

EXPLORING AND INTERROGATING THE GENDERIZED IMPACT AND APPROACH TO COMBATING CORRUPTION

Number and title of workshop 2.2, coordinator: Lilian Ekeanyanwu, TI Nigeria

Date and time of workshop

16 November 2006 11.30 am

Moderator (Name and Institution) ____

-Dr Audrey Gadzekpo, Ghana Integrity Initiative, TI Ghana

Rapporteur (Name and Institution) ____

Arwa Hassan, TI Secretariat, Berlin

Panellists (Name, institution, title)

-Dr Namawu Alhassan Alolo, Policy & Research Analyst, Islamic Relief UK

-Dr Hanan Yousef, Chairwoman, Arab Organization for International Cooperation & Media Professor at Ain Shams University, Egypt

-Monique Thiteux-Altschul, Project Director, UNDEF

-Pilar Arcidiacono, Social and Political Scientist, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Dr. Audrey Gadzekpo-Ghana Integrity Initiative-TI -Ghana

- Lilian Ekeanyanwu- TI NIGERIA and Zero Corruption Coalition Nigeria.

Focus of the Workshop

One of the current topical issues is the interface between gender and corruption. The following concepts have constantly recurred: *What, if any is the disparate impact of corruption on women? Are women more vulnerable to corruption as victims? A more controversial issue however is whether women are less prone to corruption as actors. In other words, are the accountability processes likely to improve with increased participation of women in key roles? Will increased participation of women increase transparency and by implication good governance?*

The workshop is aimed at conducting an *Environmental Scan* of the above and other issues taking advantage of the opportunity for global diversity and experiences provided by the IACC.

Presentations.

1. Dr Audrey Gadzekpo

Bio of Presenter

Dr. Audrey Gadzekpo is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Communication Studies, University of Ghana, with more than 13 years experience of university teaching and research in the areas of media, governance, gender and development. She has more than 19 years practical experience as a journalist, working variously as a reporter, editor, contributor, columnist, talk show host, socio-political commentator, and magazine publisher/editor.

She is also the Chairperson of the board of the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), the Transparency International (TI) Chapter in Ghana.

She holds a PhD. from the University of Birmingham, U.K., an M.A. from Brigham Young University, Utah, USA, and a B.A. in English from the University of Ghana.

Focus of Presentation.

Gender and Corruption Link: An Overview from an African Perspective

As more women get elected or appointed to political and administrative decision-making positions in re-democratizing countries in Africa there is renewed interest in the question: Are women less corrupt than men?

On the surface there appears to be anecdotal evidence suggesting that in Africa most of the women who have ascended key positions in public life have proved more accountable than their male counterparts, but this has been subjected to little empirical research.

Since bad governance and corruption is largely blamed for the instability of the past, the prospects of sustaining democracy and development on the Continent hinge on cleaner and better governance. Questioning the gender-corruption link is thus not merely an academic exercise.

The literature from other parts of the world has thus far generated contradictory findings on the subject, and the dearth of studies relating to Africa suggests that we need to deepen debate on the issue.

We must advance a more robust research and advocacy agenda in order to strengthen the fight against corruption in Africa and other developing countries; an agenda that interrogates women as both victims of corruption as well as agents of change.

2. Dr Namawu Alolo

Bio of Presenter

Research and Policy Analyst at Islamic Relief, and currently handle three portfolios: HIV/AIDS, GOVERNANCE and Faith and Development. As part of my Faith and Development portfolio, I work with the International Development Department, University of Birmingham, on a DFID funded 5-year research project examining the role of religion in development.

Focus of Presentation

The Gender-Corruption Debate: New Evidence From the Field

This paper discusses the gender-corruption nexus vis-à-vis the afore-raised questions. Relying primarily on empirical data from Ghanaⁱ, the paper examines how gender, as a social system, generates moral dilemmas in the public sector, which in turn, forces female and male officials to choose private (family/social) requirement of morality over public sector ethics.

3. Lilian Ekeanyanwu

Bio of Presenter

She is a legal practitioner based in Lagos Nigeria with extensive experience on gender and anti-corruption issues. She is on the Board of Transparency In Nigeria and is the National Coordinator of the Zero-Corruption Coalition- a network of over a hundred CSOS campaigning against corruption.

She has to her credit several research works in the area of corruption and gender issues.

Focus of Presentation.

Women to the Rescue in the Accountability Processes in Nigeria

The focus of the paper was to present case studies of a number of women who have played key current roles in the in the accountability processes in Nigeria's quest for Economic and Governance Reform. The paper will explore the activities of these women in their located portfolios, the changes they have brought into the sector and evaluate and analyze their contribution to the holistic reform process. The paper will also interrogate such issues as

- The prior profile of these women and the competencies they brought to their given assignments.
- The process of the appointments and specific interests captured in the appointments.
- The strategies they deployed in their assignments especially strategies to engage entrenched interests.
- Peculiarities and Commonalities of their assigned sectors
- Identification of the motivating factors.

The essence of the analyses is to identify the aggregation of factors responsible for their recorded successes. The paper shall also within this aggregation seek to distil any gender related factors and the percentages that can be justly allotted to such factors in the success stories.

4. Monique Altschul Bio of Presenter.

- 2006-2008 - Project Director: Organizing women against corruption, UNDEF funding
- 2006 - Executive Director - Fundación Mujeres en Igualdad, Argentina.
Panellist: Latin American Women's Leadership Summit, Vital Voices, Miami, FL, USA.
- 2005-06- Consultant on Trafficking for IOM - International Organization for Migrations
- 2003 - Network moderator: "No Trafficking"
- 2000/02 General Coordinator: International Women's Forum against Corruption

Focus of Presentation

Corruption, Gender and Human Trafficking

The presentation highlights the intersection of corruption and gender in Human Trafficking cases that show an awesome 80% of women and girls as victims.

- The description of gender stereotypes and stigmatized populations will lead us to a common background of vulnerability.
- We will understand the hazards suffered by women and girls whose bodies are considered mere commodities by corrupt representatives of the political power conniving with networks of traffickers.

Recommendations:

To create focused counter-trafficking campaigns, it will be helpful to analyze TIP main characteristics in Latin America, and specifically in Argentina. Aspects to be considered are: ·

- Trafficking and migration: the difference between persons' trafficking and smuggling; ·
- Security forces and government officials' involvement in corrupt behaviours, either by commission or omission; ·
- Mapping and usual practices in forced prostitution and children exploitation; ·
- Access to justice of victims: the failure of the Judiciary to provide adequate protection and assistance.
- Corruption in budgets' execution; ·
- Correlation between UN/OAS Conventions against Corruption, UN Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime and its Protocols.
- How to apply them to domestic/gender friendly legislation. A final statement will submit proposals for strengthening our fragile institutions.

5. Dr Hanan Yusuf

Bio of Presenter

Expertise: civilizations dialogue - human rights and anti-corruption - - media and image - youth -gender - civil society - democracy affairs - middle east- Arab world.

PhD. in international communication , media professor at Egyptian university, also she is a famous Egyptian TV announcer, served as reporter, journalist , she is an remarkable expert and a media counselor advisor to many ministers in Egypt and Arab league organizations Dr. Hanan is one of founders of Egyptian alliance for transparency and anti corruption.

in 2003 Dr.Yousef , she is elected to be the executive chairman for AICO - Arab organization for international cooperation which is mainly concern with media and the fields of civilizations dialogue , human rights and democracy processes activation at Arab world .,

Focus of Presentation

A Case Study of the Experiences with Gender and Corruption with a focus on Access to Justice and Local Government Services in Egypt.

The paper is a discussion of some of the different denotations of the problem of gender and corruption. , presenting intervention where women have been used to promote access to justice or local governance and the impact of such intervention, talking about the impact of corruption on access to justice for women or in accessing services under the local governance structure, and how the women can deal with this issues, also the importance of spreading anti - corruption culture in the Egyptian society as a case study Access to Justice and Local Governance Services in Egypt.

6.Pilar Arcidiácono [Discussant]

Bio of Presenter

She completed her University Studies in Political Science with an Honour degree, in the Social Science School - UBA in 2000. In 2003 she got a degree as *Specialist in Social Sciences Administration* and in 2005 the degree as *Magister in Social Policies* both in the aforementioned university. She is presently attending the Doctorate in Social Sciences at the same university.

Since 1999 she has been teaching in the CBC and in the Sociology department in the University of Buenos Aires.

She has focused her professional development on the following areas: transparency and corruption control, strengthening of democracy, civic participation mechanisms in public policies, areas of articulation between the State and the Civil Society and social inclusion policies.

Focus of Presentation

As a discussant, the presenter sought to analyse the different presentations and aggregate the issues.

Excerpts from the Rapporteurs Report

Main Issues Covered

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- Are women less corrupt than men? Remains controversial- different studies produced different results. Women overall tend to be less corrupt, however this could be the result of their lack of access to public life and lack of involvement in positions of power and networks which are corrupt. As women gain greater access to public life, this could easily change.
- Women are more affected by corruption than men- they tend to be victims, not actors. This is intimately linked to their lower socioeconomic status.
- There are numerous case studies which have shown that women in government positions have implemented positive changes which have limited the opportunities for corruption
- Women's low socio-economic status leaves them vulnerable to exploitation by criminals- consider the rise in trafficking of women which has risen to levels greater than the trafficking in drugs or arms.
- This is exacerbated by women's inability to access justice and discrimination against them by law enforcement officials who are often complicit in the crime through corruption and bribery

Main Outcomes

- Women who've had a positive impact on corruption have been nominated to these positions not as a result of their gender, but as a result of their merit for that position through their experiences and proven achievements. Consequently, placing women in public life is not an antidote to corruption however, it should be encouraged on the basis of equality
- Civil society and media have a crucial role to play in awareness raising, empowering, monitoring and investigating acts of corruption
- Studies in Ghana have shown that men and women show significant differences in the justifications they provide for corrupt behaviour. Men tend to emphasize mutual beneficiality in corrupt transactions and the costs saved while women tended to consider the more human aspects of corruption and empathize with the victim

- Greater democratization leads to greater participation by women in public life

Main Outputs

- There is no clear answer of whether women are less corrupt than men, but unanimous agreement that women's socioeconomic disadvantages mean that they suffer disproportionately
- Causes of women's disempowerment need to be addressed in order to combat their greater disadvantage by corruption. This includes measures such as building networks and alliances of women, sharing and exchanging information and experiences and tackling sources of women's economic and social disadvantages including access to education and better employment opportunities.

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

- **More research and studies need to be conducted on gender and corruption**
- **More women friendly legislation**
- **Providing better access to justice for women**
- **Building mutually-supportive networks & alliances.**

Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

"Women are less corrupt since they have less need for wealth and the trappings of power than men." Dora Akunyili, NAFDAC, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, Nigeria.

"Distorted institutions will distort new participants."

"Transnational organized crime will be a defining issue of the 21st century."
Bernardo Kliksberg

"Social policies are strategic investments." Bernardo Kliksberg
