

Analysis of Patterns, Impacts and Strategies to Eradicate Structured and Systematic Corruption in Indonesia

Bambang Yugo Pamungkas^{1*}, Eko Wahyudi²

Sesipim Lemdik Polri

Corresponding Author: Bambang Yugo Pamungkas,
bambangpamungkas@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Systemic Corruption, Bureaucratic Reform, Integrity, Law Enforcement, Anti-Corruption Strategy

Received : 5 March

Revised : 12 April

Accepted: 15 May

©2025 Pamungkas, Wahyudi: This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the patterns, impacts, and strategies to eradicate structured and systematic corruption in Indonesia. Corruption in Indonesia has developed into a systemic and structured practice, involving not only individuals, but also networks of power and institutions from the central to regional levels. The model of corruption eradication that has been focused on prosecution has proven to be insufficiently effective in touching the root institutional and political problems that allow corruption to continue to occur. This research uses a qualitative approach with a library research method, analyzing scientific literature from SINTA-accredited journals in the last five years, as well as legal documents and official policies. The purpose of the research is to analyze the impact and strategy of eradicating structured and systematic corruption in Indonesia, and to develop indicators that represent systemic patterns of corruption. The results of the analysis show that effective corruption eradication must be carried out through a systemic approach, including bureaucratic reform, government digitalization, strengthening community participation, and the independence of law enforcement agencies. This strategy must be combined with efforts to build an anti-corruption culture through integrity education and strengthening value-based legal awareness. In addition, challenges such as internal bureaucratic resistance and weak coordination between law enforcement agencies are major obstacles that must be overcome through regulatory harmonization and institutional design improvements

INTRODUCTION

Corruption is one of the most destructive forms of abuse of power in modern governance systems (Kalugina, 2022; Tylchyk et al., 2018). By its nature, corruption means not only violation of the law, but also violation of the moral and social values underlying state governance (Hildansyah et al., 2022). Pozsgai-Alvarez, (2020); Transparency International, (2023) defines corruption as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”. This essence explains that corruption is a form of betrayal of public trust, which in turn undermines the legitimacy of the state and undermines the principles of social justice.

Corruption does not occur in a vacuum. It grows and develops in weak systems, where oversight mechanisms are ineffective and power is often concentrated without accountability. Chaniago & Putra, (2023); Susetyo (2022) show that in many cases in Indonesia, corruption occurs not only because of individual intentions, but because of patterns and systems that support collective deviance. For example, the practice of collusion between public and private officials in procurement or licensing projects is a recurring phenomenon due to weak checks and balances in the bureaucracy (Taufiqurokhman & Satispi, 2018).

Table 1. Table of Incidence of Corruption in Indonesia

No	Case	Actors Involved	Corruption Modes	State loss
1	e-KTP case (continued)	DPR politician, Ministry of Home Affairs official	Budget mark-up, project bribery	IDR 2.3 trillion
2	Rafael Alun Trisambodo	Tax Official (DJP)	Gratification, money laundering	> IDR 500 billion (assets)
3	BTS Kominfo	Menkominfo, Director of BAKTI Kominfo	Infrastructure project bribery	IDR 8 trillion
4	OTT Pj. Sorong Regent	Regional head, ASN	Regional project bribery	Rp3.4 billion
5	Ministry of Religious Affairs East Java Grant Fund	Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Private Parties	Deduction of pesantren grant funds	IDR 10 billion (indicative)

Source: Compilation of Various News Sources and Official Reports

The causes of corruption are complex and interrelated. Structurally, the weak legal system, non-transparent budget management and centralization of power are the main factors. Culturally, a society that is permissive of corruption and accustomed to the logic of “as long as you get it” also perpetuates this practice. Individually, the drive for a consumptive lifestyle and weak personal integrity also increase a person's chances of committing corruption. Putra & Mahardika (2022) emphasized that the combination of a loose supervisory system and the existence of incentives to deviate creates ideal conditions for the growth of collective corruption (Ahmad et al., 2022).

Thus, corruption is not simply the act of a deviant individual, but a reflection of a system that fails to perform the functions of control, ethics and justice. In this context, the eradication of corruption must start from reforming the system - not just with punishment, but with institutional reform, ethical education, and improving political culture. As Pramesti et al. (2023); Saptono & Purwanto, (2022); and Sari et al. (2023) argue, "Corruption is a symptom of a failed system, not just a deviant individual."

In addition to structural causes, culture also plays a major role in the occurrence of corruption (Nurhidayati et al., 2023). In many cases, a society that prefers to "respect" the status quo and accept corrupt practices as part of the bureaucratic or governmental routine creates an environment that is permissive of such irregularities. This is often due to the low level of political and ethical education among the public, who take bribery or graft for granted. This culture becomes more entrenched if there are no good examples from leaders or public officials who are role models in society (Mietzner, 2012).

On the other hand, the causes of corruption are also closely related to individual factors, especially greed and ambition to achieve personal prosperity through illegitimate means. Consumptive lifestyles, often seen in state officials or businessmen involved in corruption, also exacerbate the situation. In many cases, this behavior is driven not only by economic necessity, but by the desire to have more power and influence. In this perspective, corruption becomes a tool to maintain or enlarge one's socio-economic position, which in turn undermines the system that is supposed to protect people's welfare (Aspinall & van Klinken, 2013; Ford & Lyons, 2020).

Structured and systematic corruption can be seen in the form of relationships between individuals who hold power and various interested parties (Drani, 2020; Putranto, 2020). Major cases such as e-KTP, BTS Kominfo, and Rafael Alun Trisambodo show that corruption is not only committed by one individual, but is a collaboration between government officials, the private sector, and supervisory institutions that should be responsible. In other words, structured corruption illustrates a failure in the checks and balances mechanism, where those who are supposed to supervise and take action are instead involved in the dirty practice.

In many cases, weak and non-transparent governance systems exacerbate corrupt practices. When internal controls are dysfunctional or run in a sub-optimal manner, the opportunities for corruption increase. Despite the efforts of institutions such as the KPK to tackle corruption, great challenges remain in creating a system that is truly free from abuse of power. Therefore, to effectively eradicate corruption, efforts are needed that rely not only on the law, but also structural reforms and cultural changes at all levels of society (Silviana et al., 2025).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Corruption

Corruption is an act of abuse of power for personal gain or certain groups that harm the public interest. Umam (2024) defines corruption as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”. This phenomenon is a major obstacle to development, democracy and effective public services.

Theoretically, Maria & Halim (2021) state that corruption can be formulated with the equation:

$$\text{Corruption} = \text{Monopoly} + \text{Discretion} - \text{Accountability}$$

In other words, corruption tends to arise when someone has sole power (monopoly), discretion to make decisions (discretion), but minimal supervision (accountability). This condition is very relevant to the reality of bureaucracy in Indonesia, where institutional weaknesses and lack of transparency open up opportunities for corruption.

Structured and Massive Corruption

Corruption is no longer only committed by individuals within a limited scope, but has developed into structured and massive corruption, which involves many actors in the system of power and government. In this context, corruption has become part of the bureaucratic structure and public policy itself. Sitorus (2020) revealed that structured corruption in the local government system occurs through a mechanism of omission and involvement of political elites, so that this practice is not only difficult to detect but also socially and politically legitimized.

This phenomenon is also known as state capture, which is when state institutions are “captured” by personal / group interests so that the resulting public policies actually support corrupt practices (Daniri & Roseline, 2021). This shows that corruption is not just a deviation, but has become part of the system (systemic corruption).

Indicators of Structured and Massive Corruption

Structured and massive corruption can no longer be understood as individual deviant behavior alone, but as part of a system that involves many actors and is legitimized by formal and informal structures in government. The first indicator of this type of corruption is the involvement of actors at various levels of positions. Corruption is not done singly, but is the result of collective work involving high-ranking officials, middle-level employees, and technical implementers who support each other. In the context of local government, for example, corrupt practices are often carried out by regional heads who work together with legislative members and project partners in an organized mechanism. This is revealed by Solihah (2016) in her study which shows how regional heads and state civil apparatus form a network of rent practices that are preserved from period to period through political budget arrangements.

The next indicator is the formation of a culture of corruption where the practice of bribery, gratuities, and project deductions are considered a normal part of the government administration process. This phenomenon indicates that corruption has undergone social normalization within the bureaucracy. Hasoloan et al. (2022) refer to this condition as systemic corruption, which is

when corruption is no longer seen as an aberration, but as an unwritten and accepted norm in the organization.

Furthermore, weak oversight institutions are one of the main reasons why massive corruption is difficult to eradicate. Many supervisory institutions only carry out administrative functions without sufficient coercion or independence. Kusuma (2021) shows that the internal control system in the bureaucracy is often only procedural and does not touch the substance of budget or policy deviations. This is exacerbated by the bluntness of law enforcement against corrupt actors from the elite. When the perpetrators of corruption come from groups that have political and economic access, the legal process often does not run optimally, even stagnating.

One of the clearest indicators of systemic corruption is the existence of public policies designed to benefit a particular group, or what is referred to as state capture. In practice, this occurs when policies such as procurement of goods and services, licensing, or financial assistance are specifically designed to benefit the political partners or cronies of officials. Anggraini & Lee's (2018) findings show how local regulations are often manipulated to ensure the sustainability of local elite economic rents.

The last indicator that is no less important is the lack of transparency and accountability in the public service system and state financial management. When public information is not openly available and reporting mechanisms do not work, civil society oversight is limited. In this regard, Nurkartika (2025) emphasizes the importance of implementing e-government to reduce direct interaction between service providers and the public, thus minimizing opportunities for corruption.

Based on the description above, the indicators of structured corruption are structured and massive corruption is characterized by a number of indicators that show that corrupt practices are no longer individual or incidental, but have become part of the government system and institutional culture.

1. Involvement of Multi-Level Actors in Government

Corruption occurs systemically involving various levels of positions, from high-ranking officials to operational employees. This phenomenon indicates the existence of vertical coordination of corruption, which cannot be explained solely by individual behavior. Saputra & Firmansyah (2023) noted that corrupt practices at the local government level involve regional heads, structural officials, and private actors in a network that protects and benefits each other.

2. Corruption is Considered Normal in Administrative Processes

Corrupt practices such as bribes for service acceleration, project deductions, or informal commissions are considered part of a "normal" process in the bureaucracy. This condition indicates that a culture of corruption has been formed in the government structure (Lestari, 2023).

3. Ineffective Supervisory and Law Enforcement Institutions

Massive corruption is generally supported by weak supervisory institutions and the absence of significant sanctions against perpetrators. Hardiman (2017) points out that in many cases, internal bureaucratic

supervision is only administrative and unable to uncover cross-sectoral corruption networks.

4. Blunt Law Enforcement against Political Elites

One of the characteristics of systemic corruption is the inequality of law enforcement. Many perpetrators from the elite are not sentenced accordingly or even get legal protection. This shows the impunity inherent in the system (Sitorus, 2020).

5. Public Policies that Favor Certain Groups (State Capture)

Systemic corruption is also reflected in the formation of policies that are specifically directed to benefit certain groups, such as in the regulation of APBD projects or the procurement of goods and services. (Vico et al., 2025) found that policies that should be neutral are often “captured” by the political and economic interests of regional head cronies.

6. Weak System Transparency and Accountability

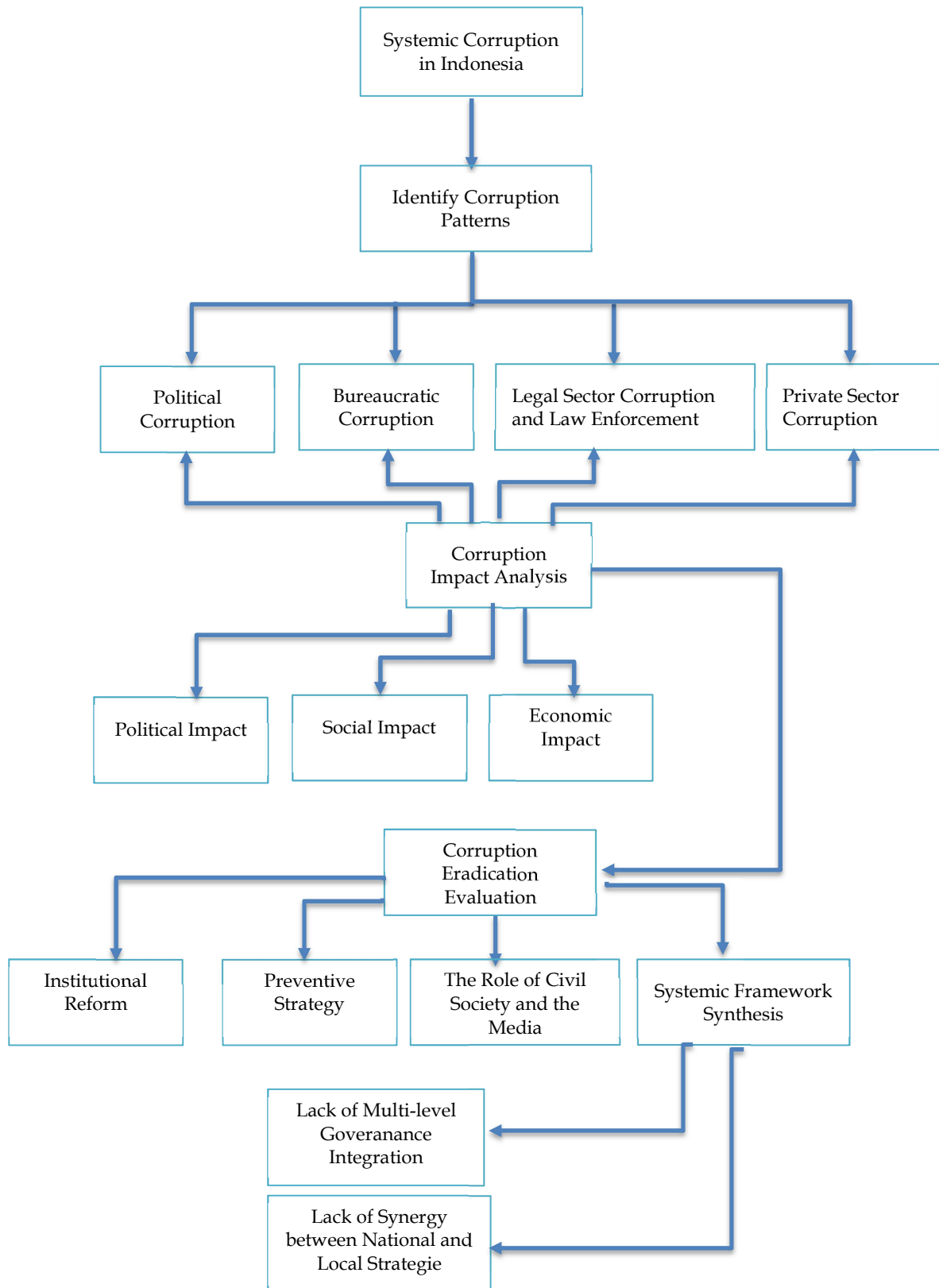
Corruption thrives in systems that lack transparency and accountability. (Undap & Kimbal, 2019) asserts that the absence of a clear public reporting system, coupled with direct interaction between officials and the public, increases the opportunity for administrative corruption.

Corruption Eradication Strategy

Corruption eradication strategies in Indonesia require a holistic approach that does not only focus on legal action, but also includes prevention and education. Juwita & Yoserizal (2025) emphasize the importance of a strategy that includes institutional reform, transparency of bureaucratic processes, and community involvement in budget and policy oversight. They mentioned that a holistic approach is key in breaking the cycle of corruption.

In addition, technology-based strategies such as digitizing public services are also important elements. Kristian et al. (2024) in their study showed that the implementation of e-government significantly reduces the potential for corruption in administrative services because it minimizes direct interaction between the apparatus and the community. This strategy is in line with the principles of good governance that prioritize transparency, accountability, and public participation

Framework of Thought



METHODOLOGY

Type of Research

This research is a descriptive qualitative research that uses the literature study method. This approach aims to identify systemic patterns of corruption, evaluate their impact on socio-economic-political aspects, and formulate eradication strategies based on the synthesis of various national and international scientific literature.

Data Source

The main data source in this research is secondary literature in the form of:

1. Scopus, Sinta, or Google Scholar indexed journal articles,
2. Reports from anti-corruption organizations (such as KPK, ICW, BPK, and TI),
3. Academic books and dissertations,
4. Government data and policy documents,
5. Related laws and regulations.

Literature inclusion criteria included:

1. Year of publication 2010-2025,
2. Focus on corruption issues in Indonesia or developing countries with similar contexts,
3. Contains theoretical and/or empirical analysis.

7.3 Data Collection Procedure

Data collection was carried out through:

- a. Database searches: Scopus, Google Scholar, DOAJ, SINTA, and official websites of government/non-government institutions,
- b. Use of keywords: corruption pattern, systemic corruption, anti-corruption strategy, Indonesia, governance reform, political corruption,
- c. The selection process follows the PRISMA Flow Diagram (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses).

RESULTS

Steps of Your result test here

In this section, you must provide us with each step taken to accomplish your studies. You must not put too much the result of descriptive statistics here; on the other hand, it should be summarized in an easier to read table or graphs. You must not forget the numbers for every table and chart presented in your paper.

Table 1. Three Box Method (Table has to be in good quality of reading)

Score	Criteria
50,00 – 100,00	Low
100,01 – 150,00	Medium
	High

All equations must also be numbered

$$Y = G + C + I + N_x \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

In this section, every statistical test you conducted must be explained thoroughly. This part is very critical to elaborate on the employed stated research methodology. Every statistical finding must be summarized and presented in tables or graphs; instead of a mere copy-paste from your statistical tools.

DISCUSSION

This part allows you to elaborate on your results findings academically. You must not put numbers related to your statistical tests here; instead, you have to explain that numbers here. You have to compile your discussion with academic supports to your study and a good explanation according to the specific area you are investigating.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide some conclusions and the implementation of the research results.

FURTHER STUDY

Every research is subject to limitations; thus, you can explain them here and briefly provide suggestions to further investigations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This section gave you the opportunities to present gratitude to your colleagues who provide suggestions for your papers. You can also convey your appreciation to the financial grants you are accepting, making this paper.

REFERENCES

Every supporting study is here **and follows the APA 7th referencing guide.**

We strongly advise you to use referencing tools like **Mendeley**. Write your references as follows:

Caprara, G. V., & Zimbardo, P. G. (2004). Personalizing politics: A congruency model of political preference. *American Psychologist*.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.59.7.581>

Diener, E. (2000). Subjective well-being: The science of happiness and a proposal for a national index. *American Psychologist*.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.55.1.34>

Haerani, S., Parmitasari, R. D. A., Aponno, E. H., & Aunalal, Z. I. (2019).

- Moderating effects of age on personality, driving behavior towards driving outcomes. *International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJHRH-08-2017-0040>
- Lusardi, A., Mitchell, O. S., & Curto, V. (2010). Financial literacy among the young: Evidence and implications. *National Bureau of Economic Research*, 358-380. Retrieved from <https://www.nber.org/papers/w15352.pdf>
- Sabri, M. F., & MacDonald, M. (2010). Savings Behavior and Financial Problems among College Students: The Role of Financial Literacy in Malaysia | Sabri | Cross-cultural Communication. *Crosscultural Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.3968/j.ccc.1923670020100603.009>