

Business Corruption in American and Chinese Cultures

Society is controlled by an assortment of ethical principles. Furthermore, different cultures have varied perceptions that determine their adherence to certain ethical concerns. This paper presents ethical issues focusing on business corruption in American and Chinese cultures. It examines these two cultures to determine how business corruption persists in them. Additionally, it identifies the ethics necessary for evaluating business corruption. Finally, it discusses the actions taken by both American and Chinese societies to curb corporate dishonesty.

Business Corruption in American Culture

The practice of business corruption occurs differently across the global marketplace. Indicators of business corruption entail aspects such as bribery, cronyism, and partiality (Biegelman & Biegelman, 2010). Furthermore, corruption takes place secretly, giving people undue advantages such as tender awards, favorable policies, and improved services.

In the United States, most established firms forbid corrupt business practices. American firms strive for transparency while undertaking their business (Gitlow, 2005). Most American firms note that nepotism derails business endeavors by appointing lazy and unskilled family members to key roles. American culture supports the recruitment of highly skilled persons who possess the acumen required to bring massive value within the business setting.

Furthermore, practices of bribery are few in American culture because it is punishable by law (Gitlow, 2005). Companies engage in clean and honest dealings because of accountability requirements. Additionally, the most competent companies and individuals usually gain the opportunity for contract awards.

Business Corruption in Chinese Culture



Business corruption in Chinese culture is enhanced through practices that escalate relationship-building between company owners and their family connections. The practices of Chinese firms suggest that recruiting family members to perform key roles, even when they possess inadequate qualifications, is normal (Biegelman & Biegelman, 2010). Chinese culture promotes a business dynasty that allows company management to involve their children in their firm's operations regardless of competency. Furthermore, Chinese firms also recruit non-family members as employees when they are happy with nepotism.

In Chinese culture, family faithfulness remains supreme (Biegelman & Biegelman, 2010). This shared value enables business owners to assign duties to their offspring because they are aware of their strengths and skills. Chinese culture suggests that nepotism occurs when people fail to employ their relatives in business. Similarly, cronyism as a form of business corruption in Chinese culture allows contracts to be awarded to relatives and longtime friends rather than to the lowest bidders (Biegelman & Biegelman, 2010). Firms have a belief in the awardees' abilities to offer the desired services.

Ethics Necessary for Evaluating Business Corruption

An appraisal of business corruption should take place through laws and other policy guidelines designed to identify certain aspects of corruption in business dealings. Laws stipulate that offering gifts in exchange for certain favors during business dealings leads to corruption (Ferrell, Fraedrich, & Ferrell, 2010). This concept enhances people's awareness regarding giveaways from other businesses.

Firms that offer gifts or accept giveaways will have their actions analyzed based on the descriptions within the law's guidelines. The law determines whether such gifts amount to corruption (Ferrell et al., 2010). The justice system can also



help in evaluating corruption within the business marketplace. Certain dealings by companies certainly amount to corruption. Complaints forwarded by employees to courts revealing the corrupt conduct of their employers can be analyzed using judicial means to reveal the nature and extent of corruption (Ferrell et al., 2010). Furthermore, transparency guidelines are also useful in evaluating corruption because they analyze business dealings based on many aspects.

An evaluation of corruption can also occur by analyzing the conduct of firms in handling business deals against the moral guidelines that people share (Ferrell et al., 2010). Such a comparison enables evaluators to determine whether certain business dealings flout the regulatory codes that govern business owners.

Actions Undertaken by American and Chinese Societies to Fight Business Corruption

In both the United States and China, the enactment of anti-corruption legislation significantly reduces corruption. Such laws offer equal opportunities for diverse businesses that undertake their operations within Chinese and American territories. Furthermore, such regulations also cover any foreign firms that attempt to advance fraudulent dealings in these countries (Olsen, 2010). These enacted laws prohibit corrupt acts including bribery, unlawful acceptance of giveaways, and partiality in business activities. The laws encourage transparency and responsibility among business firms.

Both nations also undertake to develop business norms that hinder corruption among practitioners (Olsen, 2010). These norms present guidelines for undertaking business dealings without advancing corruption. The development of additional initiatives also helps in identifying and pushing corrupt practices out of the business marketplace.



Conclusion

In summary, different cultures have varying views of specific ethical issues. Business corruption takes place differently in American and Chinese societies. The practices that indicate business dishonesty include nepotism, partiality, and cronyism, among others. In American culture, business corruption takes place at low levels because of general stability in business institutions. However, American firms advance business corruption through minimal aspects of bribery, favoritism, and partiality. Chinese firms also advance business corruption through unfair practices that build family relationships in businesses. Laws and the justice system are instrumental in evaluating corruption while specific legislation addresses the vice.



References

Biegelman, M., & Biegelman, D. (2010). *Overview of the foreign corrupt practices act*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons.

Ferrell, O., Fraedrich, J., & Ferrell, L. (2010). *Business ethics: Ethical decision making and cases*. Mason, OH: Cengage Learning.

Gitlow, A. (2005). *Corruption in corporate America: Who is responsible? Who will protect the public interest?*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.

Olsen, W. (2010). *The anti-corruption handbook: How to protect your business in the global marketplace*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons.