

GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER 2019 SRI LANKA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Global Corruption Barometer is the world's largest public opinion survey on views and experiences of corruption conducted under the guidance of Transparency International (TI), the leading global movement against corruption. As a poll of the general public, it provides an indicator as to how corruption is affecting individuals on a national level and how efforts to curb corruption around the world are viewed on the ground.

The Global Corruption Barometer 2019 – Sri Lanka, published by Transparency International Sri Lanka, a National Chapter of Transparency International, is a summary report of a survey conducted in all 9 provinces in the first quarter of 2019. Its key findings capture the experience and perception of corruption among the Sri Lankan public as well the willingness to act against corruption. The Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) survey incorporates the views of 1,300 citizens aged 18 – 80 years across Sri Lanka.

Among the State institutions assessed in the survey the Courts, the Government and the Police were evaluated in terms of building trust and confidence in doing a good job, and acting in a fair manner. As many as three fourths of the respondents viewed the courts positively. Opinions were relatively less favorable for the government (47% responded positively) and the police (59%).

Over three fourths (80%) also considered corruption within the government as being a quite or very big problem. Types of corruption mostly associated with the government were bribery, corruption and fraud, as well as the resulting inability to curtail drug trafficking.

Half the respondents (51%) also considered corruption in climate change and disaster management activities to be a quite a big or a very big problem.

In terms of corruption in various institutions, perceptions of the extent of corruption were highest among the political and administrative cadres.

- Almost half (44%) perceived that most or all Members of Parliament were corrupt and a slightly smaller number responded similarly for local government officials (41%), the police (38%) and government officials (32%).
- A quarter (27%) said most or all in the Prime Minister's office were corrupt, while a fifth (19%) responded in this manner with regard to the president's office.
- One in five (21%) each likewise said that most school principals and school administrators were corrupt and a similar number (15%) stated that corruption in admission to a public school happened frequently or very frequently.
- Over a tenth (12%) said that most or all in the private sector were corrupt. A slightly higher proportion (17%) also perceived that corruption in the private sector was a very big problem.

In terms of six government institutions interacted with in the last one year¹, the health-care system (i.e. public clinics and hospitals) was the most widely interacted with, and on a positive note, the frequency of bribery and corruption was perceived as extremely low herein. Just 5% of those who interacted with public clinics / hospitals said they had paid a bribe, gave a gift or did a favor to get the medical care they needed. The experience of corruption was highest for the police where a quarter (25%) of those interacting with the police said they had paid a bribe.

As many as 89% said that people paid police officers on the street to avoid fines for traffic offenses either occasionally, frequently or very frequently. Negative perceptions of corruption among the police force in general was also markedly higher among respondents who perceived that bribes were frequently or very frequently paid to traffic police officers to avoid fines.

The Overall Bribery Variable for Sri Lanka was 13%. i.e. among all respondents, 13% had paid a bribe to individuals in one or more of these six institutions.

1. Since the questionnaires were administered in Sinhala and Tamil, the vernacular translations of the name of the commission was used in the questionnaire, when assessing the level of awareness

2. These included aspects such as a politician giving a special favor to campaign donors, nepotism among public servants when hiring, and paying a bribe to a traffic policeman to avoid a fine for a traffic offense.

While only 9% of those who paid a bribe said that they were overtly asked to do so by government officials, as many as 70% did so voluntarily: 52% said this was due to an implicit understanding that a bribe needed to be given to get their work done / expedited, and 18% directly offered to pay a bribe for this same reason.

There was also a high level of uncertainty, even skepticism, that action would be taken on reports of corruption. Only 8% noted that it was very likely that action would be taken on reporting corruption. About half (47%) said it was somewhat likely and a third (35%) said it was not at all likely or somewhat unlikely that action would be taken on reporting corruption. Responses regarding mechanisms to report bribery were mixed:

- Unprompted awareness of official mechanisms to report bribery was very low, with only 19% being aware of a reporting mechanism. However, when aided, 86% had heard of CIABOC (the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption). While 58% said they knew a fair amount or a great deal about CIABOC, a further 28% had heard of CIABOC but were unaware of its function.
- When asked how they thought CIABOC was doing in relation to fighting corruption in this country, responses were more negative than positive: 46% saying 'Doing Fairly Badly or Very Badly' and 27% saying 'Doing Fairly Well or Very Well'.
- Unaided and aided awareness of two other institutions: The National Authority for the Protection of Victims, and the Victims of Crimes and the Witnesses Assistance Division of the police department were extremely low (80% were unaware of these two institutions even after aiding).

Sextortion was considered to be widely prevalent. In terms of their own experiences or experiences of people personally known to them, as many as 60% of all respondents said that public officials implied openly or suggestively, at least once or twice, that they would grant a benefit in return for a sexual favor.

In terms of manipulating voter behavior, a third or more said that fake news (stated by 38%), voter payments (41%) and paying a bribe to be a candidate (30%) happened frequently or very frequently. Incidents of voter intimidation was considered lower (stated by 11%).

With regard to personally witnessing or suspecting a government official or politician of corruption, most (77% each) said they knew of at least one such instance in the last 12 months in terms of (a) politicians having unexplained income and (b) abusing their position to benefit themselves or their family.²

Finally, while there was widespread disapproval regarding corruption, there was some degree of reluctance to personally get involved in taking it on. When specific examples of corrupt practices were read out, almost three fourths found these to be unacceptable. However, when asked a series of questions pertaining to getting personally involved in taking on corruption, and if corruption was considered acceptable under certain situations³, there was an acceptance of corruption/indifference by a large minority of about 25-30%.

3. Please refer to sections 10 and 11 of this report

METHODOLOGY

TARGET RESPONDENT

Interviews were undertaken among adults aged 18 to 80 years from all nine provinces of Sri Lanka. Respondents were from urban and rural (including estate) areas.

SAMPLE SIZE AND COMPOSITION

A total of 1,300 respondents were surveyed as outlined below.

Table 1: Proposed sample

Sector	Provinces									Total
	Western	Southern	Central	North Western	Sabara-gamuwa	North Central	Uva	Northern	Eastern	
Urban	146	17	17	6	7	3	4	11	25	236
Rural	229	142	117	146	116	78	56	56	74	1014
Estate	-	-	30	-	-	-	20	-	-	50
Total	375	159	164	152	123	81	80	67	99	1300

Table 2: Achieved sample

Sector	Provinces									Total
	Western	Southern	Central	North Western	Sabara-gamuwa	North Central	Uva	Northern	Eastern	
Urban	145	17	18	6	7	3	3	11	26	236
Rural	219	140	119	149	105	80	71	60	71	1014
Estate	-	-	30	-	-	-	20	-	-	50
Total	364	157	167	155	112	83	94	71	97	1300

As can be noted from above, there were slight differences in the achieved sample versus the proposed sample when the samples were compared province wise. However, the total sample size proposed and achieved were the same so there was no significant impact of these differences in terms of the final outputs.

SAMPLE SELECTION

The sample in each sector and province was nationally representative of adults aged 18 to 80 years. Sample selection was undertaken using the population proportionate to population size (PPS) sampling approach.

Within each province, Primary Sampling Units (GN Divisions) were selected at random. Each were proportionate to population size (PPS) after stratifying the sample by Urban and Rural centers within each province. All interviews were undertaken by the interviewers in the selected Primary Sampling Units (PSUs).

Approximately five interviews were completed in urban points⁴ while in rural and estate areas, 10 interviews were undertaken at each PSU. Target group respondents were selected at random using a Kish Grid (where all eligible household members were listed down and one member was selected at random).

Face to face survey interviews were undertaken and the respondents were interviewed at home. In instances where they were not at home during the time of the interviewers' visits, appointments were made to revisit and interview them at an agreed time.

FIELDWORK AND DATA WEIGHTING

Interview language

Interviews were conducted in Sinhalese or Tamil, depending on the language each respondent was conversant in.

Pilot interviews

A total of 30 pilot interviews were undertaken in the first week of March 2019, ten each in Sinhala, Tamil and English. The questionnaire wording and response codes were amended slightly for a few questions based on the pilot interview feedback.

Fieldwork dates

Fieldwork for the main survey was undertaken from 10th March to 5th April 2019.

Refusals

In terms of response when requesting an interview, there were a total of 306 refusals. i.e. the refusal rate was 19% [i.e. $306 / (1,300+306) \times 100$].

Data quality

Over 50% of interviews were back checked or conducted in the presence of an accompanying field supervisor as outlined below:

Accompaniments of field interviewers	10%
Physical backchecks	10%
Telephone backchecks	33%
Total backchecks	53%

Data weighting

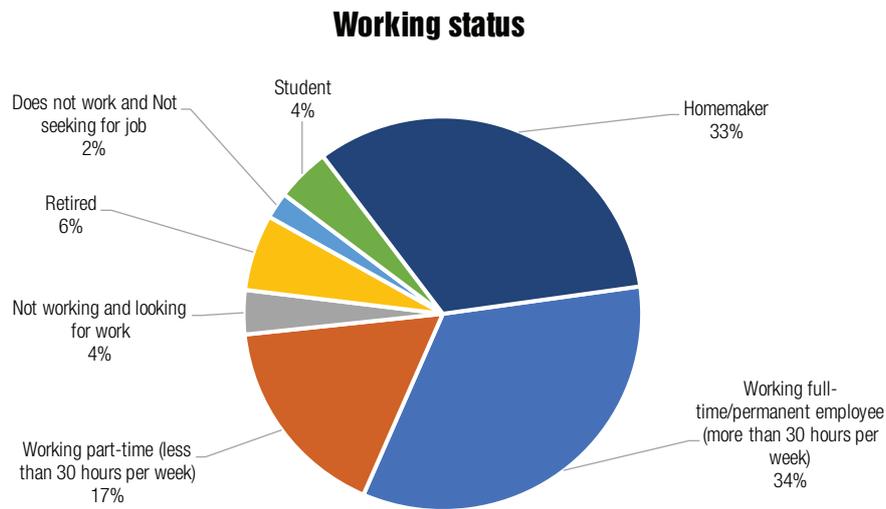
The data was self-weighted by Province X Region. Accordingly, there were no weighting factors used in the data set.

4. In urban areas with large sample sizes, five interviews were undertaken in each sampling point. In areas with smaller urban samples (ranging from 3 to 17 as per table 1 above, three or four interviews were undertaken in each sampling point.

SAMPLE PROFILE

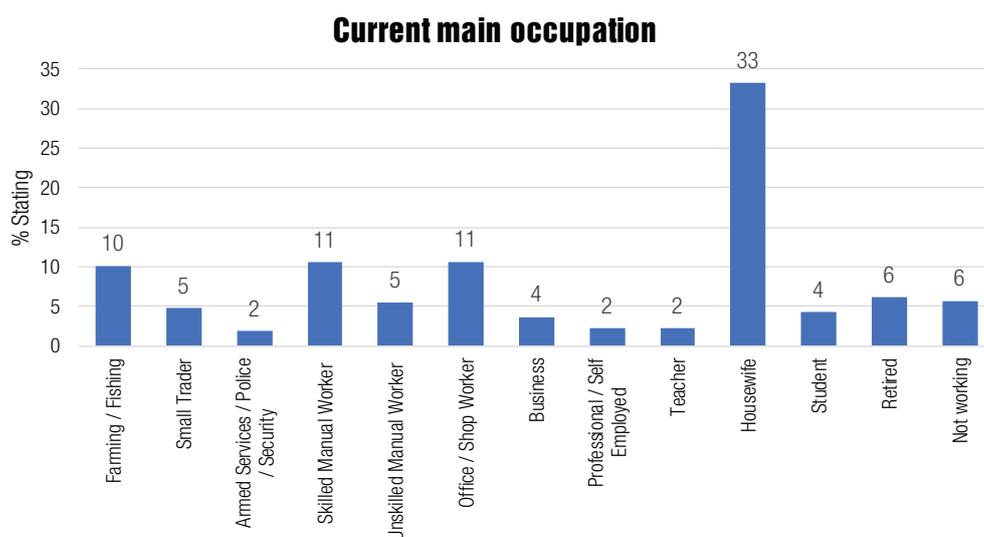
WORKING STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

Half the sample was working full or part time, and a third were homemakers.



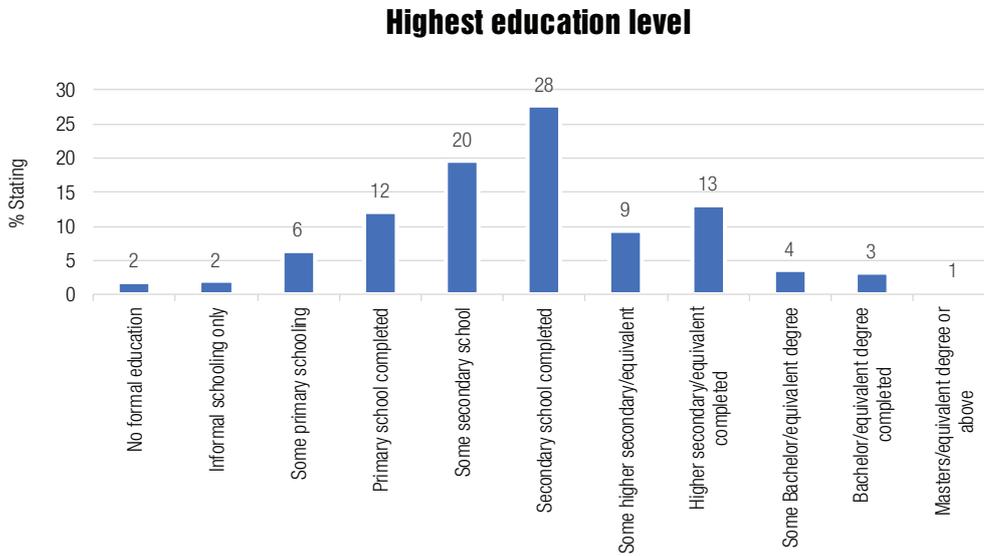
TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

The working respondents had a variety of occupations.



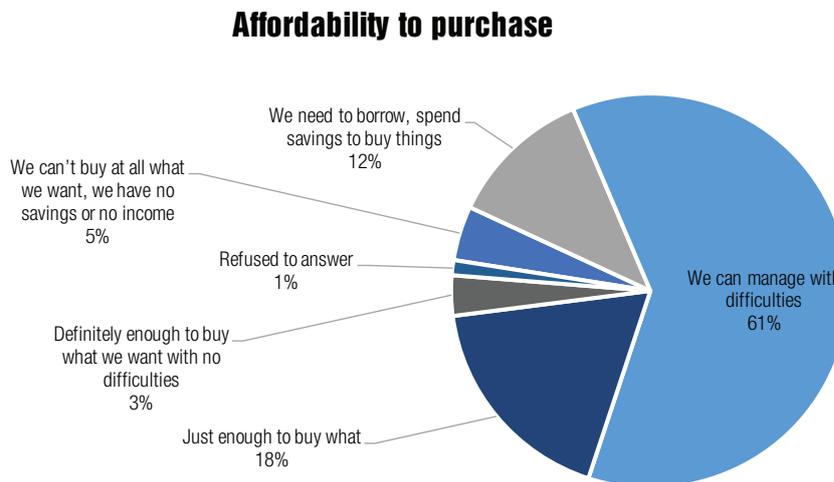
HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

42% had not completed their secondary schooling, 50% had completed their secondary school (lower or higher levels) and 7% had a degree or higher qualification.



AFFORDABILITY OF GOODS AND SERVICES

Respondents were asked about the extent to which their household income influenced their ability to buy what they wanted. Only a fifth (21%) said they had sufficient household income, and a further three fifths (61%) said they could manage but with difficulty. The remaining one fifth were struggling to manage their expenses.



RESEARCH FINDINGS

1 GENERAL INSIGHTS ON CORRUPTION

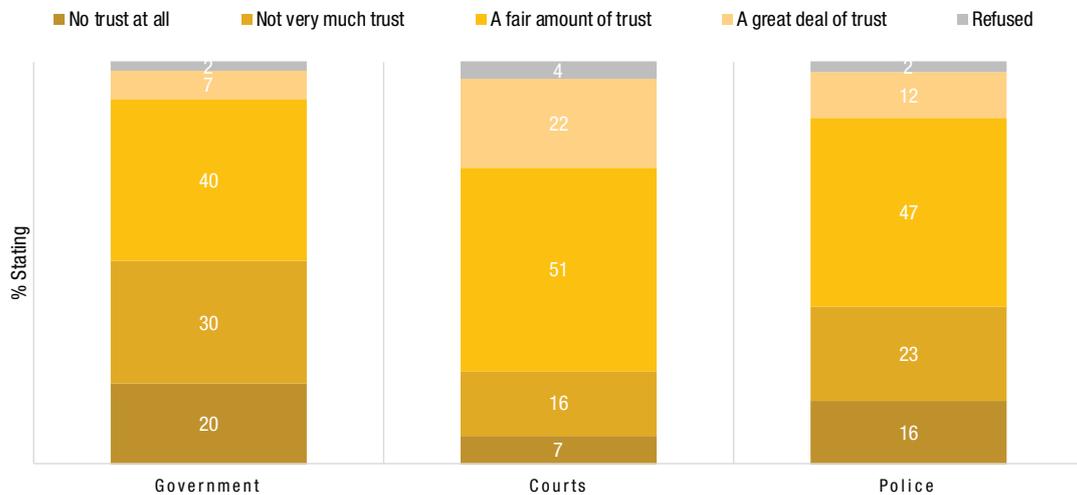
1.1 LEVEL OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, THE COURTS AND THE POLICE

With regard to trust and confidence in the government, and the ability of the government to act in a fair manner, opinion was divided. While 50% responded negatively, 47% responded positively or fairly positively.

However, trust and confidence in the courts was higher. 73% said they had a fair amount or a great deal of trust and confidence with the courts.

In terms of the police, a little over half (57%) had a fair amount or a great deal of trust and confidence in this institution, while a notably high 39% said they had no trust at all or not very much trust in the police.

Level of trust in institutions

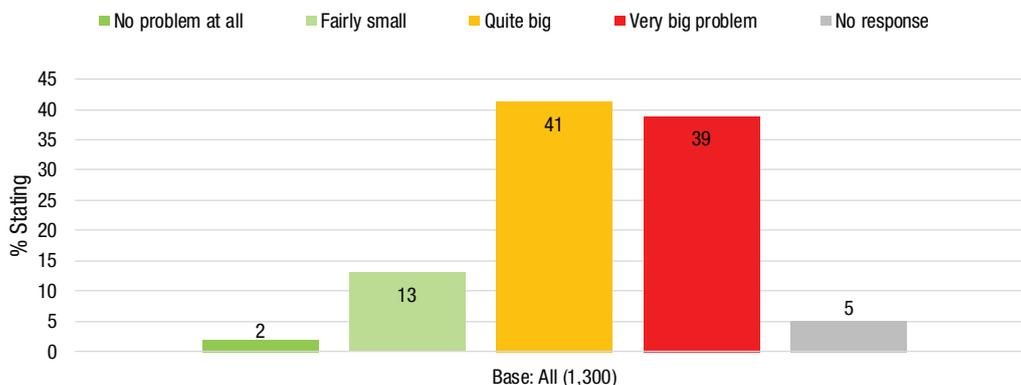


Base: All (1,300)

1.2 EXTENT TO WHICH CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT IS A PROBLEM

The vast majority (80%) said corruption in government was quite big or a very big problem. This is despite the majority having said they trusted the courts and about half saying they trusted the police (See Section 1.1), suggesting that most acts of corruption were not brought to the police or the courts.

Extent to which corruption in government is a problem in Sri Lanka



Base: All (1,300)

Base: All (1,300)

1.3 TYPES OF CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT WHICH ARE CONSIDERED TO BE A MAIN PROBLEM

When asked to say what type of corruption they considered as being the main problem in the government, a quarter of the responses (27%) were about bribery, corruption and fraud, including corrupt politicians.

Nepotism and political favors granted were also mentioned. Corruption was seen to impact action on the illicit drug trade, as well as on the rule of law.

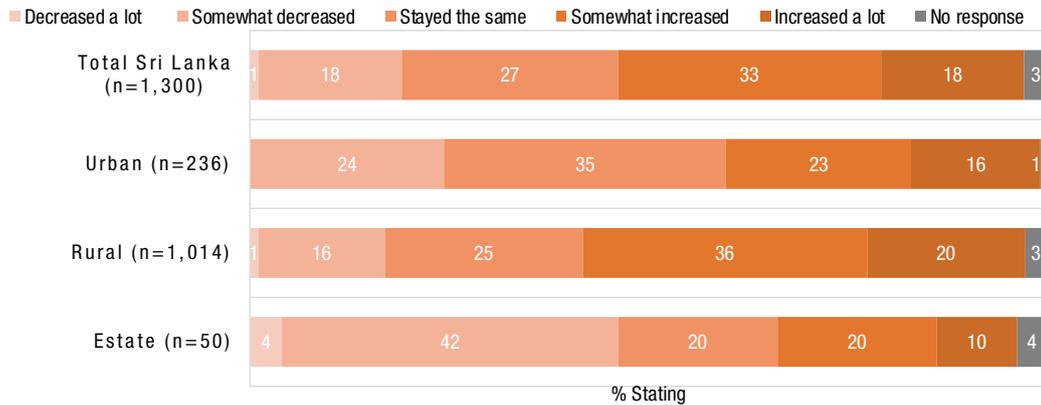
Types of corruption considered to be a main problem	% stating
Bribery, corruption or fraud (any mention)	21
Money offered as a bribe (8%)	
Increase of bribery and corruption (5%)	
Corruption in government institutions (3%)	
Economy is in trouble because of fraud (1%)	
Corrupt politicians (any mention)	6
Those who run the country are corrupt (3%)	
Those at the highest positions are responsible for stealing (1%)	
No/insufficient action to prevent increasing drug use (any mention)	11
Inefficiency in taking action against the usage of drugs (5%)	
Drug usage is spreading across the country (4%)	
Laws not implemented (any mention)	9
Laws do not function (5%)	
There is no system to tackle corruption (2%)	
Murder cases are unresolved (2%)	
Nepotism/political favors (any mention)	2
Politicians use their influence over government servants to save offenders (1%)	
No action against domestic abuse (any mention)	2
Abuse of women (1%)	
Abuse of children (1%)	
Others (any mention)	24
Procrastination and iniquity in giving employment for government jobs (2%)	
Politicians work by their own rules (1%)	
Both citizens and politicians lack values that would help the country (1%)	
Politicians are having comfortable lives and the public have to pay for this (1%)	
Incomplete development projects (1%)	
Refused/no response	25

Base: All (1,300)

1.4 EXTENT TO WHICH CORRUPTION IN SRI LANKA IS PERCEIVED TO HAVE INCREASED OR DECREASED IN THE PAST ONE YEAR

Overall about half (51%) said that corruption had increased in the last one year. However, this percentage (56%) was much higher in rural areas than in urban areas (39%).

Extent to which corruption was perceived to have increased or decreased in the last one year



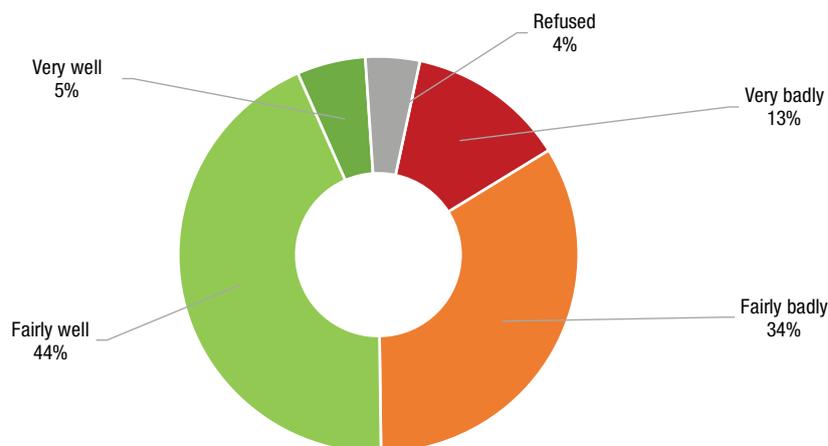
Base: All (1,300)

1.5 PERCEIVED SUCCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN TACKLING CORRUPTION

Respondents were asked to state their opinion on how well or badly they thought the current government was handling the task of fighting corruption.

Opinion was split. 47% said the government was doing badly (Very or Fairly badly) and 49% stated that the government was doing well (Very or Fairly well). Interestingly, there were no noteworthy differences by gender or age of respondents, nor between urban and rural respondents.

Perceived success of the government in tackling corruption



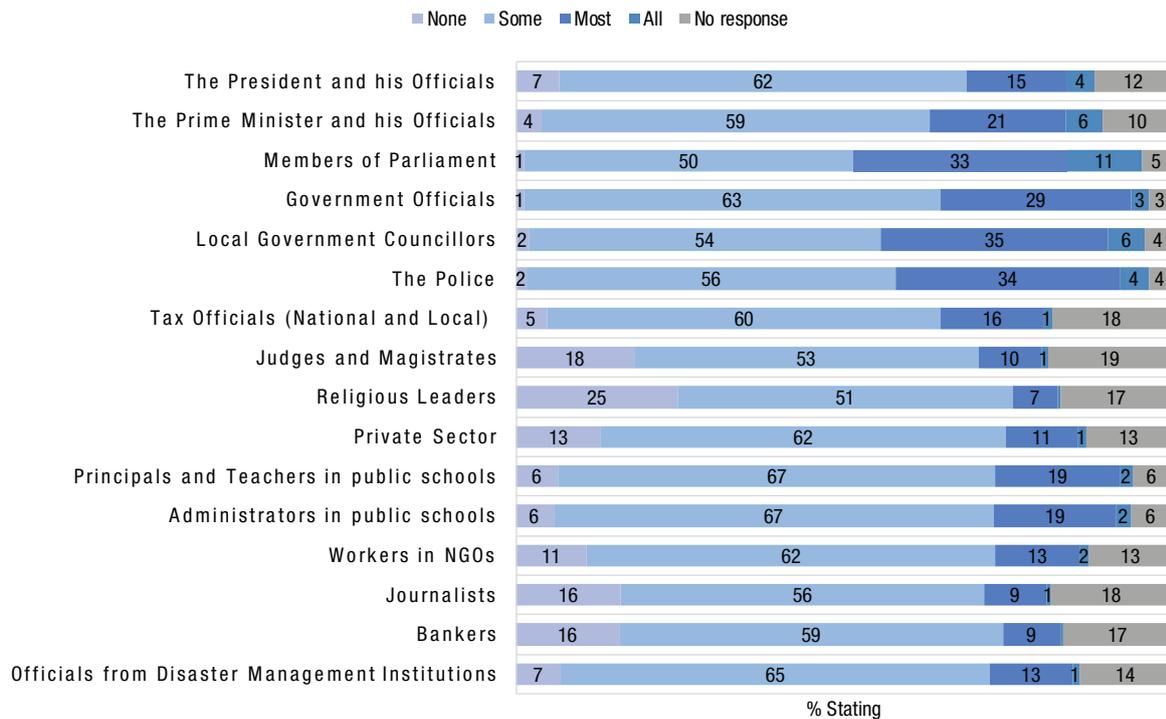
Base: All (1,300)

1.6 PERCEIVED EXTENT OF CORRUPTION IN SPECIFIED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they perceived corruption in various institutions. The survey findings revealed:

- Less than 10% said that no one was corrupt among people in the various political institutions (President and his office, Prime Minister and his office, Members of Parliament and Local Councillors). Most (80-90%) said at least some of them were corrupt.
- Perception of corruption was highest for Members of Parliament (MPs), Local Government Officials, the police and government officials, with over 30% of respondents saying Most or All in these institutions were corrupt. **As many as 44% said most or all MPs were corrupt.**
- Despite the high level of perceived corruption in the police, as outlined in section 1.1, over half the sample trusted the police. As seen subsequently (in section 12), the belief that police officers are frequently paid bribes for traffic offences could have resulted in the high level of perceived corruption in the police; whereas the high degree of trust in the police could be attributed to the police force in general.
- About a fifth to a quarter said most or all were corrupt in the president's and the prime minister's offices, as well as among public school principals/teachers and school administrators.
- Perception of corruption was relatively lower for religious leaders, judges and magistrates, the private sector, journalists and bankers.

Perceived extent of corruption in various institutions



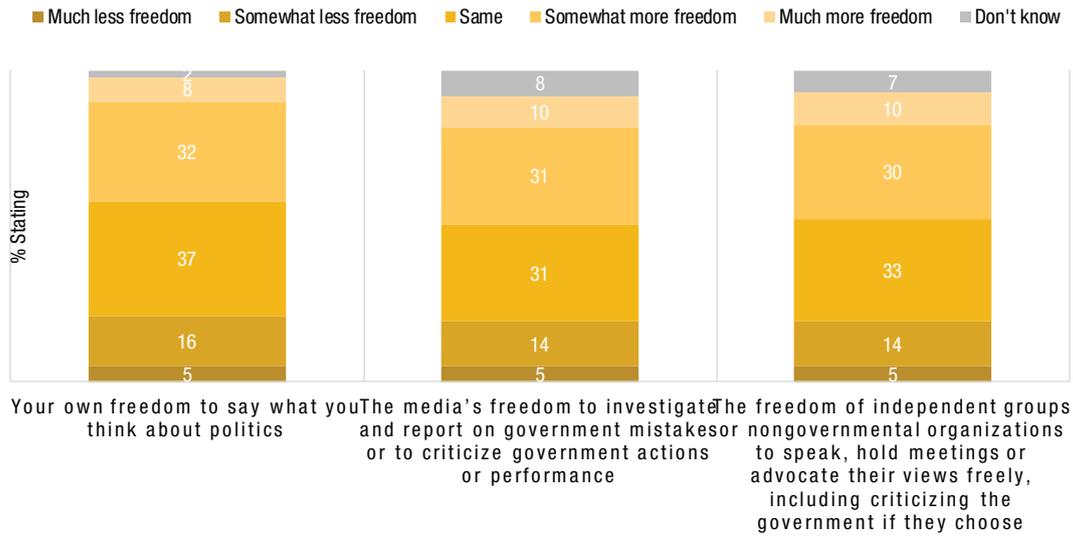
Base: All (1,300)

1.7 EXTENT TO WHICH THE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS VIEWS HAS INCREASED OR DECREASED

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which their freedom of expressing various views, and ability to investigate and report on them had increased or decreased.

As seen below, less than a fifth said this freedom had lessened, and twice as many (about 40%) said that this freedom had increased. A third said there was no change.

Extent to which freedom of expression has increased or decreased



Base: All (1,300)

2 PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH BRIBERY (BRIBE, GIFT OR FAVOR) WHEN DEALING WITH SIX SELECTED STATE INSTITUTIONS IN RETURN FOR SERVICES SOUGHT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

2.1 INCIDENCES OF EXPERIENCE WITH BRIBERY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Among the overall sample, 13% of respondents had paid a bribe⁵ at least once in the last 12 months to officials in at least one of the six state institutions outlined below.

Also shown below are the interactions with each institute during the last 12 months, and the incidents where a bribe was paid at least once during the interaction.

Public schools: A third had contact with public schools in the last 12 months, and among them, 13% said they paid a bribe during this period.

Public clinics or hospitals: As many as 60% had contact with public clinics or hospitals in the last 12 months, and among them, 5% said they paid a bribe during this period. This was the lowest incidence of bribery among the institutions covered where over half the respondents had interactions with in the last 12 months.

Government officers: 27% had interacted with government officials in the last 12 months for purposes such as getting identity documents, permits etc. Among them, 13% paid a bribe.

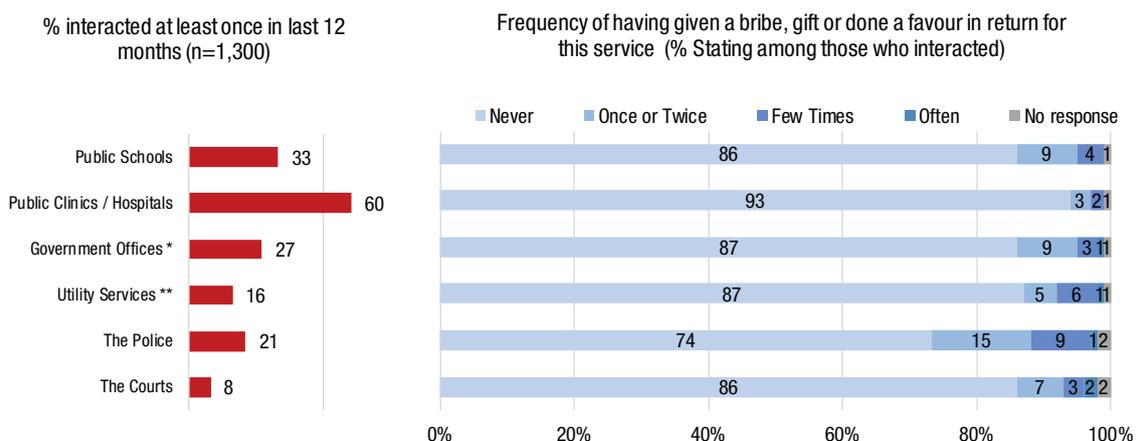
Utilities: 16% interacted with a government utility service, of whom 12% had given a bribe.

The Police: 21% had dealt with the police in the last 12 months, and among them, 25% had paid a bribe. This was the highest incidence of bribery among these institutions.

The Courts: 8% had matters at the courts in the last 12 months, and over a tenth of them (12%) had given a bribe.

As seen in section 1.6 (Perceived extent of corruption in various institutions), perception of corruption was among the highest for the police, with over 30% of respondents saying most or all in the police were corrupt. These perceptions have been confirmed as outlined above, with the highest incidences of paying bribes being for the police.

Interactions with selected institutions and incidence of paying a bribe



Base: All (1,300)

* Government offices to get identity documents like a birth certificate, driver's license, passport or voter's card etc.

** Utility services from the government

5. The term bribe includes giving a gift or granting a favor. This incidence of 13% is also referred to as the Overall Bribery Variable for Sri Lanka.

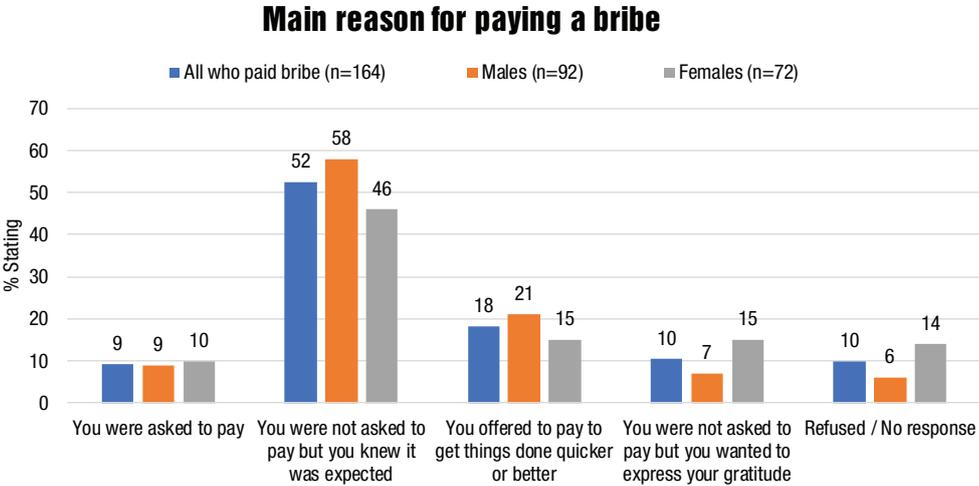
2.2 REASONS FOR PAYING A BRIBE

13% of respondents, who said that they had paid a bribe in the last 12 months (in section 2.1), were collectively asked to state the main reason why they had paid a bribe, given a gift, or done a favor in order to obtain a public service (with reference to the latest occasion of such an act).

Overall, while only 9% said they were directly or overtly asked to pay a bribe, 70% did so voluntarily. 52% of the sample said this was due to an implicit understanding that a bribe needed to be given to get their work done/ expedited, and an additional 18% directly offered to pay a bribe for this same reason.

More males said they paid bribes because they thought it was the accepted practice (58% among males vs. 46% among females), but more females (15%) paid a bribe to express their gratitude when compared to males (7%).

A further 18% offered to pay a bribe to get things done quicker or better, whereas another 10% paid one to express their gratitude (post completion of the service) – somewhat like a tip.

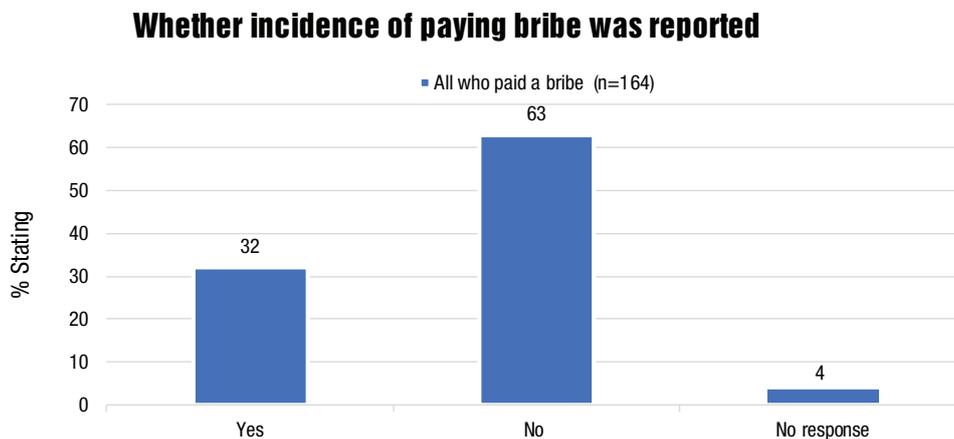


Base: All (1,300)

3 REPORTING BRIBERY

3.1 WHETHER INCIDENCE OF PAYING A BRIBE WAS REPORTED TO A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR RELEVANT AUTHORITY

A third (32%) of those who said they paid a bribe in the last 12 months mentioned that they reported it. There was no noticeable difference between males and females.

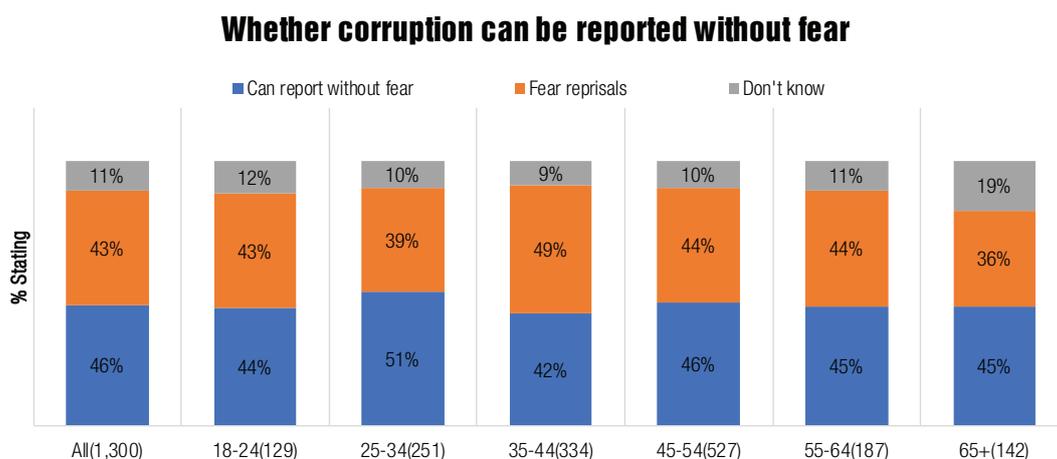


3.2 WHETHER INCIDENCES OF CORRUPTION CAN BE REPORTED WITHOUT FEAR

Respondents were asked whether ordinary Sri Lankans could report incidents of corruption without fear, or whether they risked retaliation or other negative consequences if they spoke out.

Almost half feared reprisals. Among millennials (25 to 34-year-olds), a higher proportion said there was no fear of reprisals in reporting incidents of corruption.

However, the finding that almost half the respondents felt that Sri Lankans would fear reprisals could be an area of concern.



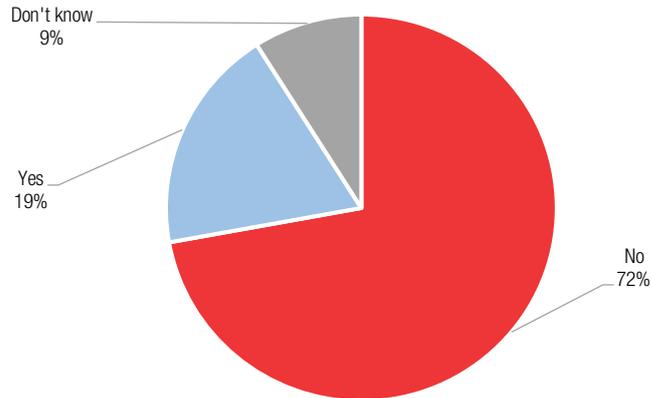
Base: All (1,300)

3.3 EXTENT OF AWARENESS OF A MECHANISM TO REPORT INCIDENTS OF CORRUPTION

Respondents were asked if they happened to know whether there was a mechanism where ordinary people could report incidents of corruption.

As many as 72% were unaware of any mechanism to do so.

Awareness of mechanism to report corruption



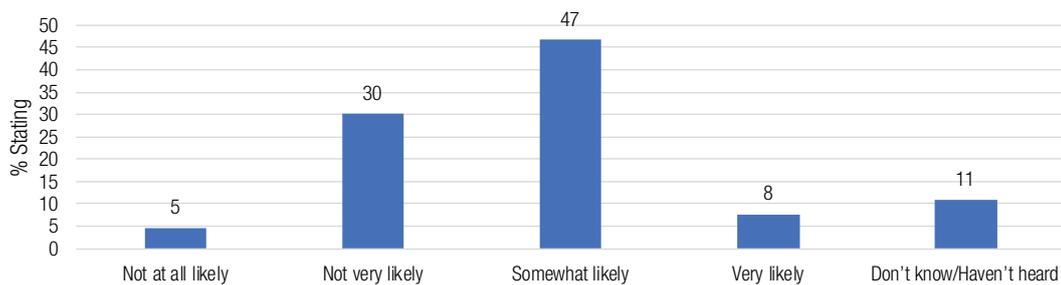
Base: All (1,300)

3.4 OPINION ON WHETHER ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN ON REPORTS OF CORRUPTION

Respondents were asked how likely it would be for action to be taken if they were to report a case of corruption against a government official.

Opinions indicated that there was a low certainty on action being taken on complaints of corruption, with just 8% saying it is very likely. A further 47% of the respondents were somewhat hopeful but not certain. A third (35%) was skeptical that complaints would be acted on.

Opinion on whether action would be taken on complaints of corruption



■ All (1,300)

Base: All (1,300)

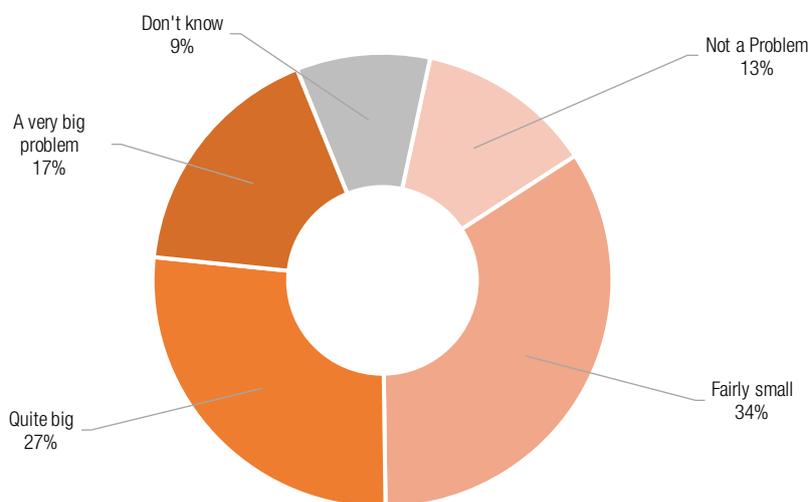
4 PERCEPTION OF THE EXTENT OF CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Opinion was divided. Almost a fifth (17%) believed that corruption in the private sector was a very big problem and a quarter believed it was quite a big problem (27%).

Just under half the sample (47%) said corruption in the private sector was a fairly small problem/not a problem.

In section 1.6 (Perceived extent of corruption in specified public and private institutions), 12% said that most or all in the private sector were corrupt, somewhat in line with the 17% who perceived that corruption in the private sector was a very big problem.

Perceived extent of corruption in the private sector

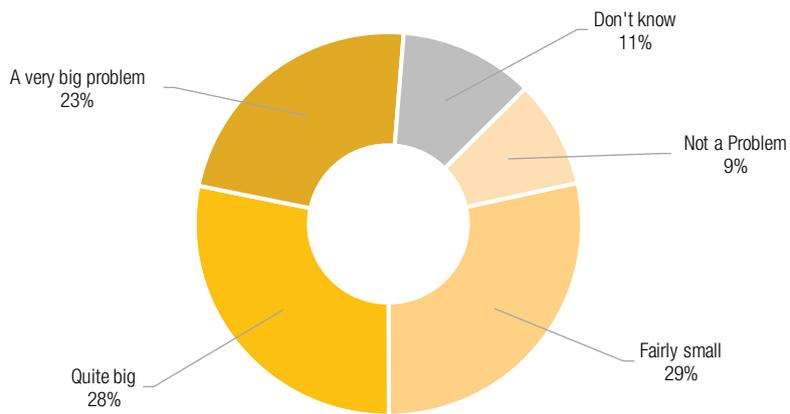


Base: All (1,300)

5 PERCEPTION OF THE EXTENT OF CORRUPTION IN CLIMATE CHANGE PREVENTION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Over half (51%) said corruption in climate change and disaster management activities was very big or quite a big problem. A little over a third (38%) said corruption in climate change prevention and disaster prevention was not a problem/fairly small problem.

Perception of the extent of corruption for climate change prevention and disaster management



Base: All (1,300)

6 SEXTORTION

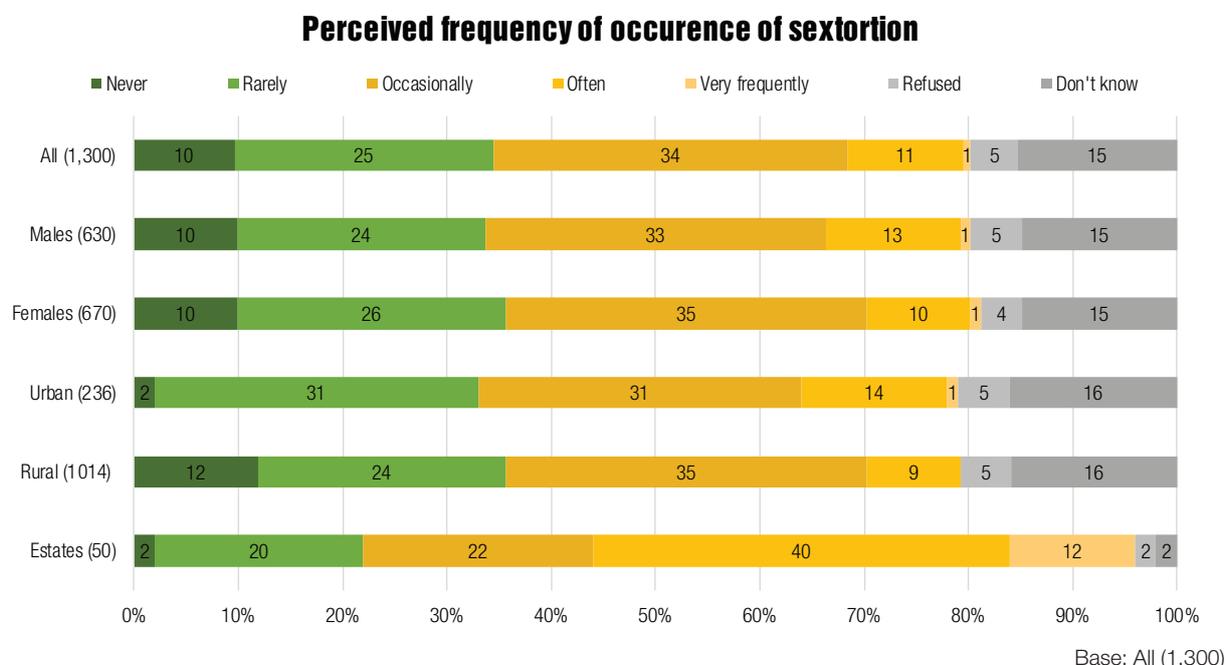
6.1 PERCEIVED FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE

Sextortion was explained to respondents as a form of corruption which occurs when a public official indicates the willingness to provide a government benefit (quicker service, approval of documents, a job/promotion, or avoiding a fine/imprisonment) in exchange for sexual favours such as sexual activity, inappropriate touching, exposing body parts, or posing for sexual photos.

Respondents were asked how often, if at all, they thought sextortion occurred in Sri Lanka.

A tenth said sextortion never happened. A quarter said it happened rarely. However, one third said it happened occasionally, and about a tenth (12%) felt sextortion happened often or very frequently. **In all therefore, almost half (46%) felt sextortion happened occasionally, often or very frequently.**

There were no notable differences by gender or age group. However, urban respondents felt sextortion to be slightly more prevalent than rural respondents. **Estate respondents however, felt it was very prevalent⁶**; as many as half the sample in estates felt sextortion occurred frequently or very frequently.



6.2 EXPERIENCE WITH SEXTORTION PERSONALLY OR AMONG KNOWN THIRD PARTIES

Based on their own experience or experiences of people they knew; respondents were asked as to whether a public official implied either openly or suggestively that they would grant a government benefit in exchange for sexual favours.

Overall, half (50%) said Once or Twice, and 10% said A few times/Often. This is more or less similar to the percentage who felt sextortion happened occasionally, often or very frequently in section 6.1.

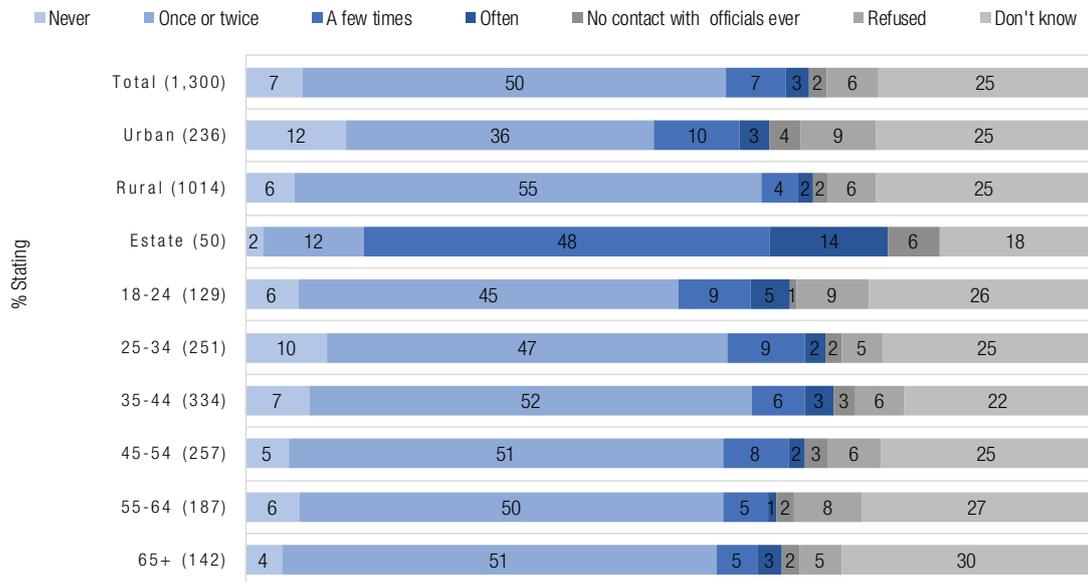
The following differences were seen by region and age group. There were no differences by gender.

- As many as 62%⁷ in estates said that sextortion occurred 'A few times' or 'Often' based on personal or personally known experiences
- In urban areas, the percentage saying 'A few times' or 'Often' (13%) was higher than that in rural areas (6%).
- The percentage saying 'A few times' or 'Often' was highest in the youngest (18-24) age group at 14%, followed by 11% in the next higher age group of 25-34.

6. It should be noted that the sample in estates was only 50 and therefore this finding may have to be revalidated with a larger sample.

7. As mentioned previously, the sample in estates was only 50 and this may need to be revalidated with a larger sample

Experience with sextortion personally or among known third parties



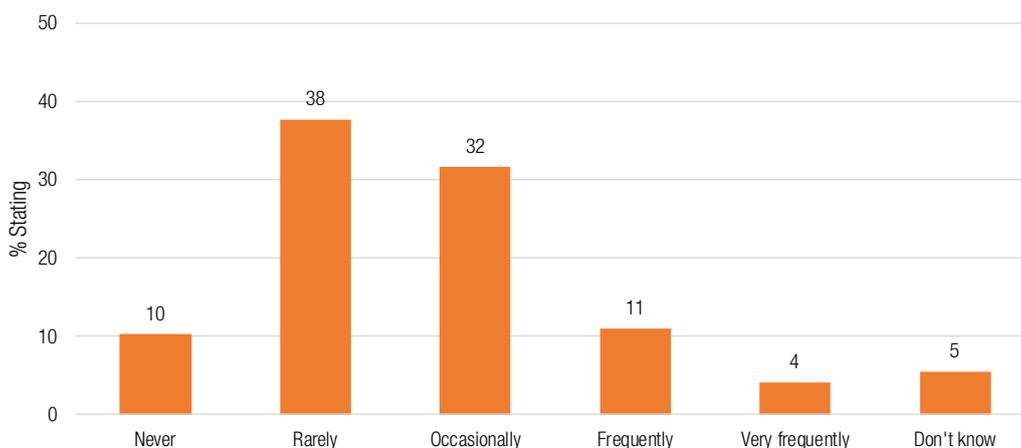
Base: All (1,300)

7 PERCEIVED EXTENT OF CORRUPTION IN ADMISSIONS TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL

Only 15% perceived that corruption occurred frequently or very frequently in admissions to a public school.

In section 1.6 (Perceived extent of corruption in specified public and private institutions), 21% each said that most school principals and school administrators were corrupt. This is in line with the aforementioned 15% who stated that corruption in admission to a public school happened frequently or very frequently. Among those who had interacted with officials in public schools in the last 12 months (Section 2.1), a similar proportion (13%) said they gave a bribe to these officers to get something done.

Perceived extent of corruption in public school admissions



Base: All (1,300)

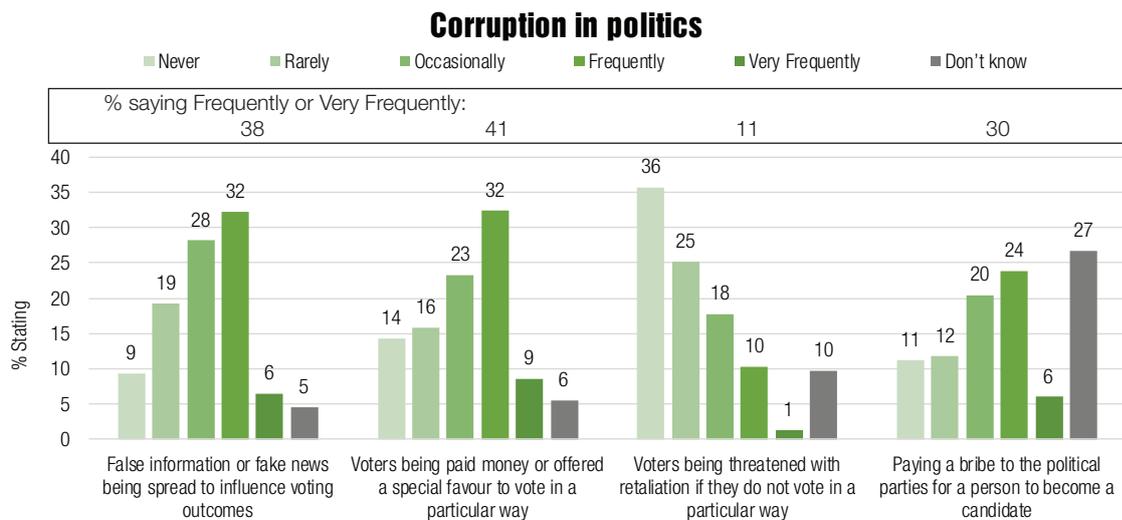
8 CORRUPTION IN POLITICS

8.1 MANIPULATING VOTER BEHAVIOR

Respondents were asked how frequently they perceived corruption to be happening in Sri Lanka with regard to various aspects of election malpractices/voter interference.

Fake news, voter payments and paying a bribe to be a candidate were perceived as being frequently or very frequently prevalent by a third or more.

However, voter intimidation was perceived to be much less prevalent with only 11% saying so.

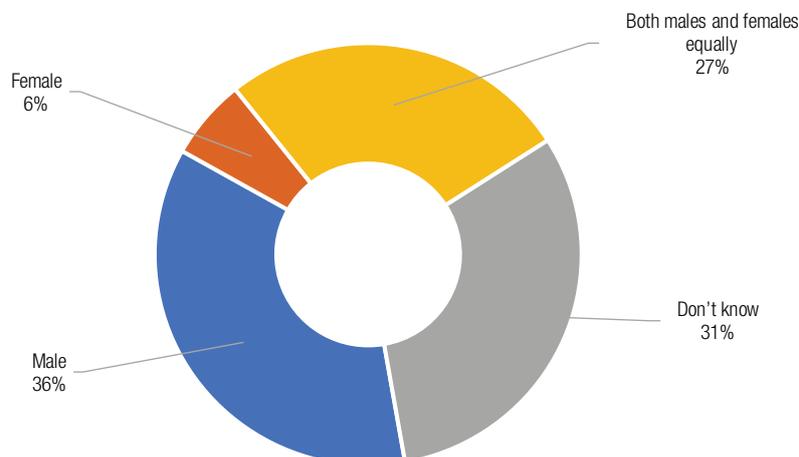


Base: All (1,300)

8.2 WHETHER MALE OR FEMALE CANDIDATES HAVE TO BRIBE THE MOST

Opinion was divided. A third did not know, and a quarter (27%) said both genders had to offer bribes in an equal capacity. Another one third (36%) said that potential male candidates had to bribe the most. A bribe can be defined as dishonestly persuading someone to act in one's favour by a gift of money or other inducement.

Whether male or female potential candidates have to pay bribes the most



Base: All (1,300)

9 EXTENT TO WHICH CORRUPTION BY POLITICIANS OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IS CONSIDERED PREVALENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC EXAMPLES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

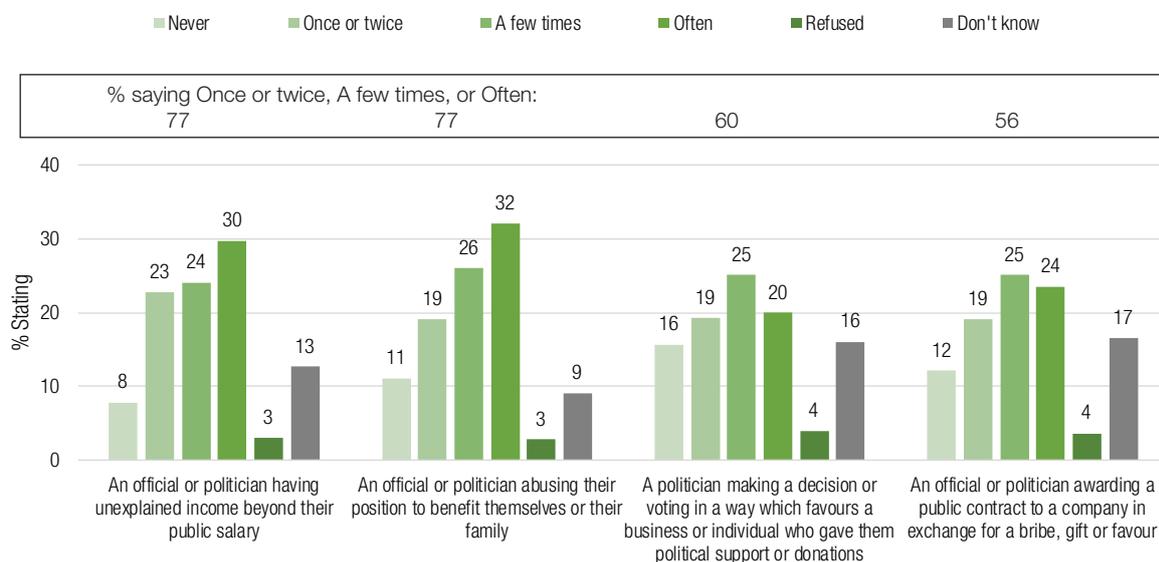
Respondents were asked how many times in the last 12 months, they had personally witnessed or suspected, a government official or politician of (1) having unexplained income beyond their public salary (2) abusing their position to benefit themselves or their family (3) making a decision or voting in a way which favoured a business or individual who gave them political support or donations and (4) awarding a public contract to a company in exchange for a bribe, gift or favour.

In terms of all of the above, personal experience or suspicion of such corruption was high; with over 50% stating that such practices have happened at least one or twice in the last 12 months.

The highest incidences were those where the official or politician had **unexplained income** and used their positions to **benefit themselves or their families**, both of which were mentioned by 77%.

In section 1.6 (Perceived extent of corruption in specified public and private institutions), 80-90% of respondents perceived that at least some in various political institutions (President and his officials, Prime Minister and his officials, Members of Parliament (MPs) and Local Councilors) were corrupt. MPs were perceived as most corrupt (with 44% saying most or all MPs were corrupt, and 50% saying some MPs were corrupt).

Types of corruption attributed to politicians or government officials in the last 12 months in terms of personal experience or suspicion



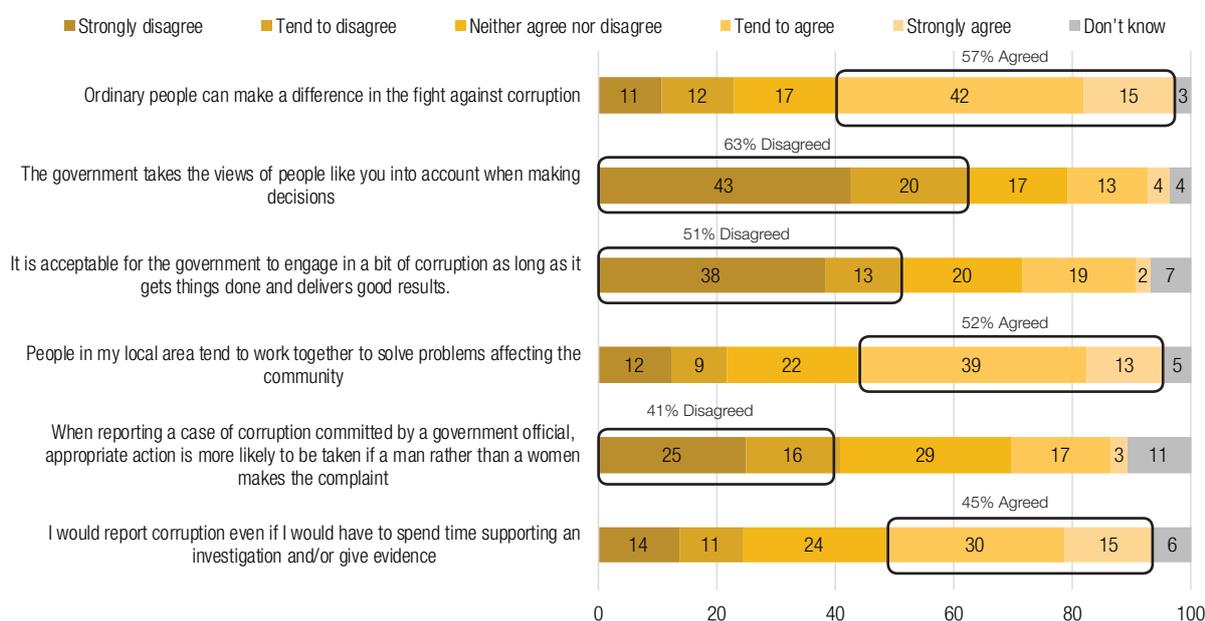
Base: All (1,300)

10 ATTITUDES TOWARDS CORRUPTION AND WILLINGNESS TO COMBAT IT

Respondents were asked to indicate their extent of agreement or disagreement to various opinion statements pertaining to corruption and involvement with political decision making.

At an overall level, there was disapproval with corruption and willingness to personally take action to combat corruption; **but there was also a sense of helplessness/lethargy and even an acceptance of corruption by a large minority**; especially once the ‘Neither agree nor disagree’ responses were included. This sense of helplessness/lethargy and acceptance of corruption could possibly be due to the very high perceived level of corruption among politicians and government officials (see section 9), and a feeling therefore that nothing could be done about this endemic situation.

Attitudes towards corruption and willingness to combat it



Base: All (1,300)

There were no significant differences by gender and region. However, in terms of the statement ‘The government takes views of people like you into account when making decisions’, more young people (aged 18-24) disagreed than those in older age groups.

Age Group Analysis:

‘The government takes views of people like you into account when making decisions’

Age group	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
% saying Disagree (Strongly/tend to)	74	64	62	60	60	59
Base	129	251	334	257	187	142

11 EXTENT OF ACCEPTABILITY OF CORRUPTION UNDER SPECIFIC SITUATIONS

For each of the five statements pertaining to examples of corruption, respondents were asked to indicate their level of acceptance on a '0' (Completely Unacceptable) to '10' (Completely Acceptable) scale.

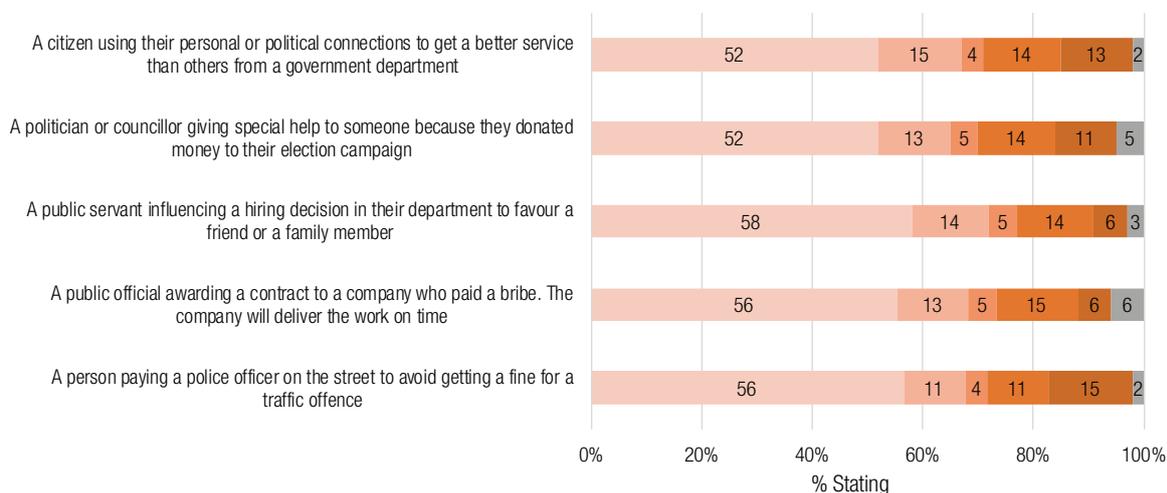
As can be seen in the chart below, about half said each of the situations were **Highly Unacceptable (0-1)**, and a further 10-15% said each situation was Unacceptable (2-4). Hence 60-70% rejected corruption in these specific examples, and a further 4-5% were non-committal (5 rated).

Only 20-25% said that each of these situations were Acceptable or Highly Acceptable (by selecting 6- 10).

Therefore, despite some level of acceptance of the extent of corruption in section 10 (Attitudes towards corruption and willingness to combat it); when exposed to specific examples of types of corruption, the vast majority found corruption to be unacceptable.

Level of acceptability of corruption

■ Highly Unacceptable (0-1) ■ Unacceptable (2-4) ■ Neither Unacceptable nor Acceptable (5) ■ Acceptable (6-8) ■ Highly Acceptable (9-10) ■ No response



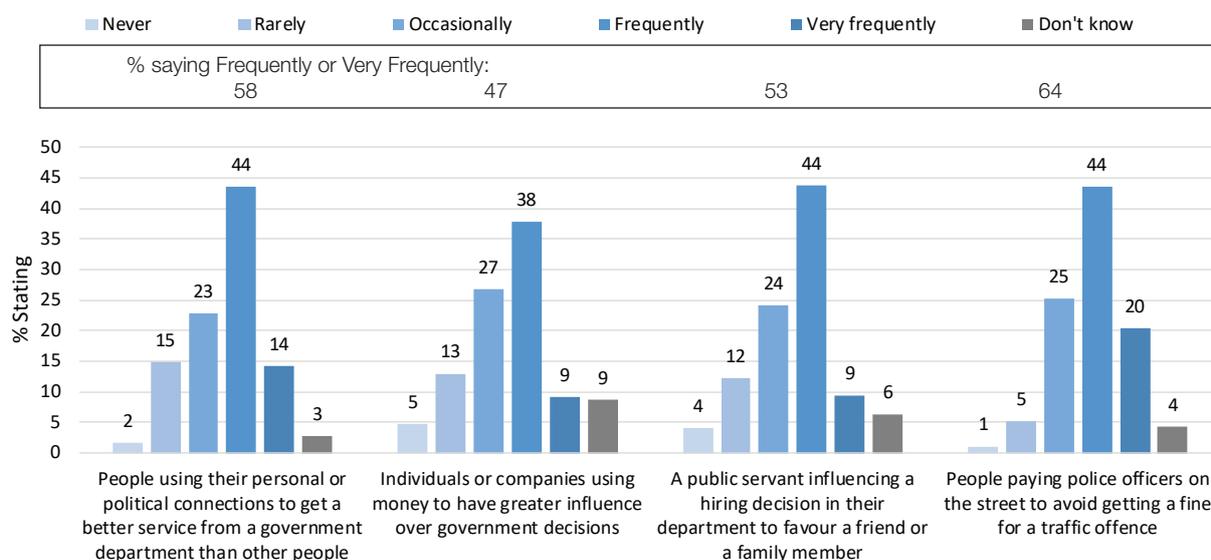
Base: All (1,300)

12 PERCEPTIONS OF MALPRACTICES IN POLITICS, THE PUBLIC SECTOR, AND LAW & ORDER

Respondents were asked how often they thought that specific types of malpractices happened in Sri Lanka.

As shown below, perceptions of malpractice were high in all these cases, with about 50% or more saying each of these malpractices were occurring frequently or very frequently. The highest perceptions of such transgressions were payment of bribes to traffic police (64% agreed this happens frequently/very frequently).

Perceptions of malpractices in politics, the public sector, and law & order



There was a higher percentage of negative perception of police corruption (Ref. section 1.6) among the 64% (832 respondents) who said that paying police officers to avoid traffic fines was a frequent or very frequent occurrence. As shown below, 45% of them said most or all in the police were corrupt.

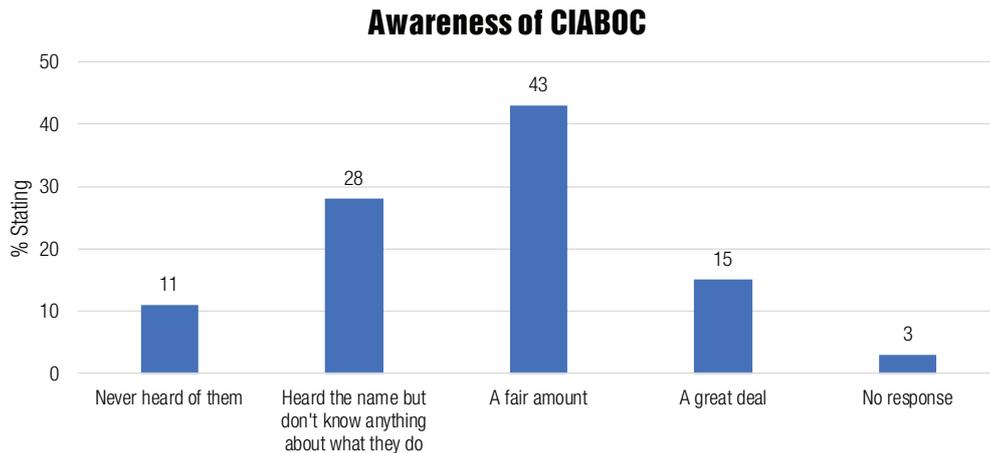
However, 29% mentioned most/all police officers are corrupt.

Cross analysis of response to statement on perceived corruption in the police (Ref. section 1.6)

Down %		Response to the statement 'People paying police officers on the street to avoid getting a fine for a traffic offence'		
		Never/Rarely/Occasionally (n=412)	Frequently/Very Frequently (n=832)	Total Sample (n=1,300)
Response to statement on perceived corruption in the police (Section 1.6)	None/Some are corrupt	67%	54%	58%
	Most/All are corrupt	29%	45%	39%
	Don't know	4%	1%	4%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

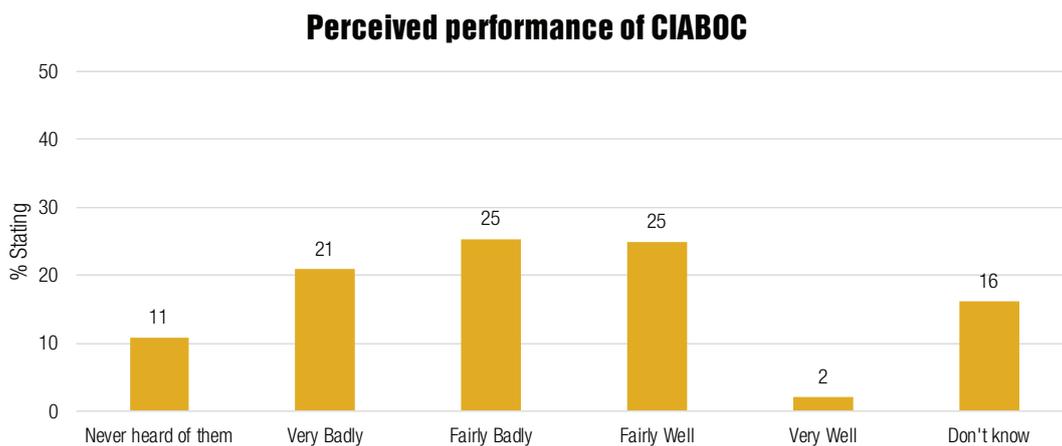
13 AWARENESS AND PERCEIVED PERFORMANCE OF THE COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY OR CORRUPTION (CIABOC)

Respondents were asked how much, if anything, they knew about the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC). Awareness was as high as 86%, and over half (58%) said they knew a fair amount or a great deal about CIABOC.



Base: All (1,300)

Respondents were then asked how they thought CIABOC was doing in relation to fighting corruption in this country. Responses were more negative than positive with 46% saying 'Doing Badly or Fairly Badly' and 27% saying 'Fairly Well or Very Well'.



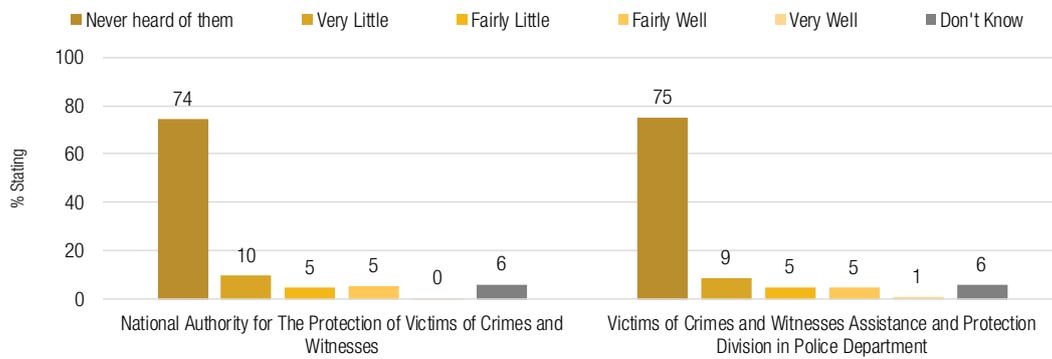
Base: All (1,300)

14 AWARENESS AND USE OF SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF CRIMES AND WITNESSES, AND THE VICTIMS OF CRIMES AND WITNESSES ASSISTANCE & PROTECTION DIVISION IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Respondents were asked if they were aware of these two institutions and the extent to which they had sought their services.

Three fourths had never heard of either of these institutions and only about 5% said they were fairly well aware of them.

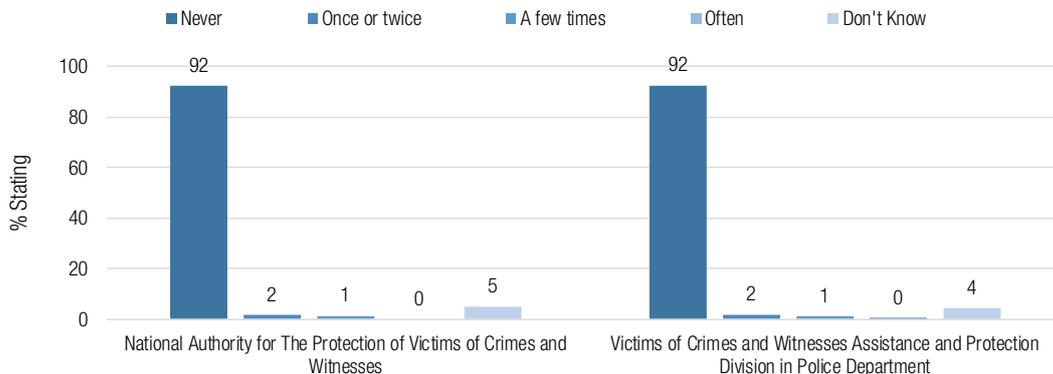
Extent of awareness



Base: All (1,300)

When asked the extent to which they had sought the services of these institutions, about 3% said they had done so.⁸

Extent of seeking services



Base: All (1,300)

8. The numbers who had sought out these institutions were too low in order to ascertain the extent to which they received the required assistance.

15 OVERALL BRIBERY VARIABLE FOR SRI LANKA

Bribe is defined as the offering, promising, giving accepting or soliciting of an advantage as an inducement for an action which is illegal, unethical or a breach of trust. Inducement can take the form of gifts, loans, fees, rewards or other advantages (taxes, services, donations, favours etc.).⁹

The “overall bribery variable” indicates what the overall bribery rate is for Sri Lanka. Two versions of the variable have been calculated below.

VERSION 1: OVERALL BRIBERY VARIABLE FOR SRI LANKA

This shows the percentage of people who paid a bribe, based on the total sample surveyed.

		Column Valid N %
Bribe	No contact	22%
	Contact, no bribe	66%
	Contact, paid bribe	13%

VERSION 2: OVERALL BRIBERY VARIABLE FOR SRI LANKA

This shows the percentage of people who paid a bribe, where the base consists of only those who had contact with at least one of the six services.

		Column Valid N %
Bribe	Contact, no bribe	84%
	Contact, paid bribe	16%

9. Global Anti-Bribery Guidance - <https://www.antibriberyguidance.org/guidance/5-what-bribery/guidance>

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Corruption in governance is rampant across many areas of administration, ranging from politicians to local government officials, and to a lesser extent among school principals and school administrators. With most respondents saying that corruption in government is a large problem, and half the respondents saying that the government was inept at dealing with this, it is evident that tackling corruption in its many forms should be of utmost priority in both the political establishment as well as among government, local government officials and administrators.

Amongst those who had dealt with the police in the last 12 months (21% of all respondents), as many as a quarter had paid bribes to police officers. This was the highest level of corruption being experienced among the six state institutions covered in the research (on the aspect of first-hand experience with bribery). Interestingly, despite the high level of perception and direct experience of corruption in the police, over half of the respondents trusted the police. While the belief that police officers are frequently paid bribes for traffic offenses appears to have contributed to the high level of perceived corruption, the high degree of trust in the police could be attributed to the perception of the police force in general.

At the other end of the scale, the report indicates that there is a high degree of trust among Sri Lankans in the Courts. This is a reassuring sentiment as it indicates that in the experience of the public the Courts are doing a good job and acting in a fair manner. However, this response does not take into account the long delays in the legal system that most experience.

Moreover, the first-hand experience of paying bribes was lowest (among these six state institutions) in interactions with public clinics/hospitals. Among the 60% who had contact with public clinics or hospitals in the last 12 months, only 5% admitted to having paid a bribe during this period.

The Overall Bribery Variable for Sri Lanka (calculated using the incidence of paying bribes in these six state institutions) was 13%. The relatively low first-hand experience of corruption among those interacting with clinics/hospitals has cushioned this variable to a fairly large extent.

Among those interacting with state officials, the very high incidence of payment of bribes for getting work done in government offices, either when directly

asked to do so (mentioned by 9% of those who paid a bribe) or as a 'voluntary' payment to get work done/expedited (mentioned by 70% of those who paid a bribe), indicates that the norm is payment rather than non-payment of a bribe.

Three key constraints to tackling corruption in the public sector are (a) fear of reprisals (b) low spontaneous awareness of official channels to report corruption and (c) low degree of certainty that action would be taken.

- Almost half were concerned about reporting incidences of bribery due to a fear of reprisals.
- The low degree of certainty that action would be taken on reports of corruption indicates that the general public would need to be convinced of effective action being taken, if measures taken to combat corruption are to be successful.

Sextortion by public officials (in return for granting a government benefit) is extensive in terms of direct or second-hand experiences. Over 60% had first-hand experience with demands for sexual favors or knew of those who had experienced requests for sexual favors. Here too, the same issues as in reporting bribery need to be addressed viz. fear of reprisals and low awareness of channels to make complaints.

While a minority (less than 20%) believed that corruption in the private sector was a problem, half the respondents concurred that the perception of corruption was much higher for climate change and disaster management activities. With Sri Lanka having experienced many natural disasters over the lifetime of many citizens- from the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 to frequent floods, droughts and landslides that occur annually- it is likely that this perception is more about corruption being high in disaster management rather than with climate change aspects. Climate change concerns are not as widely reported in the media, unlike coverage on natural disasters.

While voter intimidation appears to be low, election malpractices including spreading of fake news and voters being paid to vote for a particular candidate are key areas of concern. These are entrenched aspects of Sri Lankan politics and would require high level of political support from party leaders and/or presidential candidates to be effectively addressed, and further fortified by strong legal intervention if necessary.

Although there is disapproval with corruption and a lack of willingness by the majority to personally take action to combat corruption, there was also a sense of indifference or even an acceptance of corruption by over a quarter of the respondents (in general, as well as in terms of specific illustrative examples). This unwillingness to want to act could possibly be due to the very high perceived level of corruption among politicians and government officials, and a feeling therefore that nothing can be done about this pervasive situation.

Transparency International Sri Lanka proposes the following recommendations to address the issues discussed in this report in order to prevent and combat corruption in Sri Lanka. Firstly, TISL calls Sri Lanka's main Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA), the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC), to strengthen and expedite the implementation of its two-year National Action Plan to eradicate corruption. This should pay special attention to preventing the occurrences of corruption through public awareness programs while building public faith and confidence in the existing complaint mechanism. CIABOC needs to understand the needs of the public as consumers of the services provided by them and ensure that the public is aware of the procedural elements of the complaint mechanism.

The second is that considering the fact that climate change/disaster management is one of the key areas of focus under SDG's, the relevant stakeholders should adopt/implement effective, transparent and unified climate change/disaster management systems to minimize the risk of corruption. Furthermore, corruption is one of the key factors that could have a detrimental impact on the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals. Identifying these risk and addressing them by the all sectors will play a crucial role going forward.

The use of technology and communication solutions is one of the key ways in which corruption has been addressed in other parts of the world. Sri Lanka need to adopt such systems and promote principles of open governance where transparency and accountability is built into the culture and corruption is not tolerated.

While the Government of Sri Lanka needs to adopt and practice a 'zero tolerance for corruption' approach, it is also vital that as a society corruption and impunity is rejected. TISL calls on all stakeholders, especially the public, to join forces to prevent and combat corruption.

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