

## Political Corruption as a Systemic Issue: Its Impact on Poverty, Inequality, and Development in Nepal

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### Abstract

This paper examines the profound impact of political corruption on Nepal's socioeconomic development, a landlocked country struggling with pervasive corruption. The significance of this study lies in its comprehensive, evidence-based discussion, highlighting how corruption undermines development indicators, social metrics, and erodes public trust. The methodology employs a mixed-methods approach, combining a qualitative analysis of prominent corruption scandals with a quantitative analysis of socioeconomic indicators and public expenditure data to establish a correlation between corruption and development outcomes. Significant findings reveal that corruption is a systemic issue, not merely a symptom, that exacerbates poverty and inequality by diverting resources from the populace. While governmental and non-governmental anti-corruption initiatives exist, their effectiveness is limited by a lack of political will and deeply ingrained patronage networks. The paper concludes that tackling corruption is a fundamental prerequisite for Nepal to achieve genuine and sustainable development, safeguarding its democratic future.

**Keywords:** Governance, Inequality, Nepal, Political corruption, Poverty, Public expenditure, Socioeconomic development

### Introduction

Political corruption, the misuse of public offices for private gain, is a serious problem worldwide, but one that developing countries struggle to address in particular. In such contexts, it has the capacity to seriously challenge systems of governance, reduce public confidence in state apparatuses and ultimately hinder socioeconomic development (Suvedi, 2024, pp. 39-58). Nepal, a landlocked country in South Asia, would be interesting to study. It has grown economically, at least relatively speaking, over the last twenty years, but still scores low on global governance indices. It is known to be one of the most corrupt countries in Asia (Shah, 2019, pp. 273-292).

The impact of this corruption is far-reaching, extending beyond the polity to encompass economic growth and social justice throughout the country (Mumtaz & Smith, 2021, pp. 27-33). A variety of structural factors, including the country's political system, low public office salaries, and a lack of effective detection and punishment measures, are cited as contributing to the persistence of political corruption in Nepal. Accordingly, the purpose of this paper is to examine the intricate and multifaceted relationship between political corruption and Nepal's socioeconomic dynamics.

### Background of the Paper

Political corruption in Nepal, including public money embezzlement, misprocurement, and favouritism, is a chronic problem that pervades Nepalese society at all levels of

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government, resulting in large sums of money being spent on bribes. Even though the nation democratised in 1990 and became a federal republic in 2007, this has done little to end pervasive corruption during the ongoing hostilities for more than a decade. Although some reforms have been enacted or blocked, corruption continues to permeate public life. This has been particularly severe since 2015, marked by a lack of fiscal discipline and the misuse of public funds in the aftermath of the earthquake. Public contractility was misused, and poverty increased, along with inequality, highlighting the complex relationship between corruption, poverty, and inequality (Jarvis, 2020, pp. 165-189).

This paper analyses the effects of political corruption on socio-economic development in Nepal, with a primary focus on poverty, inequality, and public expenditure. It is essential to understand the political transition in Nepal and its post-conflict policy implications in order to assess the status of democratisation and good governance. Combating corruption is crucial because it is a dynamic phenomenon and hurts public governance, which results in inefficient provisioning of public goods, misuse of resources and retardation of economic development.

### Significance of the Paper

The continuing hump of political corruption in Nepal has a devastating effect on the path of development. Despite a massive amount of foreign aid over the years, it is still locked in vicious circles of corruption, which have paralysed development efforts (Suvedi, 2024:39 58). When public office is abused for private purposes, the result is a less transparent, less responsible, and less responsive government, as well as greater inequalities in access to the opportunities represented by development. The affluent disproportionately appropriate these resources, further deepening socioeconomic disparities. The failure to address corruption disproportionately impacts Nepal's most vulnerable and neglected segments due to ineffective governance. This research aims to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based discussion on the relationships between political corruption and socioeconomic development, utilising empirical evidence from Nepal to illustrate how corruption undermines development indicators and social metrics (Acharya & Scott, 2022, pp. 64-77).

### Research Questions

This paper aims to answer the following research questions:

1. How has political corruption in Nepal evolved across different political regimes (pre-democratic, democratic, and federal parliamentary)?
2. What are the specific socioeconomic effects of political corruption on poverty, inequality, and public expenditure in Nepal?
3. What are the key governmental, non-governmental, and international initiatives to combat political corruption, and what are the challenges and limitations of these efforts?

### Methodology

The paper employs a mixed-methods approach, combining a qualitative analysis of case studies with a review of existing literature, policy documents, and empirical data. This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of political corruption and its far-reaching impacts. The qualitative component involves an in-depth examination of prominent corruption scandals in Nepal to reveal the underlying mechanisms and contexts. A review of both national and international anti-corruption efforts supplements this. The quantitative component includes an analysis of key socioeconomic indicators and public expenditure data to establish the correlation between corruption

and development outcomes. This methodology enables a nuanced exploration of how corruption, as a collective action dilemma, undermines social coordination and adversely influences both economic performance and social cohesion.

### Theoretical Concepts

The theoretical foundation of this paper is rooted in the understanding that political corruption is not merely a deviation from an ideal state, but a complex, systemic issue deeply embedded in a nation's institutional and cultural fabric (Menocal & Taxell, 2015). We draw on two key theoretical perspectives. First, the classical principal-agent theory frames corruption as a problem of information asymmetry, where public officials (the agents) exploit their authority for personal gain at the expense of the public (the principals) (Amundsen, 1999). This framework helps explain specific acts of grand and petty corruption. Second, and more critically for the context of Nepal, we integrate modern theoretical frameworks that account for systemic corruption. This perspective emphasises how political corruption can become a socially accepted norm, sustained by political instability, weak institutional accountability, and a post-conflict environment (Jarvis, 2020, pp. 165–189). It highlights the importance of analysing not just the individuals involved in corruption, but also the broader sociopolitical structures that enable it. By combining these theories, the paper provides a comprehensive lens through which to analyse how corruption has become so deeply entrenched in Nepal, creating a “collective action dilemma” that undermines both economic performance and social cohesion (Minto & Trincanato, 2021, pp. 21–44).

### Findings and Discussions

#### Conceptualising Socioeconomic Development

‘Socioeconomic development’ is a complex, multi-layered construct, and it is regarded differently from different perspectives, comprising social, political, and economic equity and sustainability domains at all levels. Hence, whereas in early development progress was defined primarily in terms of wealth or economic growth, advanced economies define progress primarily in social and human terms, adding governance, poverty reduction, equity, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion to the discussion. Development is premised on gradual and sustainable change, as various theories advocate distinct viewpoints regarding how it can be accomplished. For example, some scholars argue that governance and the effectiveness of institutions are vital for socioeconomic advancement, while others advocate for radical transformations in socio-political structures (Hassan & Zeb, 2021, pp. 1-35). Development is a multifaceted concept, evolving from a sole focus on economic growth (measured by GDP) to encompassing poverty eradication, reducing inequality, promoting good governance, achieving gender equality, ensuring environmental sustainability, and upholding human rights. These broader aims are pursued through globally recognised development goals. Historically, many developing nations, including Nepal, experienced underdevelopment and poverty stemming from exploitative colonial policies that established them as exporters of raw materials and importers of manufactured goods (Bhattacharyya, 2017). Consequently, in the post-independence era, development strategies in formerly colonised nations focused on industrialisation, requiring the mobilisation of capital, skilled labour, and technology. However, the scarcity of capital led these newly independent countries to seek assistance from donor agencies, which in turn shaped development policies and fostered a donor-driven development model. Specifically in Nepal, development concerns prioritise social inclusion, equity, empowerment of marginalised groups, good governance, and the establishment of effective and accountable institutions, alongside the imperative of economic growth (Sharma, 2011, pp. 95-115).

### Linkages between Political Corruption and Socioeconomic Development

Nepal's persistent issues of underdevelopment, structural inequality, and poverty highlight a significant relationship between political corruption and socioeconomic progress. Despite receiving international development assistance, the nation remains trapped in a cycle of political corruption that hinders development efforts (Suvedi, 2024, pp. 39–58). Political corruption involves the misuse of public office for personal gain, which reduces transparency and accountability within governance structures. This pervasive corruption widens the gap between the rich and the poor, as it allows unequal access to resources that would otherwise be used for development. These resources are seized by those who have at their disposal the power of domination, even over life itself. Analysis of policy documents, reports, and recent chapters has revealed that political corruption in Nepal negatively impacts development indicators, social inequalities, and poverty measures (Acharya & Scott, 2022, pp. 64–77).

Corruption siphons scarce resources from low-income individuals and rural communities, allowing elites to exploit public development programs. Resources are pillaged from state coffers in corrupt systems, leaving development institutions ineffective and development pledges a sham. Corruption in public procurement and education budgets undermines developmental aspirations, fueling social disparities and poverty. Inequality is now seen as a multifaceted social structure of which economic measures are only one dimension.

The continuation of their misery cannot simply be attributed to a lack of growth, but to the system of global capitalism that standardises the measure while ranking differentials. This system-wide corruption of political officials compounds the disempowerment of resources for the disadvantaged and deepens social inequality and poverty. Although some have posited that corruption may be pro-growth in the short term, it is more accurately characterised as being anti-socioeconomic in its outcomes (e.g., income inequality and public good investment). Corruption is thus a prisoner's dilemma in which cooperation with the law of the land by everyone would be beneficial to all for both economic and social reasons. It serves as a means by which the factions cut into this shared public good, the promotion of economic and social rights.

Corruption is defined as the use of public positions for personal gain (for example, private misuse of public funds), which not only wastes resources but also misdirects them, directly impacting and undermining the quality of services delivered to the people, especially those who are poor and in rural areas. This weakens the norms of fairness and responsibility that poor people need for their own development. According to the national household survey of Nepal, corruption costs on average 31%, with adverse consequences for education and teacher training. The lack of action on corruption hits Nepal's worst-off and abused communities hardest, hindered by poor governance. These elements connect political corruption with socio-economic development, enhancing the quality and evidence base of conversation around this issue.

### Empirical Evidence from Nepal

Nepal is a relatively small, landlocked country in South Asia, bordered to the north by China and to the south, east and west by India. It was a Hindu Kingdom until 2006, when it became a secular nation and transformed into a federal democratic republic. Although the transition to democracy has been made, Nepal is plagued by various socio-economic challenges, including poverty, illiteracy and unemployment, that are still prevalent. The expectation is that democracy will enhance development by promoting public participation in decision-making and improving the quality of service delivery. However, the nation has struggled with issues such as rent-seeking behaviours, which include political corruption, embezzlement, and the misappropriation of public resources, ultimately hindering developmental progress. Political

corruption extends beyond simple 'corruption in politics'; it involves policies, rules, regulations, and actions within the political sphere that contribute to the misallocation of public funds and impede development efforts. In the context of Nepal, political corruption is chiefly associated with the behaviours of elected officials and bureaucrats who exploit and misuse public resources (Budhathoki, 2022, pp. 208–229). In the 1990s, significant developmental changes were initiated, with a focus on making development plans more participatory and inclusive. This approach aimed to empower local bodies to plan and implement development initiatives effectively. Resources were devolved to these local bodies to promote development; however, the local development situation remains dismal. Local bodies have been mainly non-existent for the majority of the decade following the 2017 elections. Even when they were operational, many were led by uneducated representatives, some of whom had criminal backgrounds. While it is widely recognised that local development has faltered, evaluations tend to be primarily qualitative and anecdotal. The local population often lacks opportunities to express their views on development, highlighting a critical need to elevate popular perspectives on local development issues. Additionally, a more nuanced understanding of what constitutes 'local' within specific social and political contexts is essential. Perspectives on change are often framed through a Western lens, which may not apply to all societies. Accordingly, this text presents an examination of political corruption in local development in Nepal, as perceived by the local populace, supported by empirical evidence that demonstrates how political corruption undermines socioeconomic development (Jarvis, 2020; Shrestha, 2007, pp. 165-189).

#### **Case Studies of Corrupt Practices and Their Effects**

The varying effects of corruption on development are discussed through several case studies of corrupt practices in Nepal, highlighting representative examples of the most common corrupt practices. Specific high-profile corruption cases are identified and their impacts on the development process are examined. They are not, however, intended to be comprehensive in all forms of corruption, but rather to depict actual corrupt practices and their impact on development in a vivid manner. The individual cases are portrayed as a story with the underlying purpose of identifying the nature and the conditions of corruption. Aside from describing the cases, the contributions also consider multi-level actors and types of responsibility (government officials, companies, and civil society organisations). Both cases illustrate that corruption is not just about money disappearing, but it is also eroding public trust in government and institutions.

This corrosion is especially detrimental to development, because it needs some fundamental acquiescence by civil society to the legitimacy of government activity. Nepalese cases shed light on the social costs of corruption, which extend far beyond pure pecuniary losses, and on how corruption contributes to inequality, marginalisation, and the weakening of political processes. Corruption in Nepal is a prime example, illustrating how it can undermine an ostensibly democratic system. Finally, the cases are examined comparatively, revealing general trends and insights. Although the case studies are specific to particular corrupt acts, all deal with development impact areas that are susceptible to corruption. Underlying the case studies is an impetus for reform and systemic transformation. Not only does corruption stifle economic development, but it also erodes the faith and participation of its citizens in the democratic process (Gong & Lau, 2024, pp. 225-230).

#### **Governmental and Non-Governmental Initiatives to Combat Corruption**

The fight against corruption requires the concerted efforts of the government, civil society, media, private sector, and citizens at large. Both governmental and non-governmental

organisations in Nepal have been taking initiatives to combat corruption in recent years. Many experts in the field have emphasised the importance of awareness and education in the fight against corruption. Ensuring transparency and accountability in governance is a challenging and complicated task in the Nepalese context. However, it is possible if all stakeholders develop a comprehensive understanding of corruption and collectively take action against it. This will help minimise the risk of corruption rather than eliminate it, as complete eradication of corruption is highly unrealistic (Galtung, 1998, pp. 105–128). Governmental initiatives encompass laws and policies designed to enhance transparency and accountability within the governance system. The Local Self-Governance Act 1999 provides for the formation of Local Accountability Committees at the local level to monitor the revenue collection and expenditure of local bodies. The Act also ensures the participation of civil society in local governance and emphasises social auditing of development programs implemented by local bodies. The said Act is significant in enhancing local governance transparency and accountability. However, the impact of this provision is still far from adequate due to the lack of awareness among civil society members regarding their rights and roles in monitoring local bodies, as well as the intervention of elected representatives. Similarly, the Good Governance Act 2008 has made an important provision for establishing a mechanism to ensure the participation of civil society in the decision-making process related to public service delivery. It is mandatory to develop and implement a good governance work plan in all government agencies to ensure transparency, accountability, and good governance. The 2007 Right to Information Act also enhances transparency in governance by ensuring people's right to access information. Although the impact of this law is still limited, it represents significant legislation in upholding transparency and accountability in governance in the Nepalese context (Khanal et al., 2022, pp. 1-10).

### Challenges and Limitations in Anti-Corruption Efforts

Nepal is often cited as a distinct case of political corruption. Corruption in Nepal can be described as broadly entrenched, endemic, and systemic; it is found in virtually every area of public life and is sustained by social and political institutions. At the macro level, rampant graft threatens to undermine the very legitimacy of the state. Large-scale public infrastructure contracts are routinely awarded by parliamentarians and bureaucrats to cronies who pay kickbacks, allowing them to pocket the public funds without ever executing the projects. An ill-tempered and under-equipped police force is often used to serve political interests, while the judiciary is widely perceived as being subservient to the executive. These brazen acts of corruption, which in most other states would attract substantial outrage, have been normalised in the public consciousness as a form of political patronage (Suvedi, 2024, pp. 39–58). Drawing on extensive fieldwork, this research examines the domestic implications of contemporary anti-corruption efforts in Nepal, a low-income post-conflict state plagued by systemic corruption. Despite substantial investments in reform, corruption has continued to proliferate, creating an embarrassing gap between aspiration and outcome. Beyond the bankrolling dictated mainly by external actors, the Nepalese have a clear stake in tackling corruption. Underlying political grievances subsequently sparked a decade-long Maoist insurgency in 1996, during which Nepal was ranked the most corrupt country in the world. The insurgency's coercive success forced the long-standing feudal monarchy to capitulate in 2006, paving the way for democratisation and renewed hopes of defeating corruption. However, ensuring peace and political stability remained paramount. In the perverse logic of post-conflict state reconstruction, externally mandated anti-corruption efforts were sidelined amid systemic patronage that fed state building (Jarvis, 2020, pp. 165-189).

### The Role of International Organisations in Addressing Political Corruption

International organisations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and Transparency International have been involved in anti-corruption efforts in Nepal since the mid-1990s. This engagement encompasses a range of activities, from providing pressure and criticism to offering support for national anti-corruption measures, often through collaborative projects between national governments and international bodies. The importance of international pressure on national authorities in combating corruption and promoting good governance is well recognised. On the one hand, this pressure has the potential to strengthen democracy and commitment to human rights. On the other hand, it can be counterproductive if countries and their governments feel they are being lectured in relation to a perceived imbalance of power or “moral superiority. In many post-colonial states, this has led to the view that international anti-corruption measures are part of a neo-colonial agenda (Kaur, 2021, pp. 26-30). Having gained a foothold in Nepal and committed itself to national anti-corruption measures, it is vital that international organisations learn from both successes and shortcomings, and challenge, revise, and improve their own approaches. Similarly, it is crucial to identify possible risks and dangers inherent to current strategies and focus on shaping and advancing anti-corruption efforts internationally. These issues are especially relevant to international organisations involved in anti-corruption efforts in developing countries, as their leaders often stress that poverty alleviation is the most crucial challenge of the 21st century, and corruption the greatest obstacle to achieving that goal. Nepal has been among the poorest countries since formal assessments began. Within Nepal, political corruption is widely regarded as the primary reason why international aid has been ineffective in addressing poverty. International organisations can be both part of the problem and crucial actors in the fight against corruption.

### Lessons Learned and Best Practices

Several key lessons are discussed from both successful and unsuccessful anti-corruption initiatives in Nepal. Crucially, strategies must be adaptive, tailored to the local context, and shaped by local actors. On this point, some of the best success stories described in the case studies arose from local actors devising their own, locally-rooted initiatives because they were attuned to the political and social context, and because they subjected them to intense pressure to perform. In other instances, successful initiatives came from the outside, but were still primarily driven by local actors (Biekart & Fowler, 2018, 1692-1710). It is important to note that no initiatives, successful or unsuccessful, were ever abandoned or scrapped altogether. Instead, in the face of failure, actors generally worked to reshape initiatives or create new ones. This reinforces the importance of a local ‘demand’ (in this context, a political willingness to take action), without which externally-driven approaches are less likely to succeed. Both successful and unsuccessful efforts at controlling corruption have been most effective when a wide range of interested stakeholders were actively engaged, including the government, civil society, and the private sector, all of which have key roles to play. Initiatives relying solely on internal processes tended to struggle; on the other hand, those involving external actors also struggled to succeed. There must, therefore, be a pluralistic, multi-pronged approach to combating corruption, with different stakeholders playing distinct roles. It is also crucial that civil society is allowed the space to engage actively in the process. Finally, some best practices from the case studies have been used in Nepal’s context before and could be applied more widely. Other lessons learned are of interest, as they highlight international efforts to combat corruption. Nepal has its own experience of success in some areas, and many lessons learnt therein can inform international best practice and policy.

Transparency and accountability measures must be carefully designed to fit within existing governance frameworks; otherwise, efforts may end up undermining what they set out to strengthen.

In particular, simple transparency mechanisms will not work in the absence of accountable and responsive governance. The Nepalese experience suggests that merely disseminating information does not guarantee public pressure. This is particularly the case when bureaucrats have control over the dissemination of information. In general, designing adequate transparency and accountability initiatives requires a nuanced understanding of the political and social context in which they will be implemented. Several challenges must be acknowledged upfront when applying these best practices. First, political will matters, but it is not easy to measure and assess. Second, some best practices are context-specific and difficult to transfer elsewhere. Third, there are disconnects between theory and practice as well as intention and implementation. Awareness of these obstacles will also contribute to a deeper understanding of the activities devoted to combating political corruption. Finally, the Nepal experience can be synthesised to inform future programming and policy-making. If we zoom out, the fight against political graft requires insight into the value of learning and adjustment.

### Policy Recommendations for Combating Political Corruption

This section offers targeted policy recommendations to mitigate the effects of political corruption in Nepal. Political corruption creates an imbalance of power, leading to the capture of public institutions by a few powerful political elites and their benefactors, thereby undermining the very fabric and essence of democracy. The only way to combat the pernicious workings of political corruption is to curtail its growth and containment. This can be done by promoting good governance with transparency and accountability at its core, and through intense and unyielding institutional frameworks established by law (Achwan, 2014, pp. 201-209). The recommendations below outline the specific reforms to be undertaken in critical areas of political corruption that plague Nepal.

The first recommendation is to combat the patronage network that fuels political corruption through vigorous institutional reform. A parliamentary democracy with periodic, multi-party, competitive elections always runs the risk of creating patronage networks. Therefore, governance practices in public procurement, revenue collection, the management and distribution of natural resources, the political appointment of civil servants, and the establishment of citizen engagement in service delivery, as well as other areas of political corruption, should be improved through law-based anti-corruption reform. At the core of these reforms, the legal capacity of the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority should be enhanced to investigate and prosecute political corruption (Gupta et al., 2018, pp. 36-52).

The second recommendation is to foster a culture of accountability through citizen engagement, empowering people to take ownership of government accountability. Awareness-raising initiatives should be undertaken to build a constituency that demands accountability from public institutions, and civil society organisations should be mobilised to empower the poor and marginal sections of society to access and enforce their rights. Political will will remain elusive unless there is a countervailing force that pushes for reform from outside the political arena. Therefore, it is critically important to create a citizen engagement framework both inside and outside policy and public institutions that allows citizens to oversee and empower them to access accountability.

The third recommendation is to ensure legal compliance that enforces anti-corruption laws in letter and spirit. The public auditing system enshrined in the 1990 Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, as outlined in Articles 96-98, creates a robust watchdog institution against corruption. However, the Auditor General's Office has failed to apply the auditing provisions effectively, allowing public institutions to escape accountability with impunity. Therefore, it is essential to establish institutional mechanisms that ensure audit reports are automatically tabled in Parliament within a specified timeframe and that there is a clear reporting responsibility for the executive branch to address the audit findings.



The fourth is using technology and tools to track and report corruption. Advances in technology can be integrated with traditional public grievance redress mechanisms to provide more exhaustive coverage and better participation by citizens. This may entail the use of both written complaints, phone calls, or attending public hearings, as well as e-governance applications that serve as doorsteps for citizen engagement in the oversight and monitoring of corruption and corrupt practices.

The final suggestion is to instil aversion to corruption from childhood through civic education. Education will obviously play a crucial role in shaping attitudes towards corruption. The development of students' social competence should be incorporated into schools' curricula through Civic Education to foster anti-corruption awareness at local levels by educating students on the adverse effects of corruption in society.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, as this paper demonstrates, political corruption has far-reaching and negative implications for Nepal's economic development. Covering both historical perspective and the contemporary dimension as well as case studies of corruption from developing to developed societies, this analysis argues that corruption is not just a symptom of underdevelopment; it is itself a developmental issue. "There is no systematic, categorical police reform other than a deep systemic rot that eats at the people's trust and exacerbates poverty and inequality." At the heart of the findings is the exploitation of a lack of transparency and accountability by a chosen few for their own benefit, resulting in privation for the majority of citizens.

Government, non-government, and international programs have been initiated to address this problem; however, the effectiveness of these programs is often limited by a lack of political will, a weak judiciary, and the entrenched nature of patronage networks. The most effective approaches are local, adaptive responses generated by an active civil society, for there is no choice but to adopt a multi-sectoral approach in future. This will involve building the capacity of institutions, fostering a culture of accountability through citizen participation, utilising technology to promote transparency, and instilling anti-corruption values among the youth. Indeed, fighting corruption is essential if Nepal is to achieve genuine and sustainable development and safeguard its democratic future.

### Future Directions

This paper provides a detailed discussion of political corruption and its effect on Nepal's socio-economic transformation. Further studies are needed to clarify and better understand this complex topic. Given that corruption is a chronic disease, future research can explore the long-term impact of the anti-corruption strategies outlined or discussed. A comparison with other struggling South Asian countries, such as Bangladesh or Pakistan, would provide functional regional perspectives on both best practices and common obstacles.

Furthermore, a qualitative research study covering the perspectives of citizens living in rural and urban areas would provide a more nuanced picture of how corruption impacts daily life and local governance. Another direction to explore is how technology, such as blockchain and e-governance systems, can influence corruption. Lastly, researchers could examine the role of foreign financial aid and its immediate impact on issues of political corruption in countries like Nepal.

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