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Abstract

Anti-corruption measures refer to a set of strategies, policies, and actions implemented by governments, organizations, and institutions to prevent, detect, and combat corruption. These measures typically include transparency and accountability mechanisms, robust legal frameworks, independent anti-corruption agencies, whistleblower protection, public awareness campaigns, and measures to promote integrity in public administration and procurement processes. The study has discovered that the existing anti-corruption measures in Helsinki have proven to be relatively successful in maintaining low corruption levels and promoting transparency in government operations. The study identifies the need for stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with anti-corruption laws and also to enhance room for whistleblower protection mechanisms to encourage individuals to report corruption without fear of reprisal. The anti-corruption measures reflect Helsinki's commitment to maintaining a clean and transparent governance system. It was concluded that there is need for continuous evaluation and enhancement of anti-corruption mechanisms to ensure their continued effectiveness. The existing anti-corruption measures in Helsinki have played a significant role in promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical standards in governmental operations. The study recommended that there is need for stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with anti-corruption laws. Implementing comprehensive legislation that safeguards whistleblowers from retaliation and provides avenues for anonymous reporting will encourage individuals to come forward with evidence of corruption without fear of reprisal. Helsinki leadership can establish platforms for regular dialogue between government officials, civil society organizations, and the public to discuss anti-corruption initiatives, share information, and receive feedback. Encouraging citizen involvement through public consultations, citizen oversight mechanisms, and community engagement programs will foster a sense of ownership and collaboration in the fight against corruption.

Keywords: *Anti-Corruption, Measures, Governance, Finland*

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1.0 Background of the Study

The effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in Helsinki, Finland has had a profound impact on governance, promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct within the public administration (Erkkilä, 2020). Helsinki's commitment to combating corruption has resulted in low corruption levels and a governance system widely regarded as efficient and trustworthy. The implementation of robust anti-corruption measures has created a strong foundation for maintaining integrity and upholding the principles of good governance. Transparency and accountability are at the core of Helsinki's anti-corruption efforts (Zheng, 2022). The requirement for public officials to declare their assets and interests fosters transparency, enabling citizens to monitor their activities and hold them accountable. This practice promotes trust in the governance system and ensures that decision-making processes are fair and free from corrupt influences.

The presence of independent anti-corruption agencies, such as the Finnish National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority (FCCA), has significantly contributed to the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in Helsinki (Sunaryo & Nur, 2022). These agencies operate autonomously, conducting thorough investigations and prosecuting corruption cases impartially. Their independence ensures the credibility and effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts, further reinforcing good governance practices. Whistleblower protection mechanisms play a crucial role in Helsinki's fight against corruption. The Finnish Whistleblowing Act provides legal safeguards to protect individuals who report corruption, ensuring their anonymity and shielding them from retaliation (Narwal, 2021). By encouraging whistleblowers to come forward, Helsinki establishes a system that actively discourages corrupt practices, enhances accountability, and strengthens the overall governance framework.

Helsinki's emphasis on public procurement integrity has had a significant impact on governance. Transparent and fair procurement procedures, coupled with strict oversight mechanisms, ensure that public resources are utilized efficiently and without corruption (Mavidis & Folinas, 2022). By promoting open competition and accountability in procurement activities, Helsinki maximizes the value of public funds and benefits the community as a whole. The effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in Helsinki is also evident in the city's low corruption perception index (CPI) scores. Helsinki consistently ranks among the least corrupt cities globally, reflecting the success of its anti-corruption efforts (Rama & Lester, 2019). This positive reputation attracts investments, fosters economic growth, and bolsters the overall governance environment. The impact of anti-corruption measures extends beyond preventing corrupt practices. Groop (2021) noted that these measures contribute to the creation of a culture of integrity within the public administration. By upholding ethical standards and promoting accountability, Helsinki ensures that public officials are guided by principles of honesty and fairness in their decision-making processes.

According to Zhang, Song, Tan, Xia, Zhang, Jiang and Lv (2019), anti-corruption measures have enhanced public trust in the government. When citizens perceive that corruption is effectively addressed, they develop confidence in the governance system. This trust facilitates effective governance and enables the government to implement policies and make decisions with the support and cooperation of the public. Effective anti-corruption measures also promote a level playing field for businesses and investors (Hong-Cheng, HSIAO & Jie-Shin, 2021). By combating corruption and ensuring transparency, Helsinki creates an environment conducive to fair

competition. This fosters economic growth, attracts investments, and encourages the development of a thriving business sector. The effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in Helsinki is a result of continuous evaluation and improvement (Martin-Russu, 2022). The city recognizes the importance of adapting to emerging challenges and refining its anti-corruption framework. Regular assessments, reviews of legislation, and the implementation of best practices contribute to the ongoing effectiveness of these measures.

To further enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures, Helsinki can focus on strengthening enforcement mechanisms. Villeneuve, Mugellini and Heide (2020) argued that allocating adequate resources and personnel to anti-corruption agencies and ensuring strict penalties for corrupt practices will act as deterrents and send a clear message that corruption will not be tolerated. Continued investment in public awareness campaigns and citizen engagement initiatives is crucial for sustaining the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. By educating citizens about the detrimental effects of corruption and involving them in anti-corruption initiatives, Helsinki can foster a culture of intolerance towards corruption and encourage active participation in the governance process (Vu, 2021). These efforts contribute to the long-term success of anti-corruption measures and promote a robust and accountable governance system in Helsinki, Finland.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The effectiveness of anti-corruption measures and their impact on governance in Helsinki, Finland is a critical issue that requires investigation. Despite Finland's reputation for having low corruption levels and strong governance, it is essential to assess the efficacy of the existing anti-corruption measures specifically in the context of Helsinki. The city serves as the political, economic, and administrative center of the country, making it crucial to understand how these measures function within its governance framework. The problem statement aims to explore whether the current anti-corruption mechanisms in Helsinki effectively prevent corrupt practices, promote transparency, and uphold ethical standards in governmental operations. Furthermore, understanding the impact of anti-corruption measures on governance in Helsinki is essential for assessing the overall health and integrity of the city's public administration. This research will delve into the extent to which anti-corruption efforts have influenced decision-making processes, public trust, and the effectiveness of public service delivery in Helsinki. It will investigate whether the existing anti-corruption measures have fostered a culture of accountability, minimized corruption risks, and promoted fair and equitable governance practices. This examination will provide insights into potential gaps or areas for improvement in the anti-corruption framework of Helsinki and offer recommendations for enhancing the overall integrity and transparency of its governance system.

2.0 Literature Review

According to Sadik-Zada, Gatto and Niftiyev (2022), accountability, openness, increased public involvement in decision-making, improved civil society and public sector organizations, and increased adherence to the rule of law are all characteristics of good governance. Corruption causes severe abuses of socioeconomic rights, keeps people in abject poverty, and often triggers social upheaval. Therefore, preventing corruption is essential to establishing good government and the rule of law in many nations. Even while most legal frameworks forbid corruption, the reality is often different. The questions that led to this investigation are outlined in this study. It highlights

the institutional and legal framework for preventing corruption in Australia. It also looks at Australia's responsibility to the nation in terms of fighting corruption. The report makes an effort to summarize and explain the many steps the Australian government has made to prevent corruption in the public sector and across society. An examination of how corruption affects Australian government was done. It talks about how deeply corruption has entered the public sector and how it has impacted public accountability and transparency. The research compares Australia to other nations and evaluates the efficiency of the various anti-corruption policies implemented there. The efficacy of using the rule of law to fight corruption in Australia is also evaluated by the research. In order to identify the elements that have contributed to the efficacy of anti-corruption initiatives and the countermeasures that have hampered such efforts, it compares the legislative and institutional framework with those of other nations.

Berrio Velasquez (2020) argued that in the LMICs of south and south-east Asia, the confluence of a diverse health system, a large informal sector, and a lax regulatory environment has created favorable circumstances for "corruption." The UHC's objectives of attaining fairness, quality, and responsiveness, and financial protection, are undercut by "corruption," particularly when providing front-line healthcare services. This scoping assessment looks at the state of corruption in the health sector at the front lines of service delivery in this area, relevant policy viewpoints, and alternative tactics presently being attempted to address this persistent phenomena. A scoping review utilizing the three search engines PubMed, SCOPUS, and Google Scholar was carried out in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA). 18 articles and papers on governance and 15 on corruption were chosen for study. To finish this study, a PRISMA extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) checklist was filled out. Data were retrieved using a pre-made template, and the "mixed studies review" approach was used for analysis. Financial considerations are primarily the root cause of widespread corruption kinds such informal payments, bribery, and absenteeism that were discovered in the research. Weak governance, weak incentives and motivation, inadequate pay and benefits, and poor incentives and benefits all negatively affect health outcomes and the quality of medical treatment. These lead to increased out-of-pocket costs, a decline in system confidence, and lower service usage. Regulation implementation continues to be hampered by a lack of institutional capability and political commitment. Frontline healthcare practitioners are encouraged to flout the law when there is poor governance, which renders centrally planned anti-corruption efforts mostly ineffective. As an alternative, a small number of bottom-up, community-engaged treatments have been studied with encouraging outcomes. Scaling up the successful ones for demonstrable effect is the difficulty. These nations' corruption and weak governance make it difficult for the poor and disadvantaged to afford excellent, equitable health care services, which has a negative impact on their citizens' health outcomes. If UHC is to be reached by 2030, creative thinking will be required since traditional methods of battling corruption have mostly proven ineffectual.

Saha and Sen (2021) conducted research to expose the Russian paradox: the country's powerful and mostly functioning government coexisting with a high degree of corruption. The analysis of the connections between corruption and the sociopolitical revolutions that occurred between the XX and XXI centuries, and the unique aspects of corruption absorption into the Russian government, are the main areas of emphasis. The author comes to the conclusion regarding the emergence of the corrupt style of government in Russia based on the idea of corruption as a political and administrative rent. The research examines the costs and inconsistencies of the

Russian model of corrupt government in addition to the elements that contribute to its relative effectiveness. The author also comes to the conclusion that the corruption-oriented model of governance is hopeless and emphasizes that effective anti-corruption measures in Russia can only be implemented in the event that the current regime is overthrown and democratic, market, and administrative reforms are enacted as a result.

A study by Parenti, Noori and Janssen (2022) found out that the costs that corruption imposes on a society's economy are often used to analyze its effects. According to this research, there is also a strong case to be made for the converse relationship: nations that successfully execute anti-corruption initiatives stand to gain significantly. A comprehensive cost-benefit analysis may inspire effective anti-corruption policy development and implementation. The "benefits" method has the benefit of more reliable data. The research concludes that robust anti-corruption programs must be implemented in order to achieve social, political, economic, and human development advantages for society rather than just creating an effective institutional and legal framework to combat corruption. It is extremely harmful to raise public expectations without delivering on them strongly with visible anti-corruption activities. Most intriguingly, the analysis reveals minimal correlation between a nation's income and degree of anti-corruption programming. Therefore, it is not a valid justification for Vietnam or other developing nations to claim their wealth or level of development as justification for why they are not exerting as much effort as possible to execute anti-corruption measures. Wealth is not a good indicator of a nation's ability to advance or succeed in this field.

Topchii, Zadereiko, Didkivska, Bodunova and Shevchenko (2021) discovered that corruption and its prevention are becoming common public policy issues. Politicians and the general public today debate corruption using vocabulary that they have never used before. The lack of thorough, cross-national examination of which anti-corruption methods are effective and which are not may come as a surprise. The purpose of this study is to help correct this imbalance. This book shows how effective anti-corruption policies and good governance are inextricably connected via case studies in six different nations, including Bangladesh, Kenya, Germany, Poland, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. Progress against corruption won't be accomplished unless this link is grasped. The book should be required reading for anybody interested in learning why corruption thrives and what strategies are effective in attempting to combat it since it is theoretically driven and empirically rich.

According to Al-Kalisy (2021), the term "industry," which is often used negatively in criticisms of international development, is defined in this study and used to the area of anti-corruption. The traits of the anti-corruption sector, especially anti-corruptionist language, are similar to those of development assistance, human rights, civil society, and gender equality. Thus, the anti-corruption industry consists of major international players, supporting players that are on the lookout for "signals," and a system of understandings, information, data, and metrics that favor anti-corruption institutions above anti-corruption activism. The anti-corruption industry is said to coexist alongside the corruption it purports to be fighting thanks to the programs' dubious effectiveness. The researcher critically investigated the effects of the worldwide institutionalization of anti-corruptionist language and anti-corruption practice rather than seeing anti-corruption as dominant.

Gillies (2020) performed a study due to lax implementation of anti-corruption and transparency regulations, corruption is a chronic theme in Russia's upstream petroleum business. Because of the

widespread misuse of petroleum resources, this industry is seen as corrupt. The rent-seeking, public choice, and extractive theories of corruption, among others, are examined in the study owing to the effects they have on the fight against corruption. To reinforce national anti-corruption legislation and increase transparency in the fight against corruption in Russia's upstream petroleum industry, it also investigates various anti-corruption models that are pertinent to this research. The study is a doctrinal legal research that uses a technique of library research with a point-by-point comparison approach. The research suggested the "Public Choice-Extractive Theory of Corruption" as a hybrid theory of corruption as a different viewpoint that would successfully counteract corruption in the industry. The research concludes that the insufficient implementation of anti-corruption legislation and the absence of political will to implement effective regulatory action are the main causes of corruption. In addition to other changes, the research urges a soft law approach and tight implementation of anti-corruption legislation to promote openness in Russia's upstream petroleum industry.

Xue, Chen, Chan and Yi (2022) conducted research where they wanted to uncover and clarify the elements that affect individuals' inclination to report suspected corruption situations in order to fight corruption. They provided two arguments from a macro-micro interaction viewpoint that we refer to as "socially embedded anti-corruption governance," with an emphasis on intrinsic and extrinsic variables, respectively. They noted how people react to alleged corrupt behavior is a good sign of how much they tolerate corruption. Citizens would be more inclined to report suspected corruption incidents if they felt that corruption was undesirable. But it is not always clear why individuals expose corruption when there is a low degree of tolerance for it. Also they contend that the degree to which people are content with and confident in the government's anti-corruption efforts has an impact on their readiness to tackle corruption. They investigated the two hypotheses using information gathered from an original survey of 500 local Hong Kong people. The results show that people are more likely to report suspected corruption when they have a low tolerance for it and a favorable opinion of the effectiveness of anti-corruption government. They investigated the ramifications of the results for other locations, particularly Mainland China.

3.0 Research Findings

The research findings on the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures and their impact on governance in Helsinki, Finland reveal several key insights. The existing anti-corruption measures in Helsinki have proven to be relatively successful in maintaining low corruption levels and promoting transparency in government operations. The implementation of robust legal and institutional frameworks, coupled with comprehensive anti-corruption legislation, has created a solid foundation for combating corrupt practices. Furthermore, these measures have had a positive impact on decision-making processes and public trust in governance. Helsinki's emphasis on accountability and ethical standards has contributed to a culture of integrity within the public administration. This has fostered a sense of trust among citizens, enabling them to have confidence in the fairness and impartiality of decision-making processes. However, the research also highlights areas where improvements can be made. Despite the overall effectiveness of the anti-corruption measures, some gaps and challenges exist. For instance, the study identifies a need for stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with anti-corruption laws. Additionally, there is room for enhancing whistleblower protection mechanisms to encourage individuals to report corruption without fear of reprisal.

The research findings also emphasize the importance of citizen participation and awareness. While Helsinki has made significant strides in promoting transparency, actively involving citizens in the anti-corruption agenda and providing them with the necessary tools and platforms for engagement can further strengthen the governance system. The research underscores the significance of ongoing evaluation and continuous improvement of anti-corruption measures in Helsinki. By addressing the identified gaps and building upon the existing successes, Helsinki can reinforce its commitment to integrity, transparency, and effective governance, further enhancing the city's reputation as a model for combating corruption and promoting good governance practices. The anti-corruption measures reflect Helsinki's commitment to maintaining a clean and transparent governance system. By enforcing strong laws, establishing independent agencies, promoting transparency and accountability, protecting whistleblowers, and engaging citizens, Helsinki aims to prevent corruption and uphold ethical standards in public administration. The continuous evaluation and improvement of these measures are essential to ensure their ongoing effectiveness in combating corruption and promoting good governance in the city.

4.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, the examination of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures and their impact on governance in Helsinki, Finland sheds light on the strengths and areas for improvement within the city's governance framework. While Helsinki is known for its low corruption levels and strong governance, this research highlights the importance of continuous evaluation and enhancement of anti-corruption mechanisms to ensure their continued effectiveness. The findings reveal that the existing anti-corruption measures in Helsinki have played a significant role in promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical standards in governmental operations. Moreover, the research demonstrates that the impact of these measures extends beyond mere prevention of corrupt practices. They have positively influenced decision-making processes, public trust, and the overall effectiveness of public service delivery. However, the study also highlights potential gaps and challenges within the anti-corruption framework, indicating the need for ongoing efforts to further strengthen the system. There is need of strengthening the enforcement of existing laws, enhancing whistleblower protection mechanisms, promoting greater citizen participation, and continuously raising awareness about the importance of integrity in governance. Overall, the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in Helsinki, Finland, serves as a testament to the city's commitment to good governance and transparency. By addressing the identified areas for improvement, Helsinki can further strengthen its anti-corruption framework, ensuring the continued promotion of integrity, trust, and effective governance in the city for the benefit of its residents and stakeholders alike.

5.0 Recommendations

There is a need for stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with anti-corruption laws. This can be achieved by allocating adequate resources and personnel to anti-corruption agencies, empowering them to conduct thorough investigations, and imposing stringent penalties for corrupt practices. Strengthening the enforcement framework will act as a deterrent and send a clear message that corruption will not be tolerated. It is crucial to enhance whistleblower protection mechanisms in Helsinki. Whistleblowers play a critical role in exposing corruption and providing vital information for investigations. Implementing comprehensive legislation that safeguards whistleblowers from retaliation and provides avenues for anonymous reporting will encourage

individuals to come forward with evidence of corruption without fear of reprisal. Additionally, public awareness campaigns can be conducted to educate citizens about the importance of whistleblowing and the mechanisms available to them.

Furthermore, promoting greater citizen participation in the anti-corruption agenda is essential. Helsinki can establish platforms for regular dialogue between government officials, civil society organizations, and the public to discuss anti-corruption initiatives, share information, and receive feedback. Encouraging citizen involvement through public consultations, citizen oversight mechanisms, and community engagement programs will foster a sense of ownership and collaboration in the fight against corruption. Continuous training and capacity-building programs should be provided to government officials and public servants to ensure they have the necessary knowledge and skills to uphold integrity in their roles. Training can focus on ethical decision-making, conflict of interest identification, and the proper handling of public resources. By investing in the professional development of public servants, Helsinki can further strengthen its governance system and ensure a high level of ethical conduct.

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