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The Integration of Knowledge in Addressing Social Issues: A Case Study of Corruption Crimes

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Abstract: Indonesia faces numerous persistent social problems that continue to prevail today. Various efforts have been made to address these issues, including tackling corruption, which is recognized as a deviation within social, cultural, and particularly religious life. Corruption is viewed as an abuse and misuse of power or authority and a betrayal of public trust. This phenomenon has become deeply ingrained in the fabric of the nation, including Indonesia. However, despite existing solutions, these social problems remain unresolved, as evidenced by their continued recurrence. This paper aims to examine these issues from an integrative scientific perspective, employing interdisciplinary thinking patterns. It is hoped that this study will provide new insights into understanding social problems through the application of diverse disciplinary frameworks.

Kata kunci:
Korupsi, Integrasi Ilmu, Transidisipliner

Abstrak: Indonesia memiliki banyak permasalahan sosial yang sampai sekarang masih terjadi. Banyak tindak yang telah diupayakan dalam memberikan solusi terhadap permasalahan sosial seperti kasus tindak pidana korupsi yang merupakan perbuatan yang menyimpang dalam kehidupan sosial, budaya, terlebih dalam agama. Tindakan tersebut dipandang sebagai sebuah penyelewengan dan penyalahgunaan kekuasaan atau jabatan serta menghianati kepercayaan. Fenomena korupsi menjadi suatu yang mandarah daging dalam suatu negara, tidak terkecuali di Indonesia. Akan tetapi solusi-solusi yang telah diberikan belum dapat mengatasi masalah sosial yang ada dengan bukti bahwa masalah-masalah ini terus berulang sampai sekarang. Paper ini bertujuan mengkaji permasalahan-permasalahan ini dari sudut pandang peng integrasian ilmu dengan menggunakan pola berpikir lintas disipliner. Kajian ini harapannya dapat memberikan wawasan baru mengenai bagaimana memandang suatu permasalahan menggunakan pola pikir berbagai disiplin ilmu.

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PENDAHULUAN

Corruption crimes represent a chronic social problem in Indonesia. These cases emerge incessantly, with the government itself frequently involved (Utari et al., 2026). Every year, the Indonesian public must face the reality that corrupt acts persist within the administration. Corruption is a societal symptom that is extremely difficult to eradicate. History proves that almost every nation is confronted with this issue (Persson et al., 2013). It does not only infect public officials who abuse their authority, but it has now spread to individuals as well (Yunan et al., 2023; Zhao & Du, 2025).

In response to the deteriorating economic situation, many believe that various emerging problems stem from the deep-rooted practices of collusion, corruption, and nepotism (KKN) (Ghosh & Siddique, 2015). These despicable practices are suspected to have become part of the culture, leaving many with the impression that they are common to perform, even though they are morally and legally recognized as wrong (Ikhwan et al., 2025; Shinoda, 2021). However, it is evident that the legal enforcement of corruption crimes in Indonesia remains weak. This is reflected in the many legislators or law enforcement officers themselves who commit corruption. The involvement of these figures can lead to a decline in public trust toward the legal system.

Corrupt behavior is not a simple moral offense to be ignored. If these practices are left unchecked, society will suffer the consequences. The impact will be highly detrimental to the public because people will feel a lack of justice (Marlina et al., 2024). The drive to realize justice is hindered by the minimal understanding of human values. If human values are realized, understood, and implemented in social life, they will foster equality despite diverse backgrounds. Amidst current religious diversity, no faith approves of corruption, as it is a deviant act from both legal and religious perspectives (Abdullah et al., 2023; Akhmad et al., 2023; Al-Jundi et al., 2022). Therefore, discussion is needed to accommodate various concepts from different beliefs to strengthen the foundation of religious moderation. This serves to enhance the value of justice as a method to combat corrupt practices (Dewi & Dedi, 2022; Harahap, 2019; Ritonga, 2022)



Figure 1: Corruption Perceptions Index Rankings of Selected Asian Countries in 2023 (Source beritasatu.com 2024)

According to data from Transparency International, Singapore occupies the top position with a score of 83, followed by Malaysia with a score of 50. Indonesia ranks seventh with a score of 34, indicating stagnation compared to the previous year. This figure suggests that despite several efforts to improve the system and reduce corruption, significant challenges remain. This score demonstrates that the perception of corruption levels within Indonesia's public sector is still relatively high. Other countries such as Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar have lower scores, reflecting greater challenges in eradicating corruption within the region. It should be noted that the CPI measures the perceived level of public sector corruption, where a score of 0 indicates a very high level of corruption and a score of 100 indicates a very low level of corruption.

Year	Number of Corruption Cases	Suspects	State Losses (IDR)	Fines and Asset Recovery (IDR)
2020	1,218	2,396	56.7 Trillion	15.2 Trillion
2021	1,285	2,712	62.4 Trillion	18.5 Trillion
2022	1,405	3,026	72.3 Trillion	21.8 Trillion
2023	791	1,695	28.4 Trillion	9.7 Trillion

Table 1: Corruption Case Data in Indonesia

Based on the table 1, thousands of corruption cases encompass reports from various sectors, including government, state-owned enterprises (BUMN), and the private sector, involving a significant number of individuals designated as suspects. Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) reported that throughout 2023, there were 791 corruption cases involving 1,695 suspects (ICW, 2024). The total potential state loss resulting from these cases reached IDR 28.4 trillion. This data indicates a significant increase compared to previous years. These cases reflect the challenges Indonesia faces in its anti-corruption efforts. The government and related institutions continue to strive for increased transparency and accountability to minimize corrupt practices across all sectors.

Recently, the Indonesian public has been frequently exposed to high-impact corruption cases, such as the case with an estimated loss of IDR 271 trillion related to alleged corruption in the tin commodity trade within the Mining Business License (IUP) area of PT Timah Tbk for the period 2015–2022. This case was uncovered by the Attorney General's Office (Kejagung) and involves several parties, including former executives of PT Timah and several private companies (CNN, 2024). The suspects allegedly colluded to facilitate illegal tin mining activities within PT Timah's concessions. Fictitious transactions related to the sale of tin ore and smelting services further exacerbated the situation. According to environmental expert Bambang Hero Saharjo from the Bogor Agricultural Institute (IPB), the resulting losses reached IDR 271 trillion. This figure includes ecological losses of IDR 183.7 trillion, environmental economic losses of IDR 74.4 trillion, and environmental restoration costs of IDR 12.1 trillion. This case highlights the magnitude of corruption's impact, affecting not only state finances but also the

environment. Strict and transparent law enforcement is expected to provide a deterrent effect and prevent similar cases in the future.

No.	Provinces	Number of Cases
1.	East Java	64
2.	North Sumatra	54
3.	Central Java	47
4.	South Sulawesi	46
5.	East Nusa Tenggara (NTT)	37
6.	Aceh	36
7.	West Java	36
8.	South Sumatra	31
9.	Bengkulu	29
10.	Lampung	27

Table 2: Source: Indonesia Corruption Watch

Based on the table 2, North Sumatra (Sumut) occupies the second rank as the province with the highest number of corruption cases in Indonesia. However, it should be noted that a high number of corruption cases in a province does not necessarily reflect a higher prevalence of corruption compared to other provinces. This could be attributed to the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in uncovering corruption cases. For instance, East Java has a high number of corruption cases, yet this also indicates that law enforcement in that province is active in prosecuting such crimes. Conversely, provinces with fewer reported cases are not necessarily free from corruption; it may simply be due to a lack of disclosure or enforcement efforts regarding those cases.

The high level of corruption in North Sumatra can be analyzed through several internal and systemic factors. First, vulnerabilities in leadership and governance, characterized by weak supervision and previous corruption precedents, have created a culture of opacity and abuse of authority (Marquette & Peiffer, 2019; Persson et al., 2013). This condition is exacerbated by inconsistent or ineffective law enforcement, which often results in impunity for officials or influential parties involved in corruption crimes. These structural weaknesses create loopholes for widespread corruption in the management of regional budgets.

Furthermore, external factors and economic opportunities contribute to the phenomenon of corruption in North Sumatra. The province possesses abundant natural resources, and the management of funds from these sectors is susceptible to misuse through large-scale projects prone to corruption. On the other hand, the level of transparency and investigative activities conducted by institutions such as the KPK, ICW, and the active role of the mass media contribute to the high number of revealed cases. Behind all of this, socio-economic inequality and the presence of opportunities in lucrative sectors often serve as drivers for individuals, particularly officials or entrepreneurs, to engage in corrupt acts for personal gain.

Collectively, these factors contribute to the high number of corruption cases in North Sumatra. Nonetheless, it is important to note that a higher rate of case disclosure also indicates an increasing awareness of the importance of eradicating corruption in the region. A corruption case closely related to our immediate environment is that of the former Regent of Langkat, Terbit Rencana, which garnered significant public attention following the exposure of abuse of power. Terbit Rencana was allegedly involved in the misappropriation of village funds intended for development programs and community welfare. These funds were diverted for personal or group interests, failing to achieve their intended purposes. Beyond village funds, the Regent of Langkat allegedly directed the flow of funds toward regional infrastructure projects that were either marked up or embezzled. This resulted in significant state losses and diminished the quality of projects designed to improve public welfare. Furthermore, Terbit Rencana allegedly utilized his position of power to influence various decisions regarding the procurement of goods and services in Langkat Regency. This practice reportedly involved several other parties who profited from such abuse of power.

This case has had a profound impact on the people of Langkat. In addition to the resulting state losses, the community experienced a sense of injustice because beneficial development projects were not properly realized. This case serves as an example of how the abuse of power at the local level can disadvantage numerous stakeholders.

Fundamentally, corruption is a cross-disciplinary issue involving minor transgressions that accumulate into larger actions. These transgressions can be examined through specific fields of study to identify root causes and solutions. In this paper, the post-disciplinary approach employed to discuss this topic is the transdisciplinary mindset. This mindset aims to generate new knowledge by integrating multiple disciplines. Minor transgressions that may trigger future corrupt acts include dishonesty justified by a perceived small impact (soft skills), the normalization of wrongdoing as a hereditary habit within an environment (sociology), the practical application of tolerance and empathy (Pancasila and Civic Education), lenient laws regarding small-scale corruption (legal science), the economic impact of corruption (economics), and the normalization of cheating during exams to achieve high grades (national education system). Each of these fields faces its own challenges, the solutions to which cannot be achieved independently by a single discipline. As corruption is an accumulation of many issues, the resulting solutions must also be interdisciplinary and integrated.

METHOD

This research methodology adopts a holistic approach that integrates conceptual analysis with normative legal studies. The initial stage involves the comprehensive identification and presentation of the definitions, characteristics, forms, causes, and impacts of corruption to establish a solid theoretical framework. Subsequently, normative legal research is conducted through normative case studies, focusing on legal

behavioral products such as draft legislation. This approach serves to analyze the law as a set of norms or rules applicable within society that function as a reference for individual conduct (Wulandari, 2026).

Furthermore, this study extensively utilizes library research methods to collect and analyze secondary data. The primary focus of the literature review is the identification of specific aspects of Quranic teachings relevant to clarifying the research objectives and providing a theological or ethical foundation. To support this analysis, a diverse range of reference sources is gathered, including books, scientific journal articles, and previous research reports, which collectively build a robust and comprehensive analytical foundation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Integration of Knowledge and Transdisciplinarity

According to Kuntowijoyo, the essence of integration is the effort to unify (not merely combine) divine revelation and the findings of human thought into integralistic sciences. This process neither excludes God (secularism) nor excludes human involvement (other-worldly asceticism). The model of integration involves establishing a grand theory of knowledge where *qauliyah* (revelatory) and qauniyah (universal/natural) verses can both be utilized. The integration referred to here concerns the effort to blend general sciences with Islamic knowledge without eliminating the unique characteristics of either discipline.

Etymologically, Akh Minhaji defines integration as a word derived from the verb "to integrate," which means "to join to something else so as to form a whole." Within the context of the Islamic scientification paradigm, the integration of knowledge is interpreted as the unification of science. As stated by Kuntowijoyo, integralistic science (the result of integration) is a science that unifies divine revelation and the findings of human intellect, thereby creating a scientific principle that marginalizes neither God nor humanity.

Wahdatul 'Ulum represents the integration of science and religion. True knowledge is bestowed by Allah Swt upon humanity as an opportunity to draw closer to Him. The objective of Wahdatul 'Ulum is to produce a comprehensive system of knowledge (Harahap, 2019; Ritonga, 2022). To achieve this integration, a transdisciplinary approach is employed. Transdisciplinarity is a process consisting of collaboration and the integration of efforts from various fields of study (multidisciplinary) with the aim of understanding specific problems or issues (Wulandari, 2026). The transdisciplinary approach involves the study, research, and resolution of an issue by utilizing perspectives from multiple disciplines, from the initial stages of discussion through to actual problem-solving. In the Islamic context, the goal of transdisciplinary education is to prepare human beings to fulfill their roles as khalifah (vicegerents) on earth (Q.S. Al-Baqarah [2]: 31).

وَعَلَّمَ اٰدَمَ الْاَسْمَاۤءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلٰۤىِٕكَةِ فَقَالَ اَنْۢبِـُٔوْنِيْ بِاَسْمَاۤءِ هٰٓؤُلَاۤءِ اِنْ كُنْتُمْ صٰدِقِيْنَ

"And He taught Adam the names of all things; then He presented them to the angels and said, 'Tell Me the names of these, if what you say is true."

In transdisciplinary Islamic education, one of the anticipated competencies is the ability to perceive the world as a unified system where every element possesses distinct roles and functions yet remains interconnected. This interconnected system is situated within a framework of faith-based values and human behavior grounded in noble ethics to maintain harmony amidst the dynamics of life. Transdisciplinary Islamic education is developed to fulfill two primary roles. First, Islamic education functions as a medium for transmitting values, contributing to the process of cultural formation in the development of individual, family, and social personalities. This is achieved by emphasizing ethics as the foundation for building individuals, families, and communities based on religious values and prevailing social norms.

The Integration of Knowledge in Addressing Social Issues: A Case Study of Corruption Crimes

Corruption cases can be analyzed through various perspectives to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of their root causes and impacts. The following is an explanation of corruption cases viewed through several factor-based aspects:

Social Aspect

Economic and social inequality serves as a key determinant that significantly contributes to the prevalence of corruption as a multidimensional social issue. When sharp economic disparities exist between social groups, individuals in positions of power are often motivated to abuse their authority for personal or group gain. This further exacerbates social injustice and limits the vertical mobility of society. In this context, corruption is not merely a manifestation of inequality but also functions as a mechanism that reinforces it, creating a cycle that perpetuates marginalization and exclusion. Consequently, a comprehensive analysis requires an interdisciplinary approach from political economy and sociology (Rosidin et al., 2021).

Furthermore, the phenomenon of corruption is heavily influenced by the cultural dimensions and social norms prevailing within a society. The presence of a normalized "culture of corruption" where acts such as giving "gifts" or bribes in administrative transactions are regarded as accepted social practices indicates that corruption is not simply an individual act but has become institutionalized within the social order. This normalization creates a permissive environment that substantially hinders anti-corruption efforts. Therefore, addressing corruption crimes necessitates the integration of broader social sciences, such as anthropology, social psychology, and communication studies, to effectively deconstruct corrupt norms and foster sustainable collective behavioral change.

Political Aspects

The weakness of the governance system serves as a primary predictor for the proliferation of corruption crimes within a complex social context. A lack of transparency and accountability, alongside the ineffectiveness of oversight and law enforcement mechanisms, inherently creates an environment conducive to the abuse of power by public officials. From the perspectives of public administration and political science, this condition reflects institutional failure in performing regulative and control functions, where the absence of robust checks and balances allows state actors to divert public resources for personal or group interests. Integrating analysis from criminal law is also essential to understand how loopholes within the legislative framework and judicial processes are exploited to perpetuate corrupt practices (Hatchard, 2014; Søreide, 2016).

Furthermore, patronage politics acts as another socio-political mechanism that significantly facilitates corruption. This phenomenon, which involves the formation of reciprocal relationships between public officials and specific parties to secure political or financial support, often results in the allocation of projects or contracts based on loyalty rather than meritocracy or feasibility. Studies in political sociology and institutional economics can explain how patronage systems erode the principles of equality, efficiency, and justice in governance. To address the root of this issue, it is necessary to integrate insights from government ethics, organizational theory, and development studies to formulate policies that are not only repressive but also preventive and transformative in building a meritocratic bureaucracy rooted in integrity.

Economic Aspects

The public sector, particularly in the management of national or regional budgets, inherently presents various opportunities for corruption crimes, which constitute a crucial social problem (Julius Otusanya, 2011). The procurement of goods and services, infrastructure development projects, and the distribution of social assistance funds involve complex bureaucratic chains and multiple stakeholders, creating vulnerable points for the abuse of authority. Large-scale projects with significant fund allocations become fertile ground for illegal practices such as price mark-ups and embezzlement (Ardiyanto et al., 2022; Lestari & Winarno, 2023; Mardhatillah et al., 2023). This analysis requires the integration of public administration and economics to understand the inefficiency of resource allocation and the mechanisms of state loss resulting from such practices.

Furthermore, the incentive structures within certain economic sectors can act as powerful drivers for corrupt behavior. Sectors involving the management of abundant natural resources such as mining, plantations, or construction offer immense potential for personal gain. These high financial incentives motivate individuals to abuse their positions and power to secure illegal benefits for themselves or their groups. The perspective of economics, particularly rational choice theory and rent-seeking theory, is highly relevant for examining how individuals evaluate the costs and benefits of corrupt

acts, while political science can explain the dynamics of power and influence that facilitate this illegal profit-taking.

Consequently, addressing the complexity of corruption crimes stemming from budget-related opportunities and distorted incentive structures necessitates an integrative approach across various disciplines. Legal science (criminal and administrative) is essential for regulatory frameworks and enforcement, while sociology and anthropology are needed to understand the cultural context and permissive social norms, and psychology to analyze individual motivations. This scientific integration enables the formulation of comprehensive public policies that focus not only on repressive measures and punishment but also on governance reform, increased transparency, strengthened accountability systems, and the establishment of an ethical environment that fundamentally reduces the opportunities and incentives for corruption.

Legal Aspects and Enforcement

Weak and inconsistent law enforcement is a crucial factor that allows corruption to flourish and become a chronic social problem. When the legal system demonstrates indecisiveness, sluggishness, or ambiguity in the imposition of sanctions, perpetrators tend to feel secure from appropriate legal consequences. This phenomenon creates a sense of impunity, where individuals, particularly those in positions of power, believe that corrupt acts will go unpunished or can be avoided through legal loopholes. This analysis demands the integration of criminal law to understand substantive and procedural weaknesses, as well as the sociology of law to examine the social impact of the disconnection between ideal legal norms and actual enforcement practices in the field.

The situation is further exacerbated when law enforcement institutions themselves are contaminated by corruption. Key actors in the chain of justice ranging from the police and prosecutors to the judiciary may be involved in bribery or face external pressure to reduce sentences or even acquit perpetrators. Corruption within the legal process not only undermines the integrity of the judicial system but also significantly delays and thwarts overall anti-corruption efforts. This issue requires perspectives from judicial administration to examine internal governance, legal ethics to identify moral deviations, and political science to analyze how power and influence infiltrate enforcement mechanisms.

Consequently, resolving the issue of corruption aggravated by weak enforcement and internal contamination requires a profound interdisciplinary approach. The integration of law, sociology, criminology, political science, and public administration is essential to understanding structural, institutional, and cultural root causes. Effective public policies must be designed based on this scientific synthesis, encompassing judicial system reform, the strengthening of internal and external oversight mechanisms, the capacity building of law enforcement integrity, and the enhancement of public participation to create a transparent, accountable system free from impunity for the

achievement of sustainable social justice.

Psychological and Individual Aspects

Psychological and individual factors play a central role in triggering corruption crimes as complex social issues. Primary motivation often stems from a sense of dissatisfaction regarding legitimate compensation or facilities, driving individuals to seek shortcuts through corruption to achieve personal or family prosperity. The phenomenon of greed also acts as a powerful driver, where an excessive desire for self-enrichment overrides ethical and legal considerations. In this context, psychology specifically motivation theory and behavioral ethics integrates with behavioral economics to analyze how dissonance between individual aspirations and real economic conditions can shift preferences, alter personal values, and drive the decision to engage in corrupt acts.

Beyond internal motivation, corruption is also heavily influenced by the perception of risk and legal consequences. Many perpetrators operate with a lack of fear regarding consequences, driven by the belief that the legal system will not act effectively or that their positions of power and influence will protect them from prosecution. This behavior reflects a sense of impunity, where the corrupt individual does not perceive a credible threat of sanctions. Analysis from criminology, particularly deterrence theory, becomes crucial to understanding why the effectiveness of law enforcement in terms of both speed and certainty of sanctions fails to shape behavioral control. Meanwhile, social psychology can examine how perceptions of fairness and institutional effectiveness influence an individual's ethical decisions.

Therefore, addressing corruption crimes rooted in psychological and individual aspects requires a scientifically integrated and comprehensive approach. The integration of psychology, behavioral economics, sociology, and criminology enables the formulation of more effective public policies. These include not only strengthening law enforcement to eliminate impunity and increase the costs of corruption but also structural reforms to address inequality and dissatisfaction. Furthermore, developing ethical education programs, building internal integrity, and increasing system transparency and governance will help transform incentive structures and social norms, thereby reducing individual tendencies to engage in corruption.

Education and Awareness Aspects

Educational and public awareness aspects play a fundamental role in tackling corruption as a social issue. A lack of comprehensive anti-corruption education particularly in the fields of ethics, law, and governance significantly reduces the level of awareness among the public and public officials regarding the dangers and multi-dimensional impacts of corruption. Without an adequate understanding of the social, economic, and political consequences, individuals tend to lack moral resistance against corrupt practices. Perspectives from educational science and sociology, especially the sociology of knowledge, integrate to analyze how an educational system that is suboptimal in instilling integrity values can perpetuate the cycle of corruption, while

communication science can explain the role of public literacy in shaping anti-corruption norms.

Furthermore, the capability and integrity of public officials are heavily influenced by the quality of training they receive. The absence of adequate training regarding sound budget management, the principles of transparency, and accountability creates systemic vulnerabilities within public administration that open opportunities for corrupt practices. Employees who are not equipped with solid managerial skills and a strong ethical understanding are prone to making decisions that potentially abuse authority or allow for deviations. Analysis from public administration and government management is essential to identify competency gaps and design effective capacity-building programs, while integrating principles of institutional economics to ensure that institutional incentives align with anti-corruption goals.

Therefore, addressing corruption as a systemic social problem demands a comprehensive integration of knowledge that does not focus solely on repressive measures. A synergy between educational science, sociology, public administration, and economics is required to design holistic public policy interventions. This includes reforming the national education curriculum to incorporate anti-corruption education from an early age, developing sustainable training modules for public officials emphasizing ethics, transparency, and accountability, and strengthening internal and external oversight mechanisms. This approach aims to build a social and institutional ecosystem that proactively prevents corruption by increasing collective awareness and professional capacity.

Technology and Infrastructure Aspects

System and technological limitations are crucial factors that create structural vulnerabilities to corruption within the social sphere (Forattini, 2025; Sargentis, 2025). Particularly in regions with underdeveloped technological infrastructure, inadequate information technology and inefficient administrative systems contribute to the proliferation of corrupt practices (I. O. Adam, 2020; Addo & Avgerou, 2021). For example, budget management processes that still rely on manual transactions open wide gaps for embezzlement and price mark-ups. The integration of public administration and management information systems is essential to analyze how digital infrastructure limitations and non-electronic procedures hinder transparency and accountability, thereby facilitating the abuse of authority and public resources.

Administrative inefficiency resulting from technological constraints not only slows down public services but also reduces the effectiveness of oversight mechanisms (Akmal Priambodo et al., 2025). When manual processes dominate, audit trails become blurred, and the potential for biased or corrupt human intervention increases. The implementation of transparent electronic government systems (e-government), such as e-procurement or e-budgeting, is proven to significantly reduce opportunities for corruption. This approach requires scientific integration from information technology,

public policy, and economics to design systems that are not only efficient but also uphold integrity by considering incentive design and financial leakage prevention.

Therefore, addressing corruption requires a multidisciplinary integration that emphasizes the utilization of technology as a primary pillar of anti-corruption policy. Information systems can offer innovative solutions in developing secure and transparent digital platforms, while legal science and governance can ensure a regulatory framework that supports technology adoption and effective enforcement mechanisms for digital systems. By building technological capacity and strategically implementing e-governance, public policy can create systems that reduce the opportunities for corruption-prone face-to-face interactions, increase accountability, and ultimately foster cleaner and more efficient governance for the public good.

Integrated Knowledge Solutions for Corruption as a Social Problem

The solution using a transdisciplinary approach to reduce corruption in both the short and long term is through an education system that values honesty and individual talent, rather than relying on a single absolute assessment system. Furthermore, the education system can utilize exploration and reasoning approaches so that student success is measured not only by grades but by their ability to understand specific fields of study (Baumert et al., 2009; Sonnleitner et al., 2013). Soft skills science, which carries the values of honesty, can be integrated into the national education system (Farao et al., 2023).

At higher levels of education, students can be provided with insights into the impact of corruption on slowing a nation's economic growth. This educational system is intended to ensure that students, as the nation's future generation, have a broad perspective on their country and feel valued for achievements obtained honestly. Dishonest habits in childhood can desensitize the conscience, making one unable to distinguish right from wrong in adulthood. This triggers the normalization of dishonest attitudes, which then become a habit within an environment or organization (Park, 2003; Stevens, 2016).

The integration of knowledge in anti-corruption efforts is vital because corruption is a phenomenon involving various aspects of life: social, political, economic, and legal. Therefore, a multidisciplinary approach combining various fields can help address the root causes and impacts of corruption more effectively. Below are several integrated knowledge solutions that can be applied to overcome corruption:

Integration of Law and Economics

The integration of economics provides an essential foundation for formulating public policies to address corruption by enhancing sustainable economic measures. By utilizing insights from economic disciplines, particularly regarding incentive structures, the government can design more transparent budget systems, efficient procurement procedures, and a competitive, fair market environment (Kolomoiets & Makarenkov, 2023). This approach proactively reduces opportunities for the abuse of authority and the misappropriation of public resources, given that corruption opportunities often arise

from information asymmetry and excessive discretion. Optimizing these economic instruments is crucial for creating an ecosystem that is inherently resistant to corrupt practices.

On the other hand, strengthening regulations and law enforcement is an inseparable pillar of anti-corruption strategies, supported by the integration of legal science. Legal science plays a fundamental role in formulating strict and proportional regulatory frameworks, as well as establishing firm and consistent sanctions for perpetrators. The effectiveness of law enforcement can be enhanced through the application of more transparent and accountable processes, which are further reinforced by the integration of cost-benefit analysis from an economic perspective. This cross-disciplinary approach allows policymakers to consider not only juridical aspects but also the efficiency and preventive impact of each enforcement policy, thereby creating a stronger and more sustainable deterrent against corruption.

Integration of Social Sciences and Psychology

The integration of knowledge, particularly from the social sciences and psychology, plays a crucial role in formulating solutions to the social problem of corruption by enhancing education and public awareness. Social sciences enable a profound understanding of the structural and systemic factors influencing corrupt behavior, while psychology provides insights into the motivations, cognitions, and interpersonal dynamics that drive individuals to engage in corruption. By applying social psychological approaches, such as behavioral change theory and cognitive dissonance theory, anti-corruption educational campaigns can be designed more effectively to shift societal mindsets, increase awareness of the destructive impacts of corruption, and instill values of integrity from an early age (Varraich et al., 2025; Yasmiati et al., 2026).

In addition to preventive efforts through education and awareness, a comprehensive solution to corruption requires cultural transformation and mental rehabilitation. Psychological science can be integrated to design in-depth rehabilitation programs for individuals proven to be involved in corruption, focusing not only on legal sanctions but also on the reconstruction of their moral and ethical frameworks. Furthermore, to achieve sustainable cultural change, approaches from anthropology and sociology are required to identify and intervene in social norms that are permissive toward corruption. The objective is to introduce and internalize stronger ethical values within the work culture of public organizations and social life.

Integration of Political Science and Information Technology

The integration of knowledge, specifically Information Technology (IT) and political science, serves as the primary foundation for strengthening oversight and transparency as a comprehensive solution to corruption crimes. The utilization of technology enables the development of more transparent and structured government systems, such as the implementation of e-government, electronic procurement systems (e-procurement), and digital-based financial reporting systems (I. Adam & Fazekas, 2021; Yefimenko et al.,

2025). These mechanisms fundamentally reduce direct interactions prone to corruption, increase accountability in the use of public funds, and provide clear audit trails, thereby significantly minimizing opportunities for budget misappropriation and enhancing the efficiency of public governance.

Furthermore, political science plays a central role in encouraging the formation of a more participatory democracy, where public oversight becomes a primary pillar in anti-corruption efforts. The integration of political science with information technology facilitates broader and more effective public participation in monitoring policies and government performance. Through digital platforms and electronic reporting tools, civil society can actively monitor decision-making processes, program implementation, and the allocation of public resources. This participatory approach creates a system of checks and balances from outside the bureaucratic system, narrows the space for corruption to operate, and ultimately builds public legitimacy and trust in government institutions.

CONCLUSION

The integration of economics and Islamic education within the context of the Society 5.0 era holds significant potential to contribute positively to various aspects of life, including economic, social, and environmental dimensions. By applying Islamic economic principles which encompass religious values such as justice (*'adl*), blessing (*barakah*), social equity, and sustainability this integration can produce an economic system that is more equitable, sustainable, and ethical. Through an integration-interconnection approach, education is expected to produce individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also possess strong character and high social awareness. This allows them to contribute positively to society and create a more just life while avoiding existing social problems. To effectively address corruption, a multidimensional approach is required, involving various fields of study such as law, economics, psychology, technology, management, education, and criminology. Through this scientific integration, the root causes of corruption can be addressed comprehensively, reducing opportunities for malpractice and strengthening oversight and law enforcement systems. Furthermore, fostering a culture of integrity and transparency is paramount in establishing a clean and fair governance system. The Integration of Knowledge in Addressing Social Issues: A Case Study of Corruption Crimes

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