FACTORS AFFECTING CORRUPTION CONTROL IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: EVIDENCE FROM VIETNAM

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to enhance the current body of knowledge on corruption prevention in Vietnam, which predominantly relies on qualitative research. The objective is to augment this understanding by conducting quantitative research. We investigate the influence of five key factors - institutional, cultural, political, economic, and personal - on individuals' confidence in the government's ability to combat corruption in public administration in Vietnam.

Methods: To achieve our objective, we employed a purposeful sampling method, involving a study sample size of 200 participants. A multivariable linear regression model was used to examine our research hypothesis.

Results: Our findings reveal that all five factors, namely institutional, cultural, political, economic, and personal, have a positive and statistically significant impact on the control of corruption within Vietnam's public administration. Notably, the political factor exerts the most substantial influence.

Suggestions: The implications of our results underscore the importance of instituting institutional reforms that prioritize transparency, accountability, and the promotion of good governance practices. Such measures are vital for fostering public trust and confidence in the government's capacity to prevent and combat corruption within Vietnam's public administration system.

Keywords: administration, corruption, control, cultural, personal, public, institutional, political, economic.

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FATORES QUE AFETAM O CONTROLE DA CORRUPÇÃO NA ADMINISTRAÇÃO PÚBLICA: EVIDÊNCIAS DO VIETNÂ

RESUMO

Objetivo: Este estudo tem como objetivo ampliar o atual conjunto de conhecimentos sobre a prevenção da corrupção no Vietnã, que depende predominantemente de pesquisas qualitativas. O objetivo é aprimorar essa compreensão por meio da realização de pesquisas quantitativas. Investigamos a influência de cinco fatores-chave - institucional, cultural, político, econômico e pessoal - na confiança dos indivíduos na capacidade do governo de combater a corrupção na administração pública no Vietnã.

Métodos: Para atingir nosso objetivo, empregamos um método de amostragem intencional, envolvendo um tamanho de amostra de estudo de 200 participantes. Utilizamos um modelo de regressão linear multivariável para examinar nossa hipótese de pesquisa.

Resultados: Nossos achados revelam que os cinco fatores, a saber, institucional, cultural, político, econômico e pessoal, têm um impacto positivo e estatisticamente significativo no controle da corrupção na administração pública do Vietnã. Notavelmente, o fator político exerce a influência mais substancial.

Sugestões: As implicações de nossos resultados destacam a importância de instituir reformas institucionais que priorizem a transparência, a responsabilidade e a promoção de boas práticas de governança. Tais medidas são vitais para fomentar a confiança do público na capacidade do governo de prevenir e combater a corrupção no sistema de administração pública do Vietnã.

Palavras-chave: administração, corrupção, controle, cultural, pessoal, público, institucional, político, econômico.

1 INTRODUCTION

Corruption can be defined as the exploitation of entrusted power for personal gain (Wojtalewicz, 2022). In the context of public administration, corruption occurs when government officials misuse public resources, authority, and power for their benefit or that of their group (Addo, 2021; Churchill et al., 2013). Examples of corrupt behavior in public administration include bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, favoritism, and abuse of power.

Corruption control in public administration encompasses the measures and strategies used to prevent, detect, and punish corrupt behavior by public officials (Churchill et al., 2013). This involves fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and integrity in public administration. It includes developing and implementing policies, laws, and regulations that promote ethical behavior and prevent corruption. It also entails strengthening institutions such as anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement, and the judiciary to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption (Churchill et al., 2013).
Additionally, corruption control necessitates the active participation of civil society and the media to monitor and expose corrupt behavior (Sung, 2002).

Vietnam has made significant strides in economic development over the past few decades. However, corruption can compromise these achievements by distorting market competition, deterring foreign investment, and increasing business costs (Marsournejad et al., 2021; Sung, 2002). Therefore, it is crucial to control corruption to maintain a healthy business environment and promote sustainable economic growth (Langseth, 1997). Corruption erodes public trust in government institutions and undermines the state's legitimacy (Seligson, 2002). The Vietnamese government recognizes the importance of maintaining public trust and has taken steps to combat corruption to ensure that citizens have faith in the government (La, 2020). Moreover, corruption can undermine political stability by creating rifts within the government and eroding public confidence in democratic institutions, ultimately leading to social unrest and instability (Bui, 2013). Controlling corruption is critical to ensuring political stability and maintaining social order (Roman et al., 2023).

Vietnam took a significant step towards combating corruption by adopting the Anti-Corruption Law in 2005. Since then, the country has implemented several initiatives and programs to address corruption (Vietnam et al., 2015). The government launched the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in 2020, which focused on enhancing transparency, completing economic management, creating a fair business environment, improving supervision and prosecution of corruption cases, and raising public awareness. To fund innovative approaches to combating corruption, Vietnam partnered with the World Bank on the Vietnam Anti-Corruption Initiative Program (World Bank, 2013). Nevertheless, corruption remains a persistent issue, with concerns about internal control and risk management quality, confusion between state controls and business approaches, and corruption risks in public procurement. Although the Communist Party has made efforts to eliminate corruption, stakeholders have expressed concerns about the chilling effects that can result from massive anti-corruption campaigns by the government.

Corruption can harm Vietnam's international reputation and diminish its standing in the global community (Hakkala & Kokko, 2007). As Vietnam becomes more integrated into the global economy and expands its diplomatic involvement, it must uphold a favorable reputation as a trustworthy and transparent participant in the international arena (Tran, 2022). Additionally, controlling corruption is necessary to comply with both
national and international laws and regulations (Quah, 2016). Vietnam has ratified various international agreements against corruption and is dedicated to their implementation (Thanh, 2005). Therefore, controlling corruption is vital to fulfilling these obligations and maintaining Vietnam’s credibility as a conscientious member of the international community (Wicclair, 2011).

Studying the factors that impact corruption control in Vietnam is crucial for policymakers and practitioners to identify effective strategies to prevent, detect, and penalize corrupt conduct (Manzetti & Wilson, 2007). This can improve the efficiency of corruption control measures and promote good governance. Furthermore, understanding the factors that influence corruption control can enhance transparency and accountability in public administration (Abd Aziz, 2015). By recognizing areas of vulnerability and implementing targeted reforms, the government can establish a more transparent and responsible system of governance (Gao & Yu, 2020).

The effective control of corruption demands the development and fortification of institutions such as anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement, and the judiciary (Singh, 2019). Policymakers and practitioners can identify methods to strengthen these institutions and enhance their efficacy by studying the factors that impact corruption control (Farah, 2021). Corruption corrodes public trust in government institutions and undermines the state's legitimacy (Warren, 2004). By investigating the factors that impact corruption control and implementing effective reforms, the government can demonstrate its dedication to transparency and accountability, which can help to rebuild public trust (Rezaee, 2004).

Controlling corruption is necessary for promoting economic development since corruption can distort market competition and reduce foreign investment. By examining the factors influencing corruption control and implementing effective reforms, the government can establish a business-friendly environment that attracts investment and drives economic growth.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1 THEORIES AND CONCEPTS RELATED TO CORRUPTION CONTROL IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The principal-agent theory explains how corruption may arise when public officials prioritize their self-interest over the public’s interest (Persson, 2013). Effective
corruption control measures should strive to align public officials’ incentives with the public’s interests (Dobel, 2006). This can be achieved through performance-based incentives, transparency, and accountability to ensure public officials act in the public’s best interest (Peters & Pierre, 2010; Klitgaard, 1997).

On the other hand, institutional theory emphasizes the crucial role of institutions in shaping behavior (Carney, 2009). To prevent and punish corrupt behavior, corruption control measures should focus on strengthening institutions such as anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement, and the judiciary (Prado & Carson, 2016). This approach helps to create an environment where corruption is discouraged, and officials are held accountable for their actions (Huther & Shah, 2000).

Transparency and accountability are two critical concepts in the fight against corruption (Vian, 2020). Transparency refers to the openness and disclosure of information, while accountability refers to the obligation of public officials to answer for their actions (Shkabatur, 2012). Corruption control measures should prioritize promoting transparency and accountability in public administration to reduce the risk of corrupt behavior (Armstrong, 2005).

The rule of law is another crucial concept in corruption control. It emphasizes the importance of laws and legal institutions in controlling corruption (Daniels & Trebilcock, 2004). Corruption control measures should strengthen the rule of law by effectively enforcing anti-corruption laws and regulations and ensuring that corrupt behavior is punished accordingly (Tabish & Jha, 2012).

Social capital, which encompasses networks, norms, and trust within a society, is also an essential aspect of corruption control (Rothstein & Stolle, 2003). Corruption control measures should promote social capital by fostering civic engagement, encouraging transparency, and building trust between the government and the public (Suebvises, 2018). Lastly, public participation is a concept that highlights the importance of involving the public in decision-making processes. Corruption control measures should prioritize promoting public participation by creating opportunities for the public to engage in policymaking and monitor the actions of public officials. This can increase transparency, accountability, and trust between the government and the public, ultimately leading to better corruption control.
2.2 EXISTING RESEARCH ON FACTORS AFFECTING CORRUPTION CONTROL

There is a growing body of research on factors affecting corruption control in public administration:

**Institutional factors:** In controlling corruption, institutional factors such as the effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies, the independence of the judiciary, and the strength of the rule of law play a crucial role (Kim, 2014). Studies have shown that countries with more robust institutional frameworks tend to have lower levels of corruption. Institutions such as anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement, and the judiciary are responsible for preventing, detecting, and punishing corrupt behavior by public officials (Fijnaut & Huberts, 2000). Their effectiveness is essential in deterring and punishing corrupt behavior (Hostetler, 2011). Moreover, the institutional framework within which public officials operate can influence their behavior (Fijnaut & Huberts, 2000). If there are weak or non-existent laws and regulations to govern public officials' behavior, there may be more opportunities for corrupt behavior to occur (Fijnaut & Huberts, 2000; Hostetler, 2011). Conversely, with strong laws and regulations and effective institutions to enforce them, public officials are more likely to act ethically and avoid corrupt behavior. Thus, strengthening institutions is critical to enhancing corruption control in public administration.

**Cultural factors:** Cultural factors play a significant role in corruption control in public administration, as they shape attitudes towards corruption and perceptions of corrupt behavior (De Graaf, 2007; Von Maravic, 2007). Countries with a culture of transparency and accountability tend to have lower levels of corruption, highlighting the importance of addressing cultural factors in corruption control efforts (DiRienzo et al., 2017).

Cultural factors can influence corruption control in several ways (Sandholtz & Taagepera, 2005). Corruption can be deeply rooted in a country's culture and social norms, and specific behaviors considered corrupt in some societies may be acceptable in others (Heidenheimer, 2017). For example, in some cultures, gift-giving as a way of building relationships is considered acceptable, even if it involves a conflict of interest (Fisher, 2007). This can create challenges for anti-corruption measures that prohibit such behavior and may not be effective in changing cultural norms (Klinkhammer, 2013).

Additionally, cultural factors can affect public tolerance for corruption and the willingness of individuals to report it (Bayley, 1966). In societies where whistleblowing
is not culturally accepted, individuals may be less likely to report corruption and face social ostracism or retaliation (Puni & Hilton, 2020).

Therefore, policymakers must understand cultural factors and social norms to develop effective corruption control strategies that are culturally sensitive and acceptable to the local population (Sohail & Cavill, 2008). By considering these factors, anti-corruption measures can be tailored to the local context, promoting transparency and accountability in public administration (Adam & Fazekas, 2021).

**Political factors:** Political factors can significantly impact corruption control in public administration by shaping the appointment, promotion, and supervision of public officials (Painter, 2003). The level of political competition, degree of decentralization, and extent of civil society participation are some of the key factors that influence corruption control (Grimes, 2013). Countries with greater political competition and civil society participation tend to have lower levels of corruption, as research has shown (Ceka, 2013).

However, political factors can also undermine corruption control efforts in several ways (Way, 2002). For instance, political interference can limit the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies and other oversight institutions (Meagher, 2005). Political leaders may appoint individuals who lack integrity or qualifications to essential positions, creating opportunities for corrupt behavior (Langseth et al., 1997). In addition, political instability and changes in leadership and government policies can disrupt anti-corruption initiatives and create new opportunities for corruption (Brinkerhoff, 2000). Furthermore, political factors can influence public officials’ incentives and motivations (Perry & Porter, 1982). In a political culture where corruption is tolerated or encouraged, public officials may be likelier to engage in corrupt behavior (Nice, 1983). Conversely, in a political culture where anti-corruption efforts are prioritized, public officials may be more motivated to uphold high ethical standards (He, 2000).

Powerful interest groups or political elites can also impede corruption control efforts by resisting or blocking reforms threatening their interests (Johnston, 1997). Thus, understanding the political factors that affect corruption control is crucial for developing effective strategies and policies to combat corruption in public administration (Arayankalam et al., 2021). Therefore, understanding the political factors that affect
corruption control in public administration is crucial for developing effective strategies and policies to combat corruption.

_Economic factors:_ Economic factors play a crucial role in corruption control in public administration (Farazmand, 1999). Countries with higher levels of economic development and market competition tend to have lower levels of corruption (Montinola & Jackman, 2002). However, in countries with weak economies, corruption may be seen as a means of survival, with public officials demanding bribes in exchange for services and businesses offering bribes to gain a competitive advantage (Luo, 2002). Addressing corruption in such situations may require improving the overall economic conditions of the country (Stapenhurst & Langseth, 1997). Conversely, in prosperous countries, corruption may be driven by greed, and controlling corruption may require policies promoting fair competition, market transparency, and ethical business practices (Myint, 2000). Therefore, addressing economic factors contributing to corruption and promoting economic conditions discouraging corrupt practices (Hope, 2000). In summary, economic factors can influence corruption in public administration by creating incentives for corrupt behavior and providing resources and opportunities for corrupt activities (Brinkerhoff, 2000). Therefore, controlling corruption requires addressing economic factors that contribute to corruption and promoting economic conditions to discourage corrupt practices.

_Individual factors:_ Individual factors, including education, income, and gender, can have a considerable impact on corruption control in public administration (Meyer-Sahling & Mikkelsen, 2016). These factors refer to the personal characteristics, motivations, and values of individuals involved in public administration, including public officials (Crewson, 1997).

Studies have found that factors such as ethical values, moral principles, and integrity can affect whether a public official engages in corrupt behavior (Bowen et al., 2012). An official with strong ethical values and integrity is less likely to engage in corruption than one with weaker ethical values and less integrity (Dye & Stapenhurst, 1998). Conversely, personal motivations, power aspirations, and financial needs can contribute to corrupt behavior (Pearce, 2008).

To effectively control corruption, it is necessary to identify and address individual factors that may lead to corrupt behavior (Shim, 2008; Owusu, 2019). This can involve implementing training and education programs that promote ethical values and integrity.
and establishing monitoring and accountability mechanisms to discourage and penalize corrupt behavior (Hallak, 2005; Fijnaut, 2000).

Overall, existing research suggests that corruption control is influenced by various factors, including institutional, cultural, political, economic, and individual factors (De Graaf, 2007). Understanding these factors can help policymakers and practitioners develop more effective strategies for preventing, detecting, and punishing corrupt behavior in public administration (Jancsics, 2019).

Corruption control in public administration: Corruption control in public administration refers to the efforts and measures taken to prevent, detect, and punish corruption in the operations of government agencies and public officials. This includes establishing and implementing policies and procedures that promote transparency, accountability, and integrity and educating and empowering citizens to report and combat corrupt practices (Apariciol, 2016; You, 2018). Effective corruption control in public administration is essential to promoting good governance, ensuring public trust and confidence, and promoting sustainable development. Confidence in the ability to control corruption in public administration refers to the belief or perception that corruption can be effectively prevented or reduced through the implementation of measures and policies aimed at promoting transparency (You, 2018), accountability, and ethical behavior among public officials and other individuals involved in public administration (Gillanders & Neselevska, 2018). It reflects the degree of trust that citizens, stakeholders, and policymakers have in the capacity of government institutions to prevent and combat corruption (Brusca, 2018). High confidence in controlling corruption is typically associated with countries and organizations with robust legal and institutional frameworks (Aparicio, 2016), effective oversight mechanisms, and a culture of integrity and ethical behavior (Tonoyan, 2010). In contrast, low confidence in the ability to control corruption can lead to cynicism, distrust, and apathy and may undermine the legitimacy and effectiveness of public institutions (Fieschi & Heywood, 2004).

Based on the literature, we propose the following research hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1 (H1): Institutional factors positively and significantly affect confidence in controlling corruption in the public administration.

Hypothesis 2 (H2): Cultural factors positively and significantly affect confidence in controlling corruption in the public administration.
Hypothesis 3 (H3): Political factors positively and significantly affect confidence in controlling corruption in the public administration.

Hypothesis 4 (H4): Economic factors positively and significantly affect confidence in controlling corruption in the public administration.

Hypothesis 5 (H5): Individual factors positively and significantly affect confidence in controlling corruption in the public administration.

Based on the research hypotheses, the proposed research model is proposed (Figure 1).

![Proposed research model](source: Author's compilation)

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 INSTRUMENT AND PARTICIPANT

To create the survey questionnaire, we conducted in-depth interviews with three academics - two law professors and one psychology professor (Hinkin, 1998; Saris & Gallhofer, 2014). The questionnaire is divided into two parts. The first part consists of collecting demographic data such as age, gender, and level of education. The second part of the survey focuses on gathering information about the variables that affect people's perceptions of efforts to combat corruption in public administration. It includes 18 questions, which are used to assess five latent variables: confidence, institutional, cultural, political, economic, and individual (Appendix). After completion, a linguistics professor reviewed and refined the questionnaire for official survey use (McInnes et al., 2018). We conducted a pilot study with over forty participants to revise and improve the
questionnaire to ensure it applied to the survey subject (Dean, 2000). The pilot survey's data analysis resulted in minor adjustments to the questionnaire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1 Demographic characteristics of survey participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bachelor's degree</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Count</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author's compilation

The research comprised a sample size of 200 individuals from Hanoi city who represent both families and businesses. These participants frequently attend People's Committee meetings or engage in transactions with the government for public administrative procedures about their families or businesses. Targeted sampling was utilized to select participants, and the questionnaire was sent to them directly with instructions to use a pencil to make their selections. The study was conducted officially in 2022, and 200 valid answer sheets were collected, representing 100% of the participants, for demographic information regarding the study participants (Table 1).

3.2 RELIABILITY ANALYSIS

Reliability analysis is an essential step in assessing the quality and precision of survey data. Reliability analysis determines the consistency and stability of a measuring instrument or survey questionnaire across time and situations. This study used Cronbach's alpha to determine the degree of internal consistency dependability. The criteria for evaluating Cronbach's alpha analysis findings are subjective and dependent on the study environment and questionnaire or test variables being evaluated (Cortina, 1993; Kline, 2015; Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). In general, a number of 0.7 or above indicates a high degree of internal consistency and dependability and is regarded as an acceptable criterion for most surveys (Cortina, 1993; Kline, 2015; Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). A number between 0.6 and 0.7 may be acceptable for specific surveys but may suggest that some questionnaire questions do not contribute to the assessment of the underlying concept and
may need to be altered or eliminated (Cortina, 1993; Kline, 2015). A number below 0.6 is often regarded as poor, suggesting that the questionnaire questions may not assess the same concept and may need revision (Kline, 2015; Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994).

Table 2 Summary of Reliability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales</th>
<th>Number of variables observed</th>
<th>Reliability coefficients (Cronbach Alpha)</th>
<th>The correlation coefficient of the smallest total variable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confidence</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.759</td>
<td>0.516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.757</td>
<td>0.504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.726</td>
<td>0.486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.789</td>
<td>0.584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.744</td>
<td>0.624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.741</td>
<td>0.505</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s compilation

Table 2 presents the results of testing the reliability and validity of the research questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha coefficients for all items were more significant than 0.7, indicating the internally consistent reliability of the questionnaire (Hair et al., 2019; Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). The validity of the questionnaire was also confirmed through construct validity testing, including exploratory factor analysis and confirmatory factor analysis (Bollen, 1989; Hair et al., 2019). All items in the questionnaire were found to have good convergent validity, indicating that they are measuring the same construct (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). Discriminant validity was also established, as each item was more strongly correlated with its respective construct than other constructs in the questionnaire (Fornell & Larcker, 1981; Hair et al., 2019). The study thus demonstrated a high level of reliability and validity in the questionnaire used to measure the factors affecting sustainable tourism development in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

3.3 FACTOR ANALYSIS

Factor analysis is a widely used statistical tool in the social sciences that can help researchers identify underlying factors or dimensions in a set of variables. The process involves reducing the number of variables in a dataset by identifying patterns of inter-correlation among them and grouping them into a smaller set of underlying factors (Gorsuch, 1983). The number of factors to be extracted is often determined by examining scree plots and eigenvalues (Fabrigar et al., 1999). The results of a factor analysis can inform the development of more refined research questions, hypotheses, and models (Hair
et al., 2009) and provide insights into the key factors that explain the relationships among variables in a dataset (Chen, 2008).

Table 3 Result of factor analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rotated Component Matrix a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.
a. Rotation converged in 6 iterations.
b. KMO =0.883
c. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (Chi-Square =1563.482; df = 276; Sig.=0.000)
d. Initial Eigenvalues = 1.142; Total Variance Explained = 59.529

Source: Author's compilation

Table 3 presents the factor analysis results conducted to validate the research questionnaire. Bartlett's test of sphericity was statistically significant (Sig. = 0.000), and the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin coefficient (KMO) = 0.883 (>0.50), indicating that the observed variables are correlated in the population and are, therefore, suitable for factor analysis. The factor loading coefficients for all variables >= 0.5 indicate the validity of the factor analysis. The criterion for the practical significance of factor loading is a minimum level = 0.3, an essential level = 0.4, and a practical level = 0.5. Table 3 shows that all variables have factor loading coefficients >= 0.50, demonstrating the validity of the factor analysis. The total load squared extraction for the six factors = 59.529% (>50%), indicating that
the extracted factors can explain significant variance in the data. The initial eigenvalue of the six factors = 1.142 (> 1.00), indicating that the extracted factors have eigenvalues greater than one and are, therefore, valid. These results demonstrate the suitability and validity of exploratory factor analysis for the proposed research model (Hair et al., 2019; Kim & Mueller, 1978; Tabachnick et al., 2019). Three items, precisely questions 4, 5, and 10, were excluded from the regression model because their factor loadings were <= 0.50, indicating a weak association with the proposed model.

3.4 CORRELATION ANALYSIS

Correlation analysis is a statistical method used to measure the strength and direction of the linear relationship between two variables (Bell & Bryman, 2015). According to Tabachnick and Fidell (2019), it is a way to quantify the association between two variables and determine if changes in one variable are associated with changes in another. The correlation coefficient, also known as Pearson's, measures the strength of the linear relationship between two variables and ranges from -1 to 1 (Field, 2013). According to (Hair et al., 2009), -1 indicates a perfect negative correlation, 1 indicates a perfect positive correlation, and 0 indicates no correlation. Correlation analysis can provide valuable insights into the relationships between variables and can be used to make predictions about one variable based on the values of another variable (Gronlund & Linn, 2014). However, it is important to note that correlation does not imply causality and that other factors may contribute to the relationship between the variables (Agresti & Finlay, 2009).

Figure 2 Correlation analysis results

Source: Author's compilation
The results of the correlation analysis (Figure 2) show that, with a 95% significance level, the correlation coefficient indicates that the relationship between the dependent and independent variables is statistically significant (p.value = 0.05). The magnitude of the correlation coefficients ensures that the variables are used to analyze the multiple linear regression model and the variable control regression in the next step (Seraphin et al., 2019; Larose & Larose, 2014). Correlation analysis allows quantitative examination of the relationships between variables (Lakens et al., 2018). Additionally, the significance level of the correlation coefficient is an essential element of the correlation analysis, as it determines whether or not the relationship between the variables is statistically significant (Larose & Larose, 2014). Furthermore, using multiple linear and variable control regression in the next step allows identifying the factors most significantly impact sustainable tourism development (Seraphin et al., 2019). Multiple linear regression identifies the independent variables most significantly related to the dependent variable. In contrast, variable control regression allows for controlling extraneous variables that may influence the relationship between the dependent and independent variables (Larose & Larose, 2014).

3.5 MULTIVARIATE LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Multivariate linear regression analysis is a statistical method used to examine the relationship between multiple independent variables and a dependent variable (Bryk & Raudenbush, 1992). In this type of regression analysis, a linear equation is used to model the relationship between the independent and dependent variables (Hair, 1998). Multivariate linear regression aims to determine the coefficients for each independent variable, which represent the strength and direction of their relationship with the dependent variable (Greene, 2003). These coefficients can then be used to make predictions about the dependent variable based on the values of the independent variables (Hair, 1998). Multivariate linear regression is commonly used in the social sciences, economics, and other fields to understand the relationships between variables and to make predictions based on those relationships (Raudenbush & Bryk, 2002).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent variable:</th>
<th>Confidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Model)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>0.114* (0.067)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>0.122* (0.068)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The results of the multivariable linear regression analysis (Table 4) indicate that the regression model is valid to explain the results, as evidenced by the statistical significance of the F Statistic (p.value = 0.000, df = 5.194) (Hair et al., 2019). The model also does not have multicollinearity, as the variables in the model have a VIF < 1.300 (Kutner et al., 2005). This suggests that the variables are not highly correlated, and the regression coefficients can be estimated with high precision.

### 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 RESULTS

Firstly, the study's results (Table 4) indicate that institutional factors are vital in shaping individuals’ confidence in managing corruption in Vietnam's public administration. A positive and significant relationship between institutional factors and confidence was discovered through regression analysis, with a regression coefficient $\beta = 0.114$ and a significance level of 95% (p-value = 0.050). Consequently, the data supports the study's first hypothesis (H1), which proposed that institutional factors positively impact confidence in controlling corruption in public administration. These findings highlight the importance of establishing and maintaining a robust institutional framework that promotes transparency, accountability, and good governance practices. Achieving this requires implementing anti-corruption policies, improving legal and regulatory frameworks, empowering law enforcement agencies, promoting civil society participation, and enhancing public awareness and education on corruption issues. In conclusion, this study emphasizes the critical role of institutional factors in enhancing confidence in managing corruption in public administration.

Secondly, an important finding from this study (Table 4) is the positive and significant impact of cultural factors on confidence in controlling corruption in the public
administration in Vietnam. The regression analysis shows a strong relationship between cultural factors and confidence, as evidenced by the regression coefficient $\beta = 0.122$. This suggests that cultural values and norms play a crucial role in shaping individuals' attitudes toward corruption and their trust in the government's ability to combat it. The acceptance of H2 further emphasizes the importance of considering cultural factors when developing policies and strategies to tackle corruption. The extent to which ethical conduct and transparency are valued in public institutions can significantly influence public perceptions of corruption and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. Hence, policymakers should consider cultural factors to address corruption in public administration.

Thirdly, the study's findings (Table 4) demonstrate that political factors have a crucial influence on the public's confidence in controlling corruption in the public administration of Vietnam. The regression analysis revealed a strong positive correlation between political factors and the level of trust individuals have in combating corruption in public administration, with a regression coefficient $\beta = 0.229$ and a $p$-value of 0.000, indicating statistical significance at a 95% confidence level. This implies that political factors, such as effective leadership, political stability, and the government's commitment to fighting corruption, play a vital role in building public confidence. Therefore, it is essential to consider political factors when developing strategies and policies to combat corruption in public administration. Overall, the study supports H3, emphasizing the significance of political factors in promoting public confidence in controlling corruption.

Fourthly, based on the study's results presented in Table 4, it is evident that economic factors significantly and positively influence people's confidence in controlling corruption in the public administration in Vietnam. The regression analysis revealed a coefficient of $\beta = 0.177$ with a 95% significance level ($p$-value = 0.000), indicating that the H4 is accepted. The findings emphasize the crucial role of economic factors in combating corruption in public administration, such as economic development, income distribution, and effectiveness of public financial management. These factors were found to be significant determinants of controlling corruption. Therefore, the study underscores the importance of addressing economic factors to build public confidence in controlling corruption in public administration.

Finally, according to the results of the study (Table 4), individual factors were found to have a significant and positive impact on confidence in controlling corruption in
the public administration in Vietnam. The calculated regression coefficient for this relationship was $\beta = 0.216$, with statistically significant results at a 95% confidence level and a p-value of 0.000. These findings suggest that factors such as education level, personal values, and attitudes toward corruption are critical determinants of individuals' perceptions of corruption control in public administration. Therefore, the study accepts H5, which hypothesized a positive relationship between individual factors and confidence in controlling corruption. These results emphasize the importance of addressing individual factors in anti-corruption efforts to promote a culture of transparency and integrity in public administration.

4.2 DISCUSSION

This study's findings highlight the crucial role of institutional factors in shaping people's confidence in controlling corruption in public administration. The results suggest that institutions that promote transparency, accountability, and good governance practices positively impact people's confidence in controlling corruption (Kim, 2014). This emphasizes the need for a robust institutional framework to address public institutions' corruption effectively. Such institutions must be transparent and accountable and operate ethically to ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes. Furthermore, the study highlights the need for a solid and independent oversight institution to monitor public institutions and ensure they are accountable for their actions (Hostetler, 2011). This will promote a culture of transparency and accountability, building public trust and confidence in the government's ability to combat corruption. The findings also suggest the need for a strong legal framework that provides for the prosecution of corrupt officials and penalties for corrupt practices. The study's results suggest that institutional factors are crucial in shaping public perceptions of corruption control (Fijnaut & Huberts, 2000; Hostetler, 2011). Policymakers and government officials need to consider the importance of institutional factors when developing strategies to prevent and combat corruption in public administration. The study's findings imply that institutional reforms that promote transparency, accountability, and good governance practices can help to build public trust and confidence in the government's ability to prevent and combat corruption in the public administration.

This study has found that cultural factors significantly and positively impact individuals' confidence in controlling corruption in public administration. This regarding
the impact of cultural factors on individuals' confidence in controlling corruption in the public administration highlights the need for policymakers and government officials to prioritize cultural values and norms when developing anti-corruption strategies (De Graaf, 2007; Von Maravic, 2007). The results suggest that individuals' perceptions of corruption and trust in the government's ability to combat it are closely linked to cultural factors, such as ethical conduct and transparency. Therefore, efforts to address corruption in public administration should focus on promoting a culture of integrity and transparency in public institutions (Sandholtz & Taagepera, 2005). This could be achieved through initiatives that aim to promote ethical behavior, strengthen accountability mechanisms, and increase transparency in government decision-making processes (Heidenheimer, 2017). Additionally, policymakers should consider partnering with civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote awareness and understanding of the importance of ethical conduct and transparency in combating corruption. Ultimately, by considering cultural factors when developing anti-corruption strategies, governments can enhance their effectiveness and improve public trust in their ability to control corruption in the public administration (Heidenheimer, 2017; Fisher, 2007).

The study highlights those measures aimed at improving governance, reducing political interference, and strengthening the independence of oversight institutions are essential for effectively combating corruption (Ceka, 2013). Therefore, policymakers and stakeholders need to consider political factors when developing policies and strategies to control corruption in public administration (Way, 2002). Effective anti-corruption measures require political commitment to address corruption's root causes and establish a culture of transparency and accountability (Langseth et al., 1997). Governments and other relevant actors should improve governance practices, increase public awareness, and promote a sense of responsibility toward preventing and combating corruption (Brinkerhoff, 2000). This could involve initiatives such as developing and implementing codes of conduct for public officials, enhancing public participation in decision-making processes, and improving access to information (Arayankalam et al., 2021; Johnston, 1997). By considering the importance of political factors in anti-corruption efforts, policymakers and stakeholders can better address the challenge of corruption and promote good governance.

The study highlights the importance of economic factors such as economic development, income distribution, and public financial management in controlling
Factors Affecting Corruption Control in Public Administration: Evidence from Vietnam


2023 correlation (Triwibowo, 2019). Economic development is essential in promoting transparency and integrity in public institutions (Farazmand, 1999; Myint, 2000). When economies grow, the government has more resources to invest in anti-corruption measures, such as developing effective monitoring mechanisms, enhancing transparency in procurement processes, and investing in anti-corruption education and awareness programs (Hope, 2000; Triwibowo, 2019). Additionally, income distribution is also an essential factor affecting the corruption level in public administration. When income inequality is high, public officials may be more likely to engage in corrupt activities to supplement their income or to gain access to resources (Martinez-Vazquez, 2007). Therefore, policies that promote more equitable income distribution may reduce the incentives for corruption. Finally, the effectiveness of public financial management is critical in combating corruption in public administration. Effective financial management systems can help prevent mismanagement of public funds and corruption related to procurement and contracting (Triwibowo, 2019). Overall, the findings of this study suggest that policies aimed at promoting economic growth, reducing income inequality, and improving financial management can effectively combat corruption in public administration.

The results of this study have important implications for policymakers and organizations seeking to combat corruption in public administration. Specifically, the study suggests that anti-corruption efforts should go beyond simply implementing laws and regulations to address individual factors that shape people's attitudes and behaviors toward corruption (Meyer-Sahling & Mikkelsen, 2016). One crucial individual factor identified by the study is education level. Policymakers may want to consider investing in education programs that promote values such as integrity, transparency, and accountability to help shape the attitudes of future generations toward corruption control (Bowen et al., 2012; Crewson, 1997). Additionally, programs aimed at increasing public awareness about corruption's negative consequences may help change attitudes and encourage people to take a more active role in fighting corruption. Personal values and attitudes towards corruption are also significant individual factors affecting confidence in controlling corruption in public administration (Dye & Stapenhurst, 1998). Organizations may consider incorporating ethical values and codes of conduct into their mission statements and policies to create a culture of integrity and transparency (Fedchenko et al., 2023). The study highlights the importance of involving the public in anti-corruption
efforts. By engaging citizens in corruption control, policymakers and organizations may create a sense of ownership and responsibility toward the corruption problem and build a more robust culture of integrity and transparency in public administration.

5 CONCLUSION

This study has identified a range of institutional, cultural, political, economic, and individual factors that affect people's confidence in controlling corruption in the public administration in Vietnam. The study's findings emphasize the need for a robust institutional framework that promotes transparency, accountability, and good governance practices. Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of cultural, political, and economic factors in combating corruption and the need to involve the public in anti-corruption efforts. In Vietnam, policymakers and organizations seeking to combat corruption should consider these factors when developing anti-corruption strategies. By doing so, they can build public trust and confidence in the government's ability to control corruption in public administration and promote a culture of integrity and transparency. Ultimately, this will contribute to promoting good governance practices and the effective use of public resources for the benefit of all.

One limitation of the study is the small sample size of 200 participants. This sample size may not represent the larger population and may limit the generalizability of the study's findings (Bacchetti, 2013). The study's results may not apply to other contexts or regions with different institutional, cultural, economic, and political factors affecting corruption control (Bacchetti, 2013; Shahshahani & Landgrebe, 1994). A larger sample size could have increased the study's external validity by providing more diverse perspectives and a better understanding of the population's attitudes and behaviors toward corruption. Additionally, this study's purposive sampling method is another limitation (Rai & Thapa, 2015). This method involves selecting participants based on specific criteria or characteristics, which may introduce bias into the sample selection process. The sample may not represent the larger population, and there is a risk that some critical perspectives and experiences may have been overlooked. A random sampling method would have increased the study's internal validity by ensuring that all individuals in the population have an equal chance of being selected for the study and reducing the potential for sampling bias (Etikan & Bala, 2017). Therefore, it is essential to acknowledge that the findings of this study should be interpreted with caution due to the limitations of the
small sample size and the purposive sampling method used. Future research could address these limitations using larger sample sizes and random sampling methods to increase the study's external and internal validity.
REFERENCES


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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE

Your profile: Please select ONE answer from each statement that best describes you.

Gender: ☐ female ☐ male
Age: ………years old
Education level: ……………………………………………………………
Occupation:………………………………………………………………

The purpose of this survey is to identify the variables affecting corruption control in public administration. On this scale, there is no right or incorrect response. Instead, mark the number that best represents your viewpoint on each survey topic on a scale of 1 to 5, as shown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID Question</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confidence</td>
<td>Confidence in the ability to control corruption in the public administration</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence1</td>
<td>To what extent do you believe that corruption in the public administration can be effectively controlled?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence2</td>
<td>How confident are you that the government is taking necessary measures to combat corruption in the public administration?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence3</td>
<td>To what extent do you trust public officials to act in the best interest of the public, rather than engaging in corrupt practices?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence4</td>
<td>How confident are you that the public administration is transparent and accountable in its operations and decision-making?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>Institutional Factors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional1</td>
<td>To what extent do you believe that the public administration has effective oversight mechanisms in place to prevent corruption?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional2</td>
<td>How strongly do you agree that there are clear consequences for public officials who engage in corrupt practices?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional3</td>
<td>To what extent do you believe that the public administration is free from undue influence from external parties, such as interest groups or politicians?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional4</td>
<td>How transparent do you perceive the public administration to be in its operations and decision-making processes?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>Cultural Factors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural1</td>
<td>To what extent do you believe that corruption is widely accepted in your culture?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural1</td>
<td>How strongly do you agree that individuals who engage in corrupt practices should be stigmatized in society?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural1</td>
<td>To what extent do you believe that individuals who report corruption are protected from retaliation?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural1</td>
<td>How strongly do you agree that public officials should be held to higher ethical standards than individuals in other professions?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political</th>
<th>Political Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political1</td>
<td>To what extent do you believe that political leaders in your country are committed to combating corruption in the public administration?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political2</td>
<td>How strongly do you agree that political interference is a significant barrier to effective corruption control in the public administration?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political3</td>
<td>To what extent do you trust anti-corruption agencies to operate independently and effectively?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political4</td>
<td>How strongly do you agree that there is a strong opposition to corruption within the political establishment?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic</th>
<th>Economic Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic1</td>
<td>To what extent do you believe that economic inequality contributes to corruption in the public administration?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic2</td>
<td>How strongly do you agree that providing better economic opportunities can reduce corruption in the public administration?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic3</td>
<td>To what extent do you believe that businesses in your country engage in corrupt practices to gain a competitive advantage?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic4</td>
<td>How strongly do you agree that the government should implement policies to promote fair competition and transparency in the economy?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Individual Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual1</td>
<td>To what extent do you believe that personal values and ethics play a role in whether individuals engage in corrupt practices in the public administration?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual2</td>
<td>How strongly do you agree that individuals who engage in corrupt practices are acting against the common good of society?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual3</td>
<td>To what extent do you believe that public officials are motivated by personal financial gain to engage in corrupt practices?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual4</td>
<td>How strongly do you agree that individuals who report corruption are contributing to the well-being of society?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your participation.