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**PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS CORRUPTION AND ITS TENDENCY AMONG PUBLIC
SERVANTS**

CASE STUDY: KOTA SAMARAHAN'S PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENTS

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Corruption is a complex phenomenon. Despite numerous attempts to define the term there is hardly any single definition that is 'sufficiently capacious yet discriminating (Williams 1999) to be accepted to universal satisfaction. Generally, it is defined as 'the abuse of public power for private gains in violation of rules' (Rose-Ackerman 1999; Manion 2004). It is also seen as 'illegal actions undertaken by government officials to enrich themselves...' (Geddes and Neto 1999). Though quite popular, this is often seen as a 'narrow', 'legalist' and 'public-office centered' definition of corruption, for it does not take into account all forms of corruption. As opposed to the view above, some scholars advanced what is known as 'the market-centered' view of corruption. They regard corruption when a civil servant perceives his office as a business seeking to maximize his income from it (Tilman,1968). There is yet another perspective- 'the public interest centered' view about corruption (Abdullah, N. R. W. 2008).

According to this view corruption is a violation of public interests and it includes 'actions which favor whoever provides the rewards and thereby does damage to public and its interests' (Friedlich,1966). It is obvious from the definitions above that corruption involves actions on part of public officials that are regarded as improper and unlawful in which they seek to promote private benefits at the expense

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Corruption has recently become a major issue in foreign aid policies. However, behind the screens it has always been there, referred to as the “c-word”. The major concern for international aid policy through the last five decades is to improve the living conditions for the poor in the poorest countries of the world. This endeavour requires a close co-operation with the national governments in poor countries. Generally speaking, however, the governments in poor countries are also the most corrupt. This is one of the few clear empirical results of recent research on corruption. The level of GDP per capita holds most of the explanatory power of the various corruption indicators (Treisman, 2000; Paldam, 1999a). Consequently, if donors want to minimise the risk of foreign aid being contaminated by corruption, the poorest countries should be avoided. This would, however, make aid policy rather pointless. This is the basic dilemma corruption raises for aid policy. Unlike international business most development aid organisations and international finance institutions have the lion’s share of their activities located in highly corrupt countries (Alesina and Weder, 1999). The international community in general and some donor countries in particular are, however, increasingly willing to fight corruption. Within the “good governance” strategies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund initiatives to curb corruption are given priority. OECD and the UNDP have also developed particular anti-corruption programmes to assist governments in tackling