

Perception of corruption from school minds: an investigation conducted in students of school research seedlings

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Abstract— Young people in schools perceive corruption as a problem that affects their life project. The objective of this investigation was to determine the perception of schoolchildren who are educated on corruption in national educational institutions. Methodology: quantitative, descriptive, cross-sectional and non-experimental design approach. This study involved 95 schoolchildren between 14 and 17 years of age of both sexes. In order to collect data, a survey was applied with 27 items, made up of political, economic and social dimensions. The instrument was submitted to expert judgement and with a reliability of 0.89. The results obtained show that there is a high perception of corruption in the political and economic dimension and a medium level of corruption in the social dimension. It is concluded that most schoolchildren perceive high political, economic and social corruption affecting both public and private institutions. This phenomenon has also increased, putting the economy at risk and raising the levels of material poverty and values in society. It suggests the participation and commitment of the family, schools and society to promote a frontal fight against corruption, which must be eradicated in order to generate equality, inclusion and well-being among the population.

Index Terms— *Corruption, ethics, investigation, paradigm, perception, school children, seedbeds.*

1 INTRODUCTION

THIS investigation reflects the perception of the feeling and living of the young school-children of the secondary level, about corruption in Peru. It is necessary to specify that the young schoolchildren, who participated in this study, belong to a group of research seedlings and that they continuously attend interactive classes at the Universidad César Vallejo, place where it has become an educational space where school research skills are promoted, being a propitious opportunity to analyze the Peruvian context, discuss and propose alternative solutions to various situations, which involve the economic, social and cultural activities of the country through research. Given this panorama, several questions were raised about the problems that occur in our country, for this purpose, a list of problems highlighting corruption was provided to school adolescents. Thus initiating research on perception and how they approach from the school mind their approaches, perceptions and give possible solutions

It is necessary to conceptualize that corruption is seen as a latent problem something daily with what they have to live with and from their point of view, it must be eradicated, since they consider it an obstacle to the development of the country [1]. On the other hand, corruption is defined as the constant practice of using power that gives it its functions, information and means for economic exploitation or personal interests or of its managers.

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This problem is difficult to detect and define being complex its

meas-urement of the impact it produces in society [2; 3], whose origin is difficult to recog-nize with precision [4].

At an international and national context, citizens constantly receive daily reports on news in the media, such as radio, television, newspapers, magazines, internet, and social networks, on illegal payments, extortion, bribery, and abuse of power, fraud, money laundering money, embezzlement, and nepotism, among other corruption issues. The probable causes are: inefficiency, social inequality, lack of education and the absence of ethical values. This generates poor distribution of resources, destruction of professionalism, consolidation of bureaucracy, income is reduced, and a culture of corruption is generated [5]. Young school students identify, analyze and understand from their vision that it is necessary to make proposals to eradicate corruption, in the economic, political and social aspect from their perception.

It should be noted that young schoolchildren do not intervene directly in politics, but the effect of corruption rests with them, which come from schools that depend on the government. They also do not participate in electoral campaigns, but see how politicians design their future through structural designs without the opportunity to express themselves. They are one year after graduating from schools and what they want to inherit is a country free of corruption.

In the process of designing this investigation, the term corruption we find anomie, which refers to the individual who needs to know and experience new ways of managing based on personal or group interests ignoring the rules and laws in time they lose force when these actions are known to stay [6] and etymologically the word anomie means absence of laws.

Analyzing about the term we can express ourselves in the moral dimension that is to say with the absence of norms. Then people act morally when they have incorporated norms that guide their behavior, and if anomie enters then there is absence of moral criteria.

Also, Durkheim [6], expressed that when there is the external influence of power to coerce actions before people; in time it is transparent and is visualized through the sanctions obtained by the fraud, it is called crime as a social fact.

These expressions are similar to those of Merton [7], who developed the theory of anomie and defined it as a deviant behavior, as a normal reaction to the contradictions of social structures. However, there are positions that show that corruption occurs according to social strata. Huertas, Trujillo and Silvera quote about the theory of subcultures, stating that there are different levels of code of values in different social classes [8].

Internationally, authors such as Cruz [9].report that corruption violates the rights of users and parents. On the other hand, in Colombia, Rodríguez [10].points out that corruption is a problem that directly affects the confidence that people may have to continue assuming positions in different social, political, economic spheres, among others. The author proposes that the student has the experience of living a challenge in the school life, where they apply the values inside and outside the classroom assumed with responsibility, commitment and ethical principles within the members that make up, added to the values received in the family.

Given the above, other researchers argue that corruption is a human behavior that lacks values. This is the case of Diez [11], who shows that dishonesty is directly linked to corruption. Likewise, Sánchez [12] expresses that corruption has to be avoided to eliminate the negative consequences that affect the development of a country. Likewise, Cardona, Ortiz and Vásquez [13] consider that, the greater the corruption, the less civil rights, the lower the probability of enjoying economic and social rights, the life expectancy, GDP per capita and electoral rights are reduced. This reaffirms it, Shabbir, Abbas, Aman and Ali who in their study establish that there is a strong and positive relationship between poverty and corruption [14].

In Peru, corruption problems in different contexts have been experienced in recent years, which has been causing concern; also [14], 52% of citizens state that one of the three most serious problems they face is the feeling of corruption behind tenders, licenses, procedures, among others. As a consequence of this situation, there is a weakening in the business investment work environments, creating a distortion of incentives, resulting in inefficient decisions for management.

Also, it is argued that determining the crimes of corruption of officials such as the crime of collusion provided for in article 384 ° of the Criminal Code affects the rule of law in Peru, it is convenient to increase the penalties in the crime of collusion to reduce the high incidents in this regard [14].

2 METHODOLOGY

This research can be defined as quantitative, applied, descriptive, cross sectional and non experimental design. The study population was made up of fourth year school children of regular education, secondary level from various districts of Lima (Lima North area), who attend the Saturday classes of

the School Research Seedlings Program organized by the César Vallejo University, and who It is taught by professors of the re-search direction of said university, on the Lima North campus; the population was made up of 95 young schoolchildren between 14 and 17.

During the first module of the study program, issues related to problems that afflict their environment were discussed, one of them being corruption, an issue that was subsequently approached from various angles, discussing its causes and effects at different levels, and then picking up of information through the survey technique, and through the instrument of a questionnaire that consisted of 27 items, divided into three dimensions: political, economic and social, information was collected. The answers were dichotomous.

Regarding the political dimension, it had three indicators: concentration of power, wealth associated with impunity and values as the basis for public decisions. The economic dimension had three indicators: social inequality, resource allocation and educational investment. The social dimension had three indicators: social inequality, individual behavior and morality.

The instrument was submitted to 4 expert judges, who assessed the items of the instrument and with a reliability of 0.89; also, respecting ethical considerations such as the anonymity of their responses. The instrument was applied in an approximate time of 20 minutes in each classroom three in total, under the tutelage of the teacher who read the instructions and how to answer according to their criteria. The data was analyzed in the statistical program SPSS version 22 for the presentation of the results.

3 SECTIONS

Table 1. Sex by age

			Sex		Total
			Male	Female	
Politics	Low	Count	8	15	23
		% of the total	25.0%	23.8%	24.2%
Mediu	m	Count	16	26	42
		% of the total	50.0%	41.3%	44.2%
High		Count	8	22	30
		% of the total	25.0%	34.9%	31.6%
Total		Count	32	63	95
		% of the total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 1 shows the number of school youth surveyed 95 in total, of which 30.6% were 14 years old, 58.9% were 15, 9.5% were 16 and 1.1% were 17 years old. Likewise, it is distinguished that the percentage of men was 33.7% and women 66.3%. The first dimension of the corruption variable was the Policy, which was constituted by 3 indicators (concentration of power, wealth associated with impunity and values) as the basis for public decisions, consisting of 9 questions.

Table 2. Level of perception of schoolchildren towards the political dimension.

Inte ISSI	Politics	Level	Count	Sex		Total
				Male	Female	
	Low	Count	8	15	23	
		% of the total	25.0%	23.8%	24.2%	
	Medium	Count	16	26	42	
		% of the total	50.0%	41.3%	44.2%	
	High	Count	8	22	30	
		% of the total	25.0%	34.9%	31.6%	
Total	Count	32	63	95		
	% of the total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

The results of Table 2 show that young men and women both perceive that the political dimension has a medium level, since 44.2% considers it, a second level was high, represented by 31.6% and finally 24.2% perceives a low level in the political dimension.

The second dimension of the corruption variable was economic, which consisted of 3 indicators (social inequality, resource allocation, and educational investment) consisting of 9 questions.

Table 3. Level of perception of schoolchildren towards the economic dimension.

	Economic	Level	Count	Sex		Total
				Male	Female	
	Low	Count	7	21	28	
		% of the total	7.4%	22.1%	29.5%	
	Medium	Count	24	38	62	
		% of the total	25.3%	40.0%	65.3%	
	High	Count	1	4	5	
		% of the total	1.1%	4.2%	5.3%	
Total	Count	32	63	95		
	% of the total	33.7%	66.3%	100.0%		

The results in Table 3 show that young men and women both perceive that the economic dimension has a medium level, since 65.3% considers it, a second level was low, represented by 29.5% and finally a 5.3% perceive a high level over the economic dimension.

Table 4. Level of perception of schoolchildren towards the social dimension.

	Social	Level	Count	Sex		Total
				Male	Female	
	Low	Count	4	20	24	
		% of the total	4.2%	21.1%	25.3%	
	Medium	Count	23	38	62	
		% of the total	24.2%	40.0%	64.2%	
	High	Count	5	5	10	
		% of the total	5.3%	5.3%	10.5%	
Total	Count	32	63	95		
	% of the total	33.7%	66.3%	100.0%		

The results of Table 4 show that young men and women both perceive that the social dimension has a medium level, since 64.2% considers it, a second level was low, represented by 25.3% and finally, 10.5% perceive a high level of the social dimension. The third dimension of the corruption variable was social that was constituted by 3 indicators (social inequality, individual behavior and morality) constituted by 9 questions.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The purpose of the study was to determine levels of perception about corruption from the school stage, the sample consisted of 95 secondary school students, who suffer the consequences of corruption, it should be noted that they are schoolchildren who come from public educational institutions.

The results showed that they perceive a medium level towards the political, economic and social dimension, highlighting the economic dimension with 65.3%, then secondly the social dimension with 64.2% and finally the political dimension with 44.2%. In order to present alternatives for possible solutions, the young schoolchildren had to analyze and internalize the concept of corruption, and the areas in which they operate in such a way that they describe the consequences with ease.

Today, young school-children can analyze each dimension and propose alternatives of possible solutions from their environment, since it is a badly entrenched in society.

Young schoolchildren identify that the levels of corruption are developed in three areas, political, economic and social, that people use the position granted by the government for personal gain and that has consequences for third parties.

Young school students believe that the Peruvian government is responsible for ensuring and granting functions to suitable persons for the position, and with experience in public management since the lack of inadequate knowledge in management is causal and has affected public administration through inefficient processes and with a high level of corruption.

The conclusions raised coincide with Taguenca and Lugo [1], who states that corruption is a limitation in the country's growth. Young schoolchildren express their disagreement in the environment and in the environment that they develop due to the causes and consequences of their deficiencies in their basic needs to develop as a person in their personal and family life project, even if the government provides the financial contribution so that its educational institution has the conditions among them cleaning, painting, permanent maintenance, it was lost somewhere in the vicious circle of the bureaucracy and does not arrive at the right time or simply does not arrive. But this evil that is suggested to eradicate will not disappear from one day to another is a constant struggle from the family environment as Rodriguez [10] states, who emphasizes that the family is a cornerstone in the formation of human values of a society.

When young people suffer the consequences, they experience that they are less likely to enjoy the economic benefits offered by the government as expressed by Cardona, Ortiz and Vásquez [3].

For this, it is necessary to increase the penalties in a greater number of years, for the crime of peculation, according to the position of Shabbir, Abbas, Aman and Ali [4], since the embezzlement of funds always affects third parties, in this case the young students of public institutions. In any of the three areas, economic and social policy, one has to work from the family environment, from his personal and academic training, and not be dragged by the maelstrom that manipulates and misrepresents the roads.

Regarding the political dimension, adolescents mostly think that for the election of a candidate or authority that assumes the public exercise, they consider that they must have a transparent resume to assume the responsibilities required by the work profile to guarantee management public. In relation to the economic dimension, adolescents perceive that acts of corruption in most cases are considered as errors or induction to manage budgets that exceed the real value of public works. For the social dimension, schoolchildren propose to modify the actions and attitudes within the school environment or others, starting from home, proposing activities with their parents and family, friends, neighbors and radiate to their environment free of corruption. Among the specific activities we have to avoid and eliminate the purchase of pirated products, always pay the ticket and not avoid it, and not pay to accelerate a process that has to be fulfilled in a set time.

Finally, it is suggested that both the Peruvian government and the general population identify, value and repudiate acts of corruption in order to build new environments of good value practices within the family and society. It is important to point out that the new generations highlight the need to select an integral and suitable person to assume public positions, In addition to accessing and incorporating the population to participate as veterans in the preventive care of institutions specialized in public and private management to avoid some kind of corruption.

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