

Corruption and Its Impact on Social Counseling in Society

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Abstract:

Purpose:

Corruption is a social problem that has a significant impact on various aspects of life, including social counseling services. Abuse of power practices, such as embezzlement, nepotism, and low levels of transparency, result in reduced access and quality of services for individuals in need of psychosocial assistance. This study aims to examine how corruption can hinder the effectiveness of social counseling services, reduce the professionalism of counselors, and erode public trust in social institutions.

Methodology:

Using a literature study method and a qualitative approach, this study analyzes the impact of corruption on the success of counseling programs and strategies that can be implemented to increase transparency and accountability in this sector.

Findings:

The results of the study indicate that reform of the supervisory system, strict law enforcement, and increased community participation are key steps to minimize the impact of corruption on social counseling services.

Implication:

Corruption in social counseling services has a very broad impact on community welfare, both in terms of accessibility, quality of service, and public trust in social institutions. Public distrust of social institutions due to corruption also reduces their participation in assistance programs, thus widening social inequality.

INTRODUCTION

Corruption is one of the social problems that has a broad impact on various aspects of people's lives. In addition to causing economic losses, corruption also has a significant impact on social welfare, including in the field of social counseling. This act of abuse of power, which is for personal or group interests, can hinder social services that should be provided to the community fairly and evenly (Putra & Linda, 2022).

In the context of social counseling, corruption can hinder the support systems and services that should be provided to people in need. When funds allocated for social programs are misused, access to counseling services becomes limited. As a result, individuals facing psychosocial problems, such as poverty, domestic violence, or identity crises, have difficulty getting the help they deserve.

In addition, corruption also affects the quality of social counselors. Many cases show that the recruitment process for counselors that is not transparent and influenced by nepotism or bribery can result in unprofessional counseling services. Less competent counselors have the potential to provide ineffective services so that the community does not get appropriate solutions to problems in the community (Suwitho et al., 2024).

Lack of transparency in the allocation of social assistance funds is one of the main obstacles that hinders the effectiveness of social counseling services. Often, the budget that should be used for counselor training, procurement of counseling facilities, and other support programs is misused. It causes the community to lose trust in social institutions and be reluctant to seek help through official channels (Tri Wahyu Widiastuti, 2009). Corruption can lead to deeper social injustice. Vulnerable groups, such as abandoned children, people with disabilities, and victims of violence, are often the most affected. Counseling services that should be designed to

help them are actually hampered by corrupt practices that divert funds for the personal interests of irresponsible officials.

Public distrust of social institutions and the government, caused by corrupt practices, also contributes to low community participation in social programs. Many individuals feel that reporting cases or seeking help will not provide satisfactory results. This situation causes an increase in feelings of hopelessness among people who are in dire need of psychosocial support (Amalia, 2022). Corruption also affects the effectiveness of social policies designed to improve community welfare. Regulations and policies aimed at supporting social counseling services often do not run optimally due to personal interests within the government or related institutions (Soemanto et al., 2014). This results in policies being implemented that do not match the real needs of the community.

To address the impact of corruption on social counseling services, it is important to ensure transparency in the management of social budgets and to carry out strict supervision of the implementation of community service programs. Increasing accountability and implementing strict sanctions against perpetrators of corruption are also crucial steps to improve the social counseling service system so that it can operate optimally. In addition, the community has a very vital role in preventing and eradicating corruption in the social service sector (Atmoko & Syauket, 2022). Active participation in monitoring the use of social funds, as well as increasing awareness of the importance of integrity in public services, can contribute to the creation of a more transparent and fair environment for all parties (I. Setiawan & Jesaja, 2022).

Corruption is not only a problem related to the economy and politics but also has a profound impact on various social aspects, including counseling services that should function to help people deal with their problems. Therefore, efforts to eradicate corruption must be carried out comprehensively. It includes policy reform, strengthening the monitoring system, and increasing public awareness of the importance of transparency and accountability in social services.

METHODS

This study adopts a literature study method with a qualitative approach and descriptive analysis to explore the impact of corruption on social counseling services and community welfare. Various academic sources, such as journals, books, research reports, and related policies, are analyzed to understand corruption patterns, non-transparency in fund allocation, and their impact on access to and quality of counseling services. In addition, this study also explores theories related to corruption, social trust, and social welfare to explain the relationship between corruption and the decline in the effectiveness of counseling services. Secondary data taken from case studies, anti-corruption agency reports, and previous studies are used to strengthen the analysis. With this approach, this study will provide in-depth insights into the impact of corruption on social counseling services and formulate strategies to improve transparency and accountability in the provision of social services.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Corruption and Its Impact on Social Counseling in Society. Corruption in social services, including counseling, is a complex problem that has a broad impact on community welfare. Various factors trigger corruption, ranging from low individual integrity to weaknesses in the legal system. As a result, social counseling services that should be a means of assistance and recovery for the community are actually hampered by corrupt practices that reduce their effectiveness (Kenneth, 2024).

The low integrity and morality of individuals in the public service system is one of the main causes of corruption. Many officials or social service providers abuse their authority for personal or group gain. In the context of social counseling services, this low morality can be seen in the form of extortion, misuse of psychosocial assistance funds, or manipulation of assistance programs for people in need (Hasoloan et al., 2022).

Weak oversight systems make it difficult to detect corrupt practices. Lack of transparency in the management of social service funds often results in budget allocations that are not on target. As a result, many social counseling programs do not run optimally, so people facing psychosocial problems do not receive the services they should. In addition, low community participation in the oversight process further worsens this condition due to the lack of public pressure on service providers (Atmoko & Syauket, 2022). Weak law enforcement against perpetrators of corruption is also a factor that worsens the impact of corruption in the social sector. Many cases of misappropriation of social assistance funds are not handled fairly, creating a sense of impunity for the perpetrators. In the context of social counseling services, this has a direct impact on the decline in the professionalism of counselors due to the lack of facilities and support they should receive (Fatima et al., 2022).

The practice of nepotism in social services results in the distribution of assistance and counseling programs that do not reflect actual needs. Often, individuals who have close ties to certain officials are given priority access to services, while those who actually need them more are marginalized. It causes counseling services to lose their function as an inclusive means that should help the community fairly (I. Setiawan & Jesaja, 2022). Weak law enforcement further worsens this condition, especially in the social sector and counseling services. The indecisiveness in imposing sanctions on perpetrators of corruption has led to rampant abuse of authority. The impact is immediately felt on the quality of social counseling services, both in terms of human resources, facilities, and the effectiveness of the programs implemented. Corruption in this service not only hinders community access to psychosocial assistance but also damages the quality of the services provided. Counselors who work in a corrupt system are often under pressure when carrying out their duties, either due to budget constraints or intervention by certain parties (Kenneth, 2024). On the other hand, people who need these services often face difficulties due to complicated bureaucratic procedures or additional costs that should not be charged.

To improve transparency and accountability in social counseling services, reforms are needed in the monitoring system, stricter law enforcement, and increased community participation in monitoring the distribution of services. With these steps, the negative impacts of corruption can be minimized, and social counseling services can function optimally in helping people in need.

Theories on the Problem of Corruption. Corruption in social counseling services is a serious problem that has a wide impact on the welfare of society. Various theories can be used to understand its root causes and consequences, ranging from economic and sociological theories to theories of power and trust. These theories provide in-depth insights into how corruption occurs and the factors that support the practice at various levels of the social system.

One relevant theory to explain corruption in social counseling services is agency theory. This theory states that corruption often arises due to an imbalance of power and information between agents and principals. In this context, agents who have authority can abuse their position by manipulating information for personal gain. On the other hand, principals or communities receiving services often do not have enough information to supervise these practices effectively. As a result, services that are supposed to help the community can actually be affected by corrupt actions from the authorities (Dr. Nasrullah, 2019).

The theory of rational behavior can also be used to understand why corruption in social counseling services occurs. According to this theory, individuals who commit corruption do so based on rational considerations, where the benefits obtained are greater than the risks or costs incurred. Suppose the monitoring system is weak and the punishment for perpetrators of corruption is not strict enough. In that case, corrupt practices will continue to occur because the perpetrators feel safe from legal consequences (Salna et al., 2023).

In addition, conflict theory suggests that corruption occurs as a result of competition between groups with power and resources. In the social services sector, groups with greater access to resources and policies tend to use their positions to benefit themselves or certain groups. In contrast, people who need counseling services often do



not get their rights fairly (Hasoloan et al., 2022). It is further exacerbated by the practice of nepotism, where access to services is given more to those who have connections with the authorities.

From a trust theory perspective, corruption in social counseling services occurs because of low public trust in public institutions that provide these services. When people do not believe that counseling services can be accessed fairly and transparently, they tend to find other ways to gain access, such as giving bribes or using personal connections (Dr. Nasrullah, 2019). This lack of trust worsens the cycle of corruption as more people rely on informal channels to obtain services that should be available to all.

Meanwhile, systemic theory highlights that corruption occurs due to weaknesses in the social system that regulates counseling services. An ineffective legal system, weak supervision, and minimal accountability for social service providers are the main factors that allow corruption to continue. When there are no strict regulations and clear oversight mechanisms, corruptors will continue to operate without hindrance, causing a decline in the quality of social counseling services (Andayana, 2023).

The impact of corruption in social counseling services is significant. Corruption causes ineffective allocation of resources, so people who really need psychosocial assistance do not get proper services. In addition, corruption reduces the professionalism of counselors, who often work in systems that are not supportive, both in terms of budget and facilities (Kompasiana, 2021). Public trust in social services is also decreasing, so many individuals are reluctant to seek help even though they need it.

To overcome corruption in social counseling services, it is necessary to reform the supervision system and increase transparency in resource management. Stricter law enforcement against corruptors is also a key factor in creating a cleaner and more accountable social service environment. In addition, community participation in monitoring the distribution of services must be strengthened so that there are no loopholes for corrupt practices (Handoyo & Susanti, 2014). With these steps, social counseling services can function optimally in helping people in need without being disturbed by personal or group interests.

Factors Causing Corruption Problems. Corruption has become a complex problem that has a wide impact on various aspects of people's lives, including in the realm of social counseling. This phenomenon not only harms the country's economy but also creates distrust of government institutions and worsens the social conditions of the community. In the context of social counseling, corruption complicates efforts to empower and rehabilitate communities in need of assistance (Lamijan & Tohari, 2022).

One of the main factors causing rampant corruption is structural factors, which include political instability, economic disparity, and weak legal and justice systems. Political instability often creates loopholes for corrupt practices because an unstable system complicates supervision and law enforcement (Anisa Farras Azmii et al., 2024). On the other hand, wide economic disparities worsen social conditions, where certain groups in society feel marginalized and do not have access to equal welfare. A weak legal system also worsens the situation because unclear law enforcement allows corruptors to continue operating without serious consequences.

Institutional factors also play a major role in the development of corrupt practices. The lack of transparency and accountability in government institutions allows corrupt practices to flourish without effective control. When public institutions do not have clear mechanisms to account for their policies and finances, the opportunity for abuse of authority increases. In the realm of social counseling, the lack of transparency in the distribution of social assistance results in much assistance not reaching those who really need it.

A non-transparent public policy system is also a major trigger for corruption. Policies made without public involvement and without clear control mechanisms can be exploited by certain parties for personal or group interests. When these policies are not open to public scrutiny, the potential for deviation increases (Handoyo & Susanti, 2014). It has a direct impact on communities that rely on social assistance and services because often, the funds that should be allocated for them are misused by irresponsible parties.

In addition, the absence of an effective monitoring and accountability system further exacerbates corrupt practices. Weak monitoring gives corruptors the freedom to continue their actions without fear of being subject to strict sanctions. When there is no strong accountability mechanism, public officials who commit corruption rarely receive appropriate punishment. It further strengthens the culture of corruption and hinders social development, including social counseling services that should have a positive impact on people experiencing difficulties.

Social and cultural conditions also play a role in strengthening corrupt practices. A culture that tends to be permissive of corruption, as well as a lack of trust in the law and public policy, creates an environment that supports dishonest practices. In a society that is accustomed to bribery and gratification, corruption is often considered normal and even part of the existing system (Kompasiana, 2021). It makes it increasingly difficult to eradicate corruption and hinders social programs aimed at improving people's welfare.

Lack of awareness and anti-corruption education is also a factor that worsens this condition. Education that does not instill the values of honesty and integrity from an early age makes it easier for people to be tempted to engage in corrupt practices. Without adequate anti-corruption education, both for the general public and public officials, awareness of the importance of transparency and accountability in government will remain low. In the context of social counseling, a low understanding of anti-corruption hinders the provision of quality social services that have a real impact on society (Kompasiana, 2021).

The impact of corruption on social counseling in society is very significant. Corruption hampers the distribution of social assistance, exacerbates social inequality, and creates distrust of institutions that are supposed to help people in need (Anisa Farras Azmii et al., 2024). In addition, the lack of transparency in the social service system often makes people reluctant to seek help because they feel that corrupt practices taint the system.

To overcome this problem, a comprehensive effort is needed to eradicate corruption, both in terms of policy, institutions, and public awareness. Transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption education must be the main pillars in building a fairer and more integrity-based system. Thus, social counseling can run more effectively and provide a positive impact on the community that needs it.

Opportunities for Guidance and Counseling in Handling Corruption Problems. Guidance and Counseling (BK) has a strategic role in handling corruption problems in society. As a field that focuses on individual and group development, BK not only aims to help overcome psychological and social problems but also to shape characters with integrity and uphold moral values. In the context of corruption, BK can be an effective tool to provide awareness to individuals or groups regarding the negative impacts of corrupt actions and to guide them to behave more ethically and responsibly (Sukandar, 2018).

Anti-corruption education and understanding are important initial steps in efforts to prevent corruption. Through educational programs such as seminars, workshops, and group discussions, BK can play a role in spreading the values of integrity, morality, and ethics to the community (Solihah, 20 C.E.). With a better understanding of the dangers of corruption, individuals will be more aware of the importance of acting honestly and transparently in everyday life. BK can also help individuals develop good skills and competencies, especially in dealing with pressures and challenges in the work and social environment that have the potential to encourage corrupt practices. Problem-solving skills, correct decision-making, effective communication, and self-development are some aspects that can be strengthened through BK (A. Setiawan, 2023). With these skills, individuals are expected to be more empowered in dealing with situations that are prone to corrupt practices.

Strong integrity and morality are the main pillars in preventing corrupt practices. Through BK, individuals can be given a deep understanding of the importance of honesty, transparency, and responsibility in every action they take. BK can also be a means for individuals to deal with moral conflicts that may arise in a corrupt environment, helping them find the right way to stick to the right ethical principles (Siregar, 2023). Anti-corruption awareness can also be increased through education and guidance provided to leaders and the general public. BK can provide insight into the legal, social, and economic consequences of corrupt practices so that individuals are

more vigilant in acting. Thus, the public will better understand that corruption is not only a violation of the law but also an act that can damage social order and common welfare.

Critical thinking skills and ethics in decision-making are also aspects that can be improved through BK. By accustoming individuals to think rationally and consider the moral impact of each action, BK can help prevent corrupt behavior early on. Individuals who have critical thinking skills will be better able to recognize corrupt practices around them and take the right stance in dealing with the situation. In addition to prevention, BK also plays a role in dealing with individuals who have been involved in corrupt practices. Through counseling sessions, individuals who have corrupt tendencies can be given guidance to change their attitudes and behavior. With the right approach, BK can help them realize their mistakes, correct wrong mindsets, and rebuild their integrity so as not to repeat similar actions in the future (Siregar, 2023).

Anti-corruption education and training is also one of the steps that can be taken through BK. By equipping individuals with a strong understanding of moral values and integrity, they will be better prepared to face situations that can push them into corrupt practices. In addition, character development and work ethics are also important to ensure that individuals understand the importance of integrity. However, they are also able to apply it in their professional lives.

Guidance and counseling can also help individuals cope with stress and pressure that may trigger acts of corruption. In many cases, individuals fall into corrupt practices due to economic pressures, job demands, or an environment that does not support ethical behavior. With guidance from BK, individuals can learn healthier strategies for coping with these pressures without having to engage in illegal acts.

The formation of attitudes and behaviors with integrity can also be facilitated through BK. By building awareness from an early age about the importance of moral and ethical values, individuals can be better prepared to face various situations that have the potential to push them into corrupt practices (Prihanto et al., 2023). Mentoring and supervision of individuals who are at high risk of being involved in corruption can also be done through BK so that they can be more focused on living their lives with the right principles. Overall, BK has a great opportunity to address the problem of corruption by strengthening individual character, providing a better understanding of integrity, and helping individuals develop skills and strategies to deal with pressures that can push them into corrupt practices (Prihanto et al., 2023). With a comprehensive and sustainable approach, BK can be an important instrument in creating a more honest, transparent, and responsible society.

CONCLUSION

Corruption in social counseling services has a very broad impact on community welfare, both in terms of accessibility, quality of service, and public trust in social institutions. Misuse of funds that should be used to support social programs hinders people in need from getting proper assistance. Corruption, nepotism, and weak monitoring systems further worsen the condition of counseling services, resulting in unprofessional counselors and uneven distribution of services.

Public distrust of social institutions due to corruption also reduces their participation in assistance programs, thus widening social inequality. Therefore, reforms are needed in the supervision system, stricter law enforcement against perpetrators of corruption, and increased transparency and accountability in the management of social funds. Active participation of the community in monitoring public services is also an important step to ensure that social counseling services can function optimally and provide benefits to those in need.

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