



Barriers to **Youth** Engagement in the fight **Against Corruption**

A Research study



INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION
in collaboration with the UNIVERSITY of TECHNOLOGY, MAURITIUS

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

| | |
|---------------|---|
| AI | Amnesty International |
| CPI | Corruption Perceptions Index |
| FIAMLA | Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2002 |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| ICAC | Independent Commission Against Corruption |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| OGP | Open Government Partnership |
| MSPACC | Model States Parties Anti-Corruption Conference |
| PoCA | Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 |
| SET | Stock Exchange of Thailand |
| TI | Transparency International |
| UNCAC | United Nations Convention against Corruption |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| YBO | Youth Box Channel |

Abstract

Corruption is not only a crime against humanity but is also an obstacle to development, the consolidation of the economic, social and cultural fabric of any nation as well as a barrier to the promotion of civil rights of citizens.

It has been widely acknowledged that successful anti-corruption efforts are often driven by ‘collective actions’ from various quarters such as the public sector, private sector, politicians and actors of the civil society. Youth representing a significant portion of the world population has undoubtedly a huge potential in reversing the corruption tide and in shaping an integrity culture. Engaging them in curbing the scourge is undeniably, more important than ever before, critical for any agency which aims towards enhancing effectiveness in the fight against corruption. However, it has been observed that not many researchers have ventured into investigating the reasons behind youth engagement in the fight against corruption. Moreover, there is limited research examining the barriers which may hinder their involvement. Understanding the complexities and relevance of such factors has become highly desirable to bring about a change in mindset, attitude and behaviour.

This study highlights the extent to which various socio-economic factors impact on the engagement of young people and proposes a set of recommendations to better address existing barriers or constraints to youth engagement in the national fight against corruption. For this purpose, a qualitative approach was used and data was collected from 11 focus groups targeting 187 young persons in all (including those from Rodrigues). Six interviews were also conducted with key stakeholders actively involved in youth empowerment, to have a more precise understanding of the situation. The collection of data was done from December 2017 to June 2018.

In a nutshell, the research findings have revealed that much has been done during the past years not only to enlist the participation of young persons but also to seek their engagement in promoting a culture of integrity. Yet, the study has also shown that much more remains to be done with a view to meet objectives set towards securing sustained youth engagement. For youth to believe in the fight against corruption, it is crucial to overcome, in a first instance, the series of barriers that might exist in their immediate environment such as the actual education system, fear to take a stance/ to voice out, the influence of parents and time constraints - though many of them have demonstrated strong willingness to make the difference and be part of the solution as key ambassadors. A bundle of practical measures has been identified to adequately address the barriers in short, medium and long terms including:

- inclusion of anti-corruption components in national policies/ frameworks/ strategies/ programmes of key stakeholders involved in youth empowerment;
- curriculum enhancement;
- development of an interactive module for tablet application for lower primary pupils;
- creation of “*l’école des parents contre la corruption*”;
- a 3-phased empowerment programme for youth; and
- prestigious Awards for most outstanding young persons.

Chapter 1

Introduction



1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Mauritius has adopted a comprehensive and strategic approach in the fight against corruption since the year 2002. The Prevention of Corruption Act (PoCA) 2002 as amended is the main legislation in this respect.

The ICAC Mauritius, set up under the PoCA 2002 which complies with the main provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), has as core functions to lead, implement and administer the prevention, education and enforcement elements of the national strategy to fight corruption. It is also mandated to, amongst others, detect and investigate any matter that may involve the laundering of money. The strategy (preventive and investigative) adopted over the years has evolved over time with regards to the changing nature and pattern of corruption so as better respond to new and emerging global challenges.

Representing a quarter of the world population and slightly over 30% of the Mauritian population, youth (392,848 - as per Table 1) constitute a key role in the building process of a better society.

Mauritius Youth Population as at 1st July 2018 - 15 to 35 years old

| | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Republic of Mauritius | 392,848 | 198,770 | 194,078 |
| Island of Mauritius | 379,194 | 192,043 | 187,151 |
| Island of Rodrigues | 13,654 | 6,727 | 6,927 |

Table 1

Source: Statistics Mauritius.

Youth being the most active component of the civil society, its involvement and participation in the national fight against corruption is thus of great relevance. To capitalize on this formative age, it is highly significant to devise appropriate empowerment strategies to better equip the youth community against corrupt motivations. This is why since its inception, the ICAC sought youth participation in weaving an integrity culture as they are considered as the potential game changers. Actions have been geared towards strengthening trust and confidence in the fight against corruption among the youth in line with ICAC's mandate and Article 13, Section 1(c), of the UNCAC which stipulates that *"each State party shall undertake public information activities that contribute to non-tolerance of corruption, as well as public education programmes; including school and university curricula"*. Accordingly, networks have been established and collaboration reinforced with key stakeholders involved in youth empowerment so that our youth are adequately empowered to live as responsible citizens guided by principles of integrity and justice, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 16.

However, to date no formal study has been undertaken to evaluate the level of youth engagement in fighting corruption and identify present constraints in mobilising youth in relevant activities.

1.1 Background of the Study

In line with its mandate and regional/international commitments, the ICAC adopts a multi-stakeholders' approach towards building a zero tolerance stance to corruption, promoting responsible citizenship and sustaining the national anti-corruption movement. However, enhancing institutional integrity and fostering people's integrity is a long-term endeavour that requires perseverance and patience.

Youth's efforts and initiatives in curbing the scourge of corruption are recognized on all fronts as an investment for a brighter future. Harnessing their engagement is therefore imperative. In this vein, a big chunk of ICAC's endeavour has been geared towards, amongst others:

- decreasing the level of cynicism in our youth to increase their level of concern on the dangers of corruption through empowerment and capacity-building programmes;
- providing them with appropriate tools, assistance and support; and
- securing their active engagement and commitment to take ownership of anti-corruption initiatives.

Despite the considerable effort and resources injected to secure their engagement, it has been observed that youth commitment is at times 'one off' though only a small proportion of them has shown certain level of engagement and sustained commitment over the years. It has also been observed that there is a significant turnover in terms of membership in structured groups set up. An in-depth investigation is thus required prior to devising forthcoming tailor-made solutions. This study seeks not only to investigate and understand the barriers to youth engagement but also to identify specific actions as well as revisit existing strategies based on the findings which form the basis of a series of proposals geared towards seeking higher level of youth engagement.

1.2 Defining Youth Engagement

The African Union has developed a policy framework in the form of an African Youth Charter which provides strategy and direction for youth empowerment and development activities at the continental, regional and national levels across Africa. It defines youth as any individual between the ages of 15 and 35 years. As at June 2017, 38 countries have ratified the Charter including Mauritius.

Generally speaking, youth engagement refers to the active involvement of young people in making decisions and in tackling social and economic issues that may affect themselves and others with a view to create positive societal change. Youth engagement is essential for youth development and for them to be active citizens in any democracy. Effective youth engagement is one of the most critical priorities for any organisation involved in youth empowerment because it helps to develop strong communities and gives young people the confidence not only to get involved but also to be part of the solution.

For the purpose of this study, youth engagement is the result of young people taking anti-corruption initiatives, making corruption socially unacceptable, not participating in acts of corruption and not tolerating corrupt acts as well as reporting corrupt acts they come across. By engaging in the fight

against corruption, it is expected that youth will strive to make their actions visible and sustain change in mindset of the community.

1.3 Objectives of Study

The objectives of the study are to:

1. assess how corruption is perceived by youth and how far they feel concerned about the social evil;
2. identify their readiness to engage themselves;
3. identify the factors hindering their engagement in the fight against corruption;
4. assess how far they are willing to engage in curbing corruption;
5. identify the barriers to reporting corruption; and
6. recommend measures to facilitate and sustain youth engagement.

1.4 Research Questions

The following key research questions were identified for the purpose of this study:

- a) Is corruption perceived to be a problem for the youth community? How far do they feel concerned about corruption and its related issues?
- b) What are the motivational factors necessary to commit themselves in the fight against corruption?
- c) How willing and available are they to engage in the fight ?
- d) What are the factors that hinder youth engagement in the fight against corruption?
- e) What could be done to encourage and sustain active youth participation in the fight?

Chapter 2

Understanding Corruption



2.0 UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

Corruption is a dynamic, complex and multifaceted phenomenon which impacts on people's day-to-day lives. This is why there is no single and universally acceptable definition of corruption.

Corruption is conventionally understood, and referred to as “the abuse of authority for private gain”. Cechurova 2012, for her part support the same argument by defining corruption as an “abuse of power for personal gain”. Put more explicitly, it is “the intentional noncompliance with arm's-length relationships aimed at deriving some advantage from this behaviour for oneself or for related individuals” (Tanzi 1995:172 in van den Berg & Noorderhaven, 2016). Both definitions converge towards the fact that corruption is linked to individual behaviour.

The World Bank defines corruption as “the abuse of public office for private gain”. Achim 2016 and previously many authors have attempted over the years to define and explain the concept of corruption. Transparency International, on the other hand, describes corruption as being “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It can be classified as grand, petty and political, depending on the amounts of money lost and the sector where it occurs”.

Corruption is seen as one of the biggest threats to firms in developing nations (Hardoon & Heinrich 2013 in van den Berg & Noorderhaven, 2016). Aguilera and Vadera (2008, p.433-4) defined corruption as “the crime that is committed by the use of authority within organisations for personal gain” while Okokgbule (2006, p. 94) rather defined corruption as: [...] a device or strategy usually employed to sway people away from the right course of action, duty or conduct, either in the performance of their official duties, or in activities relating to economic or political matters.

For his part, Lopez 2017:186 advocates that corruption corrodes the fabric of society, undermines people's trust in the political and economic systems and can even cost people's freedom, health, money and even their lives. Since corruption is also considered as being “norm deviant” (Voliotis 2015:147), it unfortunately also, hampers good governance, undermines the rule of law, adversely influences service quality and efficiency, poses threats to principles of democracy, and compromises investments, justice and the economy.

As per Section 2 of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PoCA) 2002, an act of corruption includes “the abuse of a public or private office for private gain”. All those involved in an act of corruption are liable to penal servitude for a term not exceeding 10 years.

In general, corruption refers to patterns of misconduct, dishonest behaviour and is thus an unlawful act.

2.1 Causes of Corruption

Corruption affects all segments of the society, particularly the poor. It corrodes public trust, undermines the rule of law and economic development, erodes moral values such as honesty, integrity and justice and represents a major threat to democracy, human rights, meritocracy and

equity. It also brings along a moral decay, frustration, demotivation and steals from youth's future prospects.

According to Robert Kiltgaard, Dean and Ford Distinguished Professor of International Development and Security at the Rand Graduate School, Santa Monica, California, the corruption formula is:

C= M+D-A. Corruption equals monopoly plus discretion minus accountability.

Whether the activity is public, private, or non-profit, and whether it is carried on in Ouagadougou or Washington, one will tend to find corruption when an organisation or person has monopoly power over a good or service, has the discretion to decide who will receive it and how much that person will get, and is not accountable.

Corruption is a dynamic and complex phenomenon and can occur on different scales ranging from small favours to political corruption. A plethora of factors and forces have been attributed as possible causes of corruption. These are, amongst others:

- personal greed;
- cultural environments which condone it;
- indifference of the population and lack of transparency and accountability at institutional level;
- inefficient controls as well as inappropriate regulations and inadequate or weak legislations;
- high tolerance of corrupt activities, low press freedom and political instability;
- low income and high poverty level. With high poverty level, the probability to resist corruption is low, others argue for falling moral standard, religious value and ethical values (Atoyebi and Mobolaji, 2004); and
- political and economic insecurity.

Other factors include level of expectation, since expectation has impact on people's thought, perception and behaviour. In a corrupt society, the public expects one to be corrupt and naturally feels less guilty about committing such an act but in an honest society a corrupt act gives rise to a stronger sense of guilt and indignation. Indignation is a trigger for disclosure and thus if a corrupt act is detected it is much more likely to be reported to the authority or to the press than in a corrupt society (Collier, 2000).

Finally, the worldview of individual impacts strongly on behaviour, and with self-interest combined with low accountability consciousness and poor enforcement institution a wrong decision may occur (Chapra, 2000).

2.2 Cost of Corruption

Corruption is one of the main obstacles to sustainable economic, political and social development, for developing, emerging and developed economies alike. The World Bank estimates that over \$1 trillion is paid in bribes each year. It is also a major financial crime as highlighted by the International Monetary Fund (2017) which estimates that worldwide the cost of corruption is more than 2% of global GDP (\$1.5 billion to \$2 trillion).

Corruption also constitutes a major obstacle to democracy and the rule of law. Though this is harmful in established democracies, it is even more so in newly emerging ones. Accountable political leadership cannot develop in a corrupt climate.

Economically, corruption leads to the depletion of national wealth. It is often responsible for the funnelling of scarce public resources to economic high-profile projects, such as dams, power plants, pipelines and refineries, at the expense of less spectacular but more necessary infrastructure projects such as schools, hospitals and roads, bridges or the supply of power and water to rural areas. Furthermore, it hinders the development of fair market structures and distorts competition, thereby deterring investment.

The effect of corruption on the social fabric of society is the most damaging of all. It undermines people's trust in the political system, in its institutions and its leadership. Frustration and general apathy among a disillusioned public result in a weak civil society. That in turn clears the way for despots as well as democratically elected yet unscrupulous leaders to turn national assets into personal wealth. Demanding and paying bribes become the norm. Those unwilling to comply often emigrate, leaving the country drained of its most able and most honest citizens. Extant literature reveals that this constitutes one of the main motives why some young people who go abroad to pursue studies prefer opting for a career in countries which offers equal opportunities (based on anti-corruption values such as integrity, justice, meritocracy and fairness) to participate in all spheres of economic activities.

Environmental degradation is yet another consequence of corrupt systems. Environmentally devastating projects are given preference in funding, because they are easy targets for siphoning off public money into private pockets.

In addition, corruption perpetuates other forms of crime such as money laundering, cybercrimes, drugs, terrorist financing, fraud and other illicit trafficking activities.

2.3 Culture of Corruption

According to Achim (2016); Husted (1999), corruption is significantly associated with culture. Conceptually varied contexts within a cultural system can be linked to differential behavioural patterns when it comes to corruption intentions of individuals. Arunthanes et al. (1994, p. 47) claims that customs of giving gifts differ from culture to culture. High context cultures, such as Japan, Italy, Spain and Turkey, look at gift giving as a social imperative. Low context cultures, such as USA, Germany and Switzerland, tend to consider gift giving as something optional. In such cultures, business gifts of high value are often seen as bribes, while it is not always the case in high context cultures.

Shehu (2004, p. 70) said that corruption is a social construct, so that it could considerably vary over time and place. What is seen as a corrupt practice in a given country could be perceived as a legitimate action in another country. Of course, the notion of corruption as it is developed in a given country is basically influenced by historical, cultural, political, social, economic and even religious factors, Michel Dion (2010, p. 240-250). We cannot deny the fact that corruption actually is a social

construct. However, the moral aspect of the phenomenon is not really addressed in a sociological perspective. Moreover, the author focuses on the belief that “corruption is incipient in every society and most human activities”. He acknowledged that systems can corrupt people and that people can corrupt systems. The problem with that argument is that it is legitimating the phenomenon of corruption from a moral viewpoint. If all societies are affected by that evil, how could we believe possible to get rid of it? Shehu (2004, p. 77). Thus, he pre-supposed that corruption is not only a social construct, but also an integral part of human culture itself.

In line with Husted, Hofstede (2011) advocated that certain long term and short term elements characterising the culture of nations determine the behaviour of individuals acting in certain economic activities.

2.4 Measuring Corruption

According to Wu (2016), corruption is a pervasive worldwide phenomenon. Measuring corruption is unfortunately not straight forward. Attempts at measuring corruption have been made worldwide but none of them has been able to capture the real state of corruption in a country and citizens’ perceptions or experience of corruption to help us to take relevant actions and assess whether they proved successful.

Globally, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), released on a yearly basis by Transparency International, is the most commonly used and generally acceptable measure of the level of corruption which ranks countries and territories based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. It is a composite index that is based on a number of individual data sources intended to measure various aspects of corruption. According to the 2018 CPI, Mauritius is ranked 56 out of 180 countries with a score of 51 (out of 100). It is now ranked 6th in Africa behind Seychelles, Botswana, Cape Verde, Rwanda and Namibia - thus maintaining its position in the region same as last year. According to the latest CPI report, the five most corrupt countries are Somalia, Syria, South Sudan, Yemen and North Korea, while the “cleanest” five countries are Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Singapore and Sweden.

However, it is also well-known that CPI is somewhat disputed for the accuracy of the index which really call to question the extent CPI reflects reality on the ground as well as the trust of the international community towards the leading global indicator of corruption. In the absence of alternative indices, other current indicators are therefore used to generate data pertaining to the extent of corruption in various countries, such as the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, the Worldwide Governance Indicators and the Global Competitiveness Index.

Corruption is indeed a complex and universal phenomenon. Though it is often triggered by personal greed, cultural environments which condone it, lack of transparency and accountability at institutional level, inefficient controls as well as inappropriate regulations and inadequate or weak legislations, one other possible cause of corruption is often indifference of the population. This is why the fight against corruption requires the active involvement of different components of society including the youth constituting a sizeable portion of society which is considered as the hope of any nation.

Chapter 3

Youth and Corruption



“Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace. If, however, they are left on society’s margins, all of us will be impoverished. Let us ensure that all young people have very opportunity to participate fully in lives of their societies”.

Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

3.0 YOUTH AND CORRUPTION

Why target youth? Young people account for one-quarter of the world’s population, and especially since the Arab Spring, youth have been shaping social and economic innovations, challenging social norms and values, triggering change and breaking new ground. Connected as never before, young women and men are increasingly influencing the course of their communities and countries. At the same time, this young generation faces many obstacles, ranging from discrimination, marginalization, and lack of access, to opportunities and voice in decision making.

It is widely recognised that young people tend to be more exposed to bribery and therefore particularly vulnerable to corruption, as they are involved in almost every aspect of society – as pupils, students, would-be professionals, workers, customers and citizens. They tend to be more open to wide-scale socio-political transformation and have less vested interest in maintaining the status quo (Transparency International 2009). Young people are an essential component for the success of a cultural change in attitudes and behaviour towards corruption and in the shaping of the values of tomorrow, since they represent the future and hope of their countries. Their actions may subsequently create a spill-over effect and generate dividends amongst the population at large in terms of reinforcing integrity towards a corrupt-free society.

These days, the young generation has more power to change the social and political dynamics that underlie a resigned acceptance of bribery and other forms of corruption and other malpractices - thus having the ability to reshape norms. Engaging young people in nurturing a culture of integrity can serve as the main catalyst for change. By becoming active, either through joining or reinforcing an existing effort or establishing a new one, progress on fighting corruption can be achieved.

According to Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer (GCB, 2013), 27% of people under the age of 30 paid a bribe in that 12 months worldwide. Some country results demonstrate the vulnerability of youth to corruption in specific country context, such as in Indonesia (44% of youth for 34% of adults), Argentina (20% of youth for 11% of adults) or Bangladesh (47% of youth for 37% of adults).

The Youth Integrity Survey conducted in Vietnam shows that almost a fifth of the young people surveyed thought that dishonest individuals were more likely to succeed in life. With such a common belief, it is important to ensure that the young people dedicated to refuse corruption do not systematically end up losing out in comparison to the others. In addition, the survey (September

2013) undertaken by Transparency Mauritius entitled ‘Le regard des jeunes sur la politique et la corruption’ revealed that one third of the respondents (558) find it normal to work for politicians in exchange for rewards. The proportion is higher among job seekers and students (37%). Thus, there is a need to strengthen trust and confidence in the fight against corruption particularly among the youth.

According to Robert Kiltgaard (Addressing Corruption Together, 2015), in 2011, a BBC survey of more than 24 000 people in 23 countries identified corruption as “the topic most frequently discussed by the public”, ahead of poverty, unemployment and terrorism. In 2013, WIN/ Gallup International surveyed almost 70 000 people in 69 countries. Corruption was deemed the world’s number one problem (both surveys are cited by Homes, 2015:xii).

Young people in particular perceive corruption as a grave obstacle. In 2014, the World Economic Forum and several collaborating institutions surveyed 1089 people aged 18-34 in 102 countries. Seventy-two percent of respondents agreed that “corruption is holding my country back” and that “corruption is causing lost opportunities for my generation”. Only 10% agreed with the statement “corruption is a necessary part of functioning in society”. When asked “To what extent do you think the international community should pay more attention to the effects of corruption and to its prevention and control?”, 83% said “a great deal” (World Economic Forum et al, n. d).

In addition, the National Survey on Perception of Corruption conducted in 2014 in Mauritius revealed important information concerning the youth, such as:

- 54.2% of people perceive the younger generation as not so committed or even not committed at all.
 - 81.9% of respondents from the 21-25 age group believe that one would pay to get services from officers issuing licenses (“patentes”).
 - 51.4% of the age group 18-20 would not report a case of corruption.
- the 18-20 years age group (68.6%) and the 21-30 years age groups (both at 66%) are the strongest proponents that corruption will spread.

These findings are characterized by a high level of cynicism among the youth that needs to be addressed.

3.1 Benefits of Youth Engagement

The European Youth Forum, one of the world’s best established and most influential youth advocacy platforms, has defined active citizenship as a legal status and a role. According to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/ The World Bank Group, Breaking the Barriers to Youth Inclusion, 2014, a combination of specific attitudes and institutional arrangements must be in place for individuals to exercise “involvement, participation, and influence”. This definition of citizenship also encompasses an individual’s relations with others and the labour market, as well as questions of cultural identity, given that individuals belong to and participate in many different communities – social, economic and cultural.

According to ACT for Youth Center of Excellence, youth engagement is a win-win proposition.

- Young people benefit by gaining skills, knowledge, self-esteem, and connectedness.
- Adults benefit by enhancing their own competencies, learning to better understand and value youth, and increasing their commitment and energy to their organisations.
- Organisations benefit by improving their programmes, gaining community recognition, and attracting funders.
- Communities benefit by improving quality of life, coordinating youth services, and authentically embracing diversity by representing young people.

3.2 Anti-Corruption Actions Championed by Youth

In a publication titled “Best Practices in Engaging Youth in the Fight against Corruption”, Sofia Wickberg (2013) from Transparency International explained that engaging youth should not be a box-ticking exercise and many questions are raised regarding success and sustainability of youth engagement efforts. She goes further by stating that projects designed and led by young people, supported by civil society organisations (CSOs) have generally been more successful with outreach and sustaining individual engagement. Many CSOs working with youth have emphasised on education about the concepts in the initial phase of their endeavours. Another effective approach has proved to be the use of existing structures and integrating youth engagement activities into a broader context.

3.2.1 International Perspectives: From Voice to Actions

Youth engagement activities cannot be confined to working with youth to teach them about the values of integrity and honesty, without taking into account the broader context. Extant literature has shown that youth engagement projects should be integrated in broader anti-corruption efforts to avoid frustration and loss of credibility for the young people involved.

Successful efforts in engaging youth to drive anti-corruption reforms and/ or achieve demonstrable results have been, amongst others, emphasised by U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre in a publication entitled “Best Practices in Engaging Youth in the Fight against Corruption”. Amnesty International (AI) conducted a study in 2006 which was carried out on its young members (about 50% of AI membership is between the age of 14 and 25) about the best ways to reach out and engage youth in social and civic movement. The top 5 answers were: long-term education, concerts and festivals, outreach programmes in schools and universities, television and celebrity endorsement. The individuals surveyed also mentioned international youth meetings and social media as good ways to get young people’s attention.

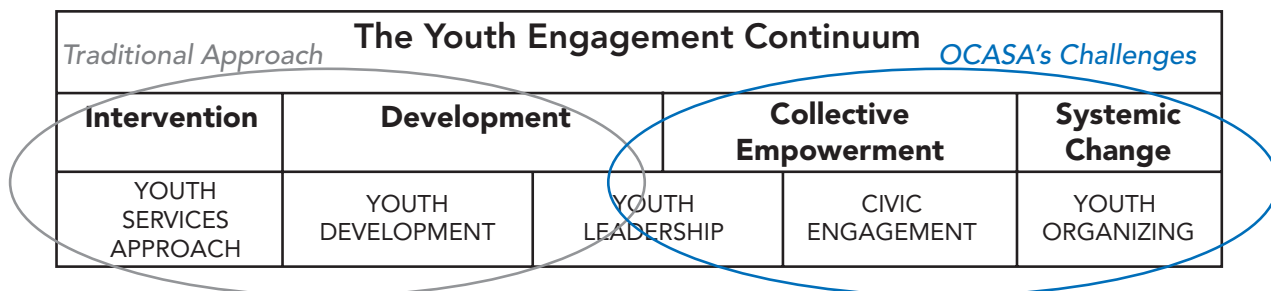
It is widely acknowledged that many young people across the world are more and more daring to team up to take actions to fight corruption in their respective countries. A typical example is the Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network which is a student-led network created in 2012 in partnership with UNDP and Khon Kaen University’s College of Local Administration. It started off as a group of 36 students with the mission to eliminate corruption from Thai society through the empowerment

of young people. In a first instance, the project was geared towards making students take a pledge to “refuse to be corrupt”. In one year, the campaign managed to grow to a network of 4000 students in 90 universities. This initiative is completely “bottom-up”, meaning that the direction given and leadership arise from the students themselves, with UNDP playing a support role. The students created their identity, logo and messaging by themselves. The network organises conferences and camps to raise awareness among students about the negative effects of corruption and the importance of taking actions, as well as organisation of campaigns and public events. Students use Facebook as a platform to exchange information and coordinate their work, provide training on social media as an advocacy tool to widen the core group of communicators and partner with more universities to promote integrity. The significant growth of the network as well as the quality of the activities undertaken attracted the attention of other institutions and networks in the country, such as the private sector Anti-Corruption Network led by Thai businessmen and industry associations, including the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Thai Bankers’ Association, the Federation of Thai Industries, and the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET), with which the youth network signed a partnership.

Another example is “Towards Transparency Vietnam (TT)” which launched its youth integrity programme in 2010, along with a number of other TI groups from the region. With 55% of the country’s population being under 30 years old, finding ways to engage youth on good governance issues appeared as one of the priorities of the organisation. The first step of the youth programme consisted in a survey conducted in 2010. This research project interviewed more than 1000 young people in 11 provinces of the country and aimed to improve the understanding of youth’s attitudes towards corruption in order to later develop targeted and effective anti-corruption initiatives. The survey also looked at young people’s influences and concluded that the sources, most susceptible to encourage them to act with integrity, were: broadcast media, family members and the education system. The survey results informed the organisation’s further work with youth. For example, given the results indicating that the media had a strong influence on young people, TT launched a pilot project called the Youth Box Channel (YBO). The YBO is a media initiative, led by young volunteers who produce news reportages, interviews, short films, articles and comics on issues related to anti-corruption and sustainable development. By engaging young people in media production, the initiative provides a platform for youth to foster critical thinking and encourages young people to take a leading role in promoting integrity, transparency and social justice. YBO is aimed at reaching youth audiences across Vietnam.

According to Ana Carolina Gonzalez Espinosa, for Colombian young people corruption is a major problem and in most of the cases, they are willing to take actions against it within their communities though at times corruption is seen as a practical solution for day-to-day problems. Besides, youth active participation in fighting corruption is deterred by the feelings that their actions have no results or fear to retaliation especially in high violence rates zone. In this context, a group of young people decided to team up and set up an organisation called OCASA in July 2003 aimed at creating innovating spaces of participation of young people in the building of a transparent democracy. Figure 1 shows the type of approach adopted by OCASA in strengthening youth integrity and promoting youth active participation.

Type of Approach



Source: Based on Pittman, K., Martin, S., Williams, A. (2007, July). *Core Principles for Engaging Young People in Community Change*. Washington, D.C.: The Forum for Youth Investment, Impact Strategies, Inc, p.9.

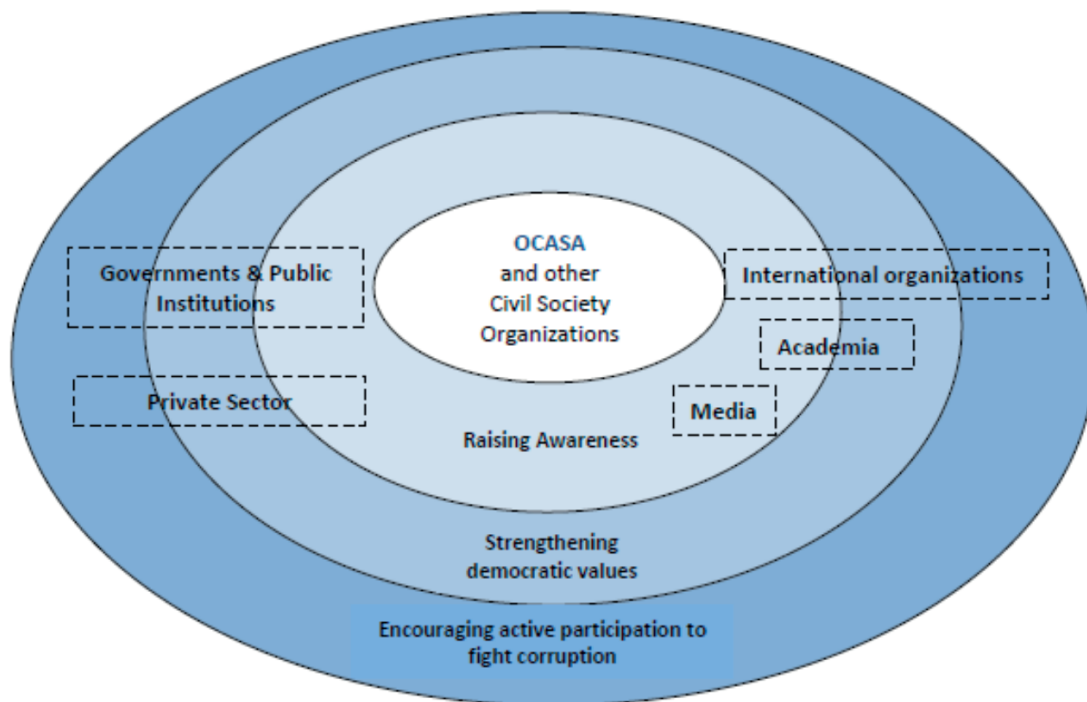
Figure 1

In addition, OCASA’s experience has shown that a partnership model is one of the fundamental building blocks of a global Youth Integrity Promotion Program - partnerships including international organisations, social organisations, cooperation agencies, universities, governments and the private sector. Figure 2 refers.

This has led to the design and implementation of virtual courses, contribution to the development and methodological design of NGO accountability standards and its implementation for more than 50 member organisations in the country.

OCASA’s experience demonstrates that much resources and efforts are required for sustainable and successful youth integrity programmes such as, amongst others:

- moving from traditional approaches to reach youth, towards engagement that involve collective actions;
- demolishing myths about youth by opening further spaces for youth participation and actions in their fields of interest;
- using experiential education programmes like real cases of ethical dilemmas that these young people are facing, as well as new technologies such as internet based tools;
- taking position of youth as key actors of the present time and not only as future leaders;
- continuing building capacity in youth by making them aware of corruption and providing concrete tools so that they can carry out specific actions; and
- establishing a wide range of partnerships to increase possibilities of success.

Building partnerships for implementing strategic lines for youth integrity**Figure 2**

Source: Based on Pittman, K. Martin, S. Williams, A. (2007, July), *Core Principles for Engaging Young People in Community Change*. Washington, D.C.: The Forum for Youth Investment, Impact Strategies, Inc., p.9

3.2.2 The Local Context

During the past 15 years, the ICAC has left no stone unturned to engage youth - from the formal sector as well as those in the informal setting- in the promotion of integrity in all spheres of life by adopting novel and impact-oriented strategies. This has resulted/ led in, amongst others, the:

- systemic empowerment of all new recruits in the public sector;
- setting up and servicing of the Inter-University Anti-Corruption Platform regrouping university students from various tertiary education institutions;
- development of a module on ethics and governance run at the University of Mauritius and other Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs);
- integration of anti-corruption elements in courses currently run in TEIs;
- development of a 4-phased Youth Empowerment Programme;
- setting up of platforms: a National Anti-Corruption Youth Working Group, 9 Youth Action Teams on a district-wise basis, 116 Integrity Clubs (among which 88 are considered as active ones) in secondary schools and Youth Against Corruption Platform;
- development of a Youth Leadership Module entitled 'Youth and Ethics' run by the ICAC in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports;

- holding of anti-corruption sensitisation campaigns in schools on a yearly basis since 2009 and empowerment sessions at tertiary education level;
- launching of an online anti-corruption quiz and online pledge;
- organisation of marches, rallies and national events such as the “Run the Flame of Integrity”;
- organisation of various competitions and development of tools to better equip youth in nurturing an integrity culture such as an integrity charter, newsletters, magazines, brochures, posters, flyers and leaflets; and
- involvement of a significant number of youth in the formal sector and informal settings, taking ownership of anti-corruption initiatives and increased youth participation on ICAC social networks such as ICAC Facebook page.

Youth sensitised are further empowered to shoulder more responsibilities as youth leaders and are encouraged to, amongst others, move beyond school boundaries and act as anti-corruption ambassadors.

Model State Parties Anti-Corruption Conference in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A Model States Parties Anti-Corruption Conference (MSPACC) was organised by the ICAC in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in March 2016. One of the major outcomes of the conference was the adoption of a “Mauritius Resolution” on ‘The promotion of the contribution of young people in preventing corruption and fostering a culture of respect and integrity’. It encourages State parties to promote educational programmes at all levels that foster a culture of respect and integrity, organise anti-corruption activities, including the development or improvement of codes of conduct together with students and teachers as well as use all new media / technologies to maximize the outcomes in fighting corruption in their efforts to engage and educate young people. It also encourages the United Nations to strengthen collaboration at the grass-root level with State parties and strengthen the fight against corruption through the inclusion of young people at an early stage.

The MSPACC has been referred to by the UNODC as an original and meaningful initiative which could be replicated by other State parties.

3.3 Barriers to Effective Youth Participation

Young people are amongst the most important agents of change in the fight against corruption due to their power to change the socio-economic setting for lasting actions. However, as the most active population due to their involvement in almost every aspect of society, they also face many obstacles, difficulties and challenges which may contribute in making them resilient to change and thus causing demotivation, frustration and lack of engagement particularly in the long run. They tend to focus on things which they have personal interest in and are more and more becoming self-centered with latest technologies related to computers, games etc. Extant literature has shown that these interests also vary as they grow and according to trends, peer pressure, parents’ support and parents’ pressure also.

As per the journal entitled 'Addressing and Overcoming Barriers to Youth Civic Engagement' of the International Public Management Review, Maria J. D'Agostino and Anne Visser devised a coding schema in terms of a framework comprising 15 broad types of barriers encountered by organisations that seek to encourage youth civic engagement.

Those were assigned to respective categories such as social barriers, cultural barriers and political barriers as per table below.

Social, Cultural and Political Barriers

| Category | Elements |
|---------------------------|---|
| Social Barriers | Transportation and access Lack of information and knowledge regarding the programs Adult stereotypes Access to/support for opportunities in urban areas Stereotypes Feelings of being unwanted Nature of students engaged in programs |
| Cultural Barriers | Cultural concerns over mixed-gender activities Familial obligations Notion of community and vision Cultural norms and environment |
| Political Barriers | Nature of local decision-making Access to funding Access and support for encouraging opportunity in urban areas |

In addition, according to a paper entitled 'Challenges of Youth Participation' published by the Australian Infant, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Association, 'National Youth Participation Strategy Scoping Project Report', 2008, other barriers may affect young people's ability to participate such as insufficient time due to education and/ or work obligations and family/friend commitments, negative social attitudes to, and stereotyping, of young people and a lack of trust by young people in decision-making systems.

In another publication entitled 'Why Teens are not involved in Out-of-School Time Programs: The Youth Perspective', Mary Terzian, Lindsay Giesen and Kassim Mbwana (2009) identified 19 issues relating to barriers to participation and programme improvement strategies, after the holding of a youth roundtable discussion. They explained that a parent's poor impression of a programme, for example, can also be barrier to youth participation. Some of the participants mentioned that some parents had reservations about programmes that were not clearly structured around enhancing academic achievement by providing tutoring or scheduled time for completing homework. Therefore, using parents to increase youth participation in programmes can prove to be an effective strategy if parents are convinced of the benefits of this participation.

Considered as the most active and dynamic component of the civil society, youth has a huge potential in reversing back the corruption tide and thus shaping a new social and economic era which rests on societal values. Though at the same time, this young generation faces many obstacles present in their day-to-day dealings they need to be empowered at an early stage towards best practices and principles of good governance - provided they are given the required framework to spearhead and drive the anti-corruption crusade. They are those who ultimately will become global citizens who will make the difference in making our planet more just, fair and sustainable.

Chapter 4

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



4.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 Research Context, Aim and Objectives

Mauritius is a small island state and in its quest to fight corruption, the Government Programme 2015-2019 clearly stipulates that “government will relentlessly fight fraud, corruption and financial crime”. Besides, this study fits well in line with the strategic objective of the ICAC to seek more engagement from all stakeholders with a view to reinforce the anti-corruption web.

It is a fact that youth is the main foundation for any country. Young persons are the leaders of today and makers of tomorrow, but more importantly, their present attitudes and behaviours can have tremendous impact on the life of a whole nation. In the same vein, it is a must today for any anti-corruption agency to, in a first instance, identify the necessary factors motivating the youth to participate actively in shaping a new culture, assess their availability and willingness to engage themselves as well as identify the factors that hinder youth engagement in fighting corruption.

4.2 Research Questions

The following key research questions have been formulated to achieve the purpose of this study:

- Is corruption perceived to be a problem for the youth community? How far do they feel concerned about corruption and its related issues?
- What are the motivational factors necessary to commit themselves in the fight against corruption?
- How willing and available are they to engage in the fight?
- What are the factors that hinder youth engagement in the fight against corruption?
- What could be done to encourage and sustain active youth participation in the fight against corruption?

4.3 Research Design

“Corruption poses a significant concern to citizens globally, and many see it as one of the most important issues facing their societies”. (Adam & Adam 2018:171). On his part, Dion (2010) expressed “the corruption of principles” which can either be explained through a “corruption of the soul, a corruption of human nature, or a corruption of political principles”. These clearly indicate that corruption is intricately linked to society and the individual himself.

On the other hand, scientific research enables society, as a whole, to have a better understanding of mental processes and behaviours (See Christensen, Johnson & Turner 2011). Such scientific research can be either quantitative or qualitative. While the quantitative approach of research makes use of numerical data to answer research questions, qualitative data uses non numerical data in the form of statements, interviews, pictures, clothing, written records, among others. (ibid).

The main aim of this study is to identify the barriers to youth engagement in the fight against corruption. In other words, it endeavoured towards exploring the young Mauritians perception of corruption and the major barriers and motivators with respect to their engagement. Since qualitative

research is known to understand insider's views (See Christensen et al., 2011), the qualitative stance was adopted for the study. The choice of this method harmonizes with the social constructivist premise. Qualitative methods favour an examination of individual's social reality, motivations, intentions and experiences of people and are flexible due to its spontaneity and adaptation of the interaction between the researcher and the participants (Namey, 2005). Also, it allows the participants to share 'richer' answers to questions set to them by the researcher, and may provide valuable insights which might have been missed out by any other method.

4.4 Research Method

At the same time, people in this 21st century very often show concern about the link between youth and their moral development including education to become responsible citizens so that they can better participate in the socio-economic development of any country. Hence, rendering it legitimate for researchers to probe into the personal opinion of youth in the Republic of Mauritius as far as corruption is concerned. Thus acknowledging the opinion of Corbin & Strauss (2008:12), that "qualitative research allows researchers to get at the inner experience of participants, to determine how meanings are formed through and in culture and to discover rather than test variables", and taking into account Suri 2011, advocating that 'researchers use qualitative methods when the research questions are exploratory in nature and when the researcher seeks to go deeply into range of ideas and feelings associated with the research topic', the researchers opted for a mix of focus group and interview methods to achieve the objectives of the current study.

4.5 Focus Group

According to Bedford and Burgess 2001, focus group is "a one-off meeting of between four and eight individuals who are brought together to discuss a particular topic chosen by the researcher(s) who moderate or structure the discussion". Although few other researchers report as little as 2 up to 12 participants. Focus groups are increasingly being used in within social science research as an instrument to gather empirical information and allow the less educated to expose their views on a topic of interest to the researcher(s).

11 focus groups were thus conducted for this research because of the characteristics they have, as advocated, which proved to be essential to achieve the objectives of this study:

1. small enough enabling everyone to share their insights, but at the same time large enough to enable diversity of perceptions - thus enabling the youth to voice out their perception about corruption, and also discuss their divergent ideas at the same time.
2. similar characteristics of group members resulting in homogeneity, in this case adolescents/youth of the Republic of Mauritius of the same age bracket, that is from 15 to 35 years old or average.
3. provision of qualitative data thus enabling the collection of "extensive data on many variables over an extended period of time.... in order to gain insights not possible using other types of research".
4. enabling focused discussions related to the topic under study, that is identifying the barriers /constraints to youth engagement in the fight against corruption.

5. an amalgam of the above four characteristics which have helped the researchers to understand the topic under study through the lenses of youth perception thus enabling the formulation of recommendations and proposed measures to better address barriers to youth engagement in fighting corruption.

4.6 Interviews

Qualitative research is known to be multi method (See Christensen et al., 2011). It uses various data collection methods to obtain the best description of an event to achieve the study aim and ensure triangulation (ibid). Over and above the focus group discussions, 6 interviews were carried out with relevant stakeholders. Interviews allowed for face-to-face interactions and in depth information as required by qualitative researchers. It would help in confirming or comparing data obtained from focus groups.

4.7 Data Collection and Storing

First and foremost, primary data was collected to enable gathering of existing information on the topic under study. An extensive literature review was worked out based on existing research pertaining to corruption in general and also corruption and the youth. Extant literature from national, regional and world reports together with thorough analysis of peer reviewed research papers published internationally and made available through electronic databases and relevant publications have been reviewed.

These have already been portrayed in the second and third chapters under two main headings:

- Understanding Corruption (*The causes and cost of corruption etc.*)
- Youth and Corruption (*Anti-corruption actions championed by youth, Barriers in effective youth engagement in the fight against corruption, etc.*)

As advocated by Kellmerit 2015, the following processes were used by the researchers for secondary data collection:

(a) Identifying the Participants

The selection of participants was guided by a purposive sampling technique. As indicated by Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2003), a purposive sampling strategy allows a researcher to use judgment to select people. Charmaz (2006) affirms that intensive interviewing allows an in-depth exploration of a topic and is viewed as valuable for interpretive inquiry. Indeed, participants were identified randomly on a district-wise basis by both the Ministry of Youth and Sports (for Mauritius island) and the Commission of Youth and Sports (for Rodrigues island) upon request and as per the profile of youth defined by the African Youth Charter.

Target population: 187 young persons in the age bracket of 15 to 35 years old (interviewed during 11 focus group discussions).

Sampling: 10-12 participants were mobilised from each district including Rodrigues.

Personalities interviewed: 6 key stakeholders were interviewed for this study, namely a sociologist and senior lecturer, representatives from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Commission of Youth and Sports - Rodrigues, a college/Integrity Club (IC), Transparency Mauritius and Rodrigues Council of Social Services.

Period of study: December 2017 to December 2018.

The collection of data was done from the months of December 2017 to June 2018 and the discussions lasted approximately between 60 and 75 minutes. Appointments were taken via e-mail and phone. Data pertaining to the general background of the participants, their experience and views/concerns about anti-corruption/corruption issues as well as their participation in ICAC's educational activities were also sought.

(b) Design of Interview Guide

Following the literature search, an interview guide was designed, in line with the research questions and objectives. The first series targeting young people and the second series for the key stakeholders involved in youth empowerment. **Appendices 1 and 2** reveal the questionnaires, prepared by the researchers, together with the questions asked. It was an opportunity to have frank and open discussions which to some extent prompted 'confession' on certain key issues which otherwise the researchers would never have been able to obtain.

4.8 Pilot study

A pilot study is testing for the proper operation of a data collection instrument before using it in the research study. (Christensen et al., 2011). After the pilot testing, amendments were made to the questionnaires. For example, the overall length of the questionnaire for the representatives of key institutions was reduced from fourteen questions to ten questions in view of the limited time available to the key officials for the interview.

4.9 Data Analysis and Interpretation

"Discourse" if taken as a noun, is termed as being a "way of signifying experience from a particular perspective" (Fairclough 2010: 96). As explained earlier, this study aimed towards gauging the perception which youngsters had with respect to corruption together with identifying the causes and barriers affecting the participation and engagement in the fight against corruption among the youth. Such understanding would help the researchers propose new or enhanced ways of reaching and engaging the younger generation with respect to fighting the social ill. It was therefore important to chart out meanings by interpreting what respondents actually say without compromising on

objectivity while trying to achieve the set research objectives. (See Bhiwajee 2014). In this respect, discourse analysis was used for this study.

In line with the aim of the study, the following themes, sub themes were charted out, with few themes emerging:

| THEMES / EMERGING THEMES | | SUB THEMES |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | MEANING OF CORRUPTION | Prominent areas of corruption |
| | | Example of corruption |
| | | Awareness about corruption |
| 2. | CAUSES OF CORRUPTION | Level of corruption |
| 3. | YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN ANTI-CORRUPTION | - |
| 4. | CURBING DOWN CORRUPTION | Measures to curb down corruption |
| | | Reporting corruption and measures behind |
| 5. | ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE YOUTH IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION | - |
| 6. | YOUTH ENGAGEMENT | Willingness to engage |
| | | Proposed ways to seek more engagement |
| 7. | STAKEHOLDERS' PERCEPTION | Youth Interests |
| | | Interest in corruption and anti-corruption issues |
| 8. | YOUTH AWARENESS ABOUT THE DANGER OF CORRUPTION | Sensitisation campaigns, social media and technology |
| 9. | YOUTH WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION | Barriers to fight corruption |

Table 3

4.10 Ethical Considerations

While collecting data, due consideration has been given to ethical issues such as ensuring confidentiality and anonymity, formal consent, elimination of bias etc.

An overview of the study together with the objectives of the research was provided to the young people and stakeholders prior to the focus groups and interviews without rendering the study bias. They were also reassured that data collected remained confidential and complete anonymity would be maintained in reporting on the findings.

The consent of the participants had been sought, prior to the focus groups, by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Commission for Youth and Others. Throughout the exercise, the researchers tried to maintain as much as possible a high degree of objectivity and neutrality.

4.11 Rigour and Validity

Research validity refers to the “correctness or truthfulness of the inferences that are or can be made from the results of a research study” (See Christensen et al., 2011). Thus, the researchers ensured that data obtained has been analysed objectively in line with the themes charted out and taking both theoretical and interpretive validity into consideration.

4.12 Limitations Encountered

While the researchers have ensured that the study takes place in the required conditions, there were few issues which were unfortunately beyond their control and worth to be mentioned:

1. One major limitation of the study pertains to the age group and size of the respondents. Despite the fact that the characteristics of focus group and the profile of prospective respondents (youth) were communicated well in advance to stakeholders responsible for mobilisation of the youth, it was observed that at times a handful of young persons who turned up were below 15 years old. It is worth noting that the average age of young people reached was 17 years old. In addition, for some focus groups more than 12 young people turned up;
2. Despite the background information provided before kicking off the discussions, some of the respondents (youth) were at times hesitant and timid. The researchers expected “richer” conversations overall;
3. The timidity of some respondents also made the conversations from few focus groups long but less discussive and interactive. The researchers had to readjust and reframe or even translate some questions in French or Creole language at times to render the exercise more discussive. Moreover, in some cases few of the respondents did not seem to know much about the word corruption and the researcher had to use local jargons to proceed further with the questionnaire such as *l’enveloppe*, *la money dite*, *lizaze*, *bribe*. This impeded on the “richness” of data obtained;
4. Difficulties in fixing meetings with few stakeholders due to their tight schedule and unavailability;
5. Time constraints. The time available to the high-ranked officials for the interview was at times restricted but the researchers made it a point to be convincing enough to complete the questionnaires. Other and above face to face interactions, additional information pertaining to the questionnaire were provided by 2 respondents due to time constraints;
6. With face-to-face qualitative interviews and focus groups, there is a tendency sometimes for the respondents deviating from the subject matter and if the researchers are not careful the latter’s response could be irrelevant; and
7. Inadequate published research papers in relation to barriers to youth engagement in the fight against corruption.

The findings and recommendations of the study are expected to serve as a basis not only to identify specific actions but also to revisit our existing strategies to gear up the fight against corruption and for further research with regards to youth engagement.

Chapter 5

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS



5.0 FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Excerpts of the semi-structured interviews are reproduced. Materials are presented verbatim in the text as far as possible. Data analysis derives answers to the research questions raised.

5.1 Youth Perspective: Meaning Of Corruption

Although few respondents did not seem to know much about corruption or had difficulty in expressing the term: “do not know exactly what it is”, “can’t define”, the majority of respondents acknowledged having heard of the word corruption and expressed a negative connotation to it. The majority used the word “illegal”, to explain corruption with few respondents describing it as being “unethical”, “embezzlement”, “shortest way to attain one’s goal”, “unexplained wealth”. The jargon “lisaze”, “sous tapis”, and “dans l’enveloppe” were also used by some of them to describe same.

5.1.1 Prominent Areas of Corruption

Youngsters interviewed perceived that corruption in Mauritius was more prominent where people are in search of jobs - most prominently in the public sector and among politicians. The police was also mentioned as being a prominent area for corruption together with the financial sector as well. One group mentioned “drug trafficking”, “the private sector such as factories” and the “judiciary sector” as prominent areas of corruption.

5.1.2 Examples of Corruption

Few respondents went further by giving examples of what they understood as being corruption. Examples provided referred to myriad sectors, in line with the prominent areas mentioned earlier:

“In offices, to get the job done easily”

“In order to speed up the process, I can offer some money to the officer”

“Political backing for the purpose of getting a job...”

“Bribing a police officer for not giving him a fine because he/she was drunk”

“Bribing an officer so as not to go to court”

“Bribing an officer so as to get license ... without going for procedure”

“Tax evasion”

“For the purpose of getting a job in government services”

“Giving bribe to have a fitness certificate”

5.1.3 Awareness about Corruption

When asked about the avenues through which they came to know about corruption issues, **respondents mentioned that it was through the “media”, “radio” or even at “school”**. It is also noted that few respondents had no answer to this question.

5.1.4 Awareness about Anti-Corruption Legislation, Networks and Platforms

The majority of respondents affirmed not being aware of any anti-corruption law though one respondent did mention “PoCA”.

Regarding anti-corruption platforms and networks set up by the ICAC, although one respondent did mention about the “Integrity Club” at school, but also admitted that he/she was not an active member of same.

5.1.5 Youth Perspective: Causes of Corruption

Respondents indicated the following two major causes of corruption: Greediness and Dishonesty. Other factors mentioned included money, luxurious life, jealousy and too much power, family issues, financial debt and unemployment.

5.1.6 Level of Corruption

Only 2 respondents in one group perceived Mauritius to be “first in the Indian Ocean” (as highest level) as far as the level of corruption was concerned. Though few respondents did not seem to know much about corruption at the beginning of the discussions, they progressively grasp the meaning of same from the range of examples provided by their peers in the course of discussions. It is worth noting that subsequently the majority of respondents opined that the level of corruption was high, with few perceiving same as very high when they came to know much better about the corruption term via examples provided by their peers. Few respondents however also found same to be average while few others were neutral.

5.2 Curbing down Corruption

Although few respondents were of the opinion that corruption cannot be curbed down in Mauritius, one group mentioned that it was “very sceptical” about the ability to curb down corruption while other group members opined that same could be done only “to a certain extent”, “may be”. The remaining groups however opined that it “could be curbed down”.

5.2.1 Measures to Curb down Corruption

The majority of respondents found the media (TV and radio) to be effective channels to vehicle impactful anti-corruption messages. One group went further to mention that “Schools” could help in achieving same.

5.2.2 Reporting Corruption and Reasons Behind

When questioned about their opinion concerning reporting corruption, mixed responses were received. Few put forward that they would “may be” report corruption “only if it concerned them

personally” while others said “yes, but would seek advice from parents”. However, it is noted that few respondents also firmly mentioned “no” when it comes to reporting corruption.

For those willing to report corruption, it was either because they claim not being able to tolerate “injustice”, or claim to be “as a patriot and law abiding citizen” who believe that “rules and laws should be respected”. The major reason provided for not reporting corruption among respondents was “time” or considered same to be a “waste of time”. Other reasons put forward are also, “do not want to get into trouble with corrupt people”, or because of “*représailles*” or “fear”. However, “not interested” was also a reason provided for same or having other “*centre d’intérêts*”.

Few respondents also commented about the lack of “concern” about the issue where they mention that “the youth tend to focus on things which they have personal interest in” or “more interested in studies”.

5.3 Youth Participation in Anti-Corruption Activities

The majority of respondents claimed that they are not fully involved in any anti-corruption activities. Few respondents did mention that they participated in talks, essay writing and one respondent, although mentioned that he /she “knew” about the integrity club at school, was not an active member of same.

5.3.1 Willingness to Engage

Majority of youngsters expressed their desire to engage themselves in anti-corruption initiatives. While two groups mentioned that they were willing to organise “integrity-led activities in the locality”, others indicated that they were ready to involve themselves for 1 hour a week or 3 hours a month for the cause of anti-corruption. They also put forward numerous ways in which they could sensitise other youth.

5.3.2 Proposed Ways of Engaging in Anti-Corruption

When asked, the young respondents put forward many ways in which they could sensitise their peers. Most popular measures included:

1. Wall painting and frescoes;
2. Rallies and Marches;
3. Role plays, Dramas and Sketches;
4. Competitions, Debates and Quiz; and
5. Sports Day focused on integrity and fairness.

5.4 From Stakeholders’ Perspectives

Stakeholders were asked to comment on the extent to which they saw youngsters showing interest in social affairs of the country. Although none of them mentioned specific social affairs in which

the youngsters are interested, the comment which was repeatedly being put forward is that young persons are paying “one off” attention to social affairs of the country but there was no “sustainable” commitment to same. Respondents further mentioned that youngsters were interested only in social issues that were in the news: *“dans l’actualité”*.

5.4.1 Youth Interest in Corruption/ Anti-Corruption Issues

Respondents generally perceived that the youngsters did have the required level of interest in anti-corruption: “to some extent only”. While one respondent mentioned that “they express themselves on social media”, another one expressed that “only if it is in the news”. Yet another respondent was blunt by advocating that “...indifferentolder persons are more concerned”, or “they are not really aware of the consequences of the scourge”. One respondent admitted “there is still a long way to go”.

5.4.2 Youth Awareness about Dangers of Corruption and Effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Strategy

Respondents perceived that youngsters are somewhat aware of the dangers of corruption. However, they also expressed that more needed to be done in terms of awareness. Few respondents spoke about sensitisation campaigns, but others were more specific by indicating that:

“This should begin at home by their parents”

“Today, the youth should see a model to get inspired”

“Our education system should be reviewed so as to better shape our young generation”

Regarding the effectiveness of the anti-corruption strategy for combatting corruption, although one respondent mentioned that “law is here”, all respondents were unanimously agreeable on the fact that the ICAC should continue the work being done and could do more about this issue. One respondent mentioned about the “decentralisation of the ICAC” but others put forward issues such as:

“With the use of new formulae: more social media and technology”

“More TV programmes and sensitisation campaigns”

“Existing law to be reinforced and corruption to be integrated in school curriculum at an early stage”

“Emphasis should be laid on the promotion of ethics, values, morals etc.”

5.4.3 Youth Willingness to Fight Corruption

Respondents opined that they believed that the young generation shows willingness only to some extent to fight corruption: “Indeed, youth is concerned to some extent”, *“quand c’est dans l’actualité”*, “whenever there is an issue of national interest”.

Barriers to Engagement

At the same time, they also drew attention to few barriers regarding the willingness of the youth to engage in the fight against corruption such as:

(i) The Education System

One of the recurrent barriers highlighted by stakeholders regarding the factors which discourage our youngsters to fight corruption is the current education system. Right from the “curriculum” to the “education setting”, stakeholders put forward that much is needed to be done to promote responsible citizenship and the sense of patriotism “*la responsabilité citoyenne et le sense de patriotique*”. It was argued that the current education system promotes youngsters to be focused towards mainly having “a good job”, “a good university”. In this respect, they also mentioned that corruption issues “should be included in the curriculum”. While few respondents mentioned that corruption issues should be included “right from childhood”, “at an early stage”, another respondent mentioned “more empowerment, civic education”. In line with same, one respondent mentioned that emphasis should be laid on ethics, values and moral while educating people so as to feel concerned. Another respondent was of the opinion that “the education setting should encourage youth to denounce malpractices and abide by rules and regulations”.

In line with education, “teacher empowerment” was also voiced out by one of the respondents.

(ii) Fear to take a stance/ to voice out

Another reason put forward is that our youngsters are “self-centred and are more interested with games and computer” or “careers, latest trends in technology”.

Together with this, respondents were also of the opinion that “youngsters are afraid of consequences on their career...they are afraid to turn into a victim and don’t want to jeopardise their future”. Some respondents (particularly in Rodrigues) also put forward: “some might be afraid because here...we all know each other”.

(iii) Influence of Parents

At the same time, one respondent voiced out that “...this should begin at home by their (the youngsters) parents”. This is in line with another respondent indicating that “Parents often lay too much emphasis on studies and don’t encourage much their children to focus....on social affairs. In such cases, parents are themselves barriers to youth engagement”.

(iv) Time Constraints

Many respondents interviewed acknowledged that “time” was a constraint for them to engage in the fight against corruption. Few indicated that “studies” or their “own businesses” were their priority. The time that youngsters could devote to the fight against corruption was varied while few indicated that they could spare only “once a month” or once a week and for others, one or two hours a week.

5.5 Meaning and Perception of Corruption

The findings indicate that the sample of youth interviewed have a fair knowledge of corruption. They understand that corruption is a crime (Aguilera & Vadera 2008) which entails diverting people from the right course of action (See for example Okokgbule 2006) and involves personal gain (Achim 2016). They claimed that the information they had were obtained from mainly the media and at school.

Such finding becomes somewhat encouraging for our policy makers in their efforts towards curbing down corruption as, since it can be seen that Mauritian youngsters are aware that corruption is considered to be deviant behaviour which should be avoided (See Voliotis 2015: 147).

The findings also indicate that the sample of youngsters perceived that corruption was prominent where people were in search of jobs. This might be explained by the fact that since they are preoccupied by their future and show interest in the job market, they make themselves aware of what is happening therein. This tends to corroborate with the responses obtained from the stakeholders where they mention that young Mauritians pay “one off” attention to social issues, including corruption when such issues concern them directly. May be when they are already employed, they might voice out other perceived facets of corruption, which, at that point in time, might be of direct concern to them.

It is however noted that some youngsters perceived the level of corruption as “high” in Mauritius. At the same time, as already discussed, these youngsters paid heed only to corruption when it was happening in an area of their concern. This finding therefore cannot be generalised in all spheres of operation.

5.6 From Stakeholders’ Perspectives: Causes of Corruption

Findings indicate that the young generation perceived that the major cause of corruption is directly linked to individual values. Among the most prominent factors mentioned are “greediness”, “jealousy” and lure for “power” which prompted people to be corrupt according to them. This seems to be in line with the findings of Atoyebi and Mobolaji, 2004 as already portrayed in the initial chapters.

The other factor which could be attributed to causing corruption as perceived by the youngsters boil down to societal issues, including family issues, financial debt and unemployment as highlighted initially by Collier 2000. In this respect, this study also confirms that Mauritian youth perceives corruption as an individualistic choice based on their values and life objectives, corroborating with the views of Chapra 2000.

5.7 Youth Participation in Reporting and Curbing Down Corruption

This study revealed that the respondents interviewed were not fully involved in any form of anti-corruption activities. This was confirmed by both categories of respondents (youth and key stakeholders). This is a matter of concern, since, as explained before, youth represents over 30% of the Mauritian population and forms a major segment of potential agents of change. Young persons eventually constitute a key stakeholder in the building process of a corrupt-free society as prescribed in the national legislation.

In fact, as far as reporting is concerned, few respondents claimed that they would report such malpractice since injustice could not be tolerated or if such instances would affect them personally. Non participation was mostly attributed to fear or “*représailles*” (aftermath) but also lack of time and lack of interest among youngsters as indicated by ‘National Youth Participation Strategy Scoping Project Report’, 2008 and Ana Carolina Gonzalez Espinosa, 2008.

However, few were those who even mentioned that they would do so upon permission of their parents. This rhymes with the findings of this study in terms of parents being able to sensitise youngsters about corruption.

5.8 Curbing down Corruption and Engagement

Majority of respondents advocated that corruption could be curbed down to some extent only. This seems to be in line with international trends where similar studies have been carried out, view that this effort should come from all stakeholders involved in fighting corruption.

However, there were many suggestions put forward by both categories of respondents regarding ways in which corruption could be curbed down. And these range from both traditional and also very technology linked practices and activities. It is interesting to note that while the youngsters proposed the organisation of more artistic expression activities such as dramas, plays, wall paintings and “frescoes” (which are regular features forming part of ICAC’s plan of actions), stakeholders for their part preferred more techno savvy initiatives such as social media and technology.

The main objectives of the study had to do with awareness and perception of young people about corruption, including their engagement and willingness to fight corruption and also the constraints they faced in trying to get engaged in anti-corruption. In a nutshell, the research findings have revealed that young Mauritians have a fair knowledge about the issue and faced few barriers towards their engagement to fight corruption such as the actual education system, fear to take a stance/voice out, influence of parents and time constraints. In fact, the good news is that many of them have demonstrated strong willingness to make the difference and be part of the solution through a plethora of initiatives.

In the light of these findings derived from youth perspectives or stakeholders’ point of view, few recommendations were proposed mainly focused towards communication, education and regular aggressive portrayal of the issue among youngsters.

Chapter 6

RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION



RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the study and lessons learnt from past experience, numerous recommendations/ possible actions are being proposed so as to better overcome the barriers/ constraints to youth engagement in fighting corruption at national level. These are as follows:

| SN | Major Barriers Identified | Recommendation to overcome Barrier | Short Term | Medium/ Long Term | Reponsibilities/ Remarks |
|----|---|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1 | National commitment to empower the youth on anti-corruption and integrity | Policy issues | Short Term | Anti-corruption components to be imbedded in national policies/ frameworks/ strategies/ programmes of major stakeholders involved in youth empowerment, to better address the scourge in a more structured manner. | ICAC Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research Ministry of Youth and Sports Youth entrepreneurs Educational authorities (Private Secondary Education Authority, Mauritius Institute of Education, Service Diocésain de l'Education Catholique, Mauritius Institute of Training and Development) |
| 2 | Education system | Curriculum enhancement | Short Term | Inclusion of anti-corruption components in the both the primary and secondary school curriculum. This will provide regular incremental information to the young generation making them more resistant to corruption and other malpractices. | ICAC in collaboration with educational institutions and stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Education, MIE, the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES), Universities, etc. |
| | | Empowerment of trainee educators | Though much has been done to empower educators of primary schools, particularly the trainees on anti-corruption issues and on ways and means to impart value-based messages to pupils/students, it is proposed to develop and service an anti-corruption (examinable) module in the training curriculum of trainee teachers. | | ICAC and MIE |

| Major Barriers Identified | Recommendation to overcome Barrier | Short Term | Medium/ Long Term | Reponsibilities/ Remarks |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | Development of an interactive module for tablet application for lower primary pupils | Short Term | With a view to keep pace with modern technology and help lower primary pupils to acquire / develop key skills, it is proposed to develop an interactive module for tablet apps tailor-made for lower-primary pupils. This initiative is geared towards the promotion of anti-corruption values such as honesty, respect and responsibility. | ICAC in collaboration with relevant authorities such as MIE and the Ministry of Education |
| | Boosting up/ Review the Integrity Club (IC) Project | <p>It is proposed to create a dedicated corner for Integrity clubs on ICAC website so as to, amongst others, promote sharing of experience/ information, vulgarise activities organised at IC level and post short interviews/ articles. Such initiative will also encourage more people, particularly the youth to visit ICAC website.</p> <p>Since Integrity Club Facilitators have a crucial role in providing proper guidance and assistance to IC members, it is expected that they play a more active role if we intend to gear up the IC project.</p> <p>It is also proposed to organise a regular training for IC facilitators and develop an electronic manual in line with the Education for Justice (E4J) project by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), for them to be better equipped to assume their roles and responsibilities.</p> | <p>After a decade of existence, it is proposed to undertake a Mini Survey to assess the effectiveness of the IC project (including ICs in Rodrigues) and determine its impact on not only members / facilitators but also on the whole school community. The findings will also help to revisit the existing strategy in relation to the project and come up with more relevant ones to better tap the huge potential of the project.</p> | ICAC in collaboration with relevant stakeholders such as the MoE, secondary schools and ICs |

| | | | | | |
|----------|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>3</p> | <p>Influence of Parents</p> | <p>Civic duties and responsibilities of parents</p> | <p>The study emphasises the duties and responsibilities of parents, as key partners, in not only the inculcation of values to their siblings but also lends the fact that ways and means should be identified to empower parents to act as role models.</p> <p>Practical measures: Sensitisation/empowerment of parents on a region wise basis via Parents-Teachers' Associations (PTA) of educational institutions. They will also be encouraged to join anti-corruption committees such as 'Comités Anti-Corruption' (CAC) set up on a district-wise basis and the Civil Society Anti-Corruption Network (CSACN) which is a national platform. The CAC and the CSACN will also be called upon to contribute in this sensitisation/empowerment. TV/ Radio programmes</p> | <p>Explore the possibility to create "l'école des parents contre la corruption" whereby face-to-face interactions would be organised on a regular basis to promote sharing of experiences and best practices to make the fight against corruption and other financial crimes a priority.</p> <p>The key role of parents could be accentuated as transmitters of societal values to children.</p> | <p>ICAC in collaboration with relevant authorities such as PTAs, educational institutions, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Social Security.</p> |
| <p>4</p> | <p>Fear to take a stance/ to voice out</p> | <p>Gearing up Awareness Raising</p> | <p>Though much has been undertaken by the ICAC over the past decade in terms of anti-corruption educational activities/ programmes targeting youth, this study reveals that more remains to be done.</p> <p>Over and above face-to-face interactions, the following measures are recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aggressive campaign via: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) broadcasting of TV and radio programmes or rebroadcasting of existing anti-corruption clips/videos at regular intervals; b) optimising the use of electronic boards or affixing of appealing/ attractive posters to depict dangers/ consequences of corruption. Same could be affixed in, amongst others, educational institutions and other youth infrastructures; and c) more face-to-face interactions with pupils and students together with distribution of relevant materials with the collaboration of members of ICs, where possible. 2. Regular campaign at the level of universities and other tertiary education institutions with the support of the Inter-University Anti- | <p>Inclusion of anti-corruption components in the both the primary and secondary school curriculum. This will provide regular incremental information to the young generation making them more resistant to corruption and other malpractices.</p> | <p>ICAC</p> <p>Collaboration with educational institutions, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, youth global network (such as Junior Chamber International, Rotary Club, Lions Club), professional bodies/ associations and other youth infrastructures.</p> |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | <p>Corruption Platform.</p> <p>3. Youth mobilisation. To provide more opportunities for youth from various backgrounds to participate on a regular basis in edutainment activities such as:</p> <p>a) marches; b) wall paintings, on-spot drawing c) role plays, sketches and artistic expressions; and d) competitions such as video clips/ short films or even documentaries/ reportages with relevant messages to achieve maximum impact and retention of the message.</p> <p>Innovation and creativity being at the heart of any effort.</p> | <p>Development of a mobile application to encourage citizens (particularly the youth) to report alleged cases of acts of corruption. Such tool will also help to enable the transmission of anti-corruption messages/ integrity and allow for empowerment through, for example, value-based games.</p> | <p>ICAC in collaboration with relevant authorities/ stakeholders</p> |
| | | | | | |
| | | | <p>Use of Integrated Technology</p> | <p>Optimum use of social media and audio-visual productions</p> | <p>ICAC</p> |
| | | | <p>Time constraints</p> | <p>Trigger reflection among young people about the dangers of corruption and seek their engagement through the social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc. However, the use of social media among youth in the fight against corruption might not always reap the outcomes expected unless it is done in an aggressive and structured manner, for example via boosted/ sponsored post on Facebook page.</p> | |
| | | | <p>Others</p> | <p>Development of a Youth Empowerment Programme</p> | <p>Based on the success generated from the YEP model (formulated by the ICAC in the past), it is proposed to devise</p> |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | <p>a 3-phased integrated empowerment programme for youth based on the findings of this study. 'A Call for Participants' will be launched to create a pool of potential anti-corruption champions/ambassadors on a voluntary basis. The empowered young persons will be called upon to form part of a Network so as to facilitate the implementation of the YEP. An electronic platform will be created with a view to invite other members (youth) to join the movement, share views and concerns, interact with others on anti-corruption issues.</p> | <p>ICAC in collaboration with relevant authorities involved in youth empowerment at community level such as the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Commission of Youth and Sports, non-governmental organisations/ community-based organisations</p> |
| | <p>Call upon the Inter university platform to grow</p> | <p>Give more visibility to initiatives undertaken by the platform via relevant media Provide more opportunities for them to be more active on campuses Organise regular inter-university events/ competitions to sensitise students/ staff on dangers of corruption</p> | <p>It is proposed to expand the purview of the Inter-University Anti-Corruption Platform so as to provide relevant opportunities to youth in the informal setting (for example, young persons willing to get engaged in the anti-corruption movement at civil society level).</p> | | |
| | <p>Role Models and Prestigious Award for Most Outstanding Young Persons (in the field of integrity)</p> | <p>Award of a national recognition to outstanding young persons having demonstrated dedication and commitment in fostering the national fight against corruption. Symbolically, a prestigious award could be given to the winners, for example by the Prime Minister's Office or the Office of the President of the Republic of Mauritius in the context of the commemoration of the Independence Anniversary of Mauritius. Winners of such competition could also act as anti-corruption ambassadors at national level. Their help could eventually be sought to sensitise the youth about corruption and at the same time be a role model.</p> | | <p>ICAC in collaboration with relevant authorities</p> | |

CONCLUSION

This study is geared towards not only exploring the barriers to youth engagement in the fight against corruption in Mauritius but also shedding light on the reasons for lack of youth engagement, identifying challenges ahead as well as remedial actions. It took a qualitative stance where 11 focus groups were conducted and 6 personalities interviewed. These interviews were transcribed and discourse analysis was used to chart out meanings out of conversations. Findings were categorised under specific themes relevant to the study and in line with the literature review.

The findings revealed that though a big chunk of efforts was devoted in creating youth awareness on anti-corruption issues, empowering them to act as anti-corruption champions and securing their engagement, there is still a need to level up awareness raising among them. Though facing few barriers (education system, fear, influence of parents and time constraints) towards their engagement to fight corruption, young Mauritians showed willingness to do so through a series of initiatives. In the light of these findings, few recommendations were proposed in the short/ medium and long terms such as curriculum enhancement, development of an interactive module for tablet application for lower primary pupils, creation of “l'école des parents contre la corruption”, optimum use of social media and audio-visual productions, a 3-phased holistic empowerment programme for youth as well as organisation of prestigious Award for most outstanding young persons in the field of integrity.

In addition to highlighting the importance of engaging young people and securing their engagement, this study also calls other stakeholders about their civic duties and responsibilities to gear up the fight against corruption and make our dream of a clean and fair society happen. The researchers understand that fulfilling the recommendations would require the time, willingness, resources and feasibility consideration from all stakeholders concerned, but are not impossible to achieve. Indeed, it goes without saying that time is for actions to push for the proposed measures with a view to secure more youth engagement and consequently better address emerging challenges since the future of our country lies in their hands.

Although no stone has been left unturned to fulfill the objectives of this study, there are a few limitations which further research could endeavour to complete. For example, a larger sample of respondents could be used within a quantitative framework and a limited time-frame where this could enable the establishment of more concrete relationships between the parameters under study. However, within the precincts of this study, it can be safely concluded that, young Mauritians are willing to engage in the fight against corruption provided that they are empowered and supported on the matter in a sustained manner and are provided with the required framework and emotional support.

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Figures

Figure 1: Type of approach adopted by OCASA in strengthening youth integrity and promoting youth active participation, Source: Based on Pittman, K. Martin, S. Williams, A. (2007, July), Core Principles for Engaging Young People in Community Change. Washington, D.C.: The Forum for Youth Investment, Impact Strategies, Inc., p.9

Figure 2: OCASA’s partnership model icw global Youth Integrity Promotion Program – Building partnerships for implementing strategic lines for youth integrity

Tables

Table 1: Population as at 1st July 2018, 15 to 35 years – Source: Central Statistics Office, Mauritius

Table 2: Journal entitled ‘Addressing and Overcoming Barriers to Youth Civic Engagement’ of the International Public Management Review, Maria J. D’Agostino and Anne Visser - Respective categories such as social barriers, cultural barriers and political barriers

Table 3: Data Analysis and Interpretation - Themes, Sub themes

Barriers to Youth Engagement in the Fight against Corruption in Mauritius

Focus Group Discussion with youth

SECTION A

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in collaboration with the University of Technology, Mauritius is currently conducting a study on the Barriers to Youth Engagement in the Fight against Corruption in Mauritius. It would be appreciated if you could spare some time to fill the questionnaire. The findings of the survey will undoubtedly help us in future anti-corruption strategies regarding youth. The information gathered will be strictly confidential. Thank You.

Details of Interviewee

1.1 Gender: Male

Female

1.2 Age: Between 14 – 20

Between 21 – 27

Between 28 – 35

1.3 District:

1.4 (a)Occupation:
(if student, please go to 1.5)

(b) Sector of employment: Public

Private

Parastatal body

Others (Please specify):

1.5 If you are a student, please state in which sector (type of institution) are you.

| | |
|------------|----------------------|
| Vocational | <input type="text"/> |
| Secondary | <input type="text"/> |
| Tertiary | <input type="text"/> |

Others (Please specify):

| | | |
|--|-----------|----------------------|
| 1.6 Education (highest level attained) | Primary | <input type="text"/> |
| | Secondary | <input type="text"/> |
| | Tertiary | <input type="text"/> |
| | | |

Others (Please specify):

SECTION B - QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by corruption?
2. Can you provide few examples of corrupt practices? Please, elaborate.
3. What would you say regarding the level of corruption in Mauritius?
4. Which sector/area in Mauritius is more prone to corruption? Why?
5. What might be the causes of corruption in Mauritius? Please, elaborate.
6. How far do you believe that corruption can be curbed down in Mauritius? How?
7. How do you get to know about anti-corruption/ corruption issues?
8. Would you report a case of corruption if you become aware of? Why?
9. Which factors hinder youth to participate actively in the fight against corruption?
10. Are you aware of any anti-corruption legislation? If yes, elaborate.
11. Are you aware of any platform, network or club pertaining to anti-corruption set up by the ICAC? If yes, how?
12. Have you ever participated in any anti-corruption event (talk, seminar, symposium, competition, etc.) organised by the ICAC? (If No, go to Question 14.) To what extent did the event/s you participated in aroused your interest in the fight against corruption?
13. What initiative/s has/have you taken with regard to the fight against corruption following your participation in the event/s? Please elaborate on the impact of same.
14. To what extent are you willing to participate in curbing corruption? What is your availability to engage yourself in the fight against corruption?

15. Is it possible to foster an anti-corruption culture among youth in Mauritius? According to you, what can be done to encourage and sustain active youth participation in the promotion of a culture of integrity, on a long term basis
16. In your opinion, in what kind of anti-corruption initiative/s would youth be more willing to participate? Please elaborate.
17. As at date, 196 convictions have been secured involving 215 persons in cases of corruption and money laundering, 171 Corruption Prevention Reviews with 3260 recommendations, have been conducted in Ministries/public bodies on corruption prone areas, 85 public bodies have embarked on the implementation of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework, amongst others. According to you, how efficient is the national anti-corruption strategy?
18. Anything you wish to add regarding youth and corruption?

Barriers to Youth Engagement in the Fight against Corruption in Mauritius

Interviews targeting stakeholders

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To identify the barriers/constraints to youth engagement in the fight against corruption with a view to review relevant actions.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- (i) To assess the meaning and perception of youth regarding corruption
- (ii) To investigate into the factors motivating youth to commit themselves in the fight against corruption
- (iii) against corruption
- (iv) To find out the extent to which youth are willing and available to fight corruption
- (v) To identify the barriers inhibiting youth to engage in fighting corruption
- (vi) To recommend measures to be promoted among youth to enable curbing down corruption

Youth engagement means:

- Youth taking anti-corruption initiatives
- Making corruption socially unacceptable
- Not participating in acts of corruption
- Not tolerating corrupt acts
- Reporting corrupt acts they come across

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the biggest challenges in Mauritius nowadays? (Name at least four issues and place them in term of priority...)
2. How far would you say that our youth are showing interest in the social affairs of our country?
3. How far do you perceive that young Mauritians are concerned about corruption and anti-corruption issues?

4. Do you think that our youth are aware of the dangers of corruption? Please elaborate.
5. According to you, is the current national anti-corruption legislation strategy for combatting corruption effective? Why?
6. What can be done to improve the anti-corruption strategy so that there is a higher level of youth engagement?
7. Do you perceive our youth to be willing to fight corruption? Please elaborate.
8. What are the factors that hinder youth engagement in the fight against corruption?
9. What relevant measures/actions can be taken to encourage and sustain active youth participation in the fight against corruption and consequently, in the promotion of a culture of integrity, in the long run?



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