

# Does e-government control corruption? Evidence from South Asian countries

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## Abstract

**Purpose** – This study aims to examine the relationship between e-government and corruption in selected South Asian countries (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka).

**Design/methodology/approach** – The sample data were gathered from reliable secondary sources over a sample period of 2003–2018. Additionally, this study incorporated other potential determinants or corruption, such as government effectiveness, press freedom, education and economy. To assess sample data, this study used panel data econometric procedures.

**Findings** – Results indicated that e-government had a positive and significant impact on corruption. Similarly, government effectiveness and education had a positive and significant influence on corruption. However, press freedom and the economy showed a negative and insignificant impact on corruption. This study further found the robustness of the results through sensitivity analysis. Overall, it was concluded that e-government plays a significant role to reduce corruption.

**Originality/value** – The governments should implement the e-governance system and provide a transparent and accountable environment to eliminate corruption.

**Keywords** Asian countries, Corruption, Accountability, e-government, Panel data

**Paper type** Research paper



## 1. Introduction

Corruption reduction and its measurement have been a great interest among the researchers in social science (Basyal *et al.*, 2018; Park and Kim, 2019). According to the World Bank (2017), corruption is a misuse of power (either public or private) to gain personal interest. Klitgaard (1988) explained corruption as a function of monopoly, accountability and discretion. The federal agencies and government officials are primarily associated with corruption, while corruption also prevails in the private sector (Tanzi, 1998). Corruption is a common problem in the world and considered the root cause of major social issues