

ESSAY AND ART CONTEST ON CORRUPTION IN KENYA



KONRAD
ADENAUER
STIFTUNG
Rule of Law Program for
Sub-Saharan Africa



Forum for African Women
Educationalists Kenya

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Essay and Art Contest on Corruption

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The personal experiences shared herein were not verified by the organisers, the teachers nor the judges at the different levels. The views solely represent those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of KAS and FAWEK.

 **KONRAD
ADENAUER
STIFTUNG**
Rule of Law Program for
Sub-Saharan Africa

 **FAWE
KENYA CHAPTER**
Forum for African Women
Educationalists Kenya



Integrity, transparency and the fight against corruption have to be part of the culture. They have to be taught as fundamental values.

Angel Gurría, OECD secretary general



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FOREWORD

Corruption continues to be one of the greatest challenges of our time. Through corruption, huge sums of money and resources meant for public benefit have been looted, diverted, wasted or mismanaged by few individuals for their personal gain.

This trend cannot be allowed to continue unabated if we are to effectively address issues of poverty and inequality in the region, and beyond.

In Africa, reports have shown that looting, mismanagement and deliberate diversion of public resources is preventing African children from enjoying their rights including, but not limited to, the right to life. By threatening our younger generation's survival through corruption, the continent is being held back from realising its full social and economic development.

Good quality education, healthcare, clean and habitable environment, security and stability, utilisation and distribution of natural resources, preservation and conservation of national heritage cannot be guaranteed for future generations unless corruption is fought and stopped.

For this reason, FAWE Kenya in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's Rule of Law Program for Sub Saharan (Anglophone) Africa initiated an 'Essay and Art Contest on Corruption' project with the aim of reaching out to the younger generation, specifically children between the ages of 10 and 18 to harness their voices on matters of corruption. Involving the younger generation in the fight against corruption not only helps in shaping their character, but it is also one of the most effective and sustainable ways to fighting this menace.

This initiative is in line with the two organisations' commitment to contributing to the achievement of the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063, the Agenda for Children 2040, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 16 advocates for among other aims, the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international level, equal access to justice for all and substantial reduction in corruption and bribery.

The inaugural Essay and Art Competition whose outstanding submissions form the basis of this publication intended to explore the level of understanding of corruption among Kenyan children, while granting them an opportunity to suggest possible ways to combating it from family, community and ultimately national level. Five thematic areas namely, education, economy, environment, health and security were identified as the main areas of focus for this nationwide contest.

The competition attracted approximately two thousand pupils and students from all parts of the country including children from the marginalised communities and children living with disabilities. The entries were marked and graded in four categories, namely, Junior category (age 10 -12 years), Middle category (13 -14 years), Senior category (15 - 16 years) and Lead category (17 – 18 years).

Three rounds of independent assessment and evaluation were undertaken. The first round of marking was undertaken exclusively by teachers from various parts of the country. The second round was undertaken by a panel drawn from stakeholders working in the fields of education, corruption, governance and human rights among others. The final round was undertaken by a panel of eminent jurors including representatives from the Ministry of Education as well as the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).

We thank the Ministry of Education, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI), Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM), Transparency International (TI) Kenya and many other partners and collaborators who contributed to the success of this pilot-phase of the project.

Our gratitude also goes to the teachers who took part in the marking of the submissions at level one. Our judges for levels two and three, Prof. PLO Lumumba, Dr. Linda Ochola, Ms. Hellen Avisia, Ms. Nelly Marete Ibeere, Ms. Alice Nyakiongora, Ms. Emis Njeru, Ms. Lydia Manyasi (EACC), Mr. Eric Ngamau, Ms. Sheila Masinde, Mr. Silas Kamanza, Mr. Alex Sapingot and Ms. Mary Wasike.

This project would not have been successful without the tireless efforts of FAWEK and KAS teams, in particular Ms. Dorise Ng'ong'a and Mr. Peter Wendoh who coordinated the activities with unmatched dedication.

Last but not least, we wish to recognise and appreciate all the pupils and students who participated in the contest. Our heartfelt congratulations to the winners for their outstanding, interesting and inspiring essays and pieces of art.



'Unfortunately, corruption is a recurring story. It repeats itself, then someone comes to clean it up, but then it starts again, and you wait for someone to come and put an end to this deformity'

Pope Francis



May we be among those who will continue cleaning up and impacting those who will come after us, until this menace is put to an end.

Teresa Otieno

Chief Executive Officer
FAWE Kenya

Dr. Stefanie Rothenberger

Director, Rule of Law Program for
Sub Saharan (Anglophone) Africa
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung



**ESSAY & ART
CONTEST
ON CORRUPTION**

WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION

Name: Georgina Kerubo

Age: 18 Years

School: Mary Leakey Girls High School

Corruption is a disease, no, a type of a cancer that has grown and spread rapidly into almost every sector of our country. We experience corruption in some of our day-to-day engagements. It has metastasized and infiltrated many parts of the institutions in our beloved country, and in the process, crippling and bringing them to their knees.



Brian Muange | 12 years | North Highridge Primary

Corruption has become so rampant that ironically, it has become the norm. It is ubiquitous and widespread; turning into a world pandemic. It has increased by leaps and bounds worldwide, with some of its resultant effects being moral degradation, destruction of character, devaluation of human values, and lust for power and money.

Some political leaders, heads of governments, and others at the helm of the affairs of many nations are corrupt. Corruption has become contagious and has spread to all cadres of society from the top to the lower levels. No country is immune from it but rather the difference is in the extent to which corruption has percolated in these societies.

Some citizens no longer fear committing crime, but rather fear the cost of bribing their way out of court systems in the event that they are arrested. I remember once having a ride in my dad's car, when he took a wrong turn and was nabbed by a policeman. The policeman's intention was quite clear - make money off the situation by getting a bribe from my dad. The policeman gave my father two options, to either pay him the sum that he had asked for in form of a bribe, or take him to the police station where he would have to pay more bribe to the policeman's superiors. Contrary to my wishes, my father bribed the policeman. This just proved to me the extent to which corruption has become normalised.

Some people feel that the police force is no longer there to enforce the law but to break it to suit their own needs. When I reflected on this particular case, I realised that the chain of corruption was so long and goes beyond just one policeman. It could be that particular policeman might have been given financial targets in the form of bribes that he was supposed to remit to his superiors every time when he was on duty. Most policemen go along with the demands from their superiors because they fear being victimised when they defy commands from them. And so, it could be that this cycle repeats itself from one level of police cadre to the next with the monies from bribes being passed on upwards to the senior most officers in the police force. Citizens have lost trust in some of the institutions which practice corruption. They are left with no option but to pay a bribe in order to get a service that they deserve to get for free. Few people will stand up and challenge the corrupt police officers.

Corruption has greatly affected the economic growth of this country. News about embezzlement and misappropriation of funds by government institutions has become rampant. There however seems to be no clear resolution to some of these cases. Some of the income generated from tax collection is also misused by some top government officials leaving the citizen bereft of the essential services needed for example good transport

system, education system, healthcare to just mention but a few.

Our country loses billions to corruption annually, with absolutely no clear consequences to the perpetrators. Our leaders have become bolder in their pursuit for illegitimately gained wealth for they know they will never be held accountable for their actions. Some of them are the legislators and law enforcers and so they feel that they are 'above the law.' This has greatly widened the poverty line between the haves and the have-nots. A lot of wealth is in the hands of very few individuals while the majority struggle to make ends meet. Some of the funds meant for food stimulus packages have been squandered by a few individuals leaving the poor citizens to suffer.

The war against corruption will not be won, not until political leaders take charge of the fight and work with the common citizens to stem this rot in the society. They must put clear legislation regarding corruption in place. Our political leaders must be honest and committed to the fight. Effective and strong strategies, backed by strong political will, will be very important. This fight must be led with an iron fist. Nepotism, favoritism and any other forms of corruption must be eliminated if this war is to be won.

Better remuneration, creation of more employment opportunities will go a long way in successfully tackling this menace.

We too, as the youth have a significant role to play in ensuring that corruption does not infiltrate into our generation and the one after. We must make a conscious effort to stick fast to our morals and keep our greed for wealth and hunger for power at bay. We must put the greater good first and do what is right for ourselves and our country at large. Only in this way will we prosper as a people and as a country.

Name: Phinry Dassah Muthomi

Age: 15 Years

School: Lions Primary School

When you see the word 'corruption', what comes to your mind? Leaders, Chief Executive Officers of big companies, people in authority? Is it really just that? Don't you think it starts with you and I? The common citizen?

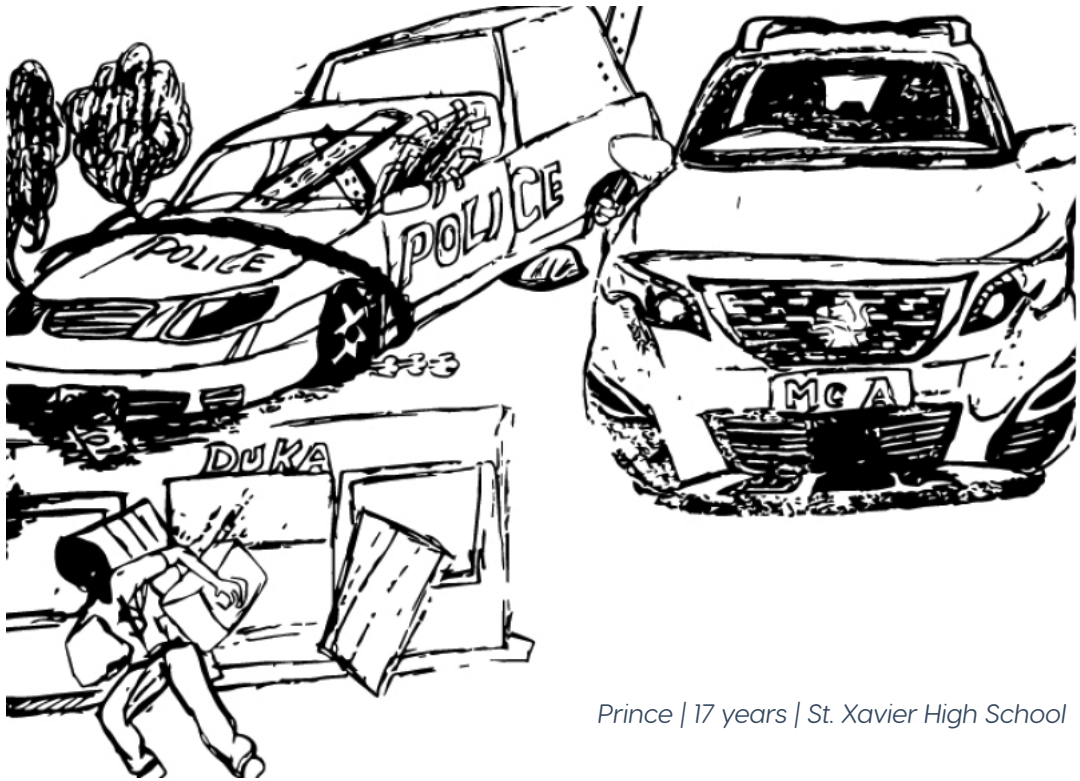
We tend to assume that it is only the rich and those in positions of power that engage in corrupt deals. People are not born corrupt. Behavior is learned so the psychologists say; and can also be unlearned. So the question is, how is corruption learned?

Imagine a scenario whereby children are in class and the prefect writes noisemakers and this specific child says, "Do not write my name, I'll give you this or that," isn't that a form of corruption? No matter how simple this seems, that is how it all starts. My understanding is that corruption is an illegal way of getting things done or to acquire something.

Corruption involves bribery but not just that. Greed for money is one of the biggest causes of corruption. People not being content by their wages or salaries and the greed for more, leads to some engaging in corruption. Some are not patient enough to work hard, but want the easy way out. Corruption is not accidental but rather intentional. It is a decision that one makes and plans on how to execute it. People engage in corruption for personal and selfish gains.

It could be that people who engage in corruption do not appreciate the negative impact and the ripple effect that their actions have on the economic growth and other people's livelihoods. For some, this has become the norm.

There was this time when my father was arrested for over-speeding by the traffic police officers. His request to be pardoned was turned down by the policeman. He was given an option, to either bribe the policeman or be arrested and taken to court. Being a born-again Christian, he refused to give a bribe. We spent so much time there. I observed so many cars being stopped for over-speeding and the drivers bribing their way out of the situation. What angered me most was the fact that these people were doing it so casually as if this was something normal oblivious of the impact



Prince | 17 years | St. Xavier High School

of their actions. How much money do you think such traffic officers make at the end of the day? What if all that money had been paid into the government account in the form of court fines? The money would have hopefully been used in financing government projects that benefit more citizens and not just a few individuals.

Poor remuneration could also be a cause of corruption by government employees. Some public servants engage in corruption so as to meet their financial needs as an easy way out. I therefore suggest a review upwards of their salaries.

Some people do not want to go through a long court process or face a term in jail, so they get their way out by bribing some corrupt court and judicial officials to make their cases 'disappear.'

Corruption is fueled by poor morals. There is a decay in the Kenyan moral fabric. We should nurture good values in society and stamp out greed. Despite the fact that corruption is widespread, we should work hard to eradicate it. We must take responsibility and say no to corruption! Whether it's on the roads, or the offices; we must take the first step no matter how small. We need to be assertive, firm and challenge those that

engage in corruption.

Children and youth should be educated on the effects of this menace and what role they could play in the fight against corruption. This could be taught in schools and colleges as part of the curriculum.

Legislation on corruption must be enforced; the guilty must pay heavy penalties and fines once prosecuted. The government must be clear and committed to this fight. Our political leaders must lead by example if we are to root out this disease. They must blow the whistle when they learn of corruption in their dockets or by their cronies.

Let us all be honest, if we are to win this war. Let us embrace integrity and transparency in our schools, organizations, companies, churches and everywhere.

I will conclude by saying this, 'when you don't take a stand against corruption, you are guilty of corruption and are corrupt!

Let us all take a stand against corruption!



When you see the word 'corruption', what comes to your mind? Leaders, Chief Executive Officers of big companies, people in authority? Is it really just that? Don't you think it starts with you and I? The common citizen?

Name: Ashley Anne

Age: 14 years

School: Bar Union Primary

Corruption is an act of unfairness by people in authority for their own personal and illegal benefits. One of the most common forms that corruption takes is, the giving and receiving of bribes. Some people may take bribes so as to cover other people's offenses. Corruption is an illegal activity and must be condemned by everyone in society. This is a vice that is rampant and whose effects have been felt by many. Anyone practicing corruption is said to be corrupt. This vice has spread through the fabric of our society. So many people are not hesitant to engage in it - from our political leaders to the common citizens in this country. The impact on the economy is quite obvious. My heart bleeds and the love and pride that I have for this country is slowly fading away.

Corruption is among the leading causes of why leaders, business persons, and women lose their jobs and opportunities to make progress in many areas of engagement. Well-deserving individuals miss out on chances because of this vice. Our political leaders make false promises during campaigns to get elected but do nothing to fight corruption once in office. 'Politics is the act of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich,' this saying affirms all these aspects. We must not blindly follow and believe in everything that our political leaders tell us. We must look for other ways of fighting corruption.

Several media sources have pointed to the fact that Kenya's economy is on its knees. Laying the blame on the COVID-19 pandemic as the main cause is misleading, although I agree that the economy has taken a hit from it to some extent. I think that the high taxes imposed by the government on the citizens have contributed to the poor state of our economy. Many poor Kenyans are not willing to pay the high taxes; this has led to some closing down their businesses. Some feel that the taxes that they are expected to pay are actually higher than the profit margins that they make. I feel that this, in a way, is another form of corruption. The government needs taxes to run the country- build roads, schools, pay for healthcare for its citizens etc. It must therefore create an enabling

While the guilty
run loose the innocent



continue suffering
Stop Corruption

environment where start-up business people can afford taxes and run their business, make profits even when paying tax

Often I see women in my location starting income generating women groups. Their objectives are usually pure and well meaning – to improve their economic lives and those of their families by pulling resources and ideas together and making profits from their business engagements. The local banks usually lend them huge sums of money once they present their business plans. However, within a short time, some of the financial teams in these groups embezzle and misuse the funds leading to the collapse of some of these women groups and leaving the rest of the members in worse economic situations than they were in before. The prevalence of this form of corruption has caused a lot of disruption to people's lives with many being unable to provide basic needs to their families and relatives while having to pay off loans that did not benefit them in any way.

The Kenyan government offers scholarships to well performing children from poor backgrounds through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). I am sad to report that such a noble project has not been spared from corruption. The disbursement of the scholarship funds has not been fair and some well deserving children have missed out on good education because of misappropriation of the monies here. Both boys and girls from poor backgrounds have had to drop out of school because of this. Some of the boys have ended up engaging in crime and abusing drugs while some girls have ended up being victims of early marriages. Our country's future is bleak if this form of corruption is not nipped in the bud.

It is a shame that in my country, some people have to pay a bribe in order to get a job regardless of the excellent qualification or even work experience. Poor Kenyans hoping to earn some money from employment must now raise money first to bribe someone in a recruiting company or office before they can be employed. The corrupt employers must consider that people look for jobs so as to earn money as opposed to paying money to get a job. Sounds confusing, right? Yes, this is the sad state of affairs in some of the companies in my beloved country.

For some children to get a placement in some of the schools, one has to part with some money to the school leaders. The price is usually higher for those children who did not pass the National Primary School Exams

and would wish to join a secondary school.

Our music artists play a big role in contributing to our country's culture and are part of our heritage. The government does not however truly appreciate their contribution, does very little to support upcoming artists and short changes when paying them royalties from their music.

The impact of corruption is going to be felt hugely in the coming years- a struggling economy is a poisonous recipe for joblessness, crime and drug abuse to just mention a few. It is so sad to see religious leaders stealing from God. Churches should be corruption-free zones because of the values that they stand for and preach. What a shame that this is not the case in some of the churches in this country! Corruption breeds conflict and grudges in the society. My suggestion is that forgiveness first, is important if we must move forward in the fight against corruption.

In my opinion, there are several ways of fighting this ugly menace. We must start by demanding for the transparency and accountability from everyone in the country; from every office and government institution and from our political leaders and fellow Kenyans at large. By transparency, I mean being honest and truthful and taking responsibility for our actions and being patriotic enough to put the needs of the country before our personal needs. Kenyans must make demands to get services without paying a bribe. We must say NO to corruption!

Secondly, the government must also put in place proper laws to enable the anti- corruption agencies tasked with the job of fighting corruption to perform their duties. Additionally, laws and penalties for citizens who fail to report cases of corruption or even worse off, support corruption should be put in place. Government audits must be done to check and ensure equal distribution of funds in different government projects e.g. scholarships.

Initiatives that educate all citizens, including children on the effects of corruption and how to fight it would go a long way to help. Sensitisation on the laws regarding corruption must be done as well, so that citizens know what actions to take in this fight.

Together, let's stop corruption - for united we stand and divided we fall! Let's make that stitch that will save nine. Let's stop corruption and make Kenya a better place to be for the next generation.

Name: Lavender Atieno Odhiambo

Age: 18 Years

School: Mwiki Secondary School

Corruption is one of the greatest problems facing many countries today. It can be defined as the misuse of power and public resources for one's own personal benefit. Many people in authority are involved in corruption without considering the negative effects to the rest of society. It is one of the problems which lead to slow development of the country since those involved in it do not use their power appropriately to help improve the developmental activities.



Prince | 17 years | St. Xavier High School

There are various forms of corruption plaguing our country. They include bribery, tribalism, nepotism, racism, and misuse of public funds by those in authority such as police officers and those in government. Corruption is experienced in different places for example in schools, hospitals, public

offices and courts of law.

In schools, some of the problems, which are highly experienced, are nepotism, favoritism, bribing and many more. Nepotism is the act of favouring one's relatives and family members to get a certain job in schools such as teaching or secretarial work even though such a person might not have proper qualifications, sometimes leading to poor performance in some schools. Sometimes, favoritism, which is the act of showing leniency to some learners by the teachers, is prevalent in some schools. This may be because such learners are rich or clever. Neglecting the other learners might cause low self-esteem and sometimes lead to depression or worse cases such as suicide.

The third one is bribery. It is a major challenge, which affects many activities in the society. In school, this happens when the learners with low marks are admitted to national schools making those well-deserving students from poor backgrounds miss out on admissions.

Most people from poor backgrounds cannot afford medical care, yet the public hospitals are poorly equipped and some do not have medicines. Medical supplies from the government are sometimes diverted to be sold off leaving the patients in these hospitals desperate. This has sometimes led to loss of lives. Government funds allocated to health care are sometimes misappropriated. Some hospitals employ unqualified medical staff through corruption. Such individuals end up making fatal mistakes when handling patients because they are unqualified and incompetent.

Research shows that corruption is quite prevalent in government institutions and parastatals. Misuse of the public funds is commonplace in these places and there seems to be no checks or accountability of how funds are used.

Most of the political leaders engage in bribery during election campaigns. This however does not stop once elected. Most go ahead to plunder the public coffers. Very few face consequences and none have had their assets repossessed when found guilty. The economic development promises made during campaigns are never fulfilled.

Corruption is also common in the Kenyan courts and judicial system. Cases of bribery involving court officials, magistrates and judges are rampant. Many people do not get justice because of this. Sometimes

innocent citizens have been jailed just because they did not have money to bribe someone in the system.

Some police officers challenge or arrest criminals because of bribery. Rogue drivers on the roads sometimes go scot-free without facing the full arm of the law simply because they bribe the traffic police.

Sometimes bar owners sell alcohol to underage children. Drug peddling is becoming commonplace because some of the peddlers are in cahoots with some corrupt police officers.

Several police officers abuse their powers by demanding bribes from citizens or arresting citizens without any reason with the sole intention of getting money from the people. Stringent laws should be put in place to curb this menace. Those found guilty should pay heavy fines and have their assets repossessed.

Citizens should be careful on who they elect. They should elect leaders who are patriotic, God-fearing, and reasonable.

Together let us fight corruption!



Most of the political leaders engage in bribery during election campaigns. This however does not stop once elected. Most go ahead to plunder the public coffers. Very few face consequences and none have had their assets repossessed when found guilty. The economic development promises made during campaigns are never fulfilled.

Name: Otiende Kennedy

Age: 18 Years

School: Imbale Secondary School

Corruption is the illegal behavior especially by people in authority where those individuals do things that benefit themselves, their community and their tribe. In Kenya, corruption is affecting many sectors.

Firstly, in the economic sector, poor economic performance has been recorded in a number of Kenyan counties; this has largely been due to poor governance and corruption. Kenyan leaders must act on these trends if they are to make headways in solving economic problems. Surprisingly, Kenya is blessed with many economic resources but these resources are misused because of corrupt leaders in our country.

I can give a good example of Mumias Sugar Company that used to supply sugar countrywide. It is public knowledge that this company collapsed because of corruption from some of the top managers. The government has tried to inject funds to revive it but this remains a dream to date.

The collapse of Mumias Sugar Company had a huge negative economic impact to Western Kenya and the rest of the country. Most of the former employees are now jobless and sugarcane farmers whose livelihood was dependent on the company now reel in abject poverty. They can barely meet their families' basic needs and struggle to educate their children.

The education sector is also affected by this same evil - corruption. The government remits funds to children from poor backgrounds through the Constituency Development Funds (CDF). The disbursement is however done without equity. Deserving children miss out on scholarships and bursary because the disbursement is made based on political affiliations, tribe and nepotism. Some corrupt leaders embezzle some of these funds causing many children to drop out of school because of lack of school fees.

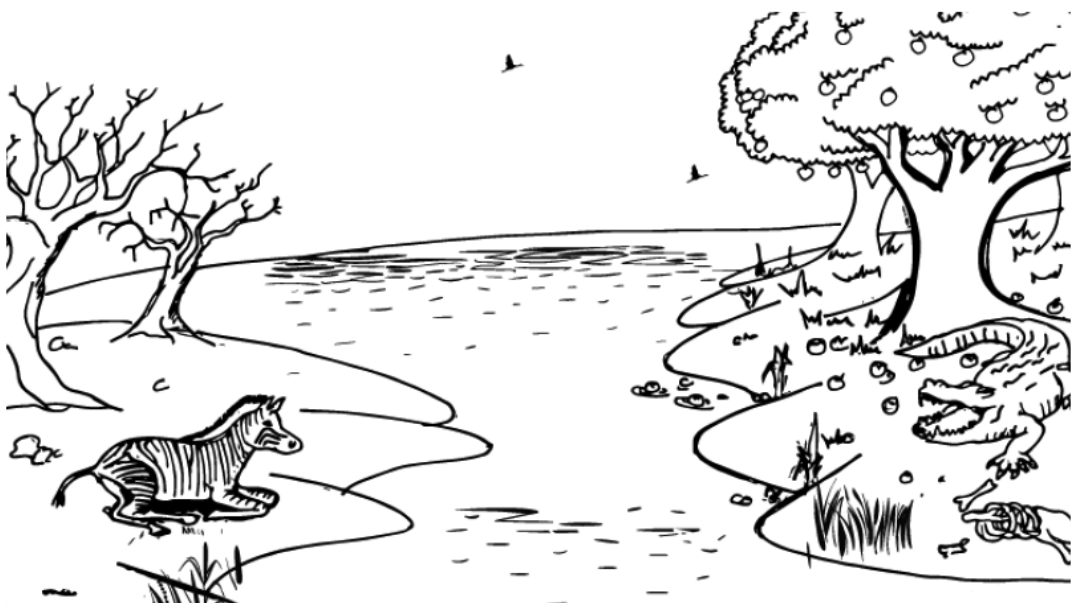
Money set aside for some projects in our schools does not come through. For example, the government was supposed to ensure that all school going children have masks – for prevention of the spread of COVID-

19. This was never implemented and my school mates and I have to buy masks to wear at school.

Tribalism as a form of corruption has riddled many companies. Many people miss out on employment or business opportunities because of tribalism.

In some hospitals, some health workers engage in corruption by selling some of the medical supplies from the government. This sometimes leads to loss of lives. Some expectant and lactating mothers do not receive financial support from the government as promised. This could be because the people in charge of implementing this program are not fulfilling their mandate as expected. The government hospitals lack some of the essential amenities needed to treat different diseases. This has led to some political leaders flying out of the country to seek medical treatment abroad instead of ensuring that local hospitals are well equipped to serve this purpose.


Another neglected area is the environment sector. Enforcement of the legislation in this area by the government remains sluggish. There is waste disposal in our lakes and rivers, and this leads to the death of water animals like fish yet fish is a source of wealth to our economy. Some informal settlements in the country lack proper waste management and even sewerage systems. Industries that are near rivers and lakes emit their waste there thus polluting the water.



Vincent Otieno Orinda | 18 years | Kamwala Secondary

Lastly, the security sector is also affected by this evil. Insecurity in the country is rife. For example, a few years ago, a University in Garissa County was attacked by the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. It is alleged that some security officers were bribed by members of the terrorist group so as to gain access into the University.

A lot has to be done to win the fight against corruption. Citizens must work hard to fight this evil. Kenyans must find home-grown solutions to their problems. More importantly, we must all be ready to pay the ultimate price against this war.



The education sector is also affected by this same evil - corruption. The government remits funds to children from poor backgrounds through the Constituency Development Funds (CDF). The disbursement is however done without equity. Deserving children miss out on scholarships and bursary because the disbursement is made based on political affiliations, tribe and nepotism. Some corrupt leaders embezzle some of these funds causing many children to drop out of school because of lack of school fees

Name: Maxwell Mukhwana

Age: 18 years

School: Imbale Secondary School

Corruption, a vice quite familiar to the general public including the very young, should be considered as endemic. Corruption ought to be defined as a failure to practice integrity when dispensing duties.

Kenya borrows millions to facilitate various projects. These massive amounts go into the pockets of a few individuals who, to add salt to injury, leave the sums locked up instead of allowing the money to circulate in the country and strengthen the economy. In recent years, the Kenyan shilling has lost its value against the US dollar simply because of corruption. This economic vice has affected many fields in the country.

To begin with, corruption has affected the education sector. The Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Education seems unable to stamp out corruption in this docket despite his stern and principled leadership style. The pupils' performance in national exams has been affected by lack of equitable distribution of resources. The national and extra county schools seem to have superior resources and facilities and have an advantage over the sub-county schools. The resultant effect is that pupils from those schools perform way better in exams.

The health sector has experienced several cases of corruption. Annual medical donations from developed countries to the Kenyan health sector barely get to the public hospitals at the grass-root level. It seems that some people divert these donations and sell them off for their own personal gains. Public hospitals are poorly resourced and have inferior equipment yet there is always an annual allocation to serve this purpose.

Justice and security is a dream in the informal settlements in Kenya. Some corrupt security officers hire out their uniform to criminals who end up committing heinous crimes against the public. Crime is rampant in these areas and most cases go unresolved since most of the criminals are believed to collude with the police. Reports of extra-judicial killings are common and many people do not feel safe.

Environmental pollution is a form of corruption affecting citizens

especially in the informal settlements. These settlements lack proper waste and sewerage systems. There is no running water, yet there are government agencies tasked with ensuring that there is equal distribution of amenities and services in all areas.



Sydney Kinara | 13 Years | St. Joseph's Primary

All in all, there is hope. Corruption cannot be stamped out overnight but the journey has started. Several non-governmental organizations have emerged to take up the fight and this has borne some fruit. Sensitisation is slowly taking place and some reports indicate that there is a marginal drop of only one percentage. We have a long way to go!

Support from foreign agencies would make a difference. Foreign agencies that give loans and grants must put checks in place to ensure that the loaned out sums are used for the intended purposes. Rewards should be given to those who spot and report corruption. More agencies should be established to curb corruption. The government should explore ways of digitalising the whistle-blowing process to make it easier for citizens to report corruption cases. More awareness on this topic could be spread through social media.

Topics on corruption should be integrated in the school and college syllabus to try and empower the younger generation who will soon take up the country's leadership mantle. Job creation will keep the youth engaged and reduce the desire to bribe in order to get a job.

The government could forge intergovernmental relationships that will create opportunities for benchmarking where opportunities to share good practice will take place.



Kenya borrows millions to facilitate various projects. These massive amounts go into the pockets of a few individuals who, to add salt to injury, leave the sums locked up instead of allowing the money to circulate in the country and strengthen the economy. In recent years, the Kenyan shilling has lost its value against the US dollar simply because of corruption. This economic vice has affected many fields in the country.

Name: Brian Muthoka

Age: 16 years

School: Starehe Boys Centre

Corruption has become a menace in this society; affecting each sector of the economy. Greed and materialism are the main causes of this evil. Corruption destroys opportunities that could have benefited the disadvantaged people in the society.

Recruitment processes are not done procedurally. When job opportunities in companies are advertised, some incompetent and unqualified candidates end up taking up the positions due to corruption. These cases are so rampant to an extent that most youths are willing to work without pay with the hope that their performance will impress their supervisors thus leading to employment. I recently read in the newspaper of a case where more than two hundred aerospace engineering graduates turned up for an interview where there was only one vacancy available. All two hundred of them were willing to work voluntarily. This example paints a grim but real picture of the situation in the country.

One of the main affected areas is the health sector. There seems to have been no clear and fair public participation in the tendering process at Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA). Some of the companies tasked to supply medical supplies required in the fight against COVID-19 seem to have not done so as per government's expectations. The resultant effect of corruption in such cases is loss of life as seen early this year. Clear vetting of companies that apply for tenders should be done and the process procedural.

It is believed that some of the donations in the form of medical supplies such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's) and masks were hijacked by some corrupt individuals and sold to private entities instead of being distributed to public hospitals countrywide as was the intention by the donors. Clear checks and audits in government hospitals and parastatals should be done consistently to ensure efficiency in service delivery to the public.



Claire Njeri | 16 years | Thika Garrison Sec School

Corruption in the education sector is common. The government has put in place clear guidelines for setting up schools. Government agencies tasked with ensuring that the correct process is followed must do due diligence to ensure that unsuspecting parents and students are not duped by enrolling into schools that do not meet the set standards. Some school owners are money-minded and do not care about the interests of the children enrolled in their schools. Some children miss out on admissions into schools because of corruption. It seems that some school leaders take bribes from rich parents and fill admission spaces leaving out deserving students from poor backgrounds. This is unfair. We should be mindful of the less fortunate in society and not disadvantage them even in cases where they have worked hard and are deserving.

Legislation that supports the advancement of the disadvantaged and marginalised communities should be put in place. Equitable distribution of resources is important if the gap between the rich and poor is to be

narrowed.

Corruption in the police force is rampant especially on our roads. I once watched a *matatu* driver hand over money to a police officer. I decided to challenge the policewoman regarding what had transpired. The policewoman was taken aback by my action and promised to never take a bribe. Let us be bold enough to challenge corrupt individuals in our society. We must all come together to fight corruption. Let us create a culture of accountability.

Government agencies tasked with fighting corruption must be supported to ensure that actual prosecution of the guilty takes place and repossession of assets accrued from corruption proceeds happens.

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Corruption has become a menace in this society; affecting each sector of the economy. Greed and materialism are the main causes of this evil. Corruption destroys opportunities that could have benefited the disadvantaged people in the society.

Name: Dayron Marvel Faith

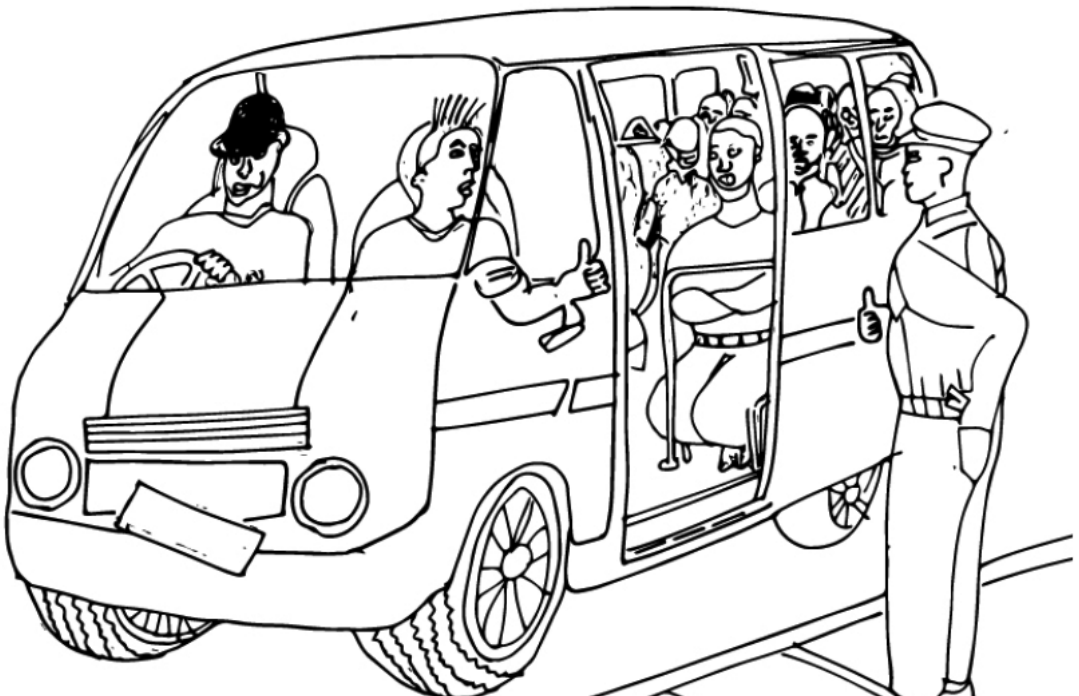
Age: 12 Years

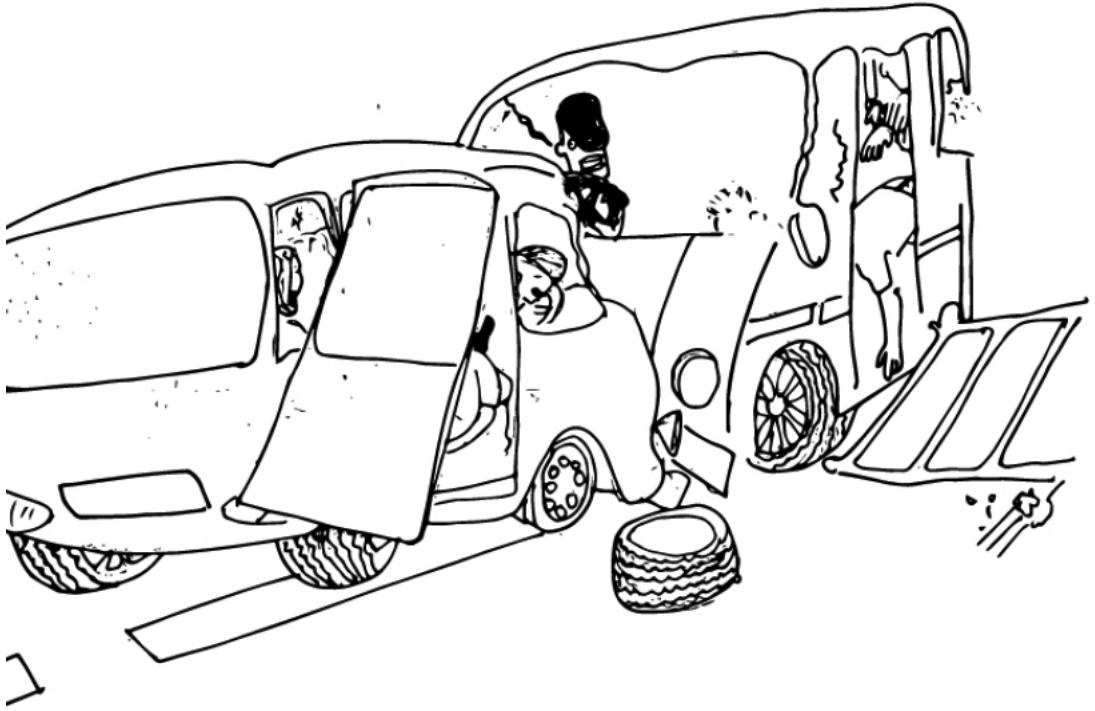
School: Kogweno Primary School

The most common ordeal that most people encounter in our society is corruption. In the economic sector, corruption takes many forms based on the type of business that one engages in. For instance, some parts of the country's transport sector. Whereas it is a requirement by law and by government that vehicle drivers must have proper training and driving licenses, some forge these documents or bribe some government officials to make copies for them without undergoing the proper training.

This has led to many traffic accidents and sometimes loss of lives on our roads. Some vehicle users on our roads break the traffic rules by sometimes over-speeding, disregarding traffic road signs, using vehicles that are not roadworthy to mention but just a few traffic offences.

They however, sometimes bribe their way out when caught by the police. In Kenya, illegal drugs are transported from town to town. Some of the traffic police do nothing about it. Instead, they let them pass after being given an amount of money in form of a bribe against being arrested and prosecuted.





Brian Muange | 12 years | North Highridge Primary

Some of the roads in this country have not been constructed well. This is due to the fact that some of the contractors given the job use sub-standard materials and compromise on the right steps so as to save on the cost of building roads. This has contributed to the poor state of some of the roads in this country.

Sometimes the police do not do due diligence during crime investigations. Some innocent citizens have been prosecuted and jailed even though they were innocent. Some members of the society who report crime are harassed because some court officials collude with criminals who do not want to be brought to book. As a result, they bribe some police officers to harass the those who make reports regarding crime.

Some traders are corrupt. They sometimes do not package the correct quantity of goods before selling to the consumers. Pricing of some products is quite high in some areas and the government must ensure that prices are regulated and no citizens are taken advantage of in some parts of this country. Some of the food sold is not fit for human consumption and some is laced with harmful chemicals. This too, must be checked because of the risks to lives.

Some government hospitals do not have enough medical supplies to take care of the patients. As a result, some lose their lives because of lack of proper medical care. In some cases, the medical supplies from the government are stolen by hospital workers to be sold to private-owned hospitals or pharmacies. This is also a form of corruption whose price is sometimes fatal.

Some of the government agencies tasked to monitor and watch the environment do not perform their duties well. People pollute the environment by littering, releasing chemical waste into water bodies such as rivers or lakes near them, gas emission from cars and factories etc. There is no proper care for the environment and no clear and consistent law enforcement on crimes related to environmental pollution. Some people do not care about the environment. They pollute the soil, water and even air. The chemicals that are also used in farms pollute the soil. This leads to the death of small animals that live in soil and fish in the water. This is a form of corruption that goes unnoticed by many people.

There is corruption in education. During examinations, students are corrupt. They are dishonest and they end up passing exams through exam cheating.

There is corruption in how the rights of people from different classes are met by the government. Those in the upper class have better facilities and quicker service deliveries from the government as opposed to the citizens from the lower classes. The upper class citizens receive more respect and their needs prioritised against those of the majority from the low class.

Name: Zighe Mwavua

Age: 14 Years

School: Rudan Junior Academy

First, what is corruption? The dictionary defines corruption as illegal or dishonest conduct especially by people in power. Other people think that corruption is a beast that needs to be ejected from its seat in the minds of our leaders and persons in authority as soon as possible.

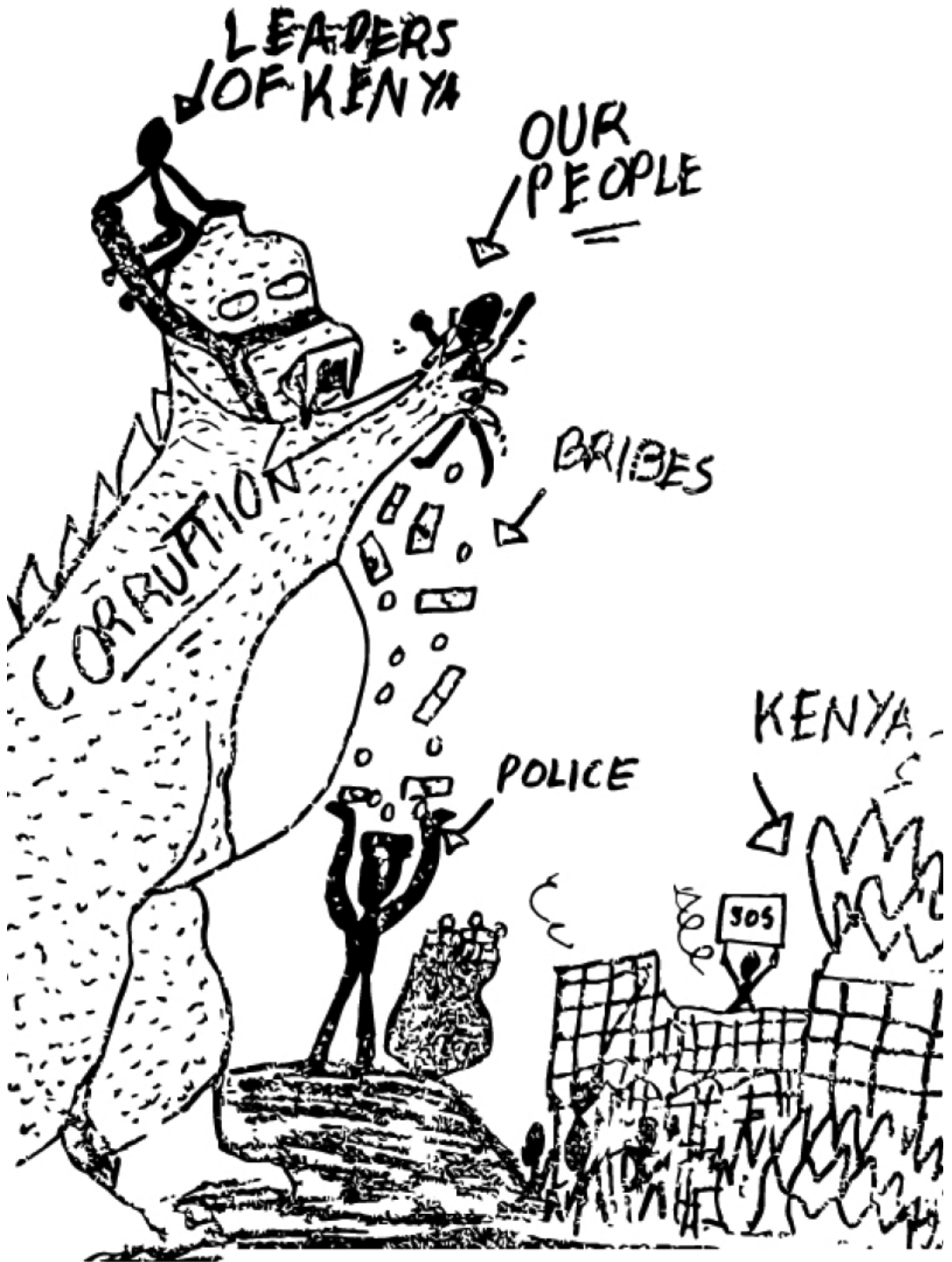
I have experienced and seen many cases of corruption. Despite what adults think, children and the youth are aware of the state of corruption in the country. Some people are quick to condemn the corrupt, however I feel that one can easily be snapped and fall into the web of corruption. Corruption is widespread in many places such as courts, churches, hotels, bars, and pretty much everywhere you can think of. There is always the request for *'Kitu Kidogo'* (bribe) that hurts! I mean even in places of worship!

Corruption has plagued this country for a long time - from time immemorial. What breaks my heart is the fact that most people are not aware of the negative effect that corruption has on a country's economic growth and people's lives. Nobody seems to be taking serious action in challenging this vice. Instead, we sit around and complain from the comfort of our homes and offices. Rise up people! Let's stop this menace!

The other day our president reported that the country loses Kenya Shillings two (2) billion shillings daily to corruption. This translates to Kenya Shillings 720 billion per year. As a result, the government has resolved to charge the citizens very high taxes in a bid to raise enough money for government expenditure and cushion the budget from the large sums lost to corruption. Many people cannot afford these taxes since the majority of Kenyans live below the poverty line. What is worse is that some of the money raised from the tax is embezzled instead of being used to fund government projects that benefit many Kenyans.

News about corruption has become commonplace. It seems that there is always a corruption scandal being unearthed every day. Exams malpractice has become rampant; secondary schools admission process is flawed and some parents bribe to have their children get admissions even if they did

CORRUPTION



Lisa Njeri | 10 years old | Riara Group of Schools

not make the pass. Many parents can no longer afford to educate their children because the government funds meant to support free education for all are being misused.

Some people say that the police force is riddled with corruption. The police are tasked with the duty of maintaining law and order and enforcing it. They however have quite often been accused of taking bribes and ignoring crime. Some even collude with criminals just because they have been bribed.

Our judicial system has not been spared either by this menace. Cases of judicial officials being bribed to frustrate court processes are rampant. It seems that our judicial system favors the rich and poor struggle to get justice.

There is corruption in our food industry. Butchers are now lacing the meat with harmful chemicals as a form of preservation. Not so long ago the news outlets were rife with reports of unregulated importation which led to contaminated sugar finding its way to tables in many households. These are just a few examples of how corruption endangers people's lives.

The high cost of living and joblessness have left many Kenyans hopeless. This seems to have taken a toll on some people's mental health. We now have so many cases of people maiming or even killing close relatives and loved ones.

Have you heard of 'COVID-19 billionaires?' Well, some people abused their power by misappropriating funds that were meant to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. Some sold the PPEs, masks and other medical supplies to private hospitals and pharmacies.

Our political leaders seem not to care about citizen's welfare. They are instead more keen on pushing their own political agenda and safeguarding their political interests.

How can we stamp out corruption? Borrowing from Eric Wainaina's song '*Nchi ya Kitu Kidogo* (A Country of Something Small)' and King Kaka's poem '*Wajinga Nyinyi* (You are the Fools)' - we need to empower the youth and adults alike. We must challenge leadership that does not serve our interests and send them home by impeaching them. Together we can make it, because there is power in unity. As the saying goes: 'United we



Swafia Yatrah | 12 years | Langata West Primary

stand, divided we fall'

Charity begins at home, so they say. The anti-corruption initiative must start from our homes. Parents should be aware of the fact they are raising the future leaders of this world. Conversations around this topic must begin from our homes and parents should teach values that nurture patriotism and pride for the country in children.

The other suggestion is that the government should integrate the study of corruption in curricula at all levels. Government establishments and schools should be corruption-free centres.

The government should offer farmers and businessmen subsidies that enable them to set up factories/industries to manufacture products within the country instead of exporting raw materials and importing finished products. The process of setting up some of these establishments is riddled with corruption leaving the citizens without many options.

The citizens should elect leaders who are patriotic and who are incorruptible. People should not be swayed by the handouts that some

politicians give out during campaigns as a form of bribery.

I have outlined ways of fighting corruption, it is now your turn to stand up and fight! We should bring back our country to its former glory. Lest we become what the musician King Kaka said '*Wajinga nyinyi*' loosely translated as a foolish country.



I have experienced and seen many cases of corruption. Despite what adults think, children and the youth are aware of the state of corruption in the country. Some people are quick to condemn the corrupt, however I feel that one can easily be snapped and fall into the web of corruption. Corruption is widespread in many places such as courts, churches, hotels, bars, and pretty much everywhere you can think of. There is always the request for 'Kitu Kidogo' (bribe) that hurts! I mean even in places of worship!

Name: Simon Fidelis

Age: 17 Years

School: Sam's Place for the Deaf

Corruption takes many shapes and forms. In this country some youths have to pay a bribe in order to get a job. Patients in government hospitals sometimes have to bribe the medical staff in order to get quick medical attention or even medicines. Those who cannot raise enough money to bribe are sometimes left unattended to and end up dying.

Some members of the Kenyan traffic police do not enforce the law. They sometimes free bad (sic rogue) road users who pay them bribes and arrest those who can't pay a bribe.



Claire Njeri | 16 Years | Thika Garrison Sec School

Some schools are very selective and will only offer admission places to children from rich backgrounds regardless of what results they posted in the national examinations. As such, some deserving students from poor backgrounds miss out because their spaces have been 'sold' to someone who can afford them. Government funding that targets marginalized communities and the poor has sometimes ended up being embezzled.



Name: Killian Nyabera

Age: 16 Years

School: Sam's Place for the Deaf

During the campaign season, most political leaders bribe voters so that they can be elected. As a result, some leaders who have a good track record of development and leadership might miss out if they cannot afford to bribe the electorate with huge sums.

In a hospital set-up, female patients tend to get better services and sometimes pay less yet their male counterparts have to pay full hospital bills



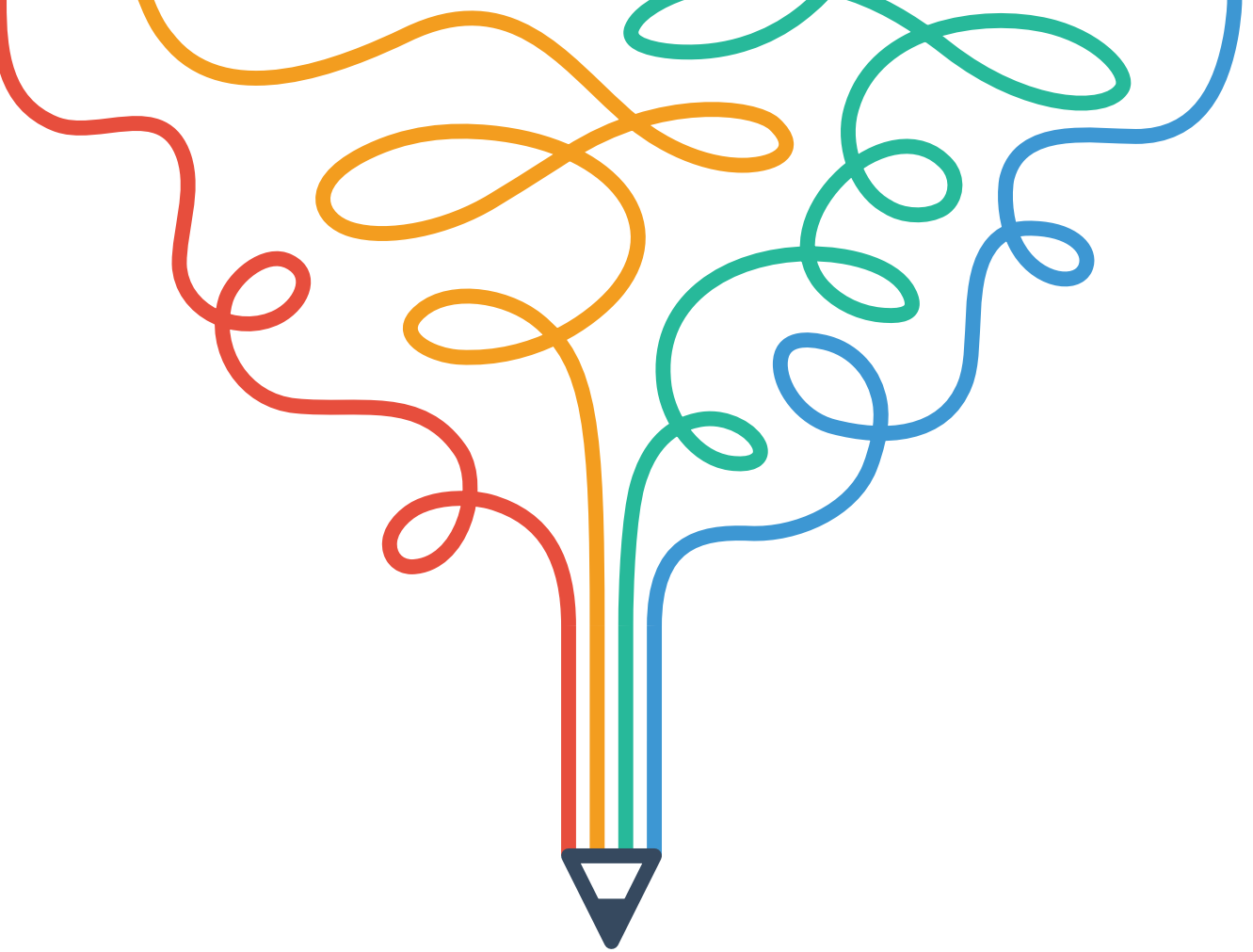
Name: Tyson Seko

Age: 17 Years

School: Sam's Place for the Deaf

Corruption involves giving or soliciting bribes. This has made our country ugly. Some citizens who stand up to challenge cases of bribery are sometimes silenced by bribery.

Young men seeking jobs are sometimes expected to pay a bribe in order to get the job. This is regardless of the person's education background and qualifications. Ladies on the other hand are sometimes sexually exploited when looking for a job.



**ESSAY & ART
CONTEST
ON CORRUPTION**

CORRUPTION IN THE ECONOMY

Name: Iddah Faith

Age: 14 years

School: Bar Union Primary

Corruption is dishonest or illegal behavior especially by people in authority. Most people willingly engage in corruption by abusing their power to get money or favors. Corruption is becoming prevalent in our society. There is inequality in the way in which the citizens are treated by the government.

There are many types of corruption but corruption in the economy is the worst of them all. The economy is the relationship between production, trade, and the supply of money in a particular country or region. The world economy and market economy are types of the economy in which the price is fixed according to both supply and demands

Corruption in the market economy is spreading widely; large companies that are owned by government officials push the small companies out of business because of unfair competition. Government agencies that should be at the forefront of the war against corruption are unfortunately riddled with corruption.

In the world economy, many countries with emerging economies suffer from high levels of corruption that slow overall development. The entire society is affected as a result of the inefficient allocation of resources. Corruption makes these societies worse off and lowers the living standards of most of their populations.

Corruption in trade affects buying and selling of goods. Nowadays traders are corrupt, especially business owners who can manipulate market mechanisms to ensure they are a monopoly provider of goods or services in the market, corrupt deals are done and contracts are awarded.

Corruption may well affect the composition of trade. The net impact of corruption on trade is not clear, however, bribes could lead to either an increase or decrease in the volume of trade.

Corruption is one of the hindrances for foreign investment. Investors who seek a fair, competitive business environment will avoid investing in countries where there is a high level of corruption.

Corruption is now common in our country and investors cannot risk

investing their money in a country known for having high corruption levels.

In a corrupt economy, resources are inefficiently allocated and companies that otherwise would not be qualified to win government contracts are often awarded projects because of bribery or kickbacks.

Cases of bribery before one can get a job are quite rampant in this country. This rings closer home, having seen my sister miss out on a job opportunity that she was qualified for, to an under qualified candidate just because they were known to the recruiting manager at that company.

When corruption cannot be tamed, the government loses its credibility. There will be an increased level of uncertainty by the citizens when the government officials offer service based on who can afford to bribe. This uncertainty is worse when people realise that necessary approvals for a project cannot be obtained at a reasonable cost because officials at different levels demand a piece of the profits.

When corruption is stamped out, there will be fairness in the market economy, small businesses will have the courage to compete with large companies, and economic growth will be realised in the country.

The Ministry of Education through Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development [K. I. C .D] should develop a curriculum on corruption and infuse it into the current school syllabus. This will create awareness in the younger generation who will grow up equipped with skills and knowledge on how to slay this monster called corruption.

The government should invest heavily in the digitisation of services offered to reduce the chances of bribery demands before a service from government officials is given. New technology for payment services using digital methods such as automated machines and software on Integrated Financial Management System [I.F.M.S] will help during the financial management of any institution.

Public participation must begin from the lowest level of society to the national level, this will make the public a part and parcel of any project taking place.

Name: Calvin Ouma

Age: 16 years

School: Bar Union Primary

Corruption can be defined as dishonest behavior by those in positions of power such as politicians, managers or government officials. Corruption can include: giving or accepting bribes or inappropriate gifts; underhand dealings or transactions; manipulation of election results; money laundering and fraud among other forms. There are other different forms of corruption, which include bribery, lobbying, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, parochialism, tribalism, patronage, influence peddling, graft and embezzlement

Corruption is rampant in various sectors of the public in Kenya. The Kenyan economy has been greatly affected. We are told that a country's economy is the state of its region in forms of production and consumption of goods and services and the supply of money.

In an economy, the production and consumption of goods and services are used to meet the needs of the citizens in that particular country. Signs of a robust and growing economy in a country are an increase in financial resources which means a rise in national income, national output and total expenditure.



Prince | 17 years | St. Xavier High School

Kenya is one of the most corrupt countries in the globe. In the year 2017, Kenya was ranked 143 out of 180 countries in the Transparency International index. High corruption levels are choking the Kenyan economy and bad politics is hindering the development and practice of democracy.

Economic corruption chokes important industries and production of resources such as oil and gas; infrastructure and job creation thus increasing the cost of living.

The financial cost of running a country is very high. The country's anti-graft chief estimates that up to a third of the Kenyan state budget is lost through corruption every year. It is estimated that Kenya has lost more than 6.6 trillion Kenya Shillings since its independence. The exact correct scale of corruption is however unknown.

Corruption is one of the biggest obstacles to the growth of Kenya's economy. This scares foreign investors and affects public services. Corruption impacts the economy negatively by wasting tax-payers' money. Many citizens have lost faith and trust in the government due to the large-scale corruption that is taking place in the country.

Setting up a company in Kenya is very costly and time-consuming. One in six companies report having had to bribe to get an operating license. Some people have to pay a bribe in order to obtain construction permits as well as tenders.



Kenya was ranked 143 out of 180 countries in the Transparency International index. High corruption levels are choking the Kenyan economy and bad politics is hindering the development and practice of democracy.



**ESSAY & ART
CONTEST
ON CORRUPTION**

CORRUPTION IN EDUCATION

Name: Lucas Omondi Oyiera

Age: 15 Years

School: St. Mathias Mwitoti Secondary School

Corruption has spread all over this country like fire in a dry bush. To me, corruption has become like a way of life. Corruption is the misuse of power and resources by an entrusted person for their own benefit instead of the society's. Corruption starts from homes and spreads to the larger society.

The education sector is a critical sector whereby integrity should be practiced. This is because all sectors depend on education. It is in the learning institutions where professionals and a workforce is developed. When education institutions fail to uphold integrity, all sectors are impacted negatively. Amazingly, corruption is common in learning institutions. This is practiced by the management, teachers, students and subordinate staff.

Government bursaries are awarded to students from well-off families rather than allocating them to needy students because of corruption. Enrollment into some schools is not transparent. Some children from underprivileged communities miss out on good schools because their spaces have been taken up by children from affluent families whose parents bribe their way in.

Promises by the government to equip every child with a laptop have not been fulfilled. Some schools have superior facilities and more teachers whereas some do not. This is due to inequitable distribution of funds and resources by the government. In my former primary school, we used to have 3 TSC registered teachers with more than 400 students.

Some head teachers in some schools are not good role models and do not execute their mandate diligently. Some are involved in the misappropriation of school funds. Corruption in the teachers' recruitment has seen students being taught by unqualified and incompetent teachers. This is one of the reasons why some schools perform dismally in the national exams.

During the start of the school year, some head teachers take bribes so as to enroll pupils who did not qualify to join national schools. This eventually

causes congestion in schools leading to poor living and studying conditions in some schools. Some heads of schools do not manage schools fairly. The teachers who miss lessons or duty are never challenged because of favouritism. Other heads of schools sexually harass the interns in schools simply because they are desperate to gain experience and get a job.

Disciplinary action taken against pupils is sometimes not fair. Some pupils go scot-free for the same misdemeanors that others are punished for.

Some heads of schools are very tribal. Most of the support staff that they employ are usually from their communities.

Sometimes heads of schools are involved in exam malpractice by bribing the exam invigilators so that they can allow cheating in the exam rooms by students.

Other teachers in schools start programs with the sole purpose of making money from students. Some of these programs are made compulsory. This could also be in the form of school trips which are priced expensively.

There have been cases of senior teachers undermining the newly qualified teachers by giving them a heavy workload in terms of the number of lessons that they have to teach. Some teachers are lazy and do not mark exams. Some teachers collaborate with the storekeepers to steal school resources and foodstuff. Some start businesses in schools instead of focusing on teaching the curriculum. Sadly, some teachers get tenders using proxies and instead of allowing honest public participation in the tendering process. Some students bribe teachers by buying them gifts in exchange for favours.

In some schools, the non-teaching staff such as: guards, secretaries, office messengers, lab-technicians, cooks/caterers and nurse/matrons engage in corruption. Some students have a special diet because of favours from some of the support staff. Some kitchen staff steal food from the kitchen.

Lab technicians have been known to engage in exam malpractice by leaking the practical exams to some students. Some office messengers in some schools peddle prohibited items from outside to students such as food, letters and drugs. Matron/nurses put some students on special

treatment like special food, hot water for bathing and many more. School bursars collude with heads of schools to over-price items and overcharge parents.

Some students have been known to engage in corruption. For instance, engaging in cheating in exams takes place in some schools. Theft is quite rampant in some schools and children suffer a lot. Some lose their uniforms and even mattresses to such vices. They engage in stealing items from school and selling to outsiders. No action is taken even when they are reported to school authorities.

Students giving money and gifts to school prefects so as to be favoured is a form of corruption.

Corruption can be curbed in various ways such as:

- i. Sensitisation - some people engage in corruption unknowingly, as such holding workshops to educate them will be helpful.
- ii. Stringent measures and fines should be imposed on those found guilty of committing or abetting corruption in schools.
- iii. Students who practice corruption should be punished by being reprimanded, suspended, and expelled.
- iv. Guiding and counseling programs run by professionals be initiated in schools in order to assist students and workers.
- v. An independent body to be established in schools in order to do an investigation into any corruption practiced in school.

In conclusion, let us all unite to fight this beast called corruption!

Name: Ruby Betty Imani

Age: 11 years

School: Lang'ata West Primary School

Corruption refers to dishonest or bad conduct by those in authority. When our leaders make decisions on policies that affect us without considering our welfare and interests - we end up suffering. It is so sad that our future is destroyed by selfish decisions by such leaders.

The education sector is the most affected by corruption. The government promised us laptops but I am in class five and still waiting. I was so happy when the government announced that laptops would be given to us but it is sad that these promises have not been fulfilled. I am requesting the government to keep the promise that they made to us. The laptops would have made our life at school more interesting and meaningful. When our leaders are dishonest, whom do we turn to?

Reports have been in the news of some pupils who pass exams but miss out on secondary school placement because of corruption. It has been suspected that some pupils who scored lower marks joined better schools because their parents had money to bribe. This is not fair because it affects the performance of the child.

As a pupil, fighting corruption starts with me. When my parents give me money to take to school, church, or even buy anything from the shop, I must always do so and bring back the correct change. Our Sunday school teacher always tells us that cheating is bad and it is against the Bible. We are also taught in Sunday School that stealing is bad and that we should always show respect to others, especially our seniors. We should all respect this.

It is also wrong when a class prefect is bribed with food and other gifts so as not to report misconduct. One day, my name was on the list of noisemakers and I was punished by the teacher and I really felt bad. I thought that was unfair but I forgave the class monitor. Leaders should not favour others.

Teachers should not favour pupils because of the relationship that they have with their parents. We should all be treated equally. Teachers should

not be lenient when marking some pupils' work. This is misleading and a form of corruption in schools.

Teachers should be role models. We should rely on them to guide us to be good citizens. They teach us moral values so that we can have a better life. Teachers should therefore be paid well because they work hard to make us clever. Grabbing land belonging to schools prevents pupils from having playgrounds. The law should punish such leaders.

Government officials should not engage in corruption. Funds meant for building schools, buying books and providing sanitary pads should be used for the intended purposes. Anyone found misusing the money meant for the above purposes should be jailed for life.

Corruption has a negative impact on the lives of many people, especially the future generation. Part of the curriculum that we study in schools should address the issue of corruption to empower the youth to grow up in a moral and honest way.

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Name: Vincent Omondi Odiwa

Age: 14 Years

School: Kogweno Primary School

Corruption is illegal and dishonest behavior by people in authority for selfish gains. Corruption in education threatens the well-being of society because it erodes social trust and worsens inequality. It lowers development, by undermining the formation of educated, competent, and ethical individuals for future leadership labour. Corruption affects both primary and secondary policy-making and planning. Some school heads mismanage school funds and resources thus stalling the development of projects in those schools.

This is my own experience: I started school late; aged eight years because my father was not keen on taking me to school. My mother played a big role convincing him that some education will be good for me. I was the third born in a family of four children: two girls and two boys. My two elder sisters were forced into marriage at the tender ages of eleven years. They never got education.

It would take me one hour to walk to school and another hour back covering a distance of ten kilometers. I did all this despite the fact that the school owned a fifty-four-seater bus that was fueled, maintained, and serviced by the Ministry of Education in the national government. This bus could have been used to ferry some of the children like me who lived so far away from school. Instead of doing this, the school administration misused the fuel funds. In school, we sat on tree trunks and stones because there were no chairs or desks. This happened despite the fact that the government's annual funding was sent to all public schools. It could be that the school administrators channeled the money into their personal projects. Some of the classrooms were in a sorry state. Two of the classroom walls had gaping holes; the roofs were grass thatched. I would not call it a classroom really, but a shack.

It is hard to believe that we used to learn in shacks but the Ministry of Education under the National government collectively with the office of the County Governor and the office of the area Member of Parliament disbursed funds annually for infrastructure development in schools. It

seems that these funds were also being misappropriated by the school administrators. What a high level of corruption in the education sector!

Despite the government's offer for free primary education, we were still required to pay two thousand shillings. This was supposed to cater for paying the non-teaching staff. It was later established that they were being paid by the school's alumni. Efforts to have the education offices intervene were unsuccessful. It was suspected that the officers had been bribed. Because people in those offices had been bribed using large amounts of money. There was no public participation in the tender process. The school did not have adequate stationery and resources to cater for all the pupils. What happened to the resources supplied by the government remains a mystery!

Some schools charge large sums of money for the admission process to take place. Other head teachers run schools without following the laid down protocol by the Ministry of Education. Cases of teachers selling school equipment meant for use by pupils are becoming rampant. The government should tame corruption in this sector. It is very unfortunate that funds meant to benefit school children are being squandered by some corrupt school administrators. It is therefore vital for laws to be put in place to fight corrupt teachers and school administrators. Vetting of school leaders should be done by the Teachers Service Commission before appointments into these roles are done.

Clear checks and audits should be done to curb corruption in schools. Officers tasked with this mandate should carry out their duties diligently.

Improved remuneration for teachers will help in curbing corruption in the education sector. A lifestyle audit should also be carried out on wealthy teachers, lecturers, and school administrators to establish the sources of their wealth. If found guilty the assets and money stolen should be recovered. Corrupt heads of schools should be dismissed from office with immediate effect after being proven guilty by courts of law.

It is also important for stakeholders to engage in dialogue and consensus-building to agree on which problem to prioritise taking into account their urgency. Strategies to create awareness on the impact of corruption should be put in place. This could involve all religious leaders and anti-corruption agencies who could visit schools to educate both

teachers and students on this.

In conclusion, corruption should be eradicated in the education sector since education is a fundamental human right and a major driver of personal development.

“**T**he school administration misused the fuel funds. In school, we sat on tree trunks and stones because there were no chairs or desks. This happened despite the fact that the government’s annual funding was sent to all public schools. It could be that the school administrators channeled the money into their personal projects. Some of the classrooms were in a sorry state. Two of the classroom walls had gaping holes; the roofs were grass thatched. I would not call it a classroom really, but a shack.

Corruption should be eradicated in the education sector since education is a fundamental human right and a major driver of personal development.

Name: Splendour Omphisi

Age: 17 Years

School: Moi Girls High School, Eldoret

Corruption is a form of attitude that abuses good ethics, morality and law for illegal personal gains. It is a huge problem in this country that has spread to all economic sectors including education. Corruption in the education sector affects admissions to schools, colleges and universities. There is exam malpractice, moral corruption; where there is exchange of sex for good grades especially in higher learning institutions and mis-allocation of bursaries among others.

The most common and heart-breaking form of corruption, which I have witnessed, and fallen victim of, is the mis-allocation of bursaries and grants released at both national and county government levels to aid disadvantaged children to access education. There is however no equitable and fair distribution of these funds.

In my case, I was to join the prestigious Moi Girls High School Eldoret since I had performed exemplarily well in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examinations. I was to get funding from my county government because I qualified for the county scholarship program. This was such great news because I come from an underprivileged background, being raised by a single mother. Two days after receiving the news regarding my qualification for the scholarship, my mum was summoned to the county office and we were so optimistic that she would be given the money. To our utter surprise and disbelief, she was asked to pay ten thousand shillings for the cheque to be processed. She naively assumed that this was a legal requirement. She had to borrow money to make the payment. After this, she was asked to go back after two weeks. On her return, she was asked to pay one thousand shillings as 'communication' charges. She still did not get the money after making the payment.

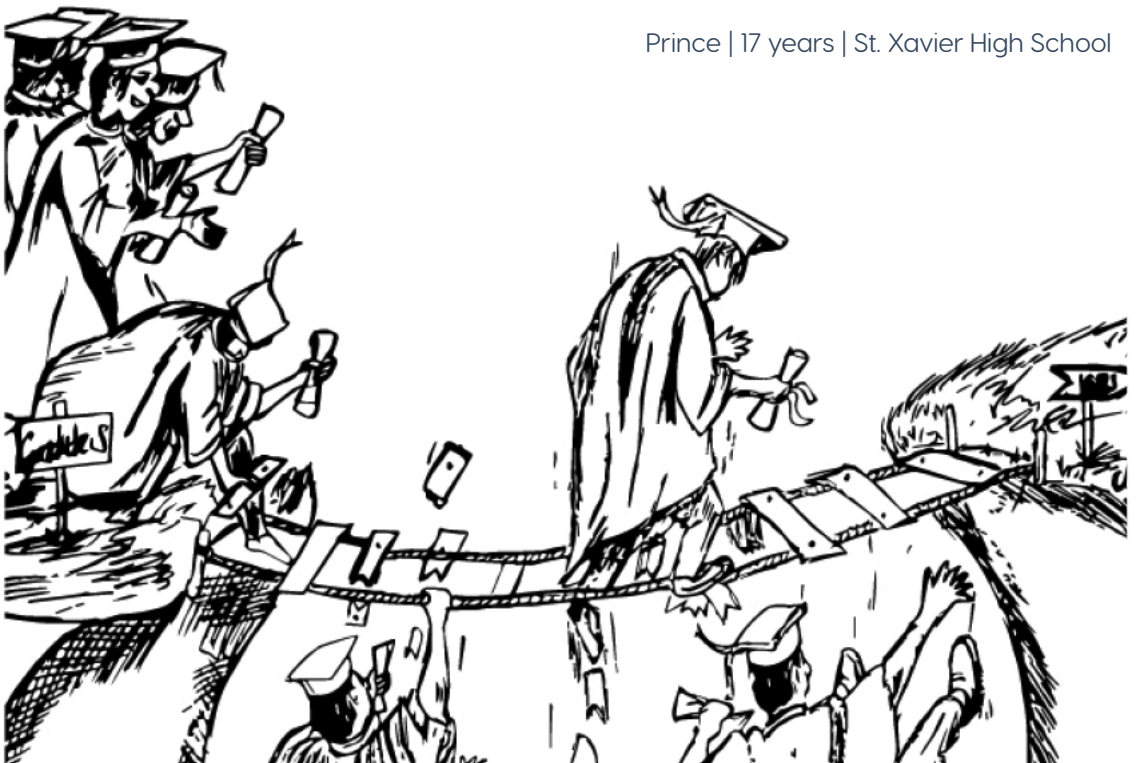
Two weeks later, my mother was asked to go and collect the cheque. On arrival, she was asked to make yet another payment of fifteen thousand shillings as an appreciation to the officer for 'processing' the scholarship! My mother did not have the money. By this time, schools had opened

and my peers were already reporting to school. We were desperate! Two days later, my mother decided to go to the office to check if she could get any help. It was then that she was informed that my funds had been given to another child whose parents could afford to pay the money that we could not raise to bribe the county official. The news broke my heart! My mother was inconsolable. She had done everything to help me get the scholarship but this still failed. Not only had we lost the scholarship, but also our money. We had no one to run to.

I had to stay at home for two weeks as my mum scampered around borrowing money from friends and relatives to raise the fees. Finally, after much struggle, she raised sixteen thousand shillings and I reported to school without personal shopping as the money was just enough to pay my tuition fees.

As I write this, it saddens my heart to think that there are thousands of other children across this country from poor backgrounds who go through the same ordeal that I experienced trying to get an education. Why must families pay for services that are supposed to be free? Why are children from poor backgrounds disadvantaged in life?

Prince | 17 years | St. Xavier High School



This type of corruption has very long-lasting consequences because resources are wasted, young people are denied the education they should receive, and those unable to afford bribes are denied access to schools. It sabotages economic and literacy growth. We are raising a generation that will grow up believing that hard work and personal effort is not enough but rather corruption is the ticket to success.

In a few years, this generation will do the same when they get to positions of power because that is all that they have learnt from their experiences.

Education is a fundamental human right and a major driver of personal and social development. Corruption in the education sector should be dealt with and eradicated.

In my opinion, the government should make an audit on the use of and allocation of scholarship funds given by the government. A review of how these funds are accessed should be done. The funds could be sent directly to schools with clear identification checks of the recipients put in place so that deserving children benefit.

Other forms of corruption in the education sector could be curbed by use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) to monitor exams malpractice.

The universities should stick to the admission criteria and the Commission for University Education should carry out its full mandate by vetting the admission process in both public and private universities. Students must have the proper grades and qualifications to take up the courses at the university.

Corruption is endemic. A strong commitment from top government offices should be there for us to win the fight against corruption.

Name: June Angela

Age: 12 years

School: Mbita Preparatory International School

Corruption is the act of giving or accepting money or gifts in exchange for a favor. Corruption is prevalent in our country Kenya. Corruption in Kenya is illegal and should not be practiced.

Not so long ago, my cousin who had just finished primary school was going to join a National Secondary School. She was to go to the school in person and ask for admission. My cousin was surprised that the headmaster did not accept her request. He told her that in order for her to be admitted she had to give him a bribe. My cousin agreed and was willing to go to any extent to be admitted.

My cousin thought that the headmaster wanted a bribe in the form of money. But lo and behold, he wanted money plus an affair with her! After paying the agreed amount, my cousin finally joined the school. It was then that she realised the man's intentions. Her refusal turned him into an angry man who would find different ways of making her life at school miserable. He would make financial extortions from her and threaten to expose her if she did not give him money. My cousin would give him the money because she did not want the world to know that she had bribed her way into the school. He also threatened to tell everyone that she had engaged in exam malpractice during her KCPE exams. Although this was not true, my cousin was helpless and did not know how to fight such a powerful man.

One day she gathered courage and reported the matter to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education took action against the headmaster. He was arrested and taken to court. My cousin was happy that the head teacher was no longer going to disturb her.

What can we do to stop corruption? We can educate people on the dangers of corruption. If everyone was educated about the dangers of corruption, who would want to practice it? Imagine if all the politicians in Kenya were not corrupt what would our nation be like? Corruption is evil and illegal and it should not be practiced. Any citizen caught in corruption should be jailed for life!

Name: Gisma Ager

Age: 11 years

School: Kasarani Junior Primary

Corruption has become a major problem in our country. It has become evident that part of the government funding that some schools receive to improve infrastructure such as building or refurbishing dormitories, classrooms, toilets, dining halls and many others is being misappropriated by the very school leaders who are supposed to oversee these projects. These leaders embezzle the funds to use it for their own personal gain. This has left some pupils without proper classrooms and enough teachers to teach them.

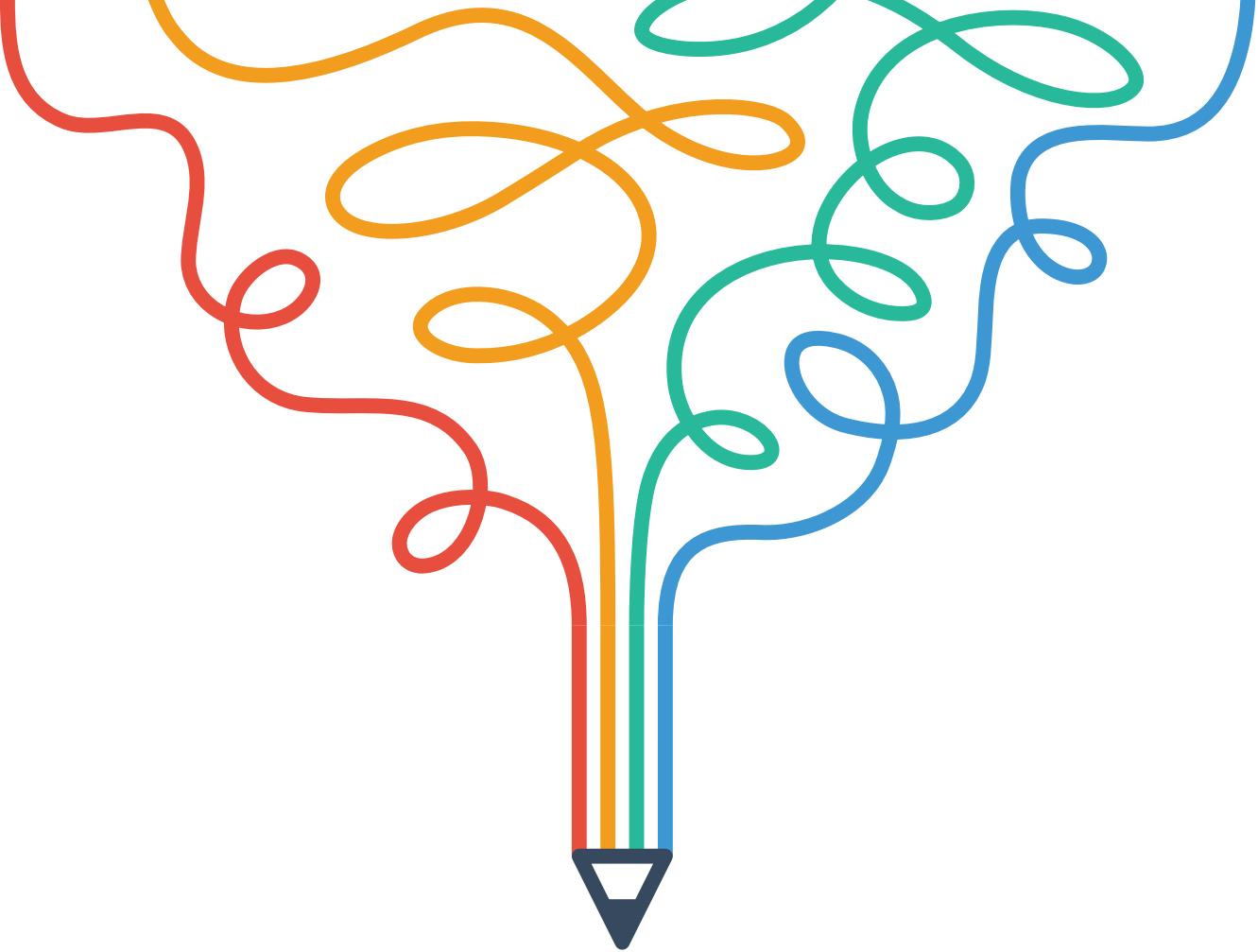
In some schools, some prefects seem to be practicing corruption. They do not carry out their duties with fairness. For example, when submitting the list of noisemakers in the class to the teacher, some leave out their friends' names even if they were noisy. This may seem small issue but such children may grow up to practice corruption at their place of work if that behavior is not nipped in the bud when they are still young.

There are cases of nepotism practiced by some teachers in some schools. This might take the form of such teachers practicing favoritism by offering extra help to their relatives at school, giving more revision materials and guidance to those who are related to them at school. Some have even engaged in exam malpractice in a bid to assist the relatives to perform well in examinations.

In some schools, the support staff such as cleaners and cooks do not offer their services with equality and fairness. Some favour students who are aligned to their political beliefs, race and tribe.

Some parents want their children to go to a good secondary school. However, when they fail examinations, they bribe the teacher to forge their marks upwards so that they can gain admission to a good school. This form of corruption might cause conflict in the teaching staff.

Some of the ways in which corruption can be curbed are as follows: we should stop bribery, tribalism, racism, nepotism and religious bias. We should be patriotic and uphold the laws of this land.



**ESSAY & ART
CONTEST
ON CORRUPTION**

CORRUPTION IN SECURITY SECTOR

Name: Jill Nyawade

Age: 12 Years

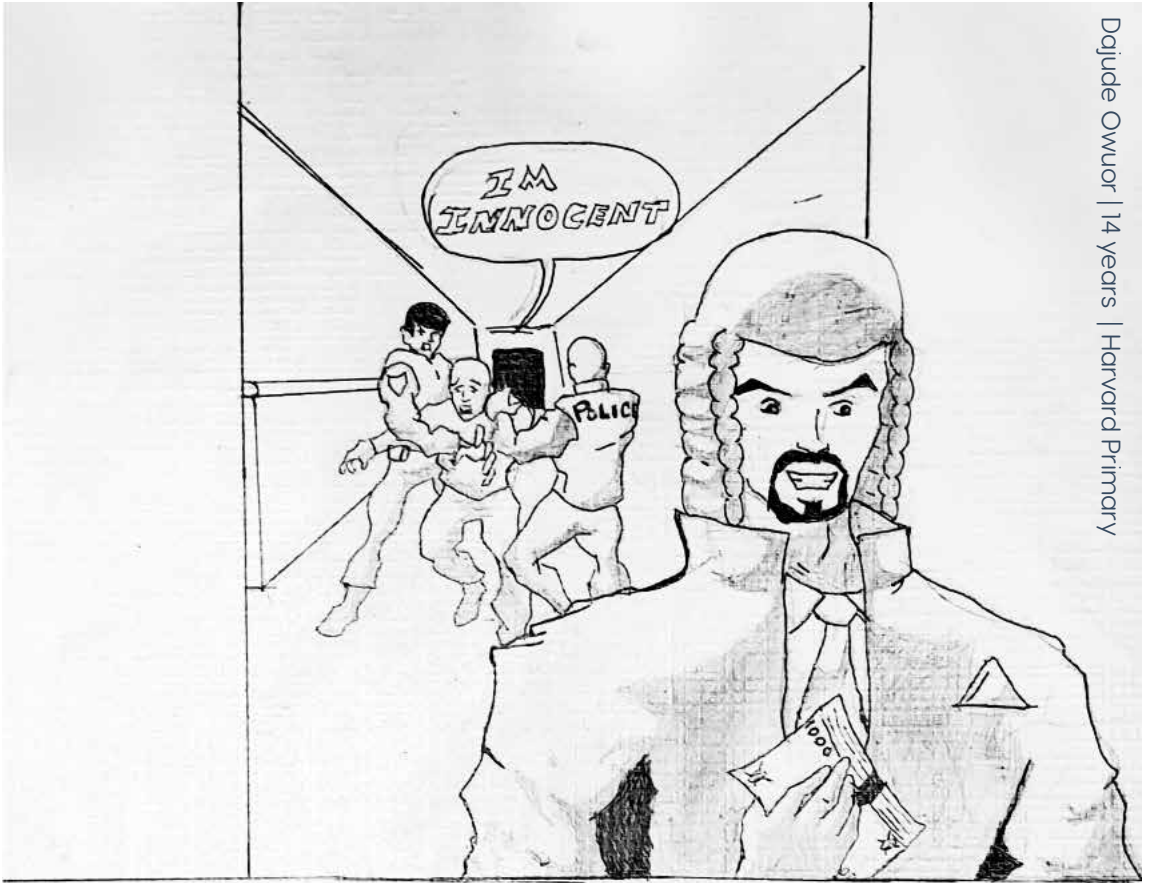
School: Bar Union Primary School

Corruption is the dishonest or illegal behavior especially by people in authority; a corrupt person is someone who is willing to use his or her power to do dishonest and illegal things in return for money or favors.

For many years, corruption has been a major problem; it is a disheartening act that makes people in authority become less patriotic to our motherland Kenya. Action must be taken for corruption to end. The vice will not go away on its own. I am sure you have wondered why people engage in corruption. The answer is simple. Greed! Corruption in Kenya's security sector is prevalent. Much more than you can imagine. For example, some people say that not all the funds allocated to run the security ministry in the country are fully and well utilised. That could be why police officers are poorly paid and could be the other reason why they engage in corrupt deals. Corruption breeds more corruption, leaving the country in such a sorry state. An increase in crime is being experienced because some people no longer care about doing the right thing. Some police officers have been reported to hire out their uniforms and guns to criminals who then end up terrorising citizens. This is a very dangerous form of corruption

We must unite and fight this monster. The president alone cannot do it. It might take a long time, but we must start the fight. All of us! We can still save our country. Well, as we all know, prevention is better than cure. We must find more ways to fight corruption. The government should audit the use of funds in the security docket. A review upwards of the officers' salaries should be done

The government should also educate all the citizens by running sensitisation campaigns on the fight against corruption. This will get everyone on board and help curb this pandemic. The government should get rid of all corrupt officers in the security sector and recruit patriotic and honest officers. Programs that educate the police force on the negative impact of engaging in corruption should be run and



this should be integrated in their syllabus in college. I would like to encourage all Kenyan citizens to shun away from corruption. Corruption is a crime and is punishable according to the Kenyan constitution.

“

Programs that educate the police force on the negative impact of engaging in corruption should be run and this should be integrated in their syllabus in college.

Name: Ivy Muita.

Age: 14 years

School: Carmelvale Catholic Primary School

What is Corruption? It refers to immoral and dishonest behavior. Corruption is a term that many have heard but very few know about and it is spreading fast like a cancerous tumor.

News of corruption cases in Kenya is quite common. From work places to households. Corruption has become quite rampant to the extent where most people experience it in their day to day lives. Most institutions or organisations have at least experienced this vice at point or another. The prevalence is that high.

Corruption is practiced at all levels of society. So far no country can claim to have completely eradicated it. The greed for money and wealth is the leading cause of corruption. Poor salaries for public servants, especially the police, is another root cause of corruption. Claims have been made that they cannot make ends meet on the salaries earned and they supplement this by engaging in corrupt deals.



Emily Aluoch | 13 years | Olekasasi Primary

Lack of transparency in how some government agencies conduct business. Some are not open and accountable.

Sometimes corruption takes place in the form of bribery. This seems to be one of the oldest forms. It involves the exchange of something valuable in return for a service or favour. This is quite common on our roads in Kenya- where some reckless drivers give out 'chai kidogo (tea)' to avoid being arrested.

Some security officers take valuables from crime scenes for their own personal use. This is abuse of trust and authority. Some crime cases do not see the light of the day because investigating officers or court officials are bribed to stop investigations. Some police officers practice nepotism in cases where a friend or a relative is involved. They either persuade or threaten the victim to drop the case.

Government funding has taken the biggest hit from corruption. Top officials tasked with ensuring that government projects are implemented do not do so. Some divert most of the funds to their personal use leaving the common citizens without access to much needed resources such as good healthcare, transport system, schools and many more.

There are many ways of curbing corruption. Tough laws should be enacted to deal with people embezzling funds from public coffers.

Public awareness on matters concerning corruption should be created in towns and villages. This could also be done through social media, town hall discussions, art, plays, songs and dance to mention just a few. Peaceful protests and petitions could also be helpful in the fight against corruption.

The war starts with you and I. Let us come together in this fight. Start small, take the first step, speak to a friend or a colleague and unite everyone in this war. Let us not be afraid to be whistle blowers. We must report all corruption cases regardless of who is involved.

In conclusion, I want to encourage the citizens to raise awareness and do everything in their power to fight corruption.

Imagine a world with no corruption. How nice would that be?

Annexure: The Call

ESSAY & ARTS CONTEST ON THE TOPIC OF CORRUPTION



**KONRAD
ADENAUER
STIFTUNG**

Rule of Law Program for
Sub-Saharan Africa

Entry categories are:

Essay | Artwork (or cartoon)

Your submission should
contain:

- your name
- your birthday and year of birth
- your school
- your contact details
(e-mail/phone number and
postal address)

DEADLINE: 31 MAY 2021

Eligibility:

- Open to children and youth
between ages 10 and 18.
- Essays should be between
1000 and 2000 words (in
English language, typed or if
handwritten then scanned).
- Artwork to be submitted
either on paper size A4, A5 or
A6.

Send entries to:
essayartcon@fawe.or.ke
or

FORUM FOR AFRICAN WOMEN
EDUCATIONALISTS
Kenya Chapter (FAWEK) P. O. Box
52597-00200 Nairobi, Kenya.

<https://fawe.or.ke>
<https://www.kas.de/en/web/rspssa>

Dear Children and Youth of Kenya,

You are cordially invited to participate in our Essay and Arts Contest on a topic of utmost relevance and importance for your country.

Please share with us your personal story and your understanding of / experience on the issue of CORRUPTION and how in your opinion it should be dealt with.

Send us your essay OR submit a piece of art / a cartoon on the Issue of Corruption in one of the following key areas: Education, Health, the Economy, Security or the Environment.

Be creative and have your say on one of the most pressing problems and greatest threats to democracy, the rule of law and the well-being and prosperity of society on the continent.

Make a difference by participating!
The best submissions will be published and there are prizes to win.

We are looking forward to your contributions!

All entries become property of FAWE Kenya and KAS and may be used in the furtherance of the fight against corruption. Only shortlisted participants will be contacted. Reach out to FAWE if you need support in using a courier service for your artwork or for handwritten essays, in case scanning is not possible.

'As a pupil, fighting corruption starts with me...It is also wrong when a class prefect is bribed with food and other gifts so as not to report misconduct...Teachers should not favour pupils because of the relationship that they have with their parents. We should all be treated equally!

Ruby Betty Imani, 11 years old

'The anti-corruption initiative must start from our homes. Parents should be aware of the fact they are raising the future leaders of this world. Conversations around this topic must begin from our homes and parents should teach values that nurture patriotism and pride for the country in children.'

Zighe Mwavua, 14 years old

'When you see the word 'corruption', what comes to your mind? Leaders, Chief Executive Officers of big companies, people in authority? Is it really just that? Don't you think it starts with you and I? The common citizen?'

Phinry Dassah Muthomi, 15 years old

'Corruption has spread all over this country like fire in a dry bush...let us all unite to fight this beast called corruption!'

Lucas Omondi Oyiera, 15 years old

'Corruption has become a menace in this society; affecting each sector of the economy. Greed and materialism are the main causes of this evil. Corruption destroys opportunities that could have benefited the disadvantaged people in the society.'

Brian Muthoka, 16 years old

'... Corruption cannot be stamped out overnight but the journey has started... Topics on corruption should be integrated in the school and college syllabus to try and empower the younger generation who will soon take up the country's leadership mantle...'

Maxwell Mukhwana, 18 years old

'We too, as the youth have a significant role to play in ensuring that corruption does not infiltrate into our generation and the one after. We must make a conscious effort to stick fast to our morals and keep our greed for wealth and hunger for power at bay. We must put the greater good first and do what is right for ourselves and our country at large. Only in this way will we prosper as a people and as a country.'

Georgina Kerubo, 18 years old



**Rule of Law Program for
Sub-Saharan Africa**



**Forum for African Women
Educationalists Kenya**