

Public Administration and Anti-Corruption Efforts: A Critical Review

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini meneliti efektivitas inisiatif anti-korupsi dalam mengatasi korupsi sistemik yang mengakar dalam administrasi publik, dengan fokus pada negara-negara Asia Tenggara. Masalah inti yang disorot adalah ketidakmampuan berbagai strategi anti-korupsi untuk memberantas korupsi yang meluas. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk melakukan pemeriksaan kritis terhadap faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi keberhasilan atau kegagalan upaya anti-korupsi. Metode yang digunakan adalah Tinjauan Literatur untuk mengidentifikasi, menilai, dan meringkas temuan dari literatur yang relevan. Data yang dianalisis berasal dari penelitian sebelumnya yang menekankan kelemahan dalam penegakan hukum, kurangnya kemauan politik, dan perlawanan dari kelompok kepentingan pribadi sebagai hambatan utama untuk memberantas korupsi. Kesimpulan yang diambil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pendekatan yang lebih holistik dan berkelanjutan diperlukan untuk benar-benar mengatasi masalah korupsi sistemik. Studi ini memberikan kontribusi yang signifikan terhadap literatur anti-korupsi dan memberikan panduan praktis bagi pembuat kebijakan untuk merancang strategi yang lebih efektif dengan mempertimbangkan konteks lokal dan tantangan spesifik di Asia Tenggara.

ABSTRACT

This research examines the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives in addressing deeply rooted systemic corruption within public administration, focusing on Southeast Asian countries. The core issue highlighted is the inability of various anti-corruption strategies to eradicate widespread corruption. The goal of this study is to conduct a critical examination of the factors that influence the success or failure of anti-corruption efforts. The method employed is a Literature Review to identify, assess, and summarize findings from relevant literature. The data analyzed originates from previous studies that emphasize the weaknesses in law enforcement, lack of political will, and resistance from vested interest groups as major obstacles to eradicating corruption. The conclusions drawn from this research indicate that a more holistic and sustainable approach is necessary to genuinely address the problem of systemic corruption. This study makes a significant contribution to the anti-corruption literature and provides practical guidance for policymakers to design more effective strategies by considering local contexts and specific challenges in Southeast Asia.

Keywords:

Anti-Corruption Initiative, Corruption, Political Will, Public Administration

INTRODUCTION

Corruption refers to the misuse of entrusted power or authority for personal or group gain. The definition of corruption encompasses various forms of behavior such as bribery, embezzlement, fraud, extortion, nepotism, and abuse of power (Antonov & Lineva, 2021). Corruption not only causes financial losses to the state but also undermines the integrity and efficiency of the governmental system. Acts of corruption result in a loss of public trust in the government, weakening democracy and the rule of law. The pervasive nature of corruption means that it affects all levels of society, eroding the ethical foundation of governance and public service (Rose-Ackerman & Truex, 2013).

We can categorize corruption into various forms based on its type and level. Based on type, corruption can be grand corruption, involving high-ranking officials and large sums of money, or petty corruption, involving smaller amounts of money and lower-ranking officials (Fayed, 2018). According to level, corruption can be systemic (widespread and part of the system) or sporadic (occurring in isolated incidents). Other manifestations of corruption include gratuities, collusion, and nepotism. Each form of corruption presents unique challenges and requires targeted strategies to effectively address and mitigate its impact (Spyromitros & Panagiotidis, 2022).

Public administration is the process of managing government policies to achieve national goals and provide effective public service. This concept involves various functions such as planning, organizing, implementing, and overseeing. Public administration aims to ensure that public policies are well-implemented and comply with applicable regulations (Țicu, 2021). Public administration also plays a vital role in maintaining government stability and efficiency, as well as enhancing public welfare. The effectiveness of public administration directly influences the quality of life for citizens, as it determines the delivery of essential services and the management of public resources (Chtioui, 2019).

Various aspects such as organizational structure, function, and levels of government can categorize public administration. The organizational structure of public administration includes executive, legislative, and judicial bodies working synergistically to perform governmental tasks. The functions of public administration include policy formulation, management of public resources, provision of public services, and law enforcement (Doorwar et al., 2019). Manifestations of public administration are evident in various governmental activities, such as law-making, budget management, and the implementation of development programs (Fierro et al., 2024). Effective public administration requires clear and transparent processes that promote accountability and prevent misuse of power.

Anti-corruption initiatives are a series of actions and policies implemented to prevent, detect, and address corrupt behavior. These initiatives can include legal reforms, increased transparency and accountability, strengthening anti-corruption institutions, and public education and awareness campaigns (Abdul Manaf et al., 2023). The primary goal of anti-corruption initiatives is to create an environment conducive to clean and corruption-free governance, as well as to build public trust in government institutions. Successful anti-corruption initiatives require a multi-faceted approach that involves all sectors of society working together to combat corruption (“Preventing Corruption through Effective, Accountable, and Transparent Governance Institutions (2018-2022),” n.d.).

We can categorize anti-corruption initiatives based on their strategy and approach. Based on strategy, these initiatives include prevention, detection, and enforcement. Prevention involves steps such as anti-corruption education and improvements in governmental systems to reduce opportunities for corruption. Detection entails monitoring and auditing to identify signs of corruption, whereas enforcement entails the application of legal sanctions against corrupt actors (Tf et al., 2019). Anti-corruption initiatives manifest themselves in various government programs and policies aimed at combating corruption and encouraging public participation in monitoring government performance (Fierro et al., 2024). A comprehensive approach to anti-corruption ensures that efforts are sustainable and effective over the long term. Corruption remains a significant challenge in public administration, undermining governance and public trust. Corrupt practices not only result in financial losses for the state but also create social injustice and slow economic growth. The main obstacles to anti-corruption efforts include the lack of political will from leaders, the weakness of anti-corruption agencies in carrying out their duties, and the socio-political complexity involving various actors with different interests. All these factors make corruption a complex and difficult problem to overcome (Balitbangdiklatkumdil, 2018). Addressing these obstacles requires a coordinated and sustained effort from all stakeholders involved.

Despite the development of numerous theories and approaches to understand and address corruption, the literature reveals that the achieved results fall short of expectations. For example, institutional theory highlights the importance of strong and effective institutions in preventing corruption, yet in practice, many countries with seemingly strong institutions still experience high levels of corruption. Previous studies also indicate that factors such as culture, legal systems, and economic development levels play a significant role in determining the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts (Firmansyah & Syam, 2022). Understanding these contextual factors is crucial for designing anti-corruption strategies that are tailored to specific environments and challenges.

The purpose of this research is to conduct a critical examination of the factors influencing the success or failure of anti-corruption efforts, with a focus on Southeast Asian countries' experiences. This study will identify best practices as well as challenges in the implementation of anti-corruption policies in various countries. We hope to provide more targeted recommendations to strengthen anti-corruption efforts in Indonesia and other countries in the region by understanding these factors (Maisuri, 2023). By examining case studies and drawing lessons from different contexts, this research aims to contribute to the development of more effective anti-corruption strategies.

This research primarily argues that despite the launch of numerous anti-corruption initiatives, factors like weak law enforcement, resistance from vested interest groups, and limited resources often hinder their success. The proposed hypothesis is that the success of anti-corruption efforts highly depends on a combination of strong political will, community support, and effective and sustainable policy implementation. This research will explore the interactions between these factors and explore ways to enhance their effectiveness in combating corruption (Firmansyah & Syam, 2022). Identifying the key determinants of successful anti-corruption efforts can help policymakers and practitioners design more robust and impactful interventions.

In conclusion, corruption continues to pose a significant challenge to public administration, undermining governance, public trust, and economic development (Ceschel et al., 2022). Addressing this complex issue requires a comprehensive approach that includes legal reforms, institutional strengthening, public education, and regional cooperation. By understanding the factors that contribute to the success or failure of anti-corruption initiatives, we can develop more effective strategies to combat corruption and promote good governance. Collaboration across sectors and borders is essential to create a united front against corruption, leveraging collective knowledge and resources to implement effective solutions ("The Role of Non-State Actors and Citizens in Corruption Prevention in the Pacific," 2023). This research aims to provide valuable insights and recommendations to support ongoing efforts to build transparent, accountable, and corruption-free public administrations.

RESEARCH METHOD

Despite implementing various strategies, this research focuses on the inability of anti-corruption initiatives to address deeply rooted systemic corruption within public administration. The goal of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of various anti-corruption initiatives and identify the factors that contribute to their success or failure. The aim of this research is to provide a deeper understanding of corruption issues within public administration and to offer recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of existing anti-corruption initiatives.

Corruption, a multifaceted issue, has plagued public administration systems globally, leading to inefficiencies, mistrust, and economic setbacks. Over the years, numerous strategies have been designed and implemented to curb this pervasive problem (Ceschel et al., 2022). These strategies range from legislative reforms and the establishment of anti-corruption agencies to promoting transparency and accountability within governmental operations (World Bank Group, 2021). However, despite these efforts, systemic corruption remains a significant

challenge. This research delves into these issues, seeking to uncover why these initiatives have failed and what can be done to improve them.

This research employs a Literature Review (LR) approach, a structured and rigorous method of reviewing literature to identify, assess, and summarize findings from all relevant studies on the specified topic. The LR uses primary data derived from relevant literature on the inability of anti-corruption initiatives to tackle systemic corruption. The secondary data utilized includes relevant literature from books, journals, and other scientific research that is pertinent to the research keywords. This method aims to provide a comprehensive synthesis of the existing evidence while minimizing bias (Mengist et al., 2020). By employing the LR methodology, this study ensures a meticulous and exhaustive examination of the available data, thereby enhancing the reliability and validity of the findings.

The research is grounded in several fundamental theories that provide a framework for the study:

- a. Max Weber's Bureaucratic Theory explains an organizational structure that is rational and efficient with a clear hierarchy, detailed division of labor, formal rules and procedures, and impersonal relationships among organizational members (ProHuntFollow, 2021).
- b. The Principle of Freies Ermessen grants government officials the discretion to make decisions based on their judgment in situations where the law does not provide specific guidance (Bertelli, 2012).
- c. Public Administration Theory by Herbert Simon and Max Weber, which emphasizes the application of management principles and efficiency in government administration with a rational bureaucratic structure (Weber) and the concept of decision-making based on bounded rationality (Simon) (Payne, 1997).

Max Weber's Bureaucratic Theory provides a lens through which the structure of public administration can be examined. According to Weber, a well-defined hierarchy, clear rules, and an impersonal approach to relationships within the organization are crucial for achieving efficiency. However, this rigidity can sometimes stifle flexibility and innovation, leading to potential blind spots where corruption can take root (Khan, 2020). The Principle of Freies Ermessen highlights the discretionary power of government officials, which, while necessary for effective decision-making, can be a double-edged sword. This discretion can either be used judiciously or lead to abuses of power if not properly monitored (Pakuscher, 1976).

The LR research process consists of several structured and transparent stages. The first stage is formulating clear and specific research questions. Next, the researcher develops a research protocol that includes search strategies, inclusion-exclusion criteria, and data analysis methods. Data collection techniques involve searching the literature in various electronic databases using predefined keywords (Bramer et al., 2018). Researchers conduct quality assessments of the studies, data extraction, and analysis once they identify relevant literature. The development of a robust research protocol ensures that the study remains focused and systematic, thereby reducing the risk of bias and enhancing the credibility of the findings (Gebrye et al., 2023).

This research employs content analysis as the data analysis technique. This process involves studying and processing data to identify patterns, relationships, and key information contained within. By compiling the results of many relevant studies, content analysis helps provide a comprehensive picture of how well anti-corruption efforts are working to combat systemic corruption in public administration ("Technical note on the implementation of the anti-corruption initiative assessment based on the experience from the Republic of Korea," 2022). This technique also helps in identifying areas that require improvement and offers recommendations for future policy development. Content analysis allows for a detailed examination of the textual data, helping to uncover underlying themes and patterns that may not be immediately apparent (Armann-Keown & Patterson, 2020).

One key challenge identified in the literature is the lack of political will and commitment to genuinely tackle corruption. While anti-corruption agencies are often established with much fanfare, they frequently lack the necessary independence, resources, and authority to effectively carry out their mandates (Brody et al., 2020). Political interference and a lack of accountability further undermine these efforts. Moreover, the deeply ingrained culture of corruption within public institutions creates significant obstacles to change. This research seeks to identify best practices from successful anti-corruption initiatives globally and provide actionable recommendations for policymakers (“Good Practices in Public Sector Excellence to Prevent Corruption,” 2023).

In addition, the role of technology and digital tools in combating corruption cannot be overstated. E-governance initiatives, digital transparency measures, and data analytics are increasingly being used to detect and prevent corrupt practices (Santiso, 2022). However, the implementation of such technologies must be accompanied by comprehensive training and capacity-building programs to ensure their effective use. This study explores how these technological advancements can be leveraged to strengthen anti-corruption efforts and enhance public trust in governmental institutions (“New Technologies for Sustainable Development: Perspectives on Integrity, Trust and Anti-Corruption,” 2023).

Ultimately, the findings of this research aim to contribute to the ongoing discourse on public administration and governance. By shedding light on the complexities and challenges of addressing systemic corruption, this study hopes to inspire more effective and innovative approaches to combating this pervasive issue. The recommendations provided will be grounded in the latest evidence and best practices, offering a roadmap for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers dedicated to fostering integrity and accountability in public administration

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A literature review on corruption reveals that corrupt practices are highly diverse and occur at different levels of government. These practices can vary greatly in nature and severity, ranging from minor infractions to significant breaches of ethical and legal standards. The collected data includes various forms of corruption such as bribery, gratuities, nepotism, and abuse of power, each presenting its own unique challenges (Castro et al., 2020). Analyzed studies show that corruption is rampant in both the public and private sectors, with extensive impacts on the economy and society. The consequences of corruption are far-reaching, affecting economic growth, public trust, and the effectiveness of governance. Some studies also highlight that corruption is often well-organized and involves actors with significant influence within the governmental system (Usmaedi et al., 2021). This indicates a level of sophistication and coordination that makes combating corruption particularly challenging. The broad spectrum of corrupt practices signifies the complexity of addressing the issue, as each form of corruption requires tailored strategies to combat it effectively. Effective anti-corruption measures must be multifaceted, addressing the specific conditions and actors involved in different types of corruption to be truly successful.

The collected data shows that corruption negatively impacts not only the economy but also the quality of public services and public trust in the government. The adverse effects of corruption are multi-faceted, influencing various sectors and creating widespread damage. For instance, bribery and gratuities often hinder fair and transparent decision-making processes, leading to biased and unjust outcomes (Antonov & Lineva, 2021). This lack of transparency erodes public confidence in governmental institutions and processes. Nepotism and abuse of power cause injustice in the distribution of resources and opportunities, favoring those with connections over those who are more deserving based on merit (Siddiquee & Zafarullah, 2022). This creates an uneven playing field, further entrenching social inequalities. Research also finds that corruption leads to significant inefficiencies in public resource management and exacerbates social inequality (Pertiwi, 2019). These inefficiencies manifest in various ways, including inflated project costs due to kickbacks, substandard service delivery because of

diverted funds, and the misallocation of public funds, all of which contribute to widening the gap between the rich and the poor. The compounded effects of these issues highlight the urgent need for comprehensive anti-corruption measures.

The relationship between data description and explanation indicates that despite the implementation of various anti-corruption initiatives, corruption remains a significant problem. This enduring issue highlights the pervasive and deeply rooted nature of corrupt practices in many institutions. The data reveals the entrenchment of systemic corruption within public administration, which complicates efforts to eradicate it due to its widespread and ingrained presence (Muslihuddin & Bahtiar, 2020). Systemic corruption is not just about individual acts of bribery or nepotism but involves a network of corrupt practices that become normalized within the institution. This indicates a need for more effective and sustainable strategies to address corruption, taking into account the underlying factors and influences on corrupt practices (Setiawan & Jesaja, 2022). These factors can include socio-economic conditions, cultural attitudes towards corruption, and weaknesses in the legal and institutional frameworks. The persistent nature of systemic corruption suggests that surface-level reforms are insufficient and that deeper, more structural changes are necessary to achieve meaningful progress. Such changes may involve overhauling institutional structures, strengthening legal frameworks, and fostering a culture of transparency and accountability to effectively combat corruption in the long term (Ofosu-Amaah et al., 1999)

Public administration is a process involving various governmental functions such as planning, organizing, implementing, and overseeing public policies, according to literature. This comprehensive approach ensures that governmental operations are conducted systematically and efficiently, aiming to achieve national objectives and enhance public welfare. Analyzed studies highlight the importance of a rational and efficient bureaucratic structure in supporting the execution of governmental functions (Fazil & Fahmi, 2022). Such a structure typically includes a clear hierarchy, defined roles and responsibilities, and standardized procedures, which collectively contribute to the smooth functioning of public administration. The data also shows that effective public administration can significantly improve the quality of public services, leading to better outcomes for citizens. This improvement is not only in terms of service delivery but also in ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities (“Overview of Trends and Developments in Public Administration & Local Governance,” 2023). Strengthening public trust in the government is another critical aspect, as trust is essential for fostering a cooperative relationship between the government and its citizens. This trust is crucial for maintaining social order and ensuring the effective implementation of policies designed to benefit the public. Without trust, the legitimacy and effectiveness of government initiatives may be compromised, hindering social and economic progress. Therefore, fostering a transparent, accountable, and efficient public administration system is vital for sustainable development and governance (Indiahono, 2021).

The collected data indicates that effective public administration requires a clear organizational structure and formal procedures. This involves establishing well-defined roles and responsibilities for all members within the organization to ensure that tasks are carried out efficiently and effectively. A clear hierarchy and detailed division of labor help efficiently execute governmental tasks by providing a structured framework within which employees can operate. This structure not only streamlines processes but also clarifies the chain of command, making it easier to manage and oversee various functions (Fazil & Fahmi, 2022). Research also finds that impersonal relationships among organization members can reduce the risk of corruption and enhance accountability. By maintaining a professional distance, employees are less likely to engage in favoritism or other forms of unethical behavior, thereby promoting a culture of integrity and transparency. Good public administration also involves applying effective management principles to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in public service delivery (Said et al., 2022). principles include strategic planning, performance measurement, and continuous improvement processes. The implementation of these principles can lead to

more consistent and reliable service delivery, which is essential for public satisfaction and trust. When citizens receive high-quality services consistently, their trust in the government increases, fostering a positive relationship between the public and the administration (Indiahono, 2021). This trust is crucial for the stability and success of any governmental system, as it underpins social cohesion and the effective implementation of public policies.

The relationship between data description and explanation shows that effective public administration is crucial in supporting anti-corruption efforts. This is because a well-structured and efficiently managed public administration system serves as a backbone for implementing policies and procedures that deter corrupt practices. An efficient bureaucratic structure and formal procedures can help prevent corruption by enhancing transparency and accountability. Clear rules and protocols ensure that all actions are documented and can be audited, reducing opportunities for corrupt behavior (World Bank Group, 2021). However, the data also shows that even with effective structures and procedures, corruption can still occur if there is no political will and strict oversight. Political will is essential because it reflects the commitment of leaders to uphold integrity and enforce anti-corruption laws. Strict oversight mechanisms are necessary to monitor compliance and take action against violators. Therefore, comprehensive and sustainable anti-corruption efforts must accompany public administration reforms (Badriyah, 2024). This means that reforms should not only focus on improving structures and procedures but also on fostering a culture of integrity and ethical behavior. Political will is particularly critical, as it drives the enforcement of anti-corruption measures and ensures that those in power are held accountable. Without strong political commitment, anti-corruption initiatives are likely to be ineffective, as enforcement may be selective or superficial (World Bank Group, 2021). Ensuring accountability at all levels of government helps build public trust and creates a more transparent and fair administrative system.

A literature review on anti-corruption initiatives reveals the implementation of various strategies to prevent and eradicate corruption. These strategies are multifaceted and involve a combination of education, institutional strengthening, and technological advancements. The collected data includes anti-corruption education programs, which aim to raise awareness and instill ethical values in individuals from a young age. Such programs are designed to educate the public about the detrimental effects of corruption and the importance of integrity (Abdul Manaf et al., 2023). Additionally, the review highlights the need for strengthened anti-corruption institutions that are equipped with adequate resources and authority to investigate and prosecute corrupt activities effectively. Strengthened institutions play a critical role in ensuring that anti-corruption measures are enforced consistently and impartially (“Strategic Programming for Anti-Corruption Agencies,” 2023).

Information technology implementation to increase transparency is another crucial strategy identified in the literature. The use of digital tools and platforms can significantly enhance transparency by making governmental processes more accessible and accountable to the public (Ceschel et al., 2022). For example, e-governance initiatives can streamline administrative procedures, reduce the opportunity for corrupt practices, and provide a clear audit trail. Legal reforms are also necessary to create a robust legal framework that supports anti-corruption efforts. This includes updating existing laws to close loopholes that corrupt individuals may exploit and introducing stringent penalties for corrupt activities (World Bank Group, 2021).

Research also shows that anti-corruption initiatives often involve cooperation between the government, civil society, and the private sector (Hamsari & Prabowo, 2021). This multi-stakeholder approach is essential because corruption is a societal issue that affects all sectors and requires collective action to address effectively. Collaborative efforts ensure that various perspectives are considered, and resources are pooled together to combat corruption more efficiently. For instance, partnerships between governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations can enhance the reach and impact of anti-corruption campaigns. Similarly, engaging the private sector can lead to the adoption of best practices in corporate governance

and create a business environment that discourages corrupt behavior (World Bank Group, 2021).

Data shows that the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives depends significantly on consistent implementation and support from various parties. This consistency is crucial for building and maintaining momentum in the fight against corruption. Anti-corruption education programs, for instance, can increase public awareness and knowledge about the negative impacts of corruption, fostering a culture of integrity from a young age (Brody et al., 2020). Such programs can be integrated into school curricula and community outreach initiatives to ensure widespread dissemination of anti-corruption values. To effectively handle corruption cases, it is crucial to strengthen anti-corruption institutions. These institutions must be provided with adequate resources, trained personnel, and the necessary legal authority to investigate and prosecute corruption effectively. The implementation of information technology helps increase transparency and facilitate oversight (Halai et al., 2021). Digital tools such as online reporting systems and transparency portals can make it easier for citizens to report corrupt activities and access information about government operations. However, we also need firm and continuous legal reforms to deter corrupt actors (Kristina, 2021). Legal reforms should include stringent penalties for corruption, protection for whistleblowers, and mechanisms to ensure the impartial investigation and prosecution of corruption cases. These measures will help create a legal environment that discourages corrupt behavior and supports those who come forward with information about corruption.

The relationship between data description and explanation shows that despite the implementation of various anti-corruption initiatives, corruption remains a significant challenge. This persistent issue underscores the complexity of eradicating deeply ingrained corrupt practices. The data indicates that these initiatives often face obstacles such as a lack of political will, limited resources, and resistance from vested interest groups (Kosasih, 2021). Political will is essential for ensuring that anti-corruption measures are enforced consistently and that corrupt individuals are held accountable regardless of their position or influence. Therefore, to eradicate corruption, we need a more holistic and sustainable approach that involves all relevant parties and strengthens the existing legal and institutional frameworks ("Practitioner's Note 1," 2022, p. 1). This comprehensive strategy should address the root causes of corruption and promote a culture of transparency and accountability at all levels of government and society. Effective anti-corruption strategies should also include regular monitoring and evaluation to assess their impact and make necessary adjustments. Continuous assessment allows for the identification of weaknesses and the adaptation of strategies to changing circumstances, ensuring that anti-corruption efforts remain effective and responsive to new challenges (World Bank Group, 2021).

The LR method allows for the tabular identification of several findings, as shown below :

Table 1. Research Findings

Factor	Description	Region	Reference
Quality of Institutions	Weak institutions become the main barrier in combating corruption	Indonesia, Philippines	(Manan et al., 2023)
Anti-Corruption Policies	Inadequate policies and lack of effective law enforcement hinder anti-corruption efforts	Southeast Asia	(Thi Thu et al., 2023)

Income Disparity	Income disparity among public officials impedes anti-corruption efforts	Southeast Asia	(Thi Thu et al., 2023)
Civil Servant Salaries	Low salaries increase the incentive to engage in corruption	Indonesia, Thailand	(Manan et al., 2023)
Law Enforcement	Weak and inconsistent law enforcement hampers anti-corruption efforts	Southeast Asia	(Manan et al., 2023)
Political Will	Lack of political will from the government to act on corruption cases	Southeast Asia	(Manan et al., 2023)
Resistance from Interest Groups	Resistance from interest groups that benefit from corruption	Southeast Asia	(Manan et al., 2023)
Regional Cooperation	Cooperation among countries in sharing experiences and anti-corruption strategies	Southeast Asia	(Wescott, 2003)
Education and Public Awareness	Anti-corruption education and increasing public awareness about the negative impacts of corruption	Southeast Asia	(Wescott, 2003)
Singapore's Strategy	The effectiveness of Singapore's anti-corruption strategy can serve as a model	Singapore	(Quah, 1999)

The research findings presented in the manuscript highlight several critical factors that influence the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts in Southeast Asia. These factors include the quality of institutions, anti-corruption policies, income disparity, civil servant salaries, law enforcement, political will, resistance from interest groups, regional cooperation, education and public awareness, and Singapore's strategy.

Quality of Institutions

Weak institutions are identified as a significant barrier to combating corruption in Indonesia and the Philippines. The lack of robust institutional frameworks undermines the enforcement of anti-corruption measures, making it challenging to address systemic corruption effectively (Manan et al., 2023).

Anti-Corruption Policies

The effectiveness of anti-corruption policies in Southeast Asia is hindered by inadequate policies and lack of effective law enforcement. Without comprehensive policies and stringent enforcement mechanisms, anti-corruption efforts fail to produce the desired outcomes (Thi Thu et al., 2023).

Income Disparity

Income disparity among public officials in Southeast Asia impedes anti-corruption efforts. When there is a significant gap between the salaries of public officials and the cost of living, the temptation to engage in corrupt practices increases, making it difficult to eliminate corruption (Thi Thu et al., 2023).

Civil Servant Salaries

Low salaries for civil servants in Indonesia and Thailand contribute to the incentive to engage in corruption. Insufficient remuneration fails to meet the basic needs of civil servants, leading them to seek additional income through corrupt means (Manan et al., 2023).

Law Enforcement

Weak and inconsistent law enforcement in Southeast Asia hampers anti-corruption efforts. Effective law enforcement is crucial for deterring corrupt practices and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable (Manan et al., 2023).

Political Will

The lack of political will from the government to act on corruption cases is a major obstacle in Southeast Asia. Political will is essential for the successful implementation and enforcement of anti-corruption measures (Manan et al., 2023).

Resistance from Interest Groups

Resistance from interest groups that benefit from corruption poses a significant challenge in Southeast Asia. These groups often have the power and resources to undermine anti-corruption efforts (Manan et al., 2023).

Regional Cooperation

Regional cooperation in Southeast Asia is crucial for sharing experiences and anti-corruption strategies. Collaborative efforts can enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives by pooling resources and knowledge (Wescott, 2003).

Education and Public Awareness

Anti-corruption education and increasing public awareness about the negative impacts of corruption are essential strategies in Southeast Asia. Educating the public helps build a culture of integrity and reduces the acceptance of corrupt practices (Wescott, 2003).

Singapore's Strategy

The effectiveness of Singapore's anti-corruption strategy can serve as a model for other countries. Singapore's approach to anti-corruption, which includes strong institutions, strict enforcement, and public education, has been successful in minimizing corruption (Quah, 1999).

Research findings indicate that despite various anti-corruption initiatives, corruption remains a significant issue in public administration. Literature studies show that systemic corruption is deeply rooted, with factors such as weak law enforcement, a lack of political will, and resistance from vested interest groups hindering the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts. Data also reveals that while a favorable bureaucratic structure can support transparency and accountability, the success of anti-corruption initiatives requires a more holistic and sustainable approach (Hariyani et al., 2016).

This research aligns with previous studies highlighting the importance of institutional quality and bureaucratic structures in combating corruption. For instance, research by Hamsari & Prabowo (2021) asserts that low institutional quality significantly contributes to high levels of corruption. This study's strength lies in its comprehensive approach to analyzing various factors affecting the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives, particularly in Southeast Asian countries, which have previously received less attention.

The findings of this research emphasize that anti-corruption strategies must consider the local context and specific challenges faced by Southeast Asian countries. These findings underscore the importance of regional cooperation and sharing experiences between countries to strengthen anti-corruption efforts. The study also shows that education and public awareness play key roles in changing the deeply rooted culture of corruption (Lutfi, 2011).

The implications of this research suggest the need for a multi-faceted approach to combating corruption, involving legal reforms, institutional strengthening, and increased public participation. The results can serve as a basis for developing more effective and sustainable anti-corruption policies. Additionally, the research provides insights for governments and policymakers to design more effective anti-corruption education programs relevant to the local context (aclc.kpk.go.id, 2022).

The findings show that the main factors influencing the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives are the quality of law enforcement and political will. The lack of support from authorities often becomes a major barrier to implementing anti-corruption policies. Furthermore, resistance from vested interest groups benefiting from corruption also poses a significant challenge. This analysis suggests that without strong commitment from all parties, anti-corruption efforts will struggle to succeed (Setiawan & Jesaja, 2022).

These research findings suggest that we should strengthen law enforcement, use information technology to increase transparency and accountability, and implement bureaucratic reform to ensure clear hierarchies and effective division of labor. Additionally, it is important to enhance anti-corruption awareness and education among the public to build a strong anti-corruption culture. We should also enhance regional cooperation to share successful experiences and strategies for combating corruption (Lestyowati, 2020).

CONCLUSIONS

This research reveals surprising findings: despite various anti-corruption initiatives, corruption remains widespread and entrenched in the public administration systems of Southeast Asia. Despite significant eradication efforts, systemic corruption persists, indicating the need for a deeper and more holistic approach to truly address this issue. These findings indicate that weaknesses in law enforcement and resistance from vested interest groups are major obstacles to anti-corruption efforts.

This research's value lies in its contribution to knowledge development, both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research enriches the literature by providing a comprehensive analysis of the factors influencing the success or failure of anti-corruption initiatives in Southeast Asian countries. Practically, the findings offer guidance for policymakers and practitioners to design more effective anti-corruption strategies by considering local contexts and the specific challenges faced. The research also emphasizes the importance of regional collaboration and sharing experiences between countries in anti-corruption efforts.

Despite the valuable insights this research offers, it is important to acknowledge its limitations. These limitations include the scope of available data and literature, as well as the complexity of comparatively measuring the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives across different countries. However, these limitations are not weaknesses but opportunities for future research to delve deeper into innovative approaches and specific contexts that can strengthen anti-corruption efforts. Future research could focus on more detailed case studies and longitudinal analysis to understand the dynamics of change in anti-corruption efforts.

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