

Research on Chinese-style Corruption Prevention System Based on Mutual Trust

Yao-kui Li

School of Economics and Management
Taishan University
Taian City, China

Abstract—The function of the trust culture in preventing corruption hasn't yet been given enough attention. This study tries to build a corruption prevention system based on mutual trust between power bodies. We introduced the theory of trust management into the field of Chinese-style anti-corruption and analyzed the causes of corruption from the perspective of lack of mutual trust among power bodies. And we think building an mutual trust mechanism among power bodies is an effective way to prevent corruption. The corruption prevention system based on mutual trust is conducive to the integration of power bodies participation, culture guidance and institution constraints in the corruption prevention. The Chinese-style corruption prevention system based on mutual trust can help to realize the unification of anti-corruption and good governance, and it has the same reference for other countries.

Keywords—*Mutual trust; Trust culture; Corruption prevention; Power operation*

I. INTRODUCTION

Corruption and pollution have become the two major difficult global governance problems in twenty-first century. The deep restraining factors of Chinese-style anti-corruption are more and more obvious. Some people even think that Chinese-style anti-corruption is perhaps like throwing a brick across a wall or just like a gust of wind. These opinions have also derived the phenomenon of "neither corruption nor action". All these not only illustrate the seriousness of anti-corruption but also reflect that anti-corruption faces many potential challenges caused by distrust. The traditional view holds that the lack of public trust will lead to corruption, corruption will reduce political trust, and political trust can be promoted by anti-corruption [1]. However, the function of the trust culture itself in preventing corruption hasn't yet been given enough attention. The lack of mutual trust between power bodies will lead to corruption [2], and mutual trust between power bodies can help to prevent corruption. The corruption prevention mechanism based on mutual trust can rectify the tendency of weakening the power source of anti-corruption in current theoretical research, and it can promote the instant and synergy of anti-corruption in practice.

II. ANALYZING THE CAUSES OF CHINESE-STYLE CORRUPTION BASED ON THE LACK OF MUTUAL TRUST

A. *The Lack of Mutual Trust between Power Bodies Leads to Corrupt Power Culture*

Lack of public trust can lead to corruption. If Party organizations don't trust the wisdom of the ordinary Party members and the masses, the ordinary Party members and the masses won't be allowed to participate in governance, and this will easily lead to bureaucracy, formalism or other work malversation. Some leading cadres don't believe in the wisdom of the masses, nor do they believe in the supervising ability of the masses. They turn the public power into their own and do whatever they want.

If the superiors don't trust or authorize the lower levels, it is easy to breed exclusive corruption. If the ordinary Party members and the masses don't trust the governance ability of the Party organizations and leading cadres, they won't cooperate and will turn a blind eye to corruption, and this will lead to the breeding and spreading of corruption.

If the masses or the lower-level cadres don't believe that the superiors will listen to their suggestions, they will be lazy to participate in the relevant affairs, and everything will be decided by the superiors. If they don't believe that the superiors will do anything impartially, they will speculate for their own benefit, and even more, they will try to "trap" the leaders and entice the leaders into corruption in order to achieve their goal.

The internal corruption in the government system is mainly in the personnel field, which appears buying and selling the official position. The deep reason is that the seller doesn't believe their power will be challenged or the relevant laws and regulations will really punish them. The corruption between the superior government and the lower-level government mainly appears the abuse of the approval right, and some examiners take the approval right as a tool for seeking their private interest. The examiner doesn't believe the applicant will "break the news", and the applicant doesn't believe the examiner will also examine and approve impartially without any private interest. Corruption in the cross field of government system and social system is mainly in the field of resource allocation, which appears such fields as public bidding, procurement, approval and so on. Businessmen in the social system don't believe government

officials will do anything impartially, so they try to find acquaintances to help them obtain a "national treatment". As a result, the lack of mutual trust between power bodies leads to the prevalence of corruption culture.

Generally speaking, distrust culture will lead to alienated view of power, and the alienated view of power will lead to the lack of public trust and the flood of special trust [3]. And thus, the corrupt soil forms.

B. The Lack of Mutual Trust between Power Bodies Breeds Corruption Easily in the Process of Power Operation

There is no cooperation without trust. In the process of power operation, the power bodies are independent just like pigeon cages because of the spread of the distrust culture. The masses and even the superiors and the lower-level cadres are excluded from the operation of power. Because of lack of process supervision, some leading cadres behave lawlessly and their corruption is shocking.

In practice, a variety of anti-corrosion measures are taken such as government affairs opening, the control mechanism of the risk point of the honest and clean government, open operation of power, power list system, cancellation or decentralization of administrative examination and approval power, and anti-corruption has achieved unprecedented good results. In essence, the purpose of these measures is to reduce corruption and improve the performance of social governance by building the trust relationship between the power bodies, but there are still some shortcomings. For example, government affairs opening is questioned by the public, because the process of the government affairs is always opaque even though the results of the government affairs are open. Power list system and open operation of power often "appear" publicly, but they seldom "perform" publicly. Even if they "perform" publicly, they often lack mutual with the masses. The body positions of the people are weakened, still resulting in a great deal of corruption. These phenomena prove that the existing opening mechanism is not enough to prevent corruption. If the public aren't involved in the process of power operation, there will be no real trust between them and the government system. The risk of corruption will go on.

C. The Lack of Mutual Trust between Power Bodies Leads to Invalid Institution Anti-corruption and Even Corruption According to the Law

Leading cadres dare to corrupt because they don't believe in the seriousness of the system. If the institution designers don't believe the leading cadres have the desire of hunting for their own benefit, they will ignore supervising the leading cadres strictly when they design the relevant institutions. The leading cadres will dare to corrupt because of lack of institution supervision. Public servants' ignoring the institution and regulations is an important factor leading to corruption. On the other hand, the officials who have intentions of corrupting don't believe the relevant laws and regulations will really punish them, and they only believe power is above law. They are trapped in the whirlpool of corruption and can't break away from it. Corruption according to the law means that some leading cadres dare to corrupt within the scope of

their discretionary power [4]. These behaviors seem not to break the law, but they deviate from the original intention of the public power. They implement the institutions according to their own ideas and use public power to seek personal gain.

In short, the emergence of corruption is closely related to the lack of trust among the relevant power bodies. Therefore, strengthening mutual trust among different power bodies can fundamentally prevent corruption.

III. THE ROLE OF TRUST CULTURE IN PREVENTING CORRUPTION

In the relationship between trust and anticorruption, we should be aware of the two sides of trust and the mutual trust between all the power bodies. We should not only believe in the merits of the system but also believe in its deficiencies. We should not only believe the cadres can pursue the integrity but also believe they have their own interest. And we should know there may be conflicts between individual pursuit and organizational mission.

A. The Role of the Mutual Trust between the Party and the Masses in Preventing Corruption

The Party organizations should trust the masses. Firstly, the Party organizations should believe in the strength and wisdom of the masses, and the Party organizations should let the masses, especially the highly relevant masses, participate in various affairs to ensure their rights to speak and know. At the same time, in the involving process, the masses can also believe in the strength and wisdom of the Party. And the masses' participation helps the power operate in the sunshine, which can prevent corruption to the greatest extent. Secondly, the Party organizations should believe the masses have enough tolerance. When the Party organizations face difficulties and shortcomings, we should dare to speak to the masses and manage to get their support, which can help to form the sense of community of interest. The Party organizations should not only listen to the voice of the masses, but also let the masses listen to the voice of the Party organizations at all levels. This helps to avoid the inaction corruption and cultivate a practical and realistic culture of trust [5]. In a sense, the Party and the masses are two relatively independent subjects. Without trust, they will not cooperate. Only by trusting the Party can the masses dare to fight against corruption and other unhealthy tendencies; only by trusting the masses can the positive energy be integrated to the maximum extent and the negative culture of corruption be weakened to the maximum. This kind of mutual trust is regulated by system and internalized gradually, and then forms a clean and open political culture based on mutual trust.

B. The Role of Mutual Trust Culture between Cadres and the Masses in Preventing Corruption

Firstly, the cadres should believe that the masses' eyes are bright, and this helps to avoid the inaction corruption. To this end, we should establish a performance-oriented management mechanism for leading cadres, and the highly relevant masses should participate in it. For example, the promotion and reduction of the cadres may be nominated by the masses and

discussed by the Party. This helps to build mutual trust among the three, and then form a healthy performance culture. Under the influence of this concept, the promotion culture based on mutual trust can gradually form and it can effectively prevent corruption in the promotion. Secondly, the masses should believe the cadres can serve the people wholeheartedly. Therefore, we should establish a working mechanism oriented to the needs of the masses for the leading cadres, and this helps the cadres form a correct concept of power and interest and cultivate a culture of honest public servants based on mutual trust.

C. The Role of Mutual Trust between Cadres and the Party Organizations in Preventing Corruption

Firstly, the leading cadres should believe that the Party can treat every cadre fairly and impartially, and that performance is the leading factor in the distribution of all kinds of benefits of leading cadres. Secondly, the Party organizations should believe that the leading cadres also have their legitimate individual needs. They have both the side of serving the people and the side of pursuing their individual interest. A power culture based on mutual trust should be cultivated gradually to prevent corruption in employment.

IV. BUILDING THE CHINESE-STYLE CORRUPTION PREVENTION SYSTEM BASED ON MUTUAL TRUST

A. Cultivating the Power Culture Based on Mutual Trust to Prevent Corruption by Culture

Political culture based on mutual trust is conducive to weakening corruption culture. If the masses trust the Party organizations, they will dare to fight against the unhealthy tendencies such as corruption. If the Party organizations trust the masses, the Party organizations should explain the facing difficulties and shortcomings to the masses to get their support and understanding. The Party organizations should not only listen to the voice of the masses but also let the masses listen to the voice of the Party organizations. This kind of mutual trust gradually forms a political culture based on mutual trust, which can prevent corruption from happening.

An incorrupt official management culture based on mutual trust should be gradually cultivated. The leading cadres should believe that the masses' eyes are bright and the quality of their work will be evaluated equally. This helps to avoid omission corruption. Therefore, a management mechanism for leading cadres oriented the performance should be established, and the highly related people should participate in managing the leading cadres. The Party organizations should also believe that leading cadres have legitimate individual needs. Leading cadres have both the side of serving the people and the side of pursuing individual interest. A legitimate mechanism for the leading cadres obtaining their own legitimate interest should be established, which can guide the leading cadres to abandon corruption mentality.

An incorrupt public servant culture based on mutual trust should be gradually cultivated. Leading cadres should make the masses believe that they serve the people heart and soul. Therefore, a working mechanism for leading cadres oriented

the masses' needs should be established. This mechanism is helpful for the leading cadres to set up a correct view of power and a correct view of interest. Leading cadres should reverence the institutions, the rules and the masses. Reverencing the institutions means not only reverencing the anti-corruption "high tension line" but also reverencing the working mechanism. Reverencing the rules means not only the leading cadres but also the masses should follow the rules, and the rules means not only the explicit provisions but also the social public ethics. Reverencing the masses means not only fearing of the masses' supervision and accusation but also reverencing the masses' wisdom. Leading cadres should permit the masses to participate in and supervise their work as possible as they can, and this helps to prevent corruption.

An incorrupt institution culture based on mutual trust should be gradually cultivated. Severity creates deterrence, and love creates prestige. The institution executive organs should let the leading cadres believe that the institutions are ruthless and strict rather than the so-called "rubber stamp".

An incorrupt popular culture based on mutual trust should be gradually cultivated. If the masses believe in the effectiveness of the institution, they will do everything according to the rules and regulations, and they won't try to squeeze into the "corruption circle" through various relations. If the masses abandon the bad concept of "Anything related to the government must be done by private relations", they will promote the realization of the clean and honest politics.

B. Building the power operation mechanism based on mutual trust to prevent corruption in the power operation process

Leading cadres should trust the wisdom and ability of the masses in the power operation process. For this reason, the institution-making organs should set up a routine participation mechanism for the masses. This routine participation mechanism can let the masses participate in decision-making, implementation, supervision and other links of the power operation process. And this routine participation mechanism can help to realize the process trust between all the power bodies, which will embed anti-corruption in the whole power operation process.

The main reason why absolute power corrupts absolutely lies in that absolute power is a kind of power that operates in a closed way. It's difficult for this kind of power to gain the masses' trust. Only an open power design and operation mechanism can realize maximum power trust. This open mechanism can help to realize the sunshine operation of power, and it can prevent public power from being privately owned.

C. Establishing and Improving the Power Management System Based on Mutual Trust to Achieve Prevention Corruption by Institution

The essence of strengthening the construction of laws and regulations on corruption prevention is to build institution belief and law belief. The construction of anti-corruption laws and regulations can promote the establishment and perfection of the trust mechanism between power bodies. The perfect trust mechanism is also conducive to the implementation of laws and regulations.

The relevant power organs should establish and improve an incentive system for clean and diligent government affairs based on trust culture. In the management of public servants, the relevant organs should believe that the public servants have not only "public will" but also "selfishness". The superiors should constantly learn about the public servants' individual needs and build an incentive system for clean and diligent government affairs. This helps to realize mutual trust between individuals and organizations, and this also helps to cultivate the loyalty and dedication of the public servants. The cadre management departments should be fair, impartial and open in the aspects of cadres' performance evaluation, job promotion and benefit acquisition, and this helps to form institution trust. Institution trust can help to prevent vengeful corruption and omission. Cadre management departments should solve the routine reward and punishment problems and long-term career vision problems of leading cadres. Vision belief can guide the leading cadres to dilute corrupt thinking positively.

The relevant power organs should establish and improve a disciplinary mechanism for the dishonesty behaviors of the Discipline Inspection Committee and Supervision Committee staff. This mechanism is conducive to the formation of the forced mechanism of anti-corruption based on trust culture and it can provide a fundamental basis for the corruption prevention.

The relevant power organs should create and cultivate healthy public trust culture. Corruption results from the overflow of the distrust culture, especially the squeeze of private trust on public trust in the public areas. Healthy public trust culture helps to prevent corruption [6].

V. CONCLUSION

Mutual trust can foster institution trust, organization trust and interpersonal trust, and it can avoid omission to the greatest extent while preventing corruption. Institution trust can make potential corrupt officials believe in the rigor of the institution and law from the bottom of their hearts, and they will avoid corruption consciously. Organization trust can make public officials believe in the fairness of the Party organizations in the selection and treatment of cadres, and they will avoid corrupt thinking. The establishment of trust mechanism is conducive to the integration of power bodies participation, culture guidance and institution constraints. It's conducive to the realization of multiple synergies in corruption prevention, and it can help to minimize corruption.

REFERENCES

- [1] Uslaner EM, *The moral foundations of trust*, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2002.
- [2] Rothstein B. Social capital, economic growth and quality of government: the causal mechanism, *New Political Economy*, 2003, 8 (1) : 49-71.
- [3] Qijun Liu, Yuping Xu, The influence of social trust level on corruption, *Journal of South China Agricultural University (Social Science Edition)*, 2013(03): 121-127. (In Chinese)
- [4] Zhengyi Wang, Where are the corruption according to the law from? *Jiangsu Legal Newspaper*, 2006-01-25: 001. (In Chinese)
- [5] Jinjin Wu. Corruption control in the perspective of political trust, *Chinese Social Sciences Today*, 2016-07-08: 004. (In Chinese)
- [6] Xihai Li. Power culture and corrupt crimination, *Shandong Social Sciences*, 2007(01): 81-87. (In Chinese)