. In certain situations, it can also have a negative impact on the speaker's social or legal standing. Lying in a court of law, for instance, is a criminal offense (perjury). (Dr. Sophie van der Zee, 2022).

3.5.6. Discourse of the thesis on lying

There are two opposing problematic conditions regarding lies. One is the fact that it is inevitable for humans to lie regardless of its type and extent since humans' potential of lying naturally emanates from the survival instinct and defense mechanism. Humans therefore cannot escape from committing lies in one way or another. On the other hand, everybody is expected to be aware that trust and honesty are indispensable in healthy social interaction. Lying erodes trust in social life. Behaving genuinely is beneficial for individuals as well as the society at large since it promotes trust among the people.

Therefore, these two opposing factors should be reconciled. The solution is that humans should abstain at least totally from harmful lies that negatively impact social interactions and minimize the extent, intensity, magnitude and frequency of the rest types of lying as much as possible. Every individual should be aware about the importance of honesty in social life and should behave genuinely. Since children and the mass take lesson from their elders and seniors, Parents, academicians, leaders, politicians, celebrities and famous individuals have crucial roles in being role models of good manner, integrity, and morality in general.

Chapter Four: Human in the Natural, Historical Social and Political Contexts

In contemporary societies across the globe, the socio-political landscape is intricately woven with the concepts of dishonesty and corruption, which have profound implications on social structures and human behavior. This chapter explores the multifaceted nature of socio-political implications stemming from dishonesty and corruption, drawing insights from various scholarly sources.

4.1. Social Structure

Social structure serves as the foundation upon which human societies are built, encompassing both physical and social elements. According to Daly (2022), socio-ecological systems integrate environmental factors with social actors and organizations, highlighting the interdependence between human societies and their surrounding ecosystems. Furthermore, mammalian species, including humans, exhibit innate tendencies towards sociality and cooperation (Encyclopedia Britannica). This social behavior is deeply ingrained in human evolution and is manifested through familial and communal bonds.

The family unit emerges as a central institution in human societies, facilitating socialization, support, and connection (PSYCHOLOGS Magazine, 2023). Through emotional ties and mutual reliance, individuals forge relationships within families and larger social networks, contributing to the cohesion of society (PSYCHOLOGS Magazine, 2023). Parental investment, a fundamental aspect of family dynamics, underscores the importance of resource allocation and support for offspring (Clutton-Brock, 1991).

Likewise, social groups play a crucial role in shaping human interactions and identities. Primary groups, characterized by close-knit relationships and face-to-face interactions, serve as platforms for socialization and influence (Ashley Crossman, 2019). Collectives and categories offer additional layers of social organization, ranging from transient gatherings to long-term affiliations based on shared characteristics (Ashley Crossman, 2019). These diverse group dynamics contribute to the complexity of human social structures.

Social norms, guided by common sense and consensus, regulate human behavior within society (Reid J. Daitzman, 2021). Norms encompass both formal rules and informal agreements, shaping individual conduct and societal expectations (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy). However, deviations from social norms can lead to social alienation and eccentric behavior, highlighting the importance of conformity within social systems (Mary Hanemann Lystad, 1972; Peterson et al., 2020).

Moreover, the concept of social networks elucidates the interconnectedness of individuals and groups within society (Encyclopedia.com). These networks, characterized by various types of relationships and interdependencies, influence information flow, resource distribution, and collective actions within communities and societies.

Thus, the socio-political implications of dishonesty and corruption permeate through the intricate fabric of human societies, impacting social structures, group dynamics, and individual behaviors. By understanding the interconnected nature of these phenomena, society can work towards fostering transparency, accountability, and ethical governance, thereby mitigating the adverse effects of dishonesty and corruption on human well-being and societal development.

4.2. Coexistence and Barriers to Harmony

In the mosaic of human societies, the concept of coexistence stands as a cornerstone embodying the ability of individuals, communities, and nations to thrive together despite inherent differences in beliefs, cultures and interests. Since social coexistence has multidimensional aspects, it has significant implications and manifestations at various levels upon societal peace and security. However, there are various alarming barriers which impede the realization of social coexistence and harmony. Fostering cooperation, trust, and inclusivity is crucial to nurture a harmonious global community.

At its essence, social coexistence epitomizes the harmonious cohabitation of diverse individuals, characterized by mutual respect, tolerance, and collaboration. (Angela Nyawira Khaminwa**,** 2023). Coexistence encompasses the acknowledgment and accommodation of differences, thereby fostering an environment conducive to collective progress and prosperity. This sentiment resonates across different strata of society, from the local to the global level.

On a global scale, coexistence manifests through collaborative endeavors among nations to tackle shared challenges such as Natural Calamities, climate change, “poverty”, and conflicts. The United Nations, as a major proponent of global cooperation, underscores the importance of fostering mutual understanding and solidarity to address these pressing issues. Similarly, at the continental level, regional blocs and alliances facilitate economic integration, security cooperation, and cultural exchange, thereby promoting cohesion and stability within their respective spheres.

At the national level, coexistence is indispensable for fostering social cohesion and inclusivity within diverse societies. Nations such as Canada, renowned for their multiculturalism policies, exemplify how embracing diversity can enrich societal fabric and spur collective progress. Through initiatives aimed at promoting social inclusion, equal opportunities, and intercultural dialogue, countries endeavor to mitigate intergroup tensions and foster a sense of belonging among all citizens. That is why the idea of pluralism is highly recommended by this thesis to be implemented in countries across the globe.

Despite its inherent virtues, achieving social coexistence is often hindered by various barriers that undermine harmony and cooperation within societies. Chief among these impediments are factors such as lack of communication, trust deficits, prejudice, inequality, political instability, and corruption (Beck, 2000; Rothstein & Stolle, 2008). Inadequate communication channels breed misunderstandings and hamper collaborative efforts, while trust deficits erode social bonds and impede constructive dialogue (Coleman, 1990). Prejudice and discrimination, fueled by societal biases, perpetuate divisions and inhibit the realization of inclusive societies (Allport, 1954).

In addition to that, socioeconomic disparities exacerbate social tensions and breed resentment, posing formidable obstacles to collective harmony and cooperation (Wilkinson & Pickett, 2009). Political instability, characterized by corruption and authoritarianism, undermines governance structures and erodes public trust, further exacerbating societal discord (Fukuyama, 2014).

Thus, the pursuit of social coexistence represents a noble endeavor essential for fostering inclusive, resilient societies capable of confronting shared challenges. By transcending cultural, ideological, and national boundaries, individuals and nations can forge a common destiny grounded in mutual respect, cooperation, and solidarity. However, the realization of this vision necessitates concerted efforts to overcome the barriers of prejudice, inequality, and mistrust that undermine social harmony. Through sustained dialogue, inclusive policies, and principled leadership, humanity can aspire towards a future defined by unity in diversity and collective flourishing.

4.3. Trust and Integrity for Social Harmony

In any social construct, be it in the cases of interpersonal relationships or broader societal dynamics, the concepts of trust and integrity play fundamental roles in shaping coexistence, cooperation, and social harmony. Trust can be defined as the willingness of one individual (the trusting), to expose himself to another (the trustee), with the expectation that the trustee will act in the best interest of the trusting. This concept, deeply rooted in psychology, underscores the importance of trust in fostering healthy relationships and societal structures.

According to psychotherapist Erik Erikson, the establishment of fundamental trust is a main stage in psychological development, occurring in the early years of life. Success during this stage fosters feelings of optimism and security, whereas failure can lead to distrust and attachment issues. Trust is not only a personality trait but also a predictor of subjective well-being, enhancing the quality of interpersonal relationships and contributing to overall happiness.

Psychologists distinguish three forms of trust; (1) trust, (2) trustworthiness, and (3) the propensity to trust. Trust involves vulnerability regardless of the trustee's reliability, while trustworthiness refers to the qualities that inspire trust in others. The propensity to trust varies among individuals and may change over time due to life events. However, once trust is broken, rebuilding it becomes a challenging task, underscoring the importance of trust in maintaining relationships.

Trust extends beyond individual interactions to encompass institutional relationships as well. In economics, trust serves as a heuristic decision rule, allowing individuals to navigate complex interactions efficiently. Similarly, in business and commerce, trust is essential for reliable transactions. Thus, trust serves as a cornerstone for societal cohesion and collaboration.

Conversely, dishonesty and corruption have profound negative impacts on trust within society. Corruption erodes trust in institutions by undermining their credibility and effectiveness. It weakens social cohesion by aggravating inequality and injustice, leading to a sense of disenchantment among the populace. In addition to that, corruption diverts resources away from public services, hindering economic development and undermining democratic processes.

To rebuild trust in a society plagued by dishonesty and corruption, several factors are crucial. Non-defensiveness, understanding, direct communication, and honesty and integrity form the foundation for restoring trust in interpersonal relationships. Individuals must strive to be more honest, transparent, and accepting of differences, nurturing an environment of mutual respect and trust.

Therefore, trust and integrity are essential components of coexistence and social harmony. They provide a solid foundation for meaningful relationships and collaborative efforts toward a more harmonious society. Conversely, dishonesty and corruption erode trust, undermine institutions, and hinder socio-economic progress. Rebuilding trust requires concerted efforts at both individual and institutional levels, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and ethical governance. Only through such measures can societies foster a culture of trust, integrity, and cooperation, essential for sustainable development and collective well-being.

4.4. State and Political Structure

The state and its political structure constitute the foundational framework within which governance and societal organization unfold. At its core, the state can be understood as a centralized political entity that exercises authority over a defined territory and population. However, the concept of statehood remains subject to interpretation, with no universally accepted definition. The degree of government, often considered a defining characteristic of modern states, serves as a yardstick for evaluating their efficacy.

States may exhibit varying political structures, ranging from unitary to federal systems. In unitary states, power is concentrated at the national level, while federal systems distribute authority between central and regional governments. The configuration of these structures significantly influences governance and decision-making processes.

Beyond the state apparatus, societal organization plays a pivotal role in shaping political dynamics. Societies can be classified as individualistic or collectivist, depending on prevailing cultural norms and social interactions. Individualistic societies prioritize autonomy and formal institutions for law enforcement, fostering economic innovation and social mobility. Conversely, collectivist societies emphasize group cohesion and informal mechanisms for governance, often rooted in strong religious or ethnic ties.

The distinction between these organizational paradigms has profound implications for political and economic development. While individualistic societies tend to exhibit greater efficiency and adaptability, collectivist societies may prioritize social cohesion and community welfare.

Central to the functioning of any state is its government, comprising the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Governments serve as custodians of the state's organizational structure, enacting laws and policies to govern society. Importantly, the concept of meritocracy underscores the importance of competency and merit in government appointments, ensuring effective governance and societal progress.

Thus, the state and its political structure form the bedrock of modern governance systems, exerting profound influence on societal organization and development. By understanding the complexities of statehood, political dynamics, and the role of government, societies can navigate challenges and aspire to greater levels of inclusivity and prosperity.

4.5. Socio-political Consensus and National Law

In contemporary societies, the establishment and enforcement of laws play a crucial role in maintaining order, justice, and social cohesion. There are intricate relationships between socio-political consensus and national law. In that regard, it is important to clarify concepts of covenant, standards, regulations, law, civil procedure, and crime, and their impacts on governance, society, and individual behavior.

Covenant: Covenants, akin to contracts, embody agreements wherein parties commit to performing or refraining from specific actions. They serve as foundational pillars in various legal contexts, underpinning mutual obligations and responsibilities.

Standards: Standards serve as benchmarks for functional systems, services, and products, ensuring effectiveness, safety, and quality. Regular adherence to standards is paramount for guaranteeing optimal performance and mitigating risks. These standards often manifest in comprehensive reference manuals detailing requisite specifications.

Regulations: Regulations, often referred to as administrative laws, delineate specific guidelines for the implementation and enforcement of broader legal frameworks. Legally binding, regulations mandate compliance and provide operational guidance for entities subject to their purview.

Law: The concept of law encompasses a complex array of regulations governing behavior, established by governmental or social entities. Legislative bodies enact laws, while government organizations formulate regulations to enforce them. Additionally, development organizations contribute to the creation and accreditation of standards integral to legal compliance.

The enforcement of laws occurs through various mechanisms, including directives from legislative bodies, official mandates, and judicial adjudication in common law jurisdictions. Individuals engage in legally binding agreements, employing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as elective debate, to resolve conflicts.

The rights enshrined within legal systems exert profound influence on legislative processes, economic dynamics, historical narratives, and societal norms. Consequently, law permeates diverse facets of human interaction, shaping interpersonal relationships and societal structures.

Jurisdiction: Jurisdictions demarcate distinct legal territories subject to specific regulatory frameworks, encompassing courts, governmental agencies, and law enforcement entities. These entities collaborate to uphold the rule of law, recognizing, deterring, addressing, and sanctioning individuals contravening legal norms.

Civil Procedure: Civil procedure delineates the procedural framework guiding the resolution of civil disputes within legal systems. Distinguished from criminal proceedings, civil procedure governs the initiation, conduct, and resolution of lawsuits, encompassing pleadings, evidence disclosure, trial conduct, and post-trial remedies. While criminal prosecutions typically stem from state initiatives, civil lawsuits may be initiated by individuals, businesses, or organizations seeking redress.

Crime: Crime, though lacking a universally agreed-upon definition, constitutes actions contravening established laws. Criminal offenses, harmful to individuals and societal interests, are subject to legal prohibition and punitive measures. While criminal laws universally condemn acts such as rape, murder, theft, and corruption, specific definitions and penalties vary across jurisdictions.

The criminal justice system, comprising legislative frameworks, law enforcement agencies, and judicial processes, endeavors to prevent and address criminal behavior through deterrence, surveillance, enforcement, and punitive measures.

In conclusion, socio-political consensus and national law intricately intertwine to shape governance, societal norms, and individual conduct. Through covenants, standards, regulations, and legal frameworks, societies establish mechanisms for maintaining order, promoting justice, and safeguarding communal interests. The evolution and enforcement of law remain essential endeavors in the pursuit of a harmonious and equitable social order.

4.6. Human rights

Human rights are moral precepts or guidelines for appropriate conduct that are consistently protected by national and international law. Human rights are widely recognized as inalienable fundamental rights to which every individual, regardless of age, sex, race, geography, language, religion or other status, is “inherently entitled simply because he/she is a human being” and they are assumed to be “inherent” in all human beings.

Human rights are universal in the sense that they apply to everyone, everywhere and at all times. They are also egalitarian in the sense that they apply the same way to everyone. The idea that members of a community accept the laws of a legal authority in exchange for financial gain and security is a component of human rights theories. This concept is “known” as the social contract.

Human rights are believed to require empathy, the rule of law and the obligation of individuals to respect the rights of others. It is also commonly accepted that rights can only be removed if due process has been followed in a particular situation. The concept “Human development” is the applied aspect of the concern of human right. Human development is based on six fundamental pillars: Security, Empowerment, Equity, Sustainability, Productivity and Cooperation.

- “Security” offers people development opportunities freely and safely with confidence that they will not disappear suddenly in the future.
- “Empowerment” is the freedom of the people to influence development and decisions that affect their lives.
- “Equity” is the idea of fairness for every person, between men and women; we each have the right to safety, education and health care.
- “Sustainability” is the view that we all have the right to earn a living that can sustain our lives and have access to a more even distribution of goods.
- “Productivity” states the full participation of people in the process of income generation. This also means that the government needs more efficient social programs for its people.
- “Cooperation” stipulates participation and belonging to communities and groups as a means of mutual enrichment and a source of social meaning.

Every member of Human society has the right for access to necessities such as security, food, housing, healthcare, education, job and retirement fund; and that access is designed to be ensured by the Government assistance programs “known” as welfare programs.

According to the International Organization, social security includes medical care, paid sick leave, unemployment and disability benefits, and assistance to people who have suffered work accidents. The terms “social security” and “social protection” can be used interchangeably or to expressly refer to social insurance programs which, unlike social protection programs, benefit only those who have contributed such as insurance, pension systems and the like. “Social support” refers to a system which assists people only according to their needs like most disability benefits.

In a larger sense, social welfare can also refer to actions made to offer social services including public housing, health care, education, infrastructure, and professional training at no cost or with significant financial assistance in order to provide a minimal quality of life. In a welfare state, the government provides a variety of social services, including those mentioned above, and takes responsibility for the infrastructure, health, education, and well-being of the population.

4.7. Social Justice and social welfare

Trust and integrity cannot be realized in the absence of social justice and social welfare. Creating opportunities for each person to live a respectable, fruitful, and creative life that goes beyond the confines of the traditional economy is the goal of social justice and economic justice. The concept of justice holds that people should receive what is rightfully theirs and what they deserve. Nevertheless, there are many other fields of study and points of view that shape our understanding of what “deserves,” including morality based on equity, fairness, reason, law, ethics, and religion. By running courts and enforcing their decisions, the state is expected to try to improve justice.

The fair distribution of opportunities, resources and privileges within a community is “known” as social justice. The condition in which people fulfill their civic obligations and acquire what is rightfully theirs or what they deserve is the characteristics of justice. Promoting economic fairness, creating safety nets, and removing barriers to social mobility have all received the attention of modern social justice movements.

Social justice confers rights and duties within societal institutions so that everyone can benefit from and bear the costs of basic cooperation. To ensure proper wealth distribution and equal opportunities, various institutions play a crucial role, including taxation, social insurance, public health, public education, public services, labor legislation, and market regulation.

Justice is optimum reciprocal relationship within a society. The responsibilities of each individual to society should be clear and it is also important to balance between access to power and its responsible use as well. Trust and integrity are always intertwined together with social justice and social welfare; if one is missing, the other by default will perish. Therefore, it is important to work hard on social justice and social welfare in order to combat dishonesty and corruption,

4.8. Good governance

In order to assess good governance, one must examine how public institutions manage their finances, carry out their official activities, and ensure that human rights are respected in a manner that is broadly consistent with the law and free from fraud and corruption (United Nations, 2007). The process of making decisions and deciding whether to execute them or not is called governance. This definition of "governance" encompasses linkages between many socioeconomic sectors as well as corporate, international, national, or municipal government (World Bank, 1992).

As a result, the idea of "good governance" is developing as a standard against which effective political systems and economies can be compared to successful ones (Kaufmann, Kraay, & Zoido-Lobatón, 1999). The idea is that instead of serving the interests of a few social classes, governments and other governing bodies should serve the needs of the whole population (Stiglitz, 2002).

Therefore, under the umbrella of human rights, social justice, social welfare, and good governance are all interconnected concepts that aim to promote fairness, equality, and well-being in society (Rawls, 1971). Social justice seeks to address inequalities and promote fairness, while social welfare encompasses the provision of essential services and support to ensure a decent standard of living for all individuals (Sen, 1999).

Good governance involves the effective and accountable management of resources and decision-making processes to ensure that social welfare initiatives are just, inclusive, and beneficial for all members of society (Grindle, 2007). Ultimately, these concepts are all aimed at creating a society where everyone has access to the resources and support they need to live a dignified and fulfilling life (Nussbaum, 2003).

The mission of the welfare state is to ensure the well-being of its citizens by providing them with social security, health care, education, and other essential services, because these services are based on the fundamental human right of access to these resources (Esping-Andersen, 1990).

Preserving and improving the social and economic well-being of its citizens is the primary duty of a welfare state and its developed network of social institutions (Wilensky, 1975). Fair distributions of income, fair access to opportunities, and public support for those who are unable to afford basic necessities are among its pillars (Atkinson, 2015). The general term can refer to a wide variety of social and economic organizations. Establishing a welfare state is crucial to lowering the crime rate (Tonry, 1995).

Most economically developed industrialized nations have social insurance, which is an essential part of the welfare state (Castles, 1998). This kind of insurance seeks to assist people and families in times of need and is typically financed by mandatory contributions. However, it is well “known” that in reality, the monetary rewards are significantly lower than what the creators of the programs had in mind (Myles & Pierson, 2001).

In addition, public housing, health care, and basic education are generally provided by the state (sometimes for free or at a reduced cost) (OECD, 2019). Anti-poverty programs and the personal income tax system can also be considered elements of the welfare state. This also applies to personal taxes, provided that their progressivity is used to finance social insurance benefits and other benefits that are not fully covered by compulsory contributions, as well as to achieve greater equity in income distribution (instead of simply increasing income) (Piketty, 2014). In some countries, the welfare state also includes job creation and consumer price controls (Korpi & Palme, 1998).

The main challenges in managing a welfare state are determining the level of service the state should provide, ensuring that the system of benefits and personal contributions sufficiently encourages productive work while meeting the needs of individuals and families, to ensure that state bureaucracies and monopolies operate effectively and fairly allocating resources to pay for services beyond the contribution of direct beneficiaries.

In order to enhance trust and integrity among people with in a state, it is important to insure the presence of recognition, awareness and respect for Human rights. It is also important to facilitate the realization of good governance, insure social welfare by building up a welfare state and improve human development.

4.9. Solidarity

A psychological feeling of class or group unity is called solidarity. It is brought about by "knowledge" of common interests, objectives, customs, and sentiments. The term "solidarity" refers to the bonds that unite members of a society. When there is solidarity in the state, level of trust and integrity increases and the rate of dishonesty corruption and other criminal activities decrease. (Durkheim, Émile 1997).

4.10. Ethical Integrity in Psycho-social and socio political contexts

Integrity stands as a cornerstone in human interactions, governing trust and reliability across various domains of life (Peterson & Seligman, 2004). Rooted in the Latin term "integer," meaning "whole," integrity embodies a sense of completeness and adherence to moral principles (Kvaal, 2015). In psycho-social and socio-political contexts, the significance of ethical integrity becomes even more pronounced, influencing individual actions and societal structures alike (Wear, 2013).

At its essence, integrity entails a commitment to truthfulness and consistency in behavior, transcending personal, professional, and societal realms (Gini, 1998). It encompasses intellectual integrity, wherein individuals refrain from preconceived biases and remain open to objective inquiry (Bok, 1995). In addition, integrity in ethics demands honesty and accuracy in one's endeavors, rejecting hypocrisy and advocating for internal coherence in moral judgments (Frankena, 1973).

In the realm of politics, integrity emerges as a vital attribute for elected representatives entrusted with the welfare of society (Muel Kapitein, 2019). Politicians wield significant power to shape policies and influence outcomes, underscoring the imperative of ethical conduct (Palmer, 2014). Muel Kapitein, in his work "The Servant of the People," underscores the intrinsic link between political positions and integrity, emphasizing the need for politicians to comprehend their responsibilities fully. Integrity in politics necessitates qualities such as accountability, humility, and fidelity, aligning with Aristotle's conception of dignity as noble-mindedness rather than self-serving ambition (Aristotle, 1999).

Central to ethical integrity is the concept of moral judgment, wherein individuals navigate dilemmas based on a consistent set of values (Rest, 1986). This internal framework guides behavior and decision-making, fostering predictability and coherence in actions. However, the ethical landscape is not static; it requires individuals to adapt their values when confronted with conflicting circumstances, reflecting both a duty and an ideal (Blasi, 1980).

A fundamental principle of integrity is its universality, transcending individual interests or biases (Kant, 1785/1996). It mandates that those in positions of authority adhere to the same ethical standards as their constituents, ensuring fairness and impartiality in governance (Denhardt & Denhardt, 2015). Upholding integrity within systems fosters trust and credibility, deterring subjective exceptions that undermine societal cohesion (Hassan & Wright, 2017).

Therefore, ethical integrity serves as bedrock for harmonious coexistence in psycho-social and socio-political spheres. It demands unwavering commitment to honesty, accountability, and consistency, shaping individual conduct and institutional practices. By upholding integrity as a guiding principle, societies can cultivate trust, promote justice, and develop a culture of ethical responsibility.

4.11. Political Corruption and Its Ramifications

Political corruption is a pervasive and multi-layered phenomenon that undermines the integrity of public institutions and erodes trust in government. Defined as the misuse of authority for illicit private gain by public officials or their networks, corruption manifests in various forms, including bribery, extortion, nepotism, and embezzlement. It also extends beyond individual acts of misconduct to encompass systemic abuses of power, such as the persecution of political opponents and routine police violence (Aktan, Bosso, Martini, & Albisu Ardigó, 2014).

In examining the socio-political landscape, one encounters the influence of elitism, which privileges a select few with disproportionate power and influence. Elitism perpetuates the concentration of wealth and political control among a privileged class, often at the expense of marginalized communities. While proponents argue that elites possess exceptional qualities warranting their authority, critics contend that elitism perpetuates inequalities and stifles democratic participation (Kenton, 2021).

Authoritarianism, dictatorship, and totalitarianism represent extreme manifestations of political power characterized by the suppression of political plurality and the centralization of authority. In authoritarian regimes, political dissent is quashed, democratic processes are curtailed, and state control is pervasive. Dictatorships, in particular, are characterized by unchecked executive power wielded by a single individual or a cadre of loyalists, often through coercion and repression (Kalu, 2019).

A related concept, the “double standard”, means the unequal application of rules or principles to similar situations. This phenomenon is often observed in political contexts where certain groups or individuals are afforded preferential treatment while others face discrimination or persecution. Double standards can perpetuate injustice, undermine social cohesion, and erode trust in institutions, particularly when they reinforce existing power imbalances (Shatz, 2023).

Totalitarianism represents the apex of authoritarian rule, marked by the total subjugation of civil liberties, the suppression of dissent, and the monopolization of power by a ruling elite. Through extensive propaganda and state-controlled media, totalitarian regimes seek to indoctrinate the populace and maintain absolute control over public discourse (Longley, 2022).

Populism emerges as a political strategy that capitalizes on the grievances of ordinary citizens against perceived elites or establishment figures. While populism may galvanize marginalized voices and increase political engagement, it also risks exacerbating divisions within society, promoting simplistic solutions to complex problems, and undermining democratic norms. (Mudde & Rovira Kaltwasser, 2017).

In contrast to populism, pluralism advocates for the equitable distribution of power among diverse groups within society, promoting inclusivity and compromise. By accommodating a multitude of perspectives and interests, pluralism seeks to mitigate the marginalization of underrepresented groups and promote a more equitable and democratic society.

Anti-intellectualism represents a rejection of expertise and critical inquiry, often fueled by populist sentiment and distrust of established institutions. Anti-intellectualism poses a threat to informed decision-making and democratic governance, as it undermines the value of "knowledge" and expertise in policymaking (Motta, 2018).

Finally, profiling, whether based on race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, or behavior, perpetuates discrimination and undermines social cohesion. By targeting individuals or groups for suspicion or differential treatment, profiling perpetuates stereotypes, perpetuates inequalities, and undermines the principles of equality and justice.

Therefore, political corruption and its associated phenomena pose significant challenges to democratic governance, social cohesion, and human rights. Addressing these issues requires concerted efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, while also challenging entrenched power structures and fostering inclusive political participation. It is through collective action and commitment to democratic values that societies can combat corruption and uphold the principles of justice and equality for all.

4.12. Contributing factors to corruption

There are also other several factors that contribute to the creation and aggravation of dishonesty and Corruption in national and global levels:

- **Lack of transparency:** When there is a lack of transparency in government or corporate operations, it becomes easier for individuals to engage in dishonest and corrupt practices without being held accountable.
- **Weak legal systems:** Weak legal systems and ineffective law enforcement agencies can create an environment where corruption and dishonesty can thrive.
- **Political instability:** In countries with political instability, there is often a lack of accountability and oversight, which can lead to corruption and dishonesty.
- **"Poverty" and inequality:** "Poverty" and inequality can create a sense of desperation, which can lead individuals to engage in dishonest and corrupt practices to survive.
- **Greed and self-interest:** When individuals prioritize their own interests over the common good, they may engage in dishonest and corrupt practices.
- **Lack of moral values:** When moral values are not prioritized, individuals may feel that it is acceptable to engage in dishonest and corrupt practices.

- **Cultural factors:** In some cultures, dishonesty and corruption may be more accepted or even encouraged, making it more difficult to combat these practices.

Taking the above points in to consideration with proper understanding, it requires addressing each problem. Creating a culture of transparency, accountability, and ethical behavior is crucial in combating dishonesty and corruption at both national and global levels.

4.13. Consequences of Political Corruption

Political corruption, a scourge that has plagued societies throughout history, manifests in various forms, each with its own set of detrimental outcomes. From scandals that tarnish the reputations of individuals and institutions to civil unrest and violent rebellions, the repercussions of corruption are profound and far-reaching.

Scandals, fueled by abuses of power, greed, and moral transgressions, are a hallmark of political corruption. These incidents, characterized by public outrage and indignation, erode trust in governing bodies and can have lasting repercussions on the political landscape. According to a study by Johnston (2005), scandals undermine the legitimacy of institutions and contribute to a decline in civic engagement and voter turnout. This claim is supported by previous research that highlights the relationship between scandals and public disillusionment with political entities (Mair, 2006).

In addition to that, political corruption often leads to a legitimation crisis, wherein the populace loses faith in the ability of government institutions to serve their interests. As outlined by Habermas (1975), this erosion of trust can result in widespread disillusionment and social unrest. Political demonstrations and protests frequently emerge as mechanisms for expressing dissatisfaction with the status quo and demanding accountability from those in power (Tilly, 2004). These actions serve as a critical response to perceived governmental failures and highlight the public's increased demand for transparency and justice.

Civil disobedience, a form of nonviolent resistance, is another consequence of political corruption and legitimation-crisis. When citizens perceive their government as corrupt or unjust, they may engage in acts of civil disobedience to challenge oppressive policies or laws. As observed in the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King Jr., civil disobedience could be used as a powerful force for social change (King Jr., 1963).

However, when peaceful avenues for dissent are stifled or ignored, unrest can escalate into rioting and rebellion. Riots, characterized by violence and destruction of property, often erupt as a response to systemic injustice and government oppression. Similarly, rebellions and insurgencies may arise when marginalized groups perceive no alternative but to challenge the authority of the ruling regime.

Terrorism, arguably the most extreme outcome of political corruption, represents a violent attempt to achieve ideological or political goals through fear and intimidation. As noted by Schmid in "The Definition of Terrorism," acts of terrorism target innocent civilians and undermine the stability of society (Schmid, 2011). Subversion, sabotage, and coup d'états are additional tactics employed by both corrupt politically Subordinate actors as well as those against corrupt regime to maintain power and suppress dissent.

Therefore, political corruption has far-reaching and detrimental consequences for societies around the world. From scandals that erode trust in government to civil unrest, terrorism, civil war and coup d'états the impact of corruption is profound and multifaceted. Hence, addressing political corruption is very crucial to insure peace and it requires concerted efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance at all levels of society.

4.14. Causes of moral decadence and Strategies to restore moral excellence

Lack of education and awareness is one factor. A lack of comprehensive educational programs that promote values, ethics, and moral responsibility can contribute to moral decadence in society. Implementing comprehensive educational programs that promote values, ethics, and moral responsibility from an early age can help prevent moral decadence in society.

Weak family and community support can also be mentioned as a factor that causes moral decadence. Inadequate support systems within families and communities can lead to a lack of positive moral values and behaviors in individuals. Creating strong support systems within families and communities can help instill positive moral values and behaviors in individuals.

Unethical leadership is also another factor in that regard. Corrupt or unethical leadership in government, business, and education can set a negative example for others to follow and contribute to moral decadence. Encouraging and supporting ethical leadership in all sectors of society, including government, business, and education, can help set a positive example for others to follow.

The other factor is weak enforcement of laws and regulations. Inadequate enforcement of laws and regulations that promote ethical behavior and punish moral misconduct can lead to an increase in unethical activities. Strengthening and enforcing laws and regulations that promote ethical behavior and punish moral misconduct can deter individuals from engaging in unethical activities.

Lack of accountability could be taken as a factor as well. A culture that does not encourage individuals and organizations to take responsibility for their actions and hold themselves accountable for their moral conduct can contribute to moral decadence. Fostering a culture of accountability and encouraging individuals and organizations to take responsibility for their actions and hold themselves accountable for their moral conduct can help prevent moral decadence.

Lack of empathy and compassion is one of the main factors which deter moral excellence. A lack of emphasis on the importance of empathy and compassion towards others can lead to a more negligent and unethical society. Promoting and emphasizing the importance of empathy and compassion towards others can help foster a more caring and ethical society.

Lack of dialogue and communication is also a main factor for moral decadence. A lack of open and honest dialogue about moral issues and a lack of communication between different groups can perpetuate moral decadence at a societal level. Encouraging dialogue and communication, creating open and honest dialogue about moral issues and promoting communication between different groups can help address moral decadence at a societal level.

Mental health challenges should also be seen as serious issue. Inadequate access to mental health resources and support can lead individuals to struggle with making proper ethical decisions. Supporting mental health and well-being, providing access to mental health resources and support can help individuals cope with the challenges of modern life and make more ethical decisions.

Social injustices and inequality is a major cause of moral decadence. Social injustices and inequality can contribute to a sense of unfairness and lead individuals to engage in unethical behavior as a means of survival or retaliation. Safeguarding human rights, promoting social justice, fairness, equity as well as addressing social injustices and promoting equality can help create a more just and ethical society.

Lack of personal responsibility is one major factor. A lack of promotion of the idea that each individual has a personal responsibility to act ethically and contribute positively to society can lead to increased moral decadence at an individual level. Encouraging personal responsibility, promoting the idea that each individual has a personal responsibility to act ethically and contribute positively to society can help prevent moral decadence at an individual level.

Chapter Five: Selective Political Theories as Strategies for Minimizing Corruption

5.1. Stranded in Morality: The Human Condition between Good and Bad

Human existence is often depicted as a journey, navigating the complicated path between good and bad. This moral dichotomy reflects the essence of human nature, where every individual is perpetually stranded between the realms of virtue and vice. The struggle is inherent; it defines our actions, shapes our decisions, and ultimately determines our character.

The concept of good and bad is not always clear-cut. What one may perceive as virtuous, another might see as flawed. This moral ambiguity complicates the human experience, leaving us in a constant state of ethical deliberation. Influences such as upbringing, society, and personal experiences each contribute to our understanding of right and wrong (Smith, 2019).

In this moral landscape, humans are neither wholly good nor entirely bad. Instead, we embody a spectrum of qualities that fluctuate based on circumstances and choices. The challenge lies in recognizing this duality and striving for a balance that aligns with our core values. Ethical dilemmas force us to confront our principles, testing our integrity and commitment to the greater good (Johnson, 2020).

Ultimately, being stranded between good and bad is not a plight to be lamented but a condition to be embraced. It is through this struggle that we grow, learn, and refine our moral compass. By acknowledging our imperfections and striving for moral excellence, we inch closer to the ideal of a just and virtuous life. Thus, the journey between good and bad becomes a testament to our humanity, illustrating the perpetual quest for moral clarity in an ever-complex world (Williams, 2021).

Differentiating between good and bad from a moral perspective involves several considerations drawn from various ethical theories and principles. Consequentialist theories, such as utilitarianism, suggest that the morality of an action depends on its outcomes. An action is deemed good if it leads to the greatest happiness or least harm for the greatest number of people. Conversely, an action is bad if it results in more harm than good (Mill, 1861).

Deontological ethics, particularly Kantian ethics, assert that actions are morally right or wrong based on their adherence to certain rules or duties, regardless of the consequences. According to this perspective, an action is good if it aligns with moral duties and principles, such as honesty and justice, and bad if it violates these principles (Kant, 1785).

Virtue ethics focuses on the character and virtues of the individual performing the action rather than the action itself. An action is considered “good” if it is done out of virtuous intentions, such as kindness, courage, or wisdom, and bad if it stems from vices like greed, cowardice, or deceit (Aristotle, 350 B.C.E).

Some ethical frameworks emphasize the context and relationships involved in a moral decision. These perspectives suggest that an action's morality may depend on the specific circumstances and the nature of relationships between those involved. What is good or bad might vary based on situational factors and the needs and well-being of those affected (Gilligan, 1982).

Cultural relativism posits that what is considered good or bad is determined by societal norms and cultural contexts. Different cultures may have varying standards for moral behavior, and understanding these norms can help distinguish between good and bad within a specific cultural framework (Benedict, 1934).

Some philosophers argue that humans have an innate moral sense or intuition that helps us distinguish between good and bad. This moral sense is often shaped by empathy, compassion, and the ability to understand the feelings of others (Haidt, 2012).

In practice, individuals often integrate multiple ethical theories and principles to navigate moral dilemmas. By considering the consequences, duties, virtues, context, cultural norms, and intuitive moral sense, we can develop a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of what constitutes good and bad actions (Jones, 2018).

To effectively differentiate between good and bad, continuous reflection and critical thinking are essential. Engaging in open dialogue, questioning assumptions, and considering diverse perspectives can help refine our moral judgments and lead to more ethically sound decisions (Nussbaum, 1990).

Corruption, a persistent challenge in governance worldwide, demands versatile approaches for mitigation. This chapter resents selected moral and political theories in that regard and their implications for combating corruption. Drawing upon the works of influential philosophers such as Immanuel Kant, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and John Rawls, this analysis offers insights into theoretical frameworks and practical strategies for addressing corruption.

5.2. Positivism

Positivism, rooted in empirical observation and scientific inquiry, advocates for "objectivity" derived from observable data. According to positivist principles, scientific methodologies form the foundation of all legitimate forms of inquiry, emphasizing verifiability and empirical evidence. The unity of scientific method emphasizes the logical consistency across disciplines, promoting value-neutral analysis. Bryman, A. (2016). Positivism asserts the necessity of empirical procedures for research, prioritizing tangible results over abstract speculation. By acclimatizing Positivist approach, this thesis presents systematic analysis about the need for ethical integrity and anti-corruption attitudes.

5.3. Anarchism and Its drawbacks

Anarchism, advocating for minimal or absent state authority, challenges traditional notions of governance. Proponents argue for individual freedom and autonomy, critiquing state power as inherently oppressive. However, anarchism faces practical challenges, including the loss of asset protection and law enforcement in the absence of centralized authority. Critics highlight the potential for chaos and insecurity in anarchic societies, necessitating alternative governance structures to ensure social order and stability. Anarchism doesn't help us combat corruption since it lacks systematically structured statehood and legitimate governmental body which formulates and enforces standards, policies, laws and regulations. This thesis therefore never extols anarchism.

5.4. Contractarian Approach

In the broader socio-political context, trust plays a vital role in shaping social interactions and relationships. Trust, along with concepts such as control, risk, and power, contributes to the fabric of social reality. Sociology, one of the disciplines within the realm of positivism, examines the dynamics of trust within social systems and its implications for social cohesion and cooperation.

This thesis is framed based on social contract theory. Social contract theory aligns well with positivism and pragmatism. Social Contract Theory, expounded by philosophers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean Jacques Rousseau, posits that legitimate political authority derives from a hypothetical contract between citizens and the state. Emmanuel Kant and John Rawls are also contractarian philosophers. Contractarian theoretical framework analyzes the origins of government legitimacy and the obligations of both rulers and citizens.

Thomas Hobbes, envisioning a Leviathan to mitigate the state of nature's inherent conflict, emphasizes the necessity of sovereign authority to suppress corruption and maintain social order (Hobbes, 1651). John Locke, on the other hand, diverges from Hobbes by asserting natural rights and the consent of the governed as foundational principles (Locke, 1689). He argues that citizens retain the right to overthrow oppressive regimes, emphasizing the reciprocal relationship between individuals and government (Locke, 1689). Hobbesian and Lockean perspectives emphasize the role of sovereign authority in curbing corruption and ensuring the rule of law (Gordon, 2013).

When it comes to Jean Jacques Rousseau, he offers a nuanced critique, highlighting the potential for social inequality and exploitation in civil society (Rousseau, 1762). He advocates for a genuine social contract based on the collective will (general will), promoting political freedom and equality (Rousseau, 1762). Rousseau's concept of the general will underscores the collective pursuit of the common good, challenging entrenched power structures and fostering civic engagement (Miller, 2002).

Immanuel Kant is a constructivist and deontological moral theorist. He is also regarded as a contractarian philosopher (Sullivan, 1996). In his moral framework, Kant portrays humans as rational beings with inherent dignity (Kant, 1785). He introduced the notions of good will, the categorical imperative theory, and the universalizability of moral duties, along with advocating for perpetual peace based on universal moral duties (Kant, 1795). Kant argued that individuals should prioritize their duty over personal inclinations when taking any action, irrespective of the specific results of any given behavior. Duty, in his view, outweighs consequences (Kant, 1785).

When it comes to the issue of corruption, Kant's moral philosophy underscores the importance of ethical duty and accountability in governance (Morris, 2010). Kantian ethics condemns corruption as a violation of moral principles and advocates for transparency and integrity in public affairs (Brennan, 2017).

This thesis aligns with consequentialism and egoism, deviating from the anti-inclination argument and duty emphasized in Kantian beliefs. However, it values Kant's contractarian aspect and the concept of perpetual peace resulting from moral excellence.

5.5. John Rawls' Theory of Justice

John Rawls, a distinguished American political theorist and philosopher, gained prominence with his influential work *"A Theory of Justice"* in 1971. His analysis of justice and fairness has notably impacted philosophical and social dialogues. Rawls' justice theory builds upon social contract theory and Kantian ethical and political theories, concentrating on distributive justice and the fair distribution of resources within society. His ideas align with Egoism, Positivism, Pragmatism, and Social Contract Theory, earning high commendation in this thesis.

The five Distributive Norms: A prominent American social psychologist, John Donelson Ross Forsyth distinguished five categories of distributive norms: (1) Distributive norm based on "equality", (2) Distributive norm based on "equity", (3) Distributive norm based on "power", (4) Distributive norm based on "needs" and (5) Distributive norm based on "responsibility". These norms are benchmarks for assessing the fairness of resource allocation within groups and communities. Forsyth, J. D. R. (2010). *Group Dynamics Wadsworth Cengage Learning*.

Theories of Distributive Justice: Rawls introduced a novel perspective on distributive justice in his theory of justice as fairness. He proposed three core components: (1) The equality of rights and liberties, (2) Equal opportunities for all, and (3) Arrangements of economic inequalities aimed at benefiting the least advantaged members of society. Rawls' framework prioritizes the well-being of the most vulnerable while ensuring equal access to opportunities for all individuals.

The Original Position and the Veil of Ignorance: Central to Rawls' theory is the concept of the original position, a hypothetical scenario in which individuals negotiate principles of justice from behind a veil of ignorance. This veil obscures individuals' "knowledge" of their social status, financial standing, or personal characteristics, fostering impartiality and fairness in decision-making. The original position enables individuals to craft principles of justice that prioritize fairness and equality, uninfluenced by personal biases or advantages.

Implications for Addressing Corruption: While Rawls' theory does not directly address corruption, its emphasis on justice and fairness offers insights into combating corrupt practices. Corruption often distorts the fair allocation of resources and opportunities within society, undermining the principles of justice. Rawls' framework suggests that fostering transparency, accountability, and equal opportunities can mitigate the harmful effects of corruption. By adhering to principles of justice and fairness, societies can develop mechanisms to hold individuals in positions of authority accountable and ensure equitable resource distribution.

John Rawls' theory of justice offers a compelling framework for promoting fairness and social equity within society. By prioritizing the well-being of the least advantaged and emphasizing equal opportunities for all, Rawls' theory provides valuable insights into addressing societal challenges such as corruption. The ideas of John Rawls are complementary to Egoism, Positivism, Pragmatism, and Social Contract Theory; and that's why the theory earns high commendation in this thesis.

Hence, Social contract political theories offer diverse perspectives on governance and corruption mitigation. Drawing upon the insights of Kant, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and John Rawls, policymakers can develop comprehensive strategies to combat corruption, promoting transparency, accountability, and civic participation in governance. While positivism emphasizes empirical inquiry, social contract theory matches positivism and helps to build up a foundation of political legitimacy.

5.6. Egalitarianism, Pluralism, and Democracy

Through enhancing transparency, accountability, and trust, societies can strive towards creating a more just and equitable world. In the pursuit of building fair and inclusive societies, concepts like egalitarianism, pluralism, and democracy emerge as pillars supporting diversity, equality, and participation. Each of these concepts offers distinct perspectives and strategies aimed at fostering harmonious coexistence and ensuring the representation and empowerment of all individuals and groups within society. The principles of egalitarianism, pluralism, and democracy have interrelationships. They also have both challenges and opportunities during implementation among contemporary societies.

Egalitarianism: Egalitarianism stands as a foundational principle advocating for equality and fairness across various dimensions of human existence, transcending differences in gender, race, ethnicity, social status, and other attributes (Feinberg, 2019). Rooted in the belief of equal opportunities for all, egalitarianism seeks to dismantle social and economic inequalities, paving the way for a more just and equitable society (Sen, 2009). This principle finds application in multiple spheres, including politics, economics, education, and social justice, highlighting its pervasive influence on societal structures and norms (Miller, 1999).

Pluralism: Pluralism complements egalitarianism by recognizing and celebrating the diversity inherent in human societies. It acknowledges the existence of multiple groups with distinct beliefs, values, and interests, advocating for their equitable treatment and representation (Taylor, 1994). Pluralism fosters an environment where different cultures, religions, and ideologies coexist peacefully, emphasizing the importance of tolerance, dialogue, and cooperation among diverse groups (Kymlicka, 1995). By embracing diversity, pluralism enriches social interactions, promotes mutual understanding, and contributes to the resilience and vibrancy of communities (Parekh, 2000).

Challenges and Opportunities in Pluralism: Pluralism, despite its merits, confronts various challenges in practice. Fragmentation and division may arise when consensus becomes elusive, leading to conflicts and disagreements among different groups (Sandel, 2010). To mitigate such challenges, platforms for mediation and conflict resolution must be established, facilitating constructive dialogue and promoting understanding among diverse stakeholders (Bohm, 1996). Peacemaking, peace building, and peacekeeping strategies are very important in this regard (Lederach, 1997). In addition to that, policies and programs promoting equality and social justice are essential to address the marginalization of certain groups and ensure their voices are heard in decision-making processes (Young, 1990).

The Intersection of Pluralism and Egalitarianism: While pluralism and egalitarianism pursue distinct objectives, they converge in their commitment to promoting diversity and equality within society. Pluralism acknowledges and respects differences between groups, while egalitarianism underscores the importance of individual equality irrespective of group affiliations (West, 2018). Together, these concepts serve as complementary forces, working in tandem to foster a more inclusive and equitable social order. By embracing both pluralism and egalitarianism, societies can aspire to create environments where diversity is celebrated, and all individuals have equal opportunities to thrive (Gunnell, 2011).

Democracy: Democracy epitomizes the principle of governance by the people, where citizens or their elected representatives hold the ultimate authority in policymaking (Dahl, 1989). Characterized by free and fair elections, the rule of law, and protection of individual liberties, democracy serves as a bulwark against authoritarianism and tyranny (Lipset, 1959). It fosters accountability, innovation, and stability, providing avenues for civic participation and safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms (Putnam, 1995).

Challenges in Democracy: Despite its virtues, democracy grapples with inherent challenges such as slow decision-making, political polarization, and voter apathy (Fukuyama, 2014). Solutions to these challenges require concerted efforts to promote transparency, inclusivity, and accountability within democratic institutions (Norris, 2017). Measures such as fostering inclusive decision-making processes, protecting minority rights, promoting civic education, and combating corruption are crucial in strengthening democracy and preserving its integrity (Diamond, 1999).

Hence, the principles of egalitarianism, pluralism, and democracy are indispensable cornerstones in the quest for inclusive and equitable societies. By upholding values of diversity, equality, and participation, societies can aspire to cultivate environments where all individuals and groups are respected, represented, and empowered. While challenges abound, proactive measures aimed at fostering dialogue, cooperation, and accountability offer pathways to overcome obstacles and realize the full potential of pluralistic and democratic ideals. Through collective action and unwavering commitment, societies can build brighter futures founded on principles of justice, equity, equality and mutual respect.

5.7. Framework of Moral Theory for Minimizing Corruption

Corruption is a pervasive issue in societies worldwide, posing significant challenges to governance, economic development, and social cohesion. Efforts to combat corruption often rely on moral theories that guide individuals' behavior and decision-making. This thesis advocates for the combination of egoism and social contract theory as a framework of moral theory, particularly focusing on egoism and its implications for honesty and integrity in addressing corruption. The whole idea of this thesis is to make a bridge between self-interest and collective interest as well as propose constructive ideas for the realization of peace security and human development.

5.8. Self-Interest and Morality

Egoism, as a moral theory, asserts the primacy of self-interest as the ultimate moral goal. While it may initially appear synonymous with selfishness, egoism distinguishes itself by emphasizing self-preservation and self-fulfillment rather than an exaggerated sense of personal significance. Terrance McConnell (1978) argues that individuals who subscribe to egoism prioritize their own well-being and happiness without necessarily considering the welfare of others.

Various forms of egoism delineate different perspectives on self-interest. Psychological egoism posits that all human actions stem from self-centered motives, while normative egoism suggests that acting in one's best interests is morally commendable. Rational egoism asserts that self-interest aligns with logic and the laws of nature, while ethical egoism contends that ethical decision-making should be entirely guided by self-interest (Edward Regis, Jr. 1980). These nuanced interpretations of egoism offer insights into the complexities of human motivation and moral reasoning.

5.9. Ayn Rand, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Niccolò Machiavelli

Ayn Rand, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Niccolò Machiavelli are renowned for their philosophical discourses on self-interest and morality. While they share a common emphasis on individualism and the pursuit of self-interest, their approaches differ significantly.

All three philosophers challenge traditional moral values and advocate for the prioritization of individual happiness and fulfillment. They reject collectivism and question established moral systems, urging individuals to pursue their values and goals based on reason and personal will. Nietzsche and Machiavelli, in particular, espouse an amoral perspective, contending that moral concepts are subjective and can be manipulated for personal gain or power.

However, distinctions emerge in their moral frameworks. Ayn Rand's Objectivism promotes rational self-interest, individual rights, and laissez-faire capitalism, advocating for a morality of rational egoism where individuals act in accordance with their long-term self-interest. In contrast, Nietzsche and Machiavelli reject objective moral values, advocating for a more subjective, individualistic perspective that prioritizes personal greatness and power. Rand, A. (1964). Nietzsche, F. (1887). Machiavelli, N. (1532).

Nietzsche is a pioneer for existentialism and post modernism. He is a promoter of perspectivism and highly condemns the religious, deontological and altruistic types of morality since he considers them as "slave morality." Nietzsche's concept of the will to power, emphasizing self-overcoming and self-assertion, adds a unique dimension to his philosophy not found in Ayn Rand or Niccolò Machiavelli's works. It underscores the individual's pursuit of self-mastery and greatness beyond conventional moral constraints. Rand, A. (1964). Nietzsche, F. (1887). Machiavelli, N. (1532).

In sum, moral theories which prioritize self-interest, particularly egoism, offer valuable insights into understanding real human nature. However, they fail to properly address corruption and dishonesty since they disregard the interpersonal and social aspects of human life. In the common discourses of egoism, it seems that there is a big detachment between ethical integrity and the notion of egoism. It is important to minimize the gap between ethical integrity and self-interest; and that's why we need to make Reconciliation between Egoism and Ethical integrity.

5.10. Reconciliation between Egoism and Ethical integrity

The idea of "Reconciliation between Egoism and Ethical integrity" is the same to the idea of "Reconciliation between Self-interest and Collective Interest". That's the central idea of this thesis. While egoism emphasizes individual self-interest, it is imperative to recognize its importance and also the importance of ethical integrity and social harmony.

Emmanuel Kant's critique highlights the significance of moral duty and universal principles, challenging the egoistic notion of prioritizing personal gain. However, rational approaches within egoism acknowledge the need for ethical behavior and promote integrity in alignment with individual well-being and self-interest. By understanding the interconnectedness of individual actions and societal consequences, it becomes possible to reconcile egoism with ethical integrity, fostering a more just and harmonious society.

Various philosophers, such as Niccolo Machiavelli, Fredrik Natchez, and Ayn Rand, advocate self-centeredness, asserting that prioritizing self-interest is fundamental to human nature. Despite their differences, they endorse in their own way the idea that placing one's self interests first is paramount. However, Emmanuel Kant presents a contrasting view in his work *"The Metaphysics of Morals,"* advocating a moral philosophy grounded in principles of duty and ethics.

Kant's moral framework emphasizes universal moral laws, where individuals have a duty to act in accordance with these principles. Dishonesty and corrupt practices are deemed morally wrong under Kantian ethics, highlighting the significance of honesty and integrity in all spheres, including politics. Kant rejects Machiavelli's endorsement of deceitful tactics for political gain, emphasizing the importance of moral principles over personal advantage.

Egoism, which prioritizes self-interest and personal gain, often fails to provide a comprehensive framework for condemning or remedying dishonesty and corruption. This is because egoistic moral theories lack universal principles guiding ethical decision-making, focusing solely on individual desires and interests. Consequently, egoism is often associated with motivations behind dishonesty and corruption.

While egoism can indeed contribute to dishonest behavior, there exist rational approaches within egoism that prioritize self-interest while recognizing the importance of ethics. Without abandoning egoism it is possible to address dishonesty and corruption within the egoistic theoretical framework.

To combat corruption within egoistic moral theory, it is crucial to acknowledge that individual interests are best served through healthy social interaction. Understanding the societal repercussions of corrupt actions is vital, as corruption ultimately undermines societal well-being, negatively affecting every member of society. Therefore, promoting fairness, justice, and the common good is essential both for society as a whole and for each individual within it. The following sections elaborate on strategies to promote integrity while preserving individual well-being and self-interest.

5.11. Negative consequences of Individual's unethical habits

Unethical behaviors and habits have a great deal of negative impacts on oneself in an individual basis. Some potential consequences of unethical habits within personal and social frameworks include:

- **Isolation and Alienation:** Engaging in negative behaviors can lead to social isolation and alienation from friends, family, and the larger community. This can result in feelings of loneliness, depression, and a lack of support.
- **Reputation and Image:** Unethical habits can tarnish an individual's reputation and image within their social circle. This can lead to a loss of respect, trust, and opportunities for personal and professional growth.
- **Financial Consequences:** Some bad habits, such as overspending, gambling and corruption, can have severe financial consequences. This can lead to debt, financial instability, and strain on personal relationships. In addition to that, individual's dishonest behaviors cause loss of trust in front of persons or institutions that are required as financial sources in a loan basis. When it comes to financial aid, people usually lack sympathy to financially aid untrustworthy persons.

- **Diminished Self-esteem:** Engaging in bad habits such as dishonesty can lead to a decrease in self-esteem and self-worth. This can result in feelings of guilt, shame, and a negative self-perception.
- **Influence on Others:** Individuals' unethical habits can negatively influence others within a social framework, especially if the behavior is seen as socially acceptable or desirable. This can perpetuate a cycle of unhealthy behaviors and contribute to a culture of negativity. This situation consequently victimizes all members within that social group.
- **Impact on Family and Future Generations:** Unethical habits within a social framework can be passed down to the family and future generations. This can perpetuate cycles of negative behaviors and have long-term consequences for individuals, family and society as a whole.
- **Legal Troubles:** Certain unethical habits, such as engaging in illegal activities or participating in risky behaviors, can result in legal troubles. This can lead to criminal records, fines, imprisonment, and a negative impact on future prospects.

Hence, the consequences of bad habits within a social framework can have far-reaching impacts on individuals' well-being, relationships, reputation, and overall quality of life. It is important to recognize these consequences and make efforts to promote healthier behaviors and positive social norms.

5.12. Repetitive and progressive characteristics of unethical behaviors

Dishonest behaviors usually have repetitive and progressive characteristics. When individuals engage in dishonest behaviors, such as corruption, they may become more comfortable with these actions over time. This can lead to a progression where the individual becomes increasingly willing to engage in more severe or frequent acts of corruption.

For example, someone who initially accepts a small bribe may eventually become more comfortable accepting larger bribes or engaging in more complex corrupt schemes. This progression can occur as individuals rationalize their actions, become desensitized to the ethical implications, or are influenced by a culture of corruption.

Additionally, repetitive engagement in dishonest behaviors can create a habit or pattern of behavior. Once individuals have successfully engaged in corruption without facing consequences, they may be more likely to continue engaging in such behaviors in the future. This can further reinforce the repetitive and progressive nature of dishonest behaviors.

Awareness about the importance of ethical behavior and promoting a culture of integrity and ethical governance are advantageous for individuals as well as groups. It is also important to address and prevent the repetition and progression of dishonest behaviors through self-awareness, ethical education, counseling services and so on.

5.13. Negative Impacts of Individual's unethical behaviors on others

Dishonest behaviors are like Pandemic. From a social relationship and communication perspective, dishonest and unethical behaviors of a person can indeed influence others to behave dishonestly. This can occur through various social mechanisms, such as social learning, normative influence, and the diffusion of responsibility.

Social learning theory suggests that individuals learn by observing and imitating the behaviors of others. If individual persons witness someone else engaging in dishonest or unethical behaviors without facing consequences, they may be more inclined to engage in similar behaviors themselves. This can create a cycle where dishonesty is perpetuated within a social group.

Normative influence also plays a role in the reciprocal nature of dishonesty. When individuals observe others engaging in dishonest behaviors, it can lead to a normalization of those behaviors within the social group. This can make it easier for individuals to justify their own dishonest actions, as they perceive that others are also engaging in similar behaviors.

The diffusion of responsibility phenomenon can also contribute to the reciprocal nature of dishonesty. When individuals are part of a larger group or organization where dishonesty is prevalent, they may feel less personally responsible for their own unethical actions. They may believe that since everyone else is engaging in dishonesty, it is acceptable for them to do so as well.

The reciprocal nature of dishonesty and unethical behaviors within a social framework can be explained by the influence of social learning, normative influence, and the diffusion of responsibility. It is important to keep in mind the importance of promoting ethical behavior and integrity within social groups to break this cycle of dishonesty.

5.14. Negative effect of an individual's greed on oneself

One of the most significant root causes of dishonesty and corruption is greed. The disadvantages of greed for an individual who is too greedy include:

- **Loss of relationships:** In most cases, conflict emanates from greed. Greed can lead to a lack of empathy for others, which can result in strained relationships with friends and family.
- **Financial problems:** Being too greedy can lead to overspending, financial instability, and even bankruptcy.
- **Lack of satisfaction:** Greed is the manifestation of lack of satisfaction. When a person lacks sense of satisfaction, life becomes unfulfilled, unhappy and full of absurdity.
- **Tendency to violate laws:** When a person has high level of greed, he/she may violate social norms and legal restrictions. This situation may result not only in social isolation and alienation but also in legal troubles like imprisonment.
- **Health problems:** Constantly striving for more without satisfaction can lead to frustration, stress, anxiety, and other health problems that can negatively impact an individual's physical and mental health.

5.15. Negative effect of an individual's greed on others

The disadvantages of greediness of an individual person on other people include:

- **Exploitation:** Greedy individuals usually exploit others for personal gain, leading to unfair treatment and exploitation.
- **Lack of trust:** Greed can lead to a lack of trust between individuals, which can negatively impact personal, social, professional and business relationships.
- **Social inequality:** Greedy individuals may hoard resources and wealth, leading to social inequality and economic disparities.
- **Conflict:** greed causes lack of trust, inequality and exploitation in a social interaction. This situation eventually results in a conflict which victimizes every actor within that social interaction.

5.16. Benefits of Individual's Good Social-skills and Ethical Integrity for Oneself

In contemporary society, the significance of possessing strong social skills and ethical integrity cannot be overstated. These attributes are not only vital for individual well-being but also indispensable for fostering a harmonious and ethical social fabric. Rooted in honesty and integrity, these qualities sustain the foundation of healthy relationships, facilitate personal growth, and contribute to societal stability. Good social skills and Ethical Integrity have a great deal of benefits for individuals and their broader communities.

One of the primary advantages of cultivating strong social skills lies in its facilitation of improved communication. Effective interpersonal communication enables individuals to articulate their thoughts, emotions, and needs coherently, thereby enhancing their ability to engage in self-care practices. In addition, Effective social skills provide opportunities for self-expression, allowing individuals to share experiences and seek advice, thereby improving their emotional well-being.

In addition, robust social skills contribute to heightened self-awareness. Through meaningful interactions, individuals receive feedback on their behavior and emotions, facilitating introspection and personal development. Consequently, individuals with strong social acumen exhibit enhanced emotional intelligence and are better equipped to navigate complex social dynamics.

Perhaps one of the most profound benefits of nurturing healthy social relationships is the provision of emotional support. Research spanning health sciences and psychology explains the correlation between strong social connections and improved physical and mental health outcomes. Positive relationships serve as a buffer against stress and anxiety, promoting resilience and strengthening overall well-being. Additionally, a robust support network encourages individuals to engage in self-care activities, thereby promoting holistic wellness.

Besides, good social skills open doors to various social and professional opportunities as well. Networking and building connections are integral components of career advancement and personal growth. Positive interactions cultivate motivation and provide individuals with the encouragement needed to prioritize self-care and maintain healthy habits.

In parallel, ethical integrity, characterized by honesty and trustworthiness, plays a pivotal role in creating positive social interactions. Individuals who exemplify these qualities are more likely to engender trust and credibility in their relationships, thereby facilitating effective communication and interpersonal harmony. Additionally, integrity contributes to increased self-awareness and self-respect, foundational elements of self-care and healthy relationships.

Beyond individual well-being, the significance of ethical integrity extends to the broader societal context. Parents, in particular, serve as primary role models for future generations, shaping moral development through their actions and values. By creating a peaceful and ethical environment within the family, individuals lay the foundation for instilling values of honesty and integrity in successive generations, thereby contributing to the cultivation of a virtuous society.

The other point is that individuals bear a collective responsibility in mitigating dishonesty, corruption, and crime within society. Active participation in education, promotion of ethical behavior, strengthening community bonds, and support for social and economic opportunities are imperative in addressing the root causes of criminality. Likewise, reporting suspicious activities and supporting rehabilitation programs for offenders are essential steps in fostering social justice and creating a safe and inclusive society.

In brief, the cultivation of good skills and ethical integrity is indispensable for individual well-being and societal harmony. It is by prioritizing honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior, that individuals not only enhance their own quality of life but also contribute to the creation of a virtuous and inclusive society. Accordingly, through collective efforts and a shared commitment to ethical excellence, we humans can create a safe, peaceful, and trustworthy environment conducive to the flourishing of all members of society.

5.17. Collective and Individual Benefits of Ethical Excellence

In contemporary socio-political and economic discourse, the significance of moral excellence and ethical values in fostering societal well-being are very important. A society that upholds and ensures high levels of ethical conduct enjoys a multitude of advantages, encompassing social cohesion, economic prosperity, political stability, environmental sustainability, and an improved quality of life.

Social Cohesion and Trust: Foremost among the advantages conferred by ethical excellence is the cultivation of social cohesion. Trust and respect among individuals are the bedrock of harmonious societies. According to Putnam (2000), social cohesion strengthens communities by promoting collaboration and mutual support. Individuals are more likely to cooperate and work towards common goals when ethical values are upheld, leading to enhanced social capital and collective well-being (Bourdieu, 1986; Fukuyama, 1995). In addition, research indicates that societies with higher levels of trust also enjoy better economic prosperity and stability (Knack & Keefer, 1997). The promotion of ethical behavior thus plays a key role in building social networks that are fundamental for addressing collective challenges (Civic Engagement and Social Cohesion, 2013).

Economic Prosperity and Market Confidence: Ethical conduct underpins economic prosperity by engendering trust in institutions and markets. A study by Transparency International (2019) highlights the correlation between low levels of corruption and higher economic growth rates. When businesses operate with integrity and adhere to ethical standards, they attract investments and foster consumer confidence, thereby stimulating economic growth and innovation.

Political Stability and Accountability: Ethical governance is fundamental in ensuring political stability and accountability. Research by Rothstein (2011) demonstrates that countries with lower levels of corruption exhibit greater political stability and stronger democratic institutions. Upholding ethical values insures public trust in government institutions, curbing instances of abuse of power and enhancing the accountability of elected officials.

Environmental Sustainability and Conservation: Ethical behavior extends to environmental stewardship, with ethical societies prioritizing sustainability. According to O'Brien and Leichenko (2000), ethical considerations drive individuals and organizations to adopt eco-friendly practices and advocate for conservation efforts. By promoting environmental sustainability, ethical societies mitigate ecological degradation and safeguard natural resources for future generations.

Improved Quality of Life and Well-being: Ethical excellence contributes to an improved quality of life for individuals within society. The provision of essential services, such as healthcare and education, is more equitable in societies that prioritize ethical values. A study by

Wilkinson and Pickett (2009) explains the link between social cohesion, income equality, and overall well-being, emphasizing the importance of ethical governance in enhancing societal welfare.

Individual Benefits and Responsibilities: At the individual level, ethical excellence engenders a sense of security, trust, and fulfillment. Living in a society that values moral integrity provides individuals with access to essential resources and opportunities for personal growth and success. By adhering to ethical principles and contributing positively to society, individuals can develop a sense of belonging and purpose, thereby promoting their own well-being and that of their community.

Promoting Ethical Behavior: The promotion of ethical behavior is a collective endeavor, requiring active participation from individuals and institutions alike. Encouraging ethical conduct, supporting social and economic opportunities, promoting education, strengthening community ties, reporting suspicious activity, and supporting rehabilitation programs are imperative to building safer and more inclusive societies.

Thus, ethical excellence is integral to the fabric of a harmonious society, offering collective benefits that enrich the lives of individuals and communities. It is by upholding ethical values and creating a culture of integrity that societies can achieve social cohesion, economic prosperity, political stability, environmental sustainability and a better quality of life. As individuals, it is our responsibility to uphold our ethical responsibilities and contribute to the collective quest for a more ethical and equitable world. In this way, we can create a society where everyone thrives and flourishes, through concerted efforts and a shared commitment to ethical excellence.

Conclusion

The thesis critically analyzed the inseparable connection between trust and integrity, shedding light on how dishonesty and corruption permeate through personal, social, political, societal, national, and global realms. It meticulously examined the detrimental effects of corruption on development, governance, and societal equity. With a focused aim on uncovering the underlying causes of corruption, the study endeavors to present actionable strategies for nurturing integrity and promoting effective governance. Ultimately, this thesis aspires to be a significant contributor to peace-building initiatives and the ongoing fight against corruption across diverse contexts and scales.

From the lens of social contract theory, it becomes evident that tacit contracts and explicit covenants are susceptible to degradation over time without consistent nurturing. Mutual understanding, interdependence, common sense, empathy, and consensus form the foundation for building a peaceful community and society. Tacit contracts, characterized by implicit agreements or understandings, and covenants, formal and explicit in nature, both demand attention to sustain their efficacy. To safeguard and cultivate these agreements, several key measures can be implemented:

Firstly, prioritizing mutual benefit ensures that all parties involved feel valued and fairly treated, thereby promoting commitment and cooperation. Open communication and transparency serve as pillars, facilitating awareness of expectations and obligations, and allowing for necessary updates or modifications.

Trust-building emerges as fundamental, requiring unwavering integrity and reliability to uphold the foundation of any contract or covenant. Accountability emphasizes the importance of recognizing shortcomings and seeking solutions or restorations when necessary.

Flexibility and adaptability recognize the inevitability of change and advocate adjustments to conditions to accommodate changing circumstances, thus avoiding potential conflicts. Regular evaluation and renewal cycles enable the reassessment of relevance and effectiveness, offering opportunities for refinement and reaffirmation of commitment.

By actively engaging in these nurturing actions, tacit contracts and covenants can be safeguarded against decay, sustaining a robust and mutually beneficial social contract. The fight against corruption and the promotion of ethics within societies are multidimensional endeavors that require the concerted efforts of various institutions at both national and international levels. Societies with robust democratic institutions and systems of checks and balances are better equipped to limit the concentration of power and ensure broader representation and accountability. Key institutions such as the government, anti-corruption agencies, judiciary, law enforcement bodies, civil society organizations, whistleblower protection agencies, public and private sectors, educational institutions, and international organizations all play vital roles in this endeavor.

Governments must prioritize the establishment of transparent and accountable systems. Human right concern, insuring Justice, fairness, equity, social welfare, development, peace and security should be the priorities of a government. This thesis proposes the adoption and careful implementation of Egalitarianism, Pluralism, Meritocracy and Genuine Democratic System of Administration for any country across the globe. Rule of law and due process of the law must be insured with in a state system. Governments must enforce laws effectively, and legally punish corrupt individuals by virtue of due process in order to discourage dishonesty and promote a culture of integrity. Specialized anti-corruption agencies are essential for investigating and prosecuting corruption cases, while an impartial judiciary ensures fair trials and upholds the rule of law. Law enforcement agencies must be well-trained and free from political interference to effectively enforce laws and investigate corruption allegations.

Civil society organizations act as watchdogs, exposing corruption and advocating for transparency, while whistleblower protection agencies provide crucial support and confidentiality to individuals willing to report corruption. Both the public and private sectors have responsibilities to operate ethically and transparently, implementing anti-corruption policies, compliance programs, and promoting a culture of integrity.

Educational institutions have a key role in shaping future generations committed to combating corruption by incorporating ethics education into their curricula and promoting a culture of ethical behavior among students. International organizations such as the United Nations, European Union, African Union, Transparency International, World Bank, International Monitory Funds, and so forth, should provide technical assistance, promote best practices, and monitor progress in anti-corruption initiatives globally.

Ultimately, the collaboration and independent action of these institutions are imperative to effectively combat corruption and promote ethics within societies. We Human can strive towards a world where integrity and accountability prevail, ensuring a fair and just society for all by working together, both nationally and internationally,

Elites as well hold major roles in promoting ethics and integrity within societies, serving as exemplars for their admirers, fans and supporters. Spanning across sectors such as Politics, Science, Technology, Business, Academia, Media, Religion, Sports, Art and Entertainment, elites wield substantial power, influence, and resources, enabling them to shape public opinion, set agendas, and influence decision-making processes. Their actions and decisions ripple through economic, political, and social systems, impacting wealth distribution and shaping societal norms.

While the influence of elites may vary across contexts and societies, their ability to advocate for their interests or mold public policies to reflect their values remains a constant. Despite differing perceptions of their impact among individuals, it is evident that elites possess significant potential to inspire ethical behavior and promote integrity. Therefore, this thesis advocates for elites to leverage their prominence, positive image, and talents to contribute to the cultivation of ethical values, trusting, and harmonious social environments.

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