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POLITICS FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION CONTROL IN NEPAL

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INTRODUCTION

Nepal has long made efforts in developing the country with all its social, economic policies and its enormous resources and huge potentialities. Corruption and poor governance of transition period are the main constraints against development. Bordering country India has certainly positive roles for Nepal and governments of both the sides have emphasized efforts at different levels. Borders are contradictory zones of cultures and power of bordering countries where monopoly of decentralization and homogenization are none (Wilson, 1998). The most prominent problem due to open and uncontrolled border with India is the unabated movement of anti-social elements and their activities across Nepal border line areas. The seemingly never ending series of crimes along the border have caused both the governments devote their resources. The unrestricted movement provides opportunities for criminal, anti-social and illegal activities like burglary, robbery, theft, murder, smuggling, pedaling narcotic drugs, traffickers girls, arms and ammunition and many more (vidaya, 2001). It is obviously clear that there are loopholes still to be subjugated. Only to blame the bureaucrats or senior officials would not suffice.

METHODOLOGY

The source of information have been field work, questioner have been used for the conduction of survey and the descriptive stage taken as an end in itself or as representing a step towards the politics for good governance and corruption control. Generally politics for good governance and corruption control tools are used mains of transmitting information the study is based on primary data, secondary data and data collection.

Relation of Politics for Good Governance and Corruption Control

The vertical working structure seems to have in keen relationship with national politics. The smugglers and traffickers have got political patronage and protection in most of the cases. Similarly, reputed business houses and business icons have close linkage and bosom relation with political parties. The political parties get financial back up of the trading people. In turn, the government policies and their execution are lax and liberal. The smugglers and traffickers hardly ever get punished due to the undue political pressure on law enforcing agencies. Thus politics can be said to have dual attributes for and against good governance and control of corruption.

Corruption in Nepal has reached vertical down bottom to the local level. Media news and report expose unchecked corruption and misuse of resources in Village Development Corporation (VDC) and District

Development Corporation (DDC) in illicit close nexus with government officers and local politicians. Every countryman ought to support the commitment of the government to fight and defeat the vices of corruption and mal-governance. Simply formal pronouncement driven by sentiments merely cannot improve the situation. The most sought and desired is the improvement in the overall governance system of the country where political leaders stay aside of the corrupt practices and behaviors. Political corruption has main responsibility for abetting the misuse of power in bureaucracy and the concerned sectors. Once political parties and leaders refrain from abusing power, there shall be multiplier effect in improving the governance profile of the country. On the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day prime minister of Nepal admitted corruption being pervasive in Nepal for the involvement of political parties and high officers in graft though the government has a policy of zero tolerance against corruption. He emphasized on making anti-corruption law more stringent (nepalnews.com, 2012)

The trend of smuggling at Nepal Indian border via Rangeli of Morang Districts

The trends of smuggling at Nepal India border via Rangeli of Morang districts is increasing for the police and local political parties work in cahoots. Karobar daily writes the police and local political leaders along with their workers collude in illegal transactions of chemical fertilizer and food stuffs worth millions a day through this border point. Chemical fertilizers including sugar, edible oil and plastic ropes enter Nepal while cattle, stone, pebbles, sand and wood go to India. Smugglers use local political leaders and lower ranking police to their illicit acts go unhindered. The police to their varying ranks get rupees 10,000 to 15,000 from smugglers to let them carry out their illegal acts (nepalnews.com, 2011).

Mechanisms for Good Governance and Corruption Control Emphasis for Mechanisms

The government agencies of varied responsibilities are at the border to facilitate the state obligation towards its people but still there lurks inconvenience for hassle free service. Without proper collaboration and joint efforts amongst government agencies good governance and corruption control would be hard ever to achieve. Most of people interviewed had emphasized on collaboration and mechanism for good governance and corruption control. Collaboration and corruption beget harmony and good understanding that result in positive thinking and confidence. State running depends on the economic status of the country and in context of Nepal where the industrial sectors are under privileged and other service sectors yet to develop the revenue collection from the customs duty is of significant importance to the national economy. Since last few years the revenue collection has seen dramatic increase for the secured border management the smuggling got bound diverting to go through customs increasing the revenue. However the absence of simplification in rules and regulations, non-compliance to liability of civil servants, honesty of business persons and party politics in bureaucracy has all hindered the implementation and materialization of government policies. The collaborative and fault free mechanism and commitment from all the stakeholders collectively would contribute to the national economic growth and GDP. To materialize this vision rule of law should be implemented with no excuses for impunity.

It is known that annually in developing and transition countries companies for dodging tax pay bribes over 40 billion USD to flout regulations only for the consequences to be disastrous. Time and again the outcomes of empirical researches and studies show the overall impact of anti-corruption initiatives reduced,

growth of financial institutions and companies undermined in the absence of good corporate governance system. International conventions of Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Anti-Bribery Convention and the United Nations convention against Corruption (UNCAC) have pressure on companies for developing new anti-bribery policies to strengthen financial integrity. The high-profile corporate scandals in companies make aware against corrupt practices posing serious and costly risks to their reputation and sustainability. This understanding, coupled with accountability and probity in the corporate sector by the public put added pressure on companies to adopt more ethical business practices (Bhattarari, 2015).

In foreign countries they have provisions for the promotion of export to their traders while in Nepal 20 percent income tax on net profit and 1.5 percent of special fee are imposed on the exporters. As a result the cost of domestic production goes high and reduction in competitiveness leading to influence on the export (Voice of Nepal, 2007).

Awareness for Good Governance and Corruption Control

Awareness amongst Stakeholders

This is the age of information and communication and world a single family of global village where the communication part cannot be ignored in any process that caters for services or products to large mass. Specifically in the case of public service sectors in under developed country like Nepal almost a quarter of total population is deprived of formal education. That counts for their level of awareness and understanding of governance and technicalities. By their standard of education the awareness can be measured how good they could be in making judgments. Awareness can be held main factor to determine the quality and quantity of services. The awareness therefore can be vital instrumental in making the citizens more sensible and accountable. Being ignorant and unaware of differences incurring innocent people would not mind for abstaining from bribery and corruption. The awareness leads to empowerment of people. Keeping mum with no reactions against unfair happenings would mean not discouraging but indirect consent over it. So in order to make the people sensible and aware of their moral duty and obligations towards the country launching of awareness campaigns is imperative. During the interaction and interview with the locals and tradesman around of that locality it came to my knowledge that so far there was no government campaign in this regard. However, some of the local media houses often launch programs against the illegal practices at the grassroots level. Good governance links to

sustainable human development, emphasizing principles of accountability, participation, enjoyments of human rights, and rejecting prescriptive approaches to development assistance, thereby the resolution stands so as to an implicit endorsement of the right-based approach of development. Resolution 2000/64 links good governance to an enabling environment conducive to enjoyment of human rights in prompting growth attached sustainable human development. The resolution recognizes the value of partnership approaches to development cooperation and inappropriateness of prescriptive approaches (Good Governance, 2011).

In order to implement effectively the local administration acts, to control blockade at roads and essential public places, to control heinous crimes, to make effective the valley security arrangements, strengthen security condition of Terai plain land, east and mid-west hilly regions and initiate awareness campaigns whereby instilling utmost feelings of security and safety the Special Security Program for the Effectiveness of Law and Order, End of Impunity and Safeguarding of Human Rights, 2009 has been launched (Nepal, 2009).

Traders in some villages of southern parts of Siraha district in Nepal such as Sonvarsa, following the influences of Indian currency (IC) do not accept Nepalese currency. The fact is for a compulsion to play high exchange rate and also finding it more convenient to make purchases all the transactions from real estate to household goods takes place through Indian currency (Yadav, 2012, December 7).

CONCLUSION

It has been concluded from the study that the status of good governance and corruption control at the borders. The trends seen obvious to any layman discussed thoroughly the research methods disclose the bitter truth encountered by the country people at the border sites prevalent rules, regulations and practices along border observed are depicted.

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