

Adopt Rotary 4-way test in your Life to Eliminate Corruption



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Corruption as we all know is illegal gratification. In other words, corruption is demanding money or **receiving** some favour for doing one's duty. Please remember that **government** servants are being paid by the public treasury. There are many types of corruption, namely, bureaucratic corruption, political corruption, and also corruption in the name of religion and under the **pretense** of serving some social cause. Today the country as a whole is very much affected by the corrupt deals of different sections of the population.

Rotary's first test: Is corruption the truth? Needless to say corruption is a universal occurrence. The evil of corruption is practised all over the world. Only the degree of corruption differs from country to country, person to person and from community to community. Whatever the system of government - democracy and dictatorship - no country is free from corruption. Even in the system of monarchy there is corruption, as the kings and queens are also known to amass wealth at the cost of their own people.

Generally corruption means using or misappropriating ones power **for** personal benefit or gain. This has been the tendency of humans for centuries. Therefore corruption is a reality, and the truth.

Rotary's second test: Is corruption fair to all concerned? In fact corruption is fair neither to the giver nor to the taker. Corruption is not at all fair to the people at large. However, it is the poor who are the biggest victims.

Apart from greed to get rich, poverty is also one of the causes for corruption. Poorer people without means for livelihood often become *helplessly corrupt*. But corruption can never be justified for the reason of poverty. Corruption is only among so called public servants. They become richer and richer day by day.

Rotary's third test: Will corruption bring goodwill and better friendships? *Corruption*, instead of promoting goodwill and friendly relation between *people*, it creates *enmity*. The bribe takers are always considered to be villains of the society. Corruption leads to the discrimination between people. So naturally the corrupt and non-corrupt always live without mutual respect for each other.

Rotary's fourth test: Will corruption be beneficial to all concerned? Basically, people who want to get rich by dishonest means take to corruption. Their greed and unprincipled ways of life make them corrupt. It is the poorer people who cannot afford to satisfy the greed and the corrupt. They have to find ways and means to allow the survival of *a* corrupt system. Though the people who take to corruption seem to be the *beneficiary*, in the long run they too are not. The reason is their corrupt dealings make the poorer section of the society demoralized. They cannot lead a life because of their inferiority complexes.

If corruption becomes a way of life *then* how *can we* prevent it? Of course there are some official ways and means to prevent bureaucratic and other types of corruptions. There is an anti corruption department, police, vigilance, etc., to punish the corrupt. The public along with the newspapers, television, and NGOs have to eliminate corruption in public life by awareness in the society to discourage corrupt elements. *However, unless there* is a realization on the part of all concerned, corruption can never be eliminated.

As honest citizens, we are bound by duty, to support the official machinery in eradicating corruption. Even students like us have a big role in controlling corruption. Recently, while addressing the nation on the 57th Republic Day celebrations our *president*, APJ Abdul Kalam had asked the students *to* boldly tell their parents that indulging in corruption is not a right thing to do.

The solution lies in organized effort to curtail corruption in the society at large. Rotarians motto is service before self. They have given a chance to students like me to air our opinion against corruption. I am confident that students and Rotarians together will make corruption a thing of the past as soon as possible.