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# Assessing the Role of Local Community Participation in Minimizing Corruption at Wolaita Sodo Town

Tamirat Dela<sup>1</sup>, Takele Teshome Somano<sup>2</sup>, Sintayehu Shirge Olato<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Civics and Ethical Studies, College of Social Science and Humanity, Wolaita Sodo University, Wolaita Sodo, Ethiopia

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics, College of Natural and Computational Science, Wolaita Sodo University, Wolaita Sodo, Ethiopia

## Email address:

tamiratdela@gmail.com (T. Dela), takeleteshome36@gmail.com (T. T. Somano), sintayehushirge2014@gmail.com (S. S. Olato)

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**Abstract:** The main purpose of the study was to assess the role of public participation in reducing corruption in the town of Wolaita Sodo. The researcher used a mixed study of quality and quantity methods. To address the purpose of research. Also, the researcher used a randomized testing procedure and a purpose that arises from the possibilities and opportunities of random sampling strategies. The researcher took 40 samples from the study area to gather the necessary information on the research topic. The findings of this study highlight various types of corruption perpetrated by local government officials such as bribery, discrimination, fraud and abuse of power and more. reducing corruption. The public did not attend various meetings at this meeting. Even if the public has asked to attend, they are not holding any kind of meeting at the request of the government. Based on field research data 100% of respondents and informants say that corruption enables the public to participate in politics and development programs that members of the public are unable to participate in political meetings and development programs due to the spread of corruption. People have contributed a lot to various projects such as roads, clean water supply and other infrastructure. The data collected was analyzed statistically and qualitatively, and as a means of analyzing data strategies such as times, percentages and the researcher attempted to present his or her conclusion. response-based recommendations and important data such as those used.

**Keywords:** Corruption, Minimizing, Local Community, Participation

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Corruption is a broad term of human action covers a wide range of misuse of power entrusted funds and power for private gain in many countries corruption is everywhere and daily life is riddled with situation in Wolaita Zone between legal and illegal corruption exist everywhere but the cause might differ whether corruption results from a need a culture of simply from an opportunity to explore it influences the way we deal with it or do not deal with it [4].

Corruption is a global phenomenon and the impact is felt more in poor and developing countries where resources for development are underlay a diverted hand which exacerbates poverty. According to the 2005 African governance report (AGR) corruption is perceived as the most serious national problem next to poverty and unemployment lost similarly in

the [14]. The African governance report (AGR) indicates that the major state institutions, the executive legislative and judiciary are perceived to be that even costs are not immune to corruption [16].

The challenge facing local government is to development invigorating way of building effective accountability and transparency system that are able to efficiently deliver has a better chances of providing services to civil society which transparency fiscal discipline the and openness in order to control corruption [15-18].

Ethiopia practices of corruption are increasingly taking the form of control to other private corruption where by private companies yield procurement control to other private companies in return for bribes land distribution and administration is continuously reported to be a sector where corruption is institutionalized corruption practices involves facilitation payments as well as bribes in order to be allowed to keep land that is leased from the state public

procurement is another area riddled with corruption for instance it is not uncommon for government tenders to be continued after bids are received re-released several times without being filled or awarded to bidders with strong links to the government and ruling party with little to no transparency in the staff and custom laws are usually enforced arbitrarily with some groups most notably companies owned by the ruling party and government officials consistently evading customs and exercise laws. In turn engender sample possibility for corruption interaction with custom officials. However the government has aimed at containing corruption through several initiatives and efforts [7]. Therefore, the researcher is going to assess the role of local community participation in minimizing corruption at Wolaita Sodo town.

## **1.2. Statement of Problem**

Corruption is a wrong doing action in which individuals use their power in an appropriate way and misuse of the power as well as they attempt to get public resources for their private benefit. It is clear that corruption has adverse effects on political, economic and social development of the country as well as good governance. But there is the expectation of everybody to be honest in his/her corner, accountable, transparent and effective as well as efficient at work place and in using resources wisely for the public and very one could be expected to be active in the list of good governance and responsive in their respective status of weak and at every time. This is true in the study area in addition to giving a possible recommendation of filling the gap and informing about it to fight against the corruption at national and local community and government.

In response to those the major objective of the study is identifying the inappropriate use power in the study area and related problems of the corruption therefore the researcher initiated to conduct this paper to fill the gap by study now administrator use power in office in the study area and which is not include in the kebele administration that is the gap may be each role of local government officials to hold responsibility lack of measuring the scale of hierarchical government system. The researcher mainly motivated to do this research is that the researcher from early childhood up to now observed corruption but from past to day corruption is less practiced because of the role of community participation. So, the researcher wants to address how community participation fights or minimizes corruption in Wolaita Sodo town. In addition, the motivation behind his research is that researchers want to assess effectiveness and efficiency of community participation to reduce corruption in Wolaita Sodo town (WSU ACCO, 2020).

## **1.3. Objective of the Study**

### **1.3.1. General Objective**

The overall objective of this study was to assess the role of local community participation in minimizing corruption at Wolaita Sodo town.

### **1.3.2. Specific Objectives**

In order to achieve the general objective of this study the following specific objectives are stated.

- 1) To investigate the level of community participation in minimizing corruption at Wolaita Sodo town.
- 2) To assess the attitude of community members towards corruption and corrupt officials.
- 3) To explore active and effective community participation to minimizing corruption in the study area.

## **1.4. Research Question**

By the considering all gaps and problems the research was try to answer the following question

- 1) What is the level of community participation in minimizing corruption at Wolaita Sodo town?
- 2) How is the attitude of community members towards corruption and corrupt officials?
- 3) How to effective and active community participation to minimize corruption in the study area?

## **1.5. Significance of the Study**

This study is important because it gives a brief investigation about the major role of local government officials and community participation in minimizing corruption in the study area. It would also be the behavior of society in dealing with corruption and corrupt officials by knowing its possible case. This study would show the overall situation or relationship between local government officials and community members on the issues of corruption and participation to minimize it. Lastly the study would be tries to announce community members role to compact corruption and deed experience and knowledge to the research.

## **1.6. Scope of the Study**

This study would delimit to exploring the role of community to play in case of Wolaita Sodo town administration in minimizing corruption and challenges.

## **1.7. Limitation of the Study**

In conducting this study, the researcher encountered problems that affect the quality of the paper. Some of the problems are listed below. Unwillingness of some respondents to fill the questionnaires. Misunderstanding of information about the questionnaires and the instructions by few respondents. Carelessness of the respondents to fill the questionnaires.

## **1.8. Organization of the Study**

The research paper would be organized into five chapters. chapter one would cover the background of the research that means the introduction part of the research, chapter two would be concerned about related literature review, chapter three would be concerned with methodology of the study and chapter four would be concerned about data interpretation and analysis finally chapter five which include conclusion

and recommendation of the research.

## 2. Review of Related Literature

### 2.1. Theoretical Framework of Corruption

The term corruption covers a broad range of human actions to understand the effect of an economy or political system; it helps to unbundle the term by identifying specific types of activity or transaction that might fall within it. In considering its strategy the bank sought usable definition of corruption then development.

Taxonomy of the different forms corruption could take consists of abusing public office for private gain and extorting bribes. It is also abused when private against actively offers bribes to circumvent public policy and process for the competitive advantage and profit. Public office can also be abused for personal benefits even if no bribery occurs through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets and the diversion of state revenue [4].

Corruption is an illegal payment to a public agent to obtain benefit that may or may not be deserved in the absence of pay offs [1-8] or the sale by the government officials of governmental property for personal gain. The benefit need not be financial or immediate the public official may be appointed an elected and the bribe may be offered or extorted for the OECD working group the focus is on bribery in the promise or giving of any undue obtain or retain business the bank's procurement guidelines take a functional perspective finding corrupt practice as the offering giving receiving or selecting of anything of value to influence the action of public official in the recruitment process or in contract execution [10].

Corruption is found in all countries of the world whether they are rich and poor developed or developing is not the cause it is not a particular property of the third world but it is a continuous feature at political and administration landscape developing nations for several [12].

### 2.2. Definition of Corruption

There are no universal acceptance approaches in defining the term corruption and no consensus with regard to its ingredients corruption the abuse of public trust for private gain and form of stealing there are five perspectives that are used to define corruption as identified these are the poplin office. Perspective public interest market centered view legal perspective public opinion. The public office expert suffers that misuse the public officials for private gain through bribery, nepotism and misappropriation are my type of corrupt practical [15]. The public interest supported the basis that corruption is the discretion of the public interest in the intermesh of the supernatural of common goods for the private purpose corruption can exist when power holder who is involved with doing certain thing by monetary or the rewards that are not legally allowed which results to the determination of public interest [7].

Market centered view definition of corruption mainly

shares the application of social or public choice and use of public economic method and model for the analysis of politics for more centered support corruption means that evil servants abuse their power in order to obtain an additional income from the public (Ibid).

The legal approaches defining corruption is concern the term as the violation of the particular rules and regulation which control the interest behavior laws are not essentially consistent interpretation or applicable across different countries of the world [16]. The public opinion prominent argue that corruption is social defined and public opinion is used as an appropriate standard for assessing for conduct this view implies that corruption is what the public political government public servants where done in any given state (Ibid).

### 2.3. Types of Corruption

#### 2.3.1. Systematic Corruption

Systematic corruption as opposed to exploiting occasion opportunity endemic or systematic corruption is when corruption is integrated and aspect of the economic social and political system systematic corruption is not special categories of corrupt practices but rather a situation in which the major institution in the process of the state are routinely dominated and used by corrupt individual and groups and in which most people have no alternatives to dealing with corrupt official [13].

#### 2.3.2. Sporadic / Individual Corruption

Sporadic corruption is the opposite of systematic corruption. Sporadic corruption occurs irregularly and therefore it does not affect their mechanisms of control or the economy as such. It is not crippling but it can seriously undermine morale and gap the economy of the researchers (Ibid).

High level or grand corruption takes place at the police formulation and politics it refers not so much to the amount of money involved as to the level in which it takes place grand corruption is at the top level of public sphere where police and rules and formulated in the first place usually /but not alloys/ synonyms to political corruption [9].

#### 2.3.3. Political / Grand Corruption

Political corruption any transaction between private and public sector actors through which collective goods are illegitimate converted in to private regarding pay offs political corruption is used synonymous with high level of corruption distinguished from bureaucratic or petty corruption because it involves political decision makers political corruption is takes place at the high level of the political system when political and estate agent entitled to makes and enforce the laws in the name of the misallocation of resources but also perverts the manner in which decision are made (Ibid).

#### 2.3.4. Legal and Moral Corruption

Corruption derived from the Latin verb *umpire* break according to this approach corruption is where the law is

clearly broken. This requires that all laws must be precisely started leaving no doubts about them and no discretion to the public officials. Algal interpretation of corruption provides a clearly demarcated boundary between what is actively corrupt and what is not corrupt even if it is abusive or unethical [17].

In legislating for behavior warrants focus upon the legality of an action and not the morality of that action morality is increasingly being legislated for in the absence of and loss of forth in self-regulating behavior. Although an act is committed within legal parameters it may lay aid movable boundaries. a corrupt act can be camouflaged by law full justification [11].

### **2.3.5. Petty Corruption**

Small scale bureaucratic or petty corruption is the everyday corruption takes place the implementation and politics where the public officials meet the public is the public petty corruption is bribers in connection with differ from Garand or political corruption petty corruption refers to the modest sums of money usual involved and has also been called low level and street level to name the kind of corruption that people can experienced more or less daily in their encounter with public administration and services [5].

### **2.4. Cause of Corruption**

Identifying and understanding as the basic cause of corruption are challenging work however if the root causes are identified and understood. It is good alternative way to overcome it or at least to avoid its bad practice and to reduce its effect on individual government structural and society as a whole the problem of finding the cause of corruption arise from preventing norms and culture of the society in defining corruption is changes from time to time as a result of internal and political and social dynamics [2-7].

The major causes of corruption in Ethiopia are poor government, lack of accountability and transparency, low level of democratic culture and tradition, lack of citizen participation, lack of clear regulation and authorization and low level of institution control extreme poverty and inequality (Tesfaye, 2003).

According to different writers and researchers like tumber the following are major causes of corruption. These are socio-cultural causes, system related causes and Economic deprivation cause.

#### **2.4.1. Socio Cultural Causes**

Corruption can causes by two factors that lack of social or public consciousness and due to traditional system of social organization the initial one is stressing that if the majority of the public doesn't know their right and obligation especially in the traditional society where the pluralist are illiterate the public servants violate the right and interest of public (World Bank 1997).

The second social cultural causes of corruption is that traditional system of social organization where there strong traditional loyalists result nepotism hiring and favorite

relatives in public employment etc. certain organizational features can provides condition in some social institution which are make centralized structure may disband the policy and delegation makers from the general public that ensuring little or no interferences should they make to achieve private gains corruption as function of high monopoly power high discretionary power of official and lower accountability [10].

#### **2.4.2. System Related Causes**

An increasing role of the government in the public sector the crowing significance of tax policies for effective functioning and wide expanding the international business more importantly system related factors that led to corruption and results destructive consequence the society at large worker soft state nature is fertile ground for corruption as there is line accountability for official actions [20].

#### **2.4.3. Economic Deprivation as a Cause**

Poverty and lack of enough income in Ethiopia including other developing countries are the consequences of economic back wardens and stagnation in economic growth (Ibid).

### **2.5. Results of Corruption**

Corruption as a global phenomenon is found everywhere in both developing and developed countries which resulted in the deterioration of social economic and political process in general but the pattern of distortion and its consequences on different issues are not the same and differ from place [3].

### **2.6. Impact of Corruption**

Corruption is generally harmful and destructive practices for the society as a whole the impact of corruption can be classified into political social and economic impact.

#### **2.6.1. Political Effects of Corruption**

Corruption hampers political development and contributes to political instability and disorder when corruption becomes part of repressive tactics through the state bureaucracy has been privatized by the ruling class or and repression prevents any serious threat from dissenting group individuals (Hope R. 2000).

Ethiopia, including many other African countries, has failed to reproduce institutions that maximize mass participation from grass root to top levels of in development process unwillingness to engage and involve their society in genuine institution reform. as the reform is used by elites see reform and the introduction of a new dispensation as damaging to their privileges (Ibid).

#### **2.6.2. Social Impact of Corruption**

By adversely affecting the economic and political aspects the nation and population corruption directly violates the fundamental human right and freedom under corrupt system the privileging and the will connected enjoy economic rent which represents abnormal monopoly profit they can give large benefit wealth its concentrated in the hand of a few people of the population result in uneven income inequality because it allow well position individual to lakes advantage

of government activities at the cost of population (Mynit 2000).

Corruption undermines the society's safety and may be for the poor from seeking basic entitlement and another public service. Therefore corruption should be eliminated as much as possible for the achievement of the needs and demands of the poor section of the society (Ibid).

### **2.6.3. Economic Effect of Corruption**

Corruption and bribery are hinder for the economic development of against corruption refers economic growth reducing private investment if corruption discover age investment both other democratic and foreign investment because bribery kickbacks and another form of illicit payment increase uncertainty and the cost of the production and reduce profitability [19].

Corruption distorted incentive and under such environment individual able to allocate their energies to rent seeking activities tended to have the effect of inflation the cost of doing business kike back and illegal payment which have to be paid to public officials are simply added to final cost of counteracts equipment and supplies (Hope 2000).

There for the purpose discussion about corruption in the literature helps to understand the nature and extent and magnitude of corruption which emphasize in general and also helped to like the snivel service reform relation to its contribution and also weakness against corruption consequence to political and social and economic development of countries and it is the diets of every and each citizens in corruption [12].

## **2.7. Corruptions in Different Sector**

Corruption can occur in different sectors whether they be public private industries.

There are several sectors in Ethiopia where business are particularly vulnerable to corruption land distribution administrations institutionalize and facilitation payments as well as bribers are often demand from business when business obtain permit and license due to complicate it bureaucratic public procurement is also seriously hampered by corruption and different types of irregularities exist such as none transport tender process and merging contract to people with cloth connection to the government and ruling party. Government or public sector includes corruption of the political process and government agency. Recent research by the World Bank suggests that whoever makes political decisions can be critical of the incentives the different policy makers face [20].

## **2.8. Common Form of Corruption**

### **2.8.1. Bribery**

Probably the most common form of corruption bribery is the giving some form of benefit foundly influences some action or decision on the part of the recipient beneficiary bribery can be indicated by the person soliciting a bribe or the person offering the bribe the benefit may vary from many from other volubility to less tangible benefits such as inside

information for employment bribes may be paid on cause by cause of as part of an ongoing relationship.

The most common strategies for countering briberies is to criminalize it often which exclusive focus on causes involving public officials (unodcuol 1.10).

### **2.8.2. Embezzlement Theft and Fraud**

The taking conversation of any property other valuables for personal benefit are embezzlement and theft involve the taking of property by someone to whom it has been entrusted whereas fraud consists of the use of misleading information induce someone to turn over the property voluntary for example by misrepresenting the amount of people the need of a particular service (Ibid).

### **2.8.3. Extortion**

Extortion involves coercive incentives such as the use of threat of violence or the exposure or damaging information including inducing cooperation office holders can be either the instigator or there it times of extortion. (Ibid).

### **2.8.4. Favoritism Nepotism Clientele**

In general these in use abuse of discretion however in these specific cases the act is governed not by some less tangible affiliation such as advancing or the interest of family nepotism political party or of an ethnic religious or other grouping (Ibid).

### **2.8.5. Abuse of Power**

The abuse of office for private gain but without external involvement or external patterns of such abuse are usually associated with bureaucracies in which broad individual discretion is created few over sights or accountability structure are presented as well as those in which decision making rules are so complex as to neutralize the effectiveness of such structure even if they exist (Ibid).

### **2.8.6. Improper Political Contributions**

Payments made in an attempt to unduly influence the presence of future activities by a party or its members when they are in office distinguishing this form of legitimate political contribution is very difficult [11].

## **2.9. Tools to Fight Corruption**

Although there is no recipe for fighting corruption at the local level, some tools such as the ones presented below can be used in an integrated manner to design a strategy to fight corruption at the local level.

### **2.9.1. Simplification of Administrative Procedures**

The complexity and unpredictability of administrative procedures creates confusion and it is one of the main factors contributing to corruption in the administrative manual for decreasing and standardizing procedures. Computerized data systems for strong administrative data including tax registers and estimates can simplify the problem. Both tools assist in improving coordination among officials, avoid duplication of duties and eliminates the use of unjustified administrative discretion thus speeding the permit process [18-20].

### **2.9.2. Citizen Participation**

The measures below include programs entities or service that can be created to improve citizen participation in the government these measures can be institutionalized through the enactment of ordinances at the municipal level as a result citizen could be provided with both the incentive as well as the judicial means for participating in municipal government in order to facilitate accountability and transparency and the participation of civil society in government ordinance or other legal mechanism can be implemented to make all municipal documents available to the public (Ibid).

### **2.10. The Local Community Objective**

The local community as a group can participate in number of stages in all case seen where real progress was binged accomplished in local community of its basic need and most verging problem secondary they had as group decided to accept the responsibility of pooling their intelligence manpower and local resources to attack one specific problem the solution of which would meet some felt need of a large majority or all the families in the community hived they organized to solve the problem and the every case studied learned that they needed some specialized assistance outside the community forth they developed a degree of group responsibility pride and zest which led them to attack other community problem Batten 19 67 48-49.

### **2.11. Active Public Involvement in the Fight Against Corruption**

The fight against corruption cannot be won without citizens support participation and vigilance the media civic and business association trade unions and other non-governmental actors play a crucial role in fostering public decision of corruption and increasing awareness about the negative impact of corruption they also screen and scrutinize government action both in their daily life and through formal arrangement institutionalized for this purpose thereby contributing to the detection and channeling of input from citizen to words the governmental anti-corruption efforts (<http://www.org>).

## **3. Methodology of the Study**

### **3.1. Description of the Study Area**

Wolaita Sodo town is an administrative center of Wolaita zone which is found in SNNPs region of Ethiopia. It is found at a distance of 383 km away from Addis Ababa (via-Shashemene), 328 km (via- Hosana), and 156 km far from Hawassa regional state of Ethiopia. The town is composed of 11 kebeles and according to (CSA 2007) statistical data 175322 population are found in the town. Among those 73651 are female and 7981 are male.

### **3.2. Research Method**

This researcher used a mixed research method. That is

both qualitative and quantitative research methods for the reason to analyze the research work by using language and numerical numbers at the same time to do it in the credible manner and this mixed research approach for the purposes of breath and depth of understanding and partnership [12]. In addition, the reason for using a mixed research method helps the researcher to validate one form of the data with another form to transform the composition or to address different research questions listed.

### **3.3. Research Design**

To conduct the study the researcher would use a descriptive type of research design. Because descriptive research helps to understand the role of local community participation in the corruption relationship of the study and the researcher went to explain what is going on. In addition to this the study issue by itself needed more questionnaires than interviews.

### **3.4. Data Sources**

In order to activate the objective of the study the researcher used both primary and secondary sources of data the primary sources of data includes questionnaire and interview the secondary sources of data includes books, internet, published and unpublished materials.

### **3.5. Data collection Instruments**

#### **3.5.1. Questionnaires**

To conduct the study the researcher would use questionnaires which to prepared in close ended and open ended forms and distribute to customers and offices workers on the study area for open ended questionnaire the respondent written their own suggestion for close ended questionnaires the respondent would be asked to select their own responses from a list of provided alternatives.

#### **3.5.2. Key Informant Interviews**

The researcher would also use key informant interviews to collect information from a wide range of people who have first selected a person to acknowledge about the role of local community participation in minimizing corruption in the study area.

### **3.6. Sampling Technique**

In this study the researcher would use probability and non-probability sampling techniques. From non-probability sampling methods the researcher used purposive sampling. Because to get deep information from the key person and those deemed to have sufficient knowledge with the study area, another reason is to better understand and describe the issue of under-studies by word and mining in a wide concept. On the other hand from probability sampling techniques the researcher used simple random variables. Because to give equal chances for respondents and lottery forms of asking.

### 3.7. Sample Size

From the total of 11 kebeles in Wolaita Sodo town, the researcher selected two kebele as a target of the study area such as Wadu and Fana kebeles. Hence from the total population of the two kebeles, 40 sample sizes were used by the researcher. From these selected samples 34 respondents for the questionnaire and the remaining 6 informants were used for the interview.

### 3.8. Ethical Consideration

Ethical issues in this research will be concerned, among other things, maintaining confidentiality about the information gathered from respondents, using secured data for academic purposes only and ensuring that the respondents' personalities will not be exploited.

## 4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter deals with the data interpretation, analysis

and data presentation of the finding of the research through the full course of the study. The researcher undertakes interviews and distributes questionnaires to the respondents by using different items such as closed questions or yes /no questions, blank space questions. After necessary data is collected from both primary and secondary data source, then it will be analyzed and presented through mixed research data analysis methods. The rationale behind using this method of data analysis is that it allows describing, summarizing and presenting the qualitative and quantitative data. In this the paper presents the results and discusses the surveys conducted in the study area Wolaita Sodo town. Following the distribution this part of the study briefly analyzes the characteristics of respondents and informants. Level of community participation in minimizing corruption and attitude of community members towards corruption and corrupt officials. Generally, the collected data will be analyzed through tables, percentages, and charts to describe the findings which help to draw interpretation and conclusion.

*Table 1. Participant background information.*

Background	Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	20	50
	Female	20	50
	Total	40	100
Age	18-20	2	5
	21-30	10	25
	31-40	10	25
	41-50	15	37.5
	Above 50	3	7.5
	Total	40	100
	No formal education	-	-
Education status	Literate	2	5
	Primary school	5	12.5
	High school	5	12.5
	Diploma	12	30
	Degree	16	40
	Above degree	-	-
	Total	40	100
Livelihood	Farmer	-	-
	Merchant	20	50
	Civil servant	10	25
	Day laborer	2	5
	Driver	-	-
	Private organization	5	12.5
	Others	3	7.5
	Total	40	100

Source: field 2021

### 4.1. Characteristics of Sample

Likewise, as the respondent and informant said that 5% of the total sample population were found between the ages 18-20. were as 50% of the respondent and informant were found between the age 21-40. This clearly shows the active population group in the different circumstances. Terming 37.5% of the sample population were found between the ages 41-50. Finally, 7.5% of the sample population were found

above 50 years old. This indicates the fact that the majority of the population were found between the ages 21-50 years old.

According to 5% of respondents and informants were literate who can read and write letters and numbers. Similarly, 25% of the respondents and informants were primary and secondary school graduates. In addition, 30% and 40% of the respondents and informants were diploma and degree holders respectively. This Franky implies that 70% of respondents

and informants were diploma and degree holders were literates, primary school and secondary school graduates. Respondents and informants, half of the respondents and informants were merchants: 15% of the respondents and informants were civil servants. Still the remaining 25% of the total sample population were day laborer workers. Private organization workers and others. This indicates the fact that more than half percent of the total population are merchants in the study area.

#### 4.2. Level of Community's Participation in Minimizing Corruption

Based on the field survey data 62.5% of the respondent and informant said that the community did not participate in minimizing corruption. The community did not attend the different meetings at the time of the meeting held. Even if the community requested to attend, it does not attend any kind of meeting both based on the willing and government official request.

**Table 2.** Level of community participation in minimizing corruption.

No	Item	Yes		No	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Does the community minimize corruption?	15	37.5	25	62.5
2	Does the community expose corrupt local government officials to the concerned body?	10	25	30	75

Source field survey. 2021

Meeting particularly community meeting reduces corruption to some extent, but in the case of Wolaita Sodo town the community has the problem of attending community meeting and community conversation.

In the same manner 75% of the respondent and informant said that members of the community did not expose corrupt local government officials to the concerned body. Even if the member of the community hears and sees corruption about local government officials. Members of the community remain silent. They don't expose corrupt officials to a concerned body like for the head of Wolaita Sodo town administration. And for ethics and anti-corruption commissions. This is because members of the community have fear of members of the community exposing corrupt officials for the concerned body. In turn the corrupted officials will harm the members of the community in different ways like setting a very high amount of tax if the members of the community are merchants and the like. In addition, the concerned body does not take appropriate measures on the corrupted officials in accordance with the action. Most of the time the government officials call for the community at the beginning of the year to present the annual plan of the town. But members of the community do not

attend such meetings at all. Similarly at the end of the year, the same call for the community is done at midterm, but very few members of the community attend the meeting. Accordingly, the majority of community members do not attend such meetings at all.

All in all members of the community lack active participation Wolaita Sodo town level and a kebele level to reduce corruption. The participation of the community is very low. Furthermore, members of the community do not expose corrupt officials at all because the concerned body can't take appropriate measures on corrupted officials.

#### 4.3. Attitude of the Community Towards Corruption and Corrupt Official Members

Based on the field survey data 100% of the respondents and informants said corruption rendered community's participation in politics and development projects members of the community unable to participate in different political meetings and development projects because of the prevalence of corruption. People contributed a lot for different projects like for roads, pure water supply and other infrastructures.

**Table 3.** Attitude of community members towards corruption and corrupt officials.

Items	Yes		No	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Does corruption hinder participation in politics and projects?	40	100	-	-
Do you believe that an effective community is important for minimizing the rate of corruption?	40	100	-	-
Do you think that corruption can be avoided?	38	95	2	5

Source: field survey. 2021

Both local government officials use the public money and resources for their private purposes. This situation renders the community from participation in different meetings and development projects. Even if the community reduces the participation is some civic association like red cross society and the like.

In a similar response 100% of the respondent and informant said that effective community participation is

important for minimizing the rate of corruption. But in the absence of transparency and accountability it is difficult to have active and effective participation of the community in society. Economic and political affairs. Corruption has its own network by corrupt officials, so the participation of community members is not as such necessary. These are the overall community's view on corruption. Finally, as the respondents and informants said that corruption could not be



avoided but it can be minimized through active participation of the community and the prevalence of accountability and transparency from local government officials.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendation

### 5.1. Conclusion

This study focused on the role of local government and community participation to reduce corruption in Wolaita Sodo town. The main objective of the study was to investigate the role of local government and community participation in reducing corruption in Wolaita Sodo town. The study has employed mixed research methods. The study used 40 sample populations. The researcher used questionnaires and interviews for data collection.

There is corruption in Wolaita Sodo town. Corruption has been committed by local government officials in different manners. Even though the role of local government officials is very high in reducing corruption, they promote corruption conversely or indirectly because corruption is practiced by local government officials. The community has the most essential respect in minimizing corruption in exposing corrupt officials to the concerned body and they don't participate in social and political meetings at kebele and town level.

The research identifies that different forms of corruption have been committed by local government officials such as bribery, nepotism, embezzlement and abuse of power as well as other forms of corruption. Generally corruption can't be avoided at all and it can be minimized to do this the researches forwarded the following recommendations and also from the finding of the research it recognized that participation of local government and the community has a crucial effect on minimizing corruption in the area. The measures taken to alleviate or reduce corruption can vary in accordance and complexity of the extent of corruption. Since corruption is one of social problems, it has a lot of social, economic, political, and government in general; as a result,

strong and effective as well as sustainable measures have to be taken in order to reduce the problem of corruption.

### 5.2. Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study the researcher recommends the following: to overcome the problem of corruption.

- 1) Reducing corruption requires the command oferte of individuals, society, government's official and non-governmental officials.
- 2) The community should participate actively in different meetings from the very beginning of the year up to the end of the year in planning the annual plan. Midterm evaluation and final stage of evaluation of projects and annual planes of the Wolaita Sodo town.
- 3) The community should expose corrupt officials to the concerned body like superordinate and ethics and anti-corruption officials.
- 4) The government should teach and corrupt officials properly.
- 5) The government should give legal protection for those individuals who expose corrupt officials to the concerned body.

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## Appendix

WOLAITA SODO UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIC AND ETHICAL STUDIES  
Question for respondents

This questionnaire is prepared by 3rd year graduate students of civics and ethical studies for partial fulfillment of senior essays. The aim of this questionnaire is to gather data on the role of local government and community participation to reduce corruption in the cause of Sodo town. Here you are kindly requested to respond to questions properly because your response will help for the success of the study. Your response will be kept confidential. So you need to respond to questions with full freedom. Don't write your name at any part of the questionnaire paper. The researcher takes you in advance for your cooperation.

Instruction

Encircle the correct answer for the following questions and give short answers for questions which need explanation.

1. Respondents' background information

1.1. sex: Male                      female

1.2. age 18-20              21-30              31-40              41-50              above 50

1.3. Education status

Illiterate literate ☐ primary school ☐ high school ☐

#### 1.4. Livelihood

Diploma ☐ Degree ☐ Above Degree ☐ Farmer ☐

Merchant ☐ civil servant ☐ day laborer ☐ driver ☐ private organization worker ☐ other ☐

The level of communities participating in minimizing corruption related questions.

1. Does the community minimize corruption?

Yes ☐ No ☐

2. If your answer is No for question number 1 why?

3. Does the community expose corrupt local government officials to the concerned body?

Yes ☐ No ☐

4. If Your answer is No for question number 3 how?

The attitude of the community towards corruption and corrupt officials related questions.

1. Does corruption hinder participation In politics and projects?

Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Do you believe that effective and active community participation is important for minimizing the rate of corruption?

Yes ☐ No ☐

3. Do you think that corruption can be avoided?

Yes ☐ No ☐

4. If the answer is No for question number 3 why?

መግለጫ

ወላይታ ሶዶ ዩኒቨርሲቲ

ማህበራዊ ሳይንስ እና ስነ-ሰብ ኮሌጅ

ዲፓርትመንት ስነ-ዜጋ እና ስነ-ምግባር ትምህርት ክፍል

ለጥያቄዎች መልስ

ይህ መጠይቅ የስነ- ዜጋ እና ስነ ምግባር ትምህርት ክፍል የ3ኛ አመት ተመራቂ ተማሪ ስሆን የመመረቂያ ፀ-ፍ አየሰራሁ እገኛለሁ ይህ መጠየቅ ፀ-ፍን ለማሟላት የተዘጋጀ ነው። የዚህ መጠይቅ ዓላማ በአካባቢው መንግስት እና በህብረተሰብ ተሳትፎ ዙሪያ መረጃን ለመሰብሰብ የወላይታ ሶዶ ከተማን ሙስና ለመቀነስ ነው። ለጥያቄዎ ምላሽ ለመስጠት ጥሩ ምላሽ እንዲሰጡ በአክብሮት ተጠይቀዋል። የእርስዎ ምላሽ በሚስጥር ይያዛል። ስለዚህ በሙሉ ነጻነት መመለስ ያስፈልግዎታል። ስምዎን በማንኛውም የመጠይቁ ወረቀት ላይ አይጻፉ። ተመራማሪው ለእርስዎ ጥሩ ትብብር አስቀድሞ አክብሮቱን ይገልፃል።

ትዕዛዝ

ለሚከተሉት ጥያቄዎች ትክክለኛውን መልስ ይስጡ እና ማብራሪያ ለሚፈልጉ ለሚነሱ ጥያቄዎች አጭር መልስ ይስጡ።

1 ምላሽ ሰጪ 'ዳራ' መረጃ

1.1 የታወቀው ሴት

1.2 ዕድሜ 18-20 21-30 31-40 41-50 ከ 50 በላይ

1.3 የትምህርት ደረጃ

ማንበብና መጻፍ የማይችል የመጀመሪያ ደረጃ ት / ቤት ሁለተኛ ደረጃ ትምህርት / ቤት

1.4 የኑሮ ዲዛይነር -በዲፕሎማ ዲፕሎማ በላይ አምራች አርሶአደር

የሸቀጥ የሲቪል ሰራተኛ የቀን ሠራተኛ አሸከርካሪ የግል ድርጅት ሠራተኛ ሌላ

ከሙስና ጋር የተያያዘ ጥያቄን ለመቀነስ የሚሳተፉ የማህበረሰቦች ደረጃ

ማህበረሰቡ ሙስናን ይቀንሰዋል?

አዎ አይ

2. ለጥያቄ ቁጥር 1 መልሳችሁ አይደለም ከሆነ ለምን?

3. ማህበረሰቡ የተበላሸ የአካባቢ መንግሥት ባለሥልጣናት ለሚመለከታቸው አካላት የሚያጋልጥ ነው?

አዎ አይ

4. ለጥያቄ ቁጥር 3 መልስዎ ከሆነ አይደለም።

የማህበረሰብ ክፍተኛ ወደ ሙስና እና የተንኮለኛ ባለስልጣናት ተዛመጅ ጥያቄ

1. ሙስና ተሳትፎን የሚያግድ ነገር ነው በፖለቲካ እና ፕሮጀክት ውስጥ?

አዎ አይ

2. የሙስና መጠንን ለመቀነስ ውጤታማ እና ንቁ የማህበረሰብ ተሳትፎ አስፈላጊ ነው ብለው ያምናሉን? አዎ አ

3. መስና ሊወገድ የሚችል ይመስልዎታል?

አዎ አይ

4. ለጥያቄ ቁጥር 3 መልስ ከሆነ አይደለም ለምን?

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