

ABSTRACT

Corruption is a structural problem that hinders economic development, undermines governance, and reduces public trust in state institutions. To measure corruption comparatively across countries, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), developed by Transparency International, is used. Central Asian countries show CPI scores that are relatively below the global average, indicating weak governance and law enforcement effectiveness in the region. This condition points to the need for empirical studies on the factors that influence corruption perceptions in the region as a basis for formulating anti-corruption efforts. This study aims to analyze the factors influencing the Corruption Perceptions Index in five Central Asian countries, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, from 2008 to 2023.

The data used in this study are secondary data sourced from the World Bank, Transparency International, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), with variables consisting of the Corruption Perceptions Index, Trade Openness, Education Level, Voice and Accountability, and Rule of Law. The method used in this study is panel data regression with a fixed effect model (FEM) approach.

The results show that Trade Openness, Education Level, and Rule of Law partially have a positive and significant effect on the Corruption Perceptions Index, while Voice and Accountability has no significant effect. Simultaneously, Trade Openness, Education Level, Voice and Accountability, and Rule of Law have a significant effect on the Corruption Perceptions Index. This study concludes that strengthening the rule of law, improving the quality of education, and trade openness need to be the main focus in efforts to reduce the level of corruption in the Central Asian region.

Keywords: *Corruption Perceptions Index, Trade openness, Education Level, Voice and Accountability, Rule of law*