

## PERCEPTIONS OF INDONESIAN UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION ACADEMICS ON CORRUPTION AND INTEGRITY OF CITIZENSHIP

Alya Zahra Rahma Putri<sup>1, a</sup>, Aurevia Videlya Devanata<sup>2, b</sup>, Fathimah Zahrah Lazmi<sup>3, c</sup>, Salwa Rasyidah Muthmaina<sup>4, d</sup>, Syawaliah<sup>5, e</sup>, Dadi Mulyadi Nugraha<sup>6, f</sup>

<sup>1-5</sup> Library and Information Science, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia

<sup>6</sup> Pancasila and Civic Education, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia

<sup>a</sup> alyszhraaa45@upi.edu\*; <sup>b</sup> aurevia.dev03@upi.edu

\* Corresponding Author

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

25 Oktober 2024 : Submitted

1 Nov 2024 - 30 Feb 2025 : Revised

01 February 2025 : Accepted

15 February 2025 : Available online

#### Kata Kunci:

1. Pencegahan Korupsi
2. Hukum Internasional
3. Ratifikasi

#### Keywords:

1. Corruption
2. civic integrity
3. anti-corruption education
4. student role
5. legal system

**ABSTRAK:** Studi ini mengamati perspektif mahasiswa tentang korupsi dan integritas sipil di Indonesia melalui survei terhadap 24 mahasiswa aktif. Survei tersebut mencakup aspek-aspek seperti kesadaran akan korupsi, pentingnya integritas pribadi, dan peran mahasiswa dalam memerangi korupsi. Mayoritas responden mengakui pentingnya integritas dalam kehidupan sehari-hari, menunjukkan pemahaman yang wajar tentang isu-isu korupsi, dan mengakui peran penting mahasiswa dalam upaya antikorupsi. Namun, ada skeptisisme mengenai efektivitas sistem hukum Indonesia dalam menangani korupsi. Temuan tersebut menggarisbawahi perlunya peningkatan pendidikan tentang bahaya korupsi, penguatan nilai-nilai integritas, dan seruan untuk penegakan hukum yang lebih transparan dan ketat.

**Kata kunci:** Korupsi; integritas sipil; pendidikan antikorupsi; peran mahasiswa; sistem hukum.

**ABSTRACT:** This study observes university students' perspectives on corruption and civic integrity in Indonesia through a survey of 24 active students. The survey covered aspects such as awareness of corruption, the importance of personal integrity, and the role of students in combating

corruption. The majority of respondents acknowledge the importance of integrity in daily life, demonstrate a fair understanding of corruption issues, and recognize a significant role for students in anti-corruption efforts. However, skepticism exists regarding the effectiveness of Indonesia's legal system in addressing corruption. The findings underscore the need for enhanced education on the dangers of corruption, the reinforcement of integrity values, and a call for more transparent and rigorous law enforcement.

**Keywords:** Corruption; civic integrity; anti-corruption education; student role; legal system.

### INTRODUCTION

Corruption comes from the latin word *corruptio* or *corruptus* which means: rotten, damaged, destabilizing, twisting, bribing. Corruption is a person's action to benefit himself or others in a way that harms others. Based on Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning Eradication of Corruption (Indonesia) that corruption is the act of every person who unlawfully commits an act of enriching himself or herself or another person or a corporation that can harm state finances or the state economy.

On the base of the material, corruption is not only a financial crime but it has serious impacts on public truthfulness and institution credibility. According to Prabowo et al. (2018), corruption is one of the causes of reduced public confidence in government organizations, thus declining chances for people to have confidence In public sectors. Such sentiment brings into focus corruption as having been around for thousands of years and that therefore it is not exclusive to the modern society.

Issues of corruption have always accompanied the dynamics of people's lives with different intensities at different times. Ancient records of this have taken place thousands of years ago, where corruption was carried out by state officials in the form of bribery, in Egypt, Babylonia, Hebrew, India, China, Greece and Ancient Rome are forms of corruption found in those times.

The corrupt practices of these officials have eroded credibility, delegitimize the continuity of the political life of the government and caused very high economic and political costs. Abuse of power such as political corruption has the effect of reducing the credibility of the government both nationally and internationally which has harmed people's lives. This is what, according to Scott (2012) is a mismanaged state, where in a mismanaged state there is no bigger problem than the problem of poverty, which is the result of rampant corruption by state officials.

However, it is imperative to appreciate the fact that corruption goes beyond financial issues as shown next. Kihl et al. (2018) explain that corruption can have severe negative impacts with negative organizational consequences that include reduced performance and damaged institutional image. This corresponds with the statement that political corruption erodes the authority of the government in the internal and in the external environment.

When public officials engage in acts of corruption, the impact goes far beyond financial loss. At a deeper level, corruption undermines public trust in government. People become skeptical of the government's intentions and ability to perform its duties fairly and transparently. This lost trust is very difficult to restore and requires a long time and consistent effort.

Indonesia, as a developing country, is not free from this problem of political corruption. Since the reform era, various efforts have been made to eradicate corruption, both through the establishment of institutions such as the Corruption Eradication Commission and through legal reforms. However, the challenge remains great as corruption has taken root in various aspects of the life of the nation. Every time a major corruption case comes to light, the effect is a sharp decline in the government's credibility in the eyes of the public.

When it comes to Indonesia, the problems having to do with corruption are especially urgent. Deliberate misuse of the village funds point to the fact that corruption has become well rooted having a negative impact on local governance and developmental agendas, as stated by Hidajat (2024). This shows how corruption impacts negatively on economic growth as well as on the general offer of basic services despite the collective trust that people lay on them.

The public often doubts the government's commitment to eradicating corruption, especially if the perpetrators are high-ranking officials or people who have great influence. In addition, political corruption also has an impact on international perceptions of a country. Foreign investors and the international community tend to be reluctant to invest or participate in cooperation with countries that are considered corrupt. This has a negative impact on the country's economy, hampering economic growth and reducing employment opportunities for people. At the diplomatic level, a country with a corrupt image will find it difficult to gain support and cooperation from other countries, which in turn can affect national political and economic stability.

## METHODS

The method we use is a quantitative method, by collecting data using G-Form. Quantitative method is a research method based on the philosophy of positivism, used to research on certain populations or samples, data collection using research instruments, data analysis is quantitative/artistic, with the aim of testing predetermined hypotheses (Sugiyono, 2019). Data collection was done by survey method using G-Form media. The research scope was limited to 24

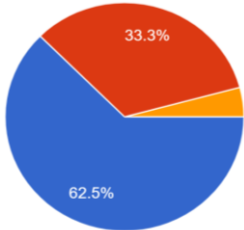
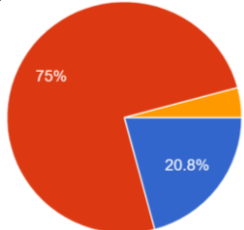
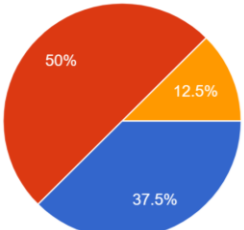
active university students. The G-form contains 4 questions related to the respondent's identity, 9 questions related to awareness of Corruption and Civic Integrity with a total of 13 questions.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

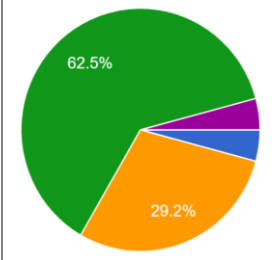
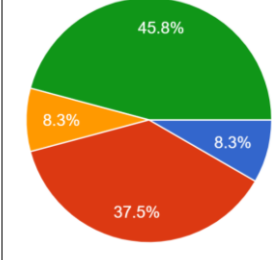
The results and discussion section contains research findings obtained from the research data and hypotheses, the discussion of research results and comparison with similar theories and/or similar research.

#### Table and Figure

**Table 1.** Interview Instrument of Corruption and Civic Integrity

No.	Question	Grapichs	Des
<b>1</b>	How important do you think civic integrity is in everyday life?		Based on the results obtained from respondents on this question, 62.5% answered very important and 33.3% answered important.
<b>2</b>	What is your knowledge of corruption in Indonesia?		Based on the results obtained from respondents on this question, 75% answered quite understand and 20.8% answered very understand.
<b>3</b>	How big a role do you think students play in the fight against corruption?		Based on the results obtained from respondents on this question, 50% answered quite large, 37.5% answered very large and 12.5% answered a little.

<p>4</p> <p>How often do you discuss or hear about corruption issues on your campus?</p>		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Frequency</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Often</td> <td>41.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Very often</td> <td>20.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometimes</td> <td>20.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rarely and never</td> <td>8.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Frequency	Percentage	Often	41.7%	Very often	20.8%	Sometimes	20.8%	Rarely and never	8.3%	<p>Based on the results obtained from respondents on this question, 41.7% answered often, 20.8% answered very often and sometimes, 8.3% answered rarely and never.</p>
Frequency	Percentage												
Often	41.7%												
Very often	20.8%												
Sometimes	20.8%												
Rarely and never	8.3%												
<p>5</p> <p>Do you feel that your personal integrity will affect future corruption eradication efforts?</p>		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Influence</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Very influential</td> <td>41.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quite influential</td> <td>41.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slightly influential</td> <td>12.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Influence	Percentage	Very influential	41.7%	Quite influential	41.7%	Slightly influential	12.5%	<p>Based on the results obtained from respondents on this question, 41.7% of the answers were very influential and quite influential, 12.5% of the answers were slightly influential.</p>		
Influence	Percentage												
Very influential	41.7%												
Quite influential	41.7%												
Slightly influential	12.5%												
<p>6</p> <p>What is your opinion on the punishment given to perpetrators of corruption in Indonesia?</p>		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Opinion</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Too lightly</td> <td>95.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>4.2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Opinion	Percentage	Too lightly	95.8%	Other	4.2%	<p>Based on the results obtained from respondents on this question, 95.8% answered too lightly.</p>				
Opinion	Percentage												
Too lightly	95.8%												
Other	4.2%												
<p>7</p> <p>Do you think students need to get more in-depth education about the dangers of corruption and the importance of integrity?</p>		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Necessity</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Very necessary</td> <td>91.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quite necessary</td> <td>8.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Necessity	Percentage	Very necessary	91.7%	Quite necessary	8.3%	<p>Based on the results of the respondents on this question, 91.7% answered very necessary and 8.3% answered quite necessary.</p>				
Necessity	Percentage												
Very necessary	91.7%												
Quite necessary	8.3%												

<b>8</b>	<p>How much confidence do you have in the Indonesian legal system in handling corruption cases?</p>		<p><i>Based on the results of the respondents on this question, 62.5% did not believe and 29.2% were neutral.</i></p>
<b>9</b>	<p>Have you ever experienced or known actions that lead to corruption on campus?</p>		<p><i>Based on the results of the respondents on this question, 45.8% have never, 37.5% have, sometimes, 8.3% have, often and ever, rarely.</i></p>

A majority of the students demonstrated a high level of quiz knowledge of the concept of individuals as bearing civic integrity as a virtue in communal existence. This awareness is a positive sign for the future of the nation since the students as part of the youthful people are exceptionally positioned to erect the new progressive society which will be noble, transformative, and transparent. But they must turn this understanding into practices at both individual and group levels to contribute to the concrete elimination of corruption.

The understanding of corruption issues among students in Indonesia is fairly good but more should be done to expand students' knowledge about it. The pervasive corruption in society has a deleterious effect on declining trust in law and the rule of law, education, and consequently quality of life, such as access to infrastructure and healthcare (Pustha, 2021). That is why, actions are required like anti-corruption training, seminars, and introductions of integrity values into the educational process. Campuses in particular as learning environments have a critical function in this regard as they offer the learning context within which students are prompted to better perceive the corruption problems and understand their part in fighting it.

The overall findings revealed that most learner participants demonstrated adequate knowledge of the relevance of civic integrity as a primary virtue in public existence. Awareness, as a phenomenon, is positive for the nation's future because students, as representatives of the younger generation, can develop a more just society with greater potential. Still, they need to make contributions to the practical actions in the campaign against corruption on both individual and group levels.

The information obtained in this study indicates that students have extensive knowledge about corruption issues in Indonesia but it is still possible to enhance it. It is for this reason therefore that there is a need to undertake such strategic measures as corruption combating training, seminars, and an education system that embraces integrity values such as anti-corruption education which emerges as an important solution to build integrity, raising awareness of corruption risks and foster critical abilities to navigate situations related to corruption (Arfa, 2023). Campuses in this capacity as a learning institution must play a part in

supporting this initiative by availing learning environments that would enable the students to develop a deeper appreciation of issues of corruption and their roles in the fight against it.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the above observations using the G-form on corruption and integrity, we found that the majority of respondents are aware of the importance of integrity in everyday life, with 62.5% of respondents stating that integrity is very important. Knowledge of corruption cases in Indonesia is also quite high, with 75% of respondents claiming to understand the issue of corruption. Regarding the role of students in the fight against corruption, 50% of respondents believe that students play a significant role and 37.5% believe that the role of students is very significant. However, there are concerns about the legal system for prosecuting corruption, with 62.5% of respondents expressing a lack of confidence in the Indonesian legal system to handle corruption cases.

The conclusion of this observation shows that although there is a good awareness of the importance of integrity and efforts to fight corruption, there is still a lack of trust in the effectiveness of the legal system in dealing with corruption. Therefore, we suggest that education on the dangers of corruption and the importance of integrity should be improved, especially in the university environment.

In addition, the government and legal institutions should be more transparent and strict in enforcing the law, as well as imposing harsher penalties for perpetrators of corruption to strengthen public trust. As students, we play an important role in promoting integrity values by actively educating and involving ourselves in discussions and concrete actions related to corruption eradication.

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