

Business as usual?

Disasters, incompetency &
corruption

Prof. Edwin van Teijlingen

The problem with corruption

Corruption is widely recognised: *“Increasing corruption is another major challenge the government faces ...”*

(National Planning Commission 2016, p.10).

- Pervasive corruption & weak institutions
- Leaders often enablers of corruption.

Corruption: not the only problem

Health system of Nepal is chronically underfunded, has weak management & supervision systems and suffers endemic corruption (Levesque et al. 2013).

*Afno Manchhe: Unequal Access to Public
Resources and Institutions in Nepal*

Madhusudan Subedi

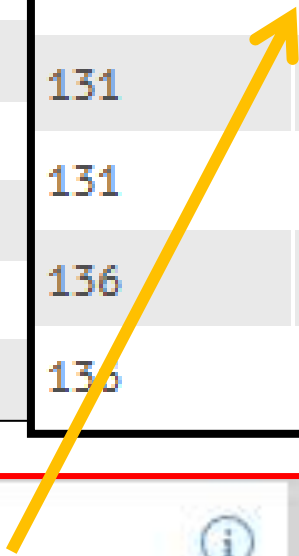
afno manchhe is not limited to familial relations. It may include people working in the same profession or the same field, business stakeholders or members of a particular organization. The way it has been used in Nepal indicates more than relationship; it may lead to the misuse of power and constitutes a unique path for corruption.

Corruption in Nepal has become so prevalent that it becomes the way of life of the society. *Afno manchhe* meant to obtain scarce consumer goods or to find a better job for one's children through the "back door". Today, *afno manchhe* is implicated in all big corruption cases and organized crimes. One particular feature is that corruption has evolved from individual wrong doings into institutionalized corruption that often involve a complicated *afno manchhe* network



2016 Rank	Country	2016 Score
1	Denmark	90
1	New Zealand	90
3	Finland	89
4	Sweden	88
5	Switzerland	86
6	Norway	85
7	Singapore	84
8	Netherlands	83
9	Canada	82
10	Germany	81
10	Luxembourg	81
10	United Kingdom	81

131	Iran	29
131	Kazakhstan	29
131	Nepal	29
131	Russia	29
131	Ukraine	29
136	Guatemala	28
136	Kyrgyzstan	28



Corruption Perceptions Index 2016	Rank 131 / 176	Score 29 / 100
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Corruption in Nepal is endemic & historic!

When I first visited Nepal 30 years ago, I wrote in the *Financial Times* that “deep-rooted corruption siphons off a large proportion of international aid and cripples the country’s economic growth and public administration.” Members of the now-ousted royal family were heading the plunder ...


John Elliott writing in *Newsweek* (27 April 2015)

<http://www.newsweek.com/nepal-earthquake-deaths-blame-weak-corrupt-politicians-325530>

Who brings immediate help?

- Government of Nepal
- International agencies: International Red Cross, World Health Organization, EU, etc.
- Countries: India, China, USA, UK, the Netherlands, etc.
- Large non-governmental organisations: OXFAM, Save the Children, etc.
- Small charities in Nepal and abroad

Getting money & supplies to those in need

- India promised \$2bn and send equipment & soldiers to help clear roads
- UK Government promised \$58 million  earthquake relief funding and more from UK general public.
- Others Asian Development Bank \$600, China \$483, EU \$58 million,

Disasters bring opportunities I

- Immediate aid needs to be distributed to unknown people ('those affected'), in difficult to access areas, under often chaotic socio-political conditions.

WORLD

MANY RACE AGAINST TIME TO GET AID TO NEPAL

BY **REUTERS** ON 4/26/15 AT 3:57 PM



Linking to PHASE in
previous session:
“Disasters also offer
opportunities!”

Reflections

- Crisis in the project areas vs 'crisis' in the organization (disrupted ways of working with no time to reflect)
- Paradox of positive impacts for PHASE Worldwide as an organization. For PHASE Nepal the positives don't replace what has been lost.
- Links into 'crisis' and 'poverty' providing 'opportunity' for development actors.

Disasters bring opportunities II

Corruption & opportunities:

- Aid can be claimed by ‘anybody’, not necessarily those (most) affected by earthquake/disaster.
- The organisation of the official ‘distribution’ resources is through already corrupt systems, all the additional resources offer an additional opportunity for ‘bettering’ oneself, organisation,

Bureaucracy as a barrier

- Incompetence & bureaucracy, the two can go together: the Nepali Government has US\$ 700 million (=86% of current budget) set aside for reconstruction BUT less than one-third of that money was spent a year later (summer 2016).
- [Inter-agency competition between INGOs, NGOs is additional barrier]

Manchester One Love concert: 'Thousands make false ticket claims'

🕒 1 June 2017 | Entertainment & Arts

f t m 📧 Share

Corruption & opportunity are not just poor countries which experience a disaster.

Ariana Grande Example!



Manchester line-up and how to watch

More than 10,000 "unscrupulous" people have falsely claimed they were at the scene of the Manchester attack in order to get free tickets for Sunday's benefit concert, Ticketmaster has said.

Consequences of corruption

- Due to widespread corruption and bureaucracy within the Government of Nepal, international donors like DFID have channelled their money into the big INGOs and UN agencies to deliver disaster relief programmes.

The not-so-nice side of aid II

- High-income countries/ individuals sending unwanted /inappropriate goods
- The global community pledges more than US\$4 billion towards aid and reconstruction, and people are getting worried about the delay in spending the money appropriately.



High heels, handbags, chainsaws and carpets — these are just some of the goods donated to Vanuatu and Fiji following recent natural disasters. Photo by: Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office

Trending [Paris Climate Agreement](#) [World Health Organization](#) [Going for Goals](#) [Future of DfID](#)

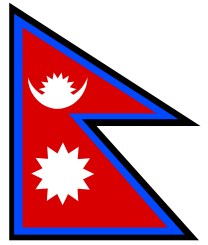
INSIDE DEVELOPMENT **DISASTER RESPONSE**

Thanks but no thanks: Unwanted goods flood disaster-struck developing countries

By [Lisa Cornish](#) | [lisa_cornish](#) | 17 January 2017

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Any questions?

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