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CULTURAL ROOTS OF CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE

Abstract. *This paper explores the perception of corruption in Ukraine and the interrelation of Ukrainian cultural values and corruption as viewed through the perspective of Hofstede's 6-D Model.*

Key words: *corruption, bribes, culture, 6-D Model, collectivism, power distance index, corruption perception.*

Анотація. *У статті досліджується сприйняття корупції українцями, а також застосовується методологія крос-культурного аналізу для виявлення взаємозв'язку культурних вимірів України з індексом сприйняття корупції населенням країни.*

Ключові слова: *культурні цінності, культурна дисфункція, хабарництво, модель культурних вимірів, сприйняття корупції.*

Introduction. Corruption has its differences, depending on the country, its culture and history. Corruption exists not only in our country, but also in developed countries. However, abroad this phenomenon is significantly different from what is happening in Ukraine. Ukraine is perceived in the world as a country where corruption has become extremely widespread. Fighting this problem refers to the most urgent social, cultural, political and legal problems of modern Ukrainian society.

Most of the existing explanations for corruption are political or economic, while the cultural factors of corruption behavior have been studied little and are rarely taken into account. In the existing scientific literature, three approaches to the interrelation between culture and corruption can be distinguished.

R. Klitgaard defines corruption as an organizational culture characterized by cynicism and loss of common sense. According to this approach, corruption itself is a culture (business or organizational) and should be analyzed from the point of view of symbols, myths, traditions, and basic values shared within the members of the business community or organization [1].

According to T. Parsons and R. Merton, corruption is a temporary situation, dysfunction in a culture. It becomes possible in the situation of anomie, negative attitude or indifference of a significant part of the community to social norms, generated by the conflict between the elements of the system of values [2].

Within the framework of the third approach, corruption is a phenomenon constantly reproduced by a cultural tradition, based on permanent, stable features of the national culture. A lot of researchers, in their attempts to reveal the influence of culture on the level of corruption, began to resort to those dimensions of culture that were developed in the framework of cross-cultural psychology by such scientists as G. Hofstede, G. Triandis, and E. Hall [3].

Hofstede's 6-D model is the most commonly used approach. His cultural dimensions of Ukraine are demonstrated on Figure 1.

As we can see, Ukraine belongs to collectivistic countries (25 points of individualism). In collectivistic cultures, people who work in the private sector or in the public service tend to break laws and formal rules when they contradict, from their point of view, traditional norms and values.

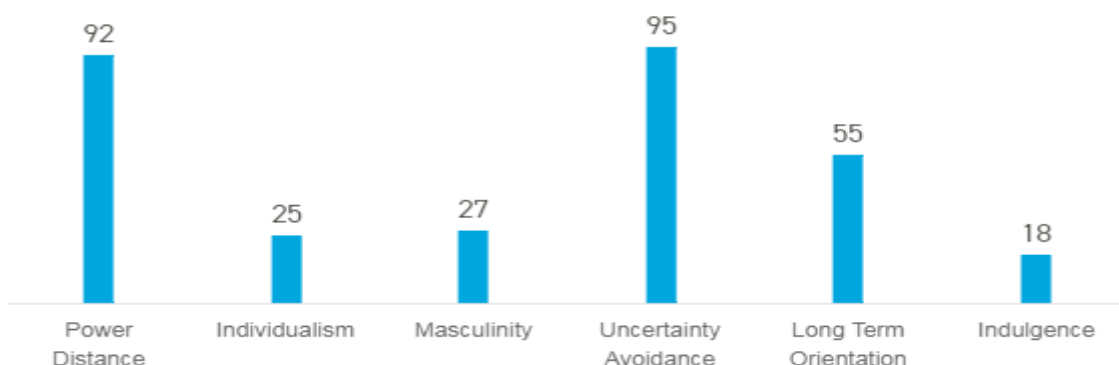


Figure 1. Hofstede's cultural dimensions of Ukraine

According to sociological surveys, the most corrupt spheres of public life in Ukraine are the judicial system (60.3%), the health care system (60.3%) and the police (59.1%) [4].

Ukraine, scoring 92 in Power Distance, is a country where power holders are very distant in society. Being the largest country entirely within Europe and being for almost a century part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine developed as a very centralized country. The countries with high power distance favor the development of corruption in the form of nepotism and favoritism. The representatives of cultures with high power distance treat corruption with greater tolerance than the representatives of countries with low power distance.

Ukraine has relatively low score of masculinity — 25 points. A low score on the dimension means that the dominant values in society are caring for others and quality of life. A Feminine society is one where quality of life is the sign of success and standing out from the crowd is not admirable. Consequently, we can assume that the readiness for corruption actions in Ukraine is motivated by the desire to get rich.

There are some additional gender differences in attitudes towards corruption in Ukraine. Men are more categorical and consistent, when classifying actions as corrupt, and rarely justify them both from the side of officials and from those who offer bribes. Women are more likely to justify bribery of the officials by a sincere desire to show gratitude to the person.

Scoring 95 points of uncertainty avoidance, Ukrainians feel very much threatened by ambiguous situations. In such cases, bribes can be viewed as a way of reducing uncertainty.

There are five concepts of corruption perception in Ukrainian society.

- Personalization of corruption. Corruption is associated with a certain person or in a generalized way (for example, «deputies», «politicians», «judges», «authorities», etc.). Therefore, all anti-corruption activities should have a clear personalized character: «It is necessary to counteract not the system or the institute, but certain individuals».

- Corruption includes the poor quality of public services and the low efficiency of state institutions in general. Some Ukrainians tend to explain the low quality of services, the impolite behavior of officials, and the poor execution of their responsibilities by corruption.

- Stereotyped marking of certain spheres as corrupted only because of their wide demand among people. These are institutions of education, medical institutions, courts, law enforcement agencies, self-government bodies of different levels. At the same time, institutions that do not accept ordinary citizens are considered to be less corrupt.

- The lack of an inconsistent attitude towards corruption as illicit behavior. Some Ukrainians tend to justify corruption in certain situations.

- The forced nature of corruption. In this case, Ukrainians not only justify the fact of corruption, but also the reasons for drawing people into corrupt practices. The population is put in such a situation, when it is very difficult and sometimes even impossible to get the necessary service or result without bribes. Among the factors justifying corrupt practices are the traditions of «thanking» for services, low salaries of

officials, and so on. Many people are trying to give a bribe even when nobody demands it [5].

Thus, corruption is perceived as illegal activity, but it is forced in the context of the fact that society has created a system that forces people to resort to corruption practices.

The bribe may be offered by the initiative of the person, who gives it, and may be required by the person, who takes it. A more dangerous bribe should be considered in cases where the initiative to provide an unlawful remuneration belongs to the bribe taker. For example, according to the social polling often the initiator of giving a bribe is the taxpayer himself/herself (87% of those polled noted that often the initiators of giving bribes are taxpayers) [6].

A situation where a person who is able to pay an official to obtain a certain benefit for himself or to simplify the procedure is not considered to be corruption from the point of view of some Ukrainians. There is an example from the in-depth interview: «In some situations, if I can afford to spend a certain amount of money on a bribe and this will simplify the mechanism of resolving my problem, then this action cannot be considered as corrupt» [7].

There are some gender differences in attitudes towards corruption in Ukraine. Men are more categorical and consistent, when classifying actions as corrupt, and rarely justify them both from the side of officials and from those who offer bribes. Women are more likely to justify bribery of the officials by a sincere desire to show gratitude to the person.

Conclusion. The lack of proper political, economic, legal and moral culture among Ukrainians is one of the main reasons for the spread of corruption in Ukraine today. Nowadays corruption is a great threat for the Ukrainian society. Curing a culture of corruption across society is necessarily a long-term process and requires the inculcation of confidence in the rule of law in the wider public. That will happen as the judiciary and the public administration change and through education of the younger generation.

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POWER DISTANCE IN UKRAINE: GOVERNMENT–BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP

***Abstract.** The article analyzes cultural factors, which affect the power perception in Ukraine. The cultural aspects, reflecting an interaction between business and authorities, are highlighted.*

***Key words:** power distance, power perception, economic paternalism, government-business interaction, tendency to corruption.*

***Анотація.** У статті проаналізовані культурні фактори, які впливають на ставлення до влади в Україні. Особливу увагу відведено культурним аспектам, які знаходять відображення у взаємодії владних структур та представників бізнес-середовища.*

***Ключові слова:** відстань до влади, сприйняття влади, економічний патерналізм, взаємодія влади та бізнесу, схильність до корупції.*

Introduction. One of the favorite topics for discussion by historians and sociologists is the question of how the power distribution within a particular society transformed over time. The result of such transformation was a change in power perception within the society, as well as a change in the dialogue between society and authorities. After many tests of history, the modern government bodies are transparent and democratic, ready to contribute to economic development, which is expressed by the high degree of confidence in these bodies from business and a reduction in the distance between them. However, the transformation process has not finished yet in some developing countries and the cooperation between business and government is under the significant pressure from the latter.

This problem can be viewed from the political, economic, historical, social and other aspects. In this article, we will focus on the cultural one. Furthermore, some historical and economic circumstances must also be taken into account. We consider Ukraine to be a perfect example to explore the problem, since its culture combines the effects of the Soviet past and efforts to make a western-type cultural transformation.

First of all, we would like to analyze the perception of power in Ukraine. For this purpose, we will use the results of Geert Hofstede's research, specifically the dimension of so-called «Power Distance» (PDI). This dimension expresses the degree to which the less powerful members of a society accept and expect that power be distributed unequally. According to the country-comparison tool, available on Hofstede's website