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OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ANTI CORRUPTION DAY 2012  
ON THE SPOT ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION ON  
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Theme :- "Corruption and its Impact on the society"

(Organised by : District Education Officer : Aizawl District. Mizoram)

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ENGLISH

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CORRUPTION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SOCIETY

The menace of corruption has links to a multitude of vices. Its roots are linked to injustice, mistrust, suspicion, extremism and terrorist activities. It creates a sense of insecurity, hopelessness and threatens the strength of good values which have been established over centuries of civilized struggle. When we speak of corruption, we must understand what corruption really means. The simple and straightforward meaning of corruption is to get work done by means of illegal gratification.

The word "Corruption" has its origin in a Latin verb "corruptus" meaning "to break". Literally, it means "a broken object". In simple words, corruption means "misuse of entrusted power for private benefit" or "abuse of public office for private gains". Sometimes corruption is understood as something against law; such as, in contract by which the borrower agreed to pay the lender usurious interest. It is said, in such case, that it was agreed corruptly.

Need and greed are cited as the reasons of corruption and corrupt practices. Need as a reason is applied on low paid employees specially those entrusted with service delivery powers and public contact. Corruption occurs out of compulsion, as those indulging in corruption are in need of the basic principles and lack access to social entitlement. However, need very easily merges with greed once need is taken as a justification by those indulging in corruption and corrupt activities. It is because of this fact that corruption is linked to poverty which is termed as corruption of need. Absence of an ethical base in societal attitudes is also one cited as one of the root causes of corruption. Corruption and corrupt practices

are indicative of breaches in the governance edifice. The issues of corruption, poverty and governance are cross cutting. These issues, put together, form an integral part in the development literature.

The situation as it stands today is that, corruption is no elixir on any individual, it has by now become a way of life. It has been closely woven into our life patterns that, no one thinks much about it. This is because the system has been let loose and in so many decades everyone, yes, everyone is so involved in corruption that the topic is not worth any discussions. Just as life style includes bungalow, cars, servants, club; it also includes corruption.

The entire system is affected by this virus which is now like cancer absolute incurable. The cancer has spread throughout the body system and now there is no cure for it. Only in earlier stages, if the cancer was treated it may have never taken such dangerous posture. The position as it stands today is so pathetic that, it is a wonder who will punish whom for corruption? All, yes, all are neck deep plunged in this malady. When every organ of a system, every individual in a system is corrupt to the hilt, who will set things right? The fact is that today corruption is seeped into every corner of our system and there appears to be no light at the end of the tunnel. Let us for a moment analyze how virus was allowed to grow? The answer to this question is quite simple. Since virus was not treated in its early stages, it grew ~~#~~ to its magnum size, which today defies any cure. It is not that the people did not know the virus entering their system, but it was ignored and the results are here for us to see. If ~~the~~ we had just nipped the bud just before it raised its ugly head, it would have never dared to grow.

Some of the largest sources of corruption in India are entitlement programs and social spending scheme enacted by the Indian Government. Examples include Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and National Rural Health Mission. One of the most effective act

to fight corruption is Right to Information Act (RTI), and equivalent acts in states, which requires government officials to furnish information requested by citizens or face punitive action, computerization of services and various state and central government that established vigilance commissions have considerably reduced corruption or at least have opened up avenues to redress grievances. There are also some anti-corruption laws in India. Public servants in India can be ~~penalized~~ penalized of corruption under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Income Tax Act, 1961, and The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The ~~the~~ Lokpal Bill, 2011, which is being expected to be an effective tools against corruption is pending before the Rajya Sabha.

Corruption is an intractable problem. It is like diabetes, can only ~~can~~ be controlled, but not totally eliminated. It may not be possible to root out corruption completely at all levels, but it is possible to contain it within tolerable limits. Corruption has a corrosive impact on our economy. It worsens our image in international ~~markets~~ markets and leads to loss of overseas opportunities. Corruption is a global problem in all the countries of the world which has to confront, solutions, however, can ~~be~~ only be home grown.

It can be rightly said that "We, common man are the solutions" because it is because of us that corruption became popular in the country. We are the persons who are motivating corruption to be successful. We support corruption that is why it exists. ~~Since~~ Since we are the only persons who elects the ministers that are supporting corruption in our country.

Though it is very difficult to control corruption but it is not impossible. It is not only the responsibility of the government but ours too. We could eliminate corruption if there was a joint effort. There should be some high principles to follow for we may be models for the coming generation. Common citizens of India, let us start working from now onwards with a common goal of removing corruption from

India. Think of the day when we achieve our goal and the whole world will say "India is a corruption free country."