

Scientific  
Journal of  
**Applied  
Social and  
Clinical  
Science**

**CORRUPTION  
A TRIGGER IN  
THE BREACH OF  
TRANSPARENCY IN THE  
STATE OF HIDALGO  
DURING 2021**

---

*Denis Durán Guerrero*

Degree in Political Science and Public Administration from the: Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, Pachuca, Hidalgo

*Joaquín García Hernández*

Doctor of Public Administration-  
``Instituto Nacional De Administración  
Pública`` (INAP)

All content in this magazine is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License. Attribution-Non-Commercial-Non-Derivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0).



**Abstract:** The corruption that exists in the government section is an important factor in the breach of transparency in Hidalgo during the year 2021. Bad habits in public servants have been identified based on empirical evidence, since it arises as, in the absence of accountability, a high percentage of workers abuse their power in turn for illicit individual enrichment, therefore the need to create tools for dissemination and access to information, as well as evaluation systems for various public sector officials, is determined. to eliminate or reduce corruption in administrative institutions and thus regain confidence in government agencies, since it is useless to have manuals, codes, laws, regulations, among others, if the authorities themselves are the ones who omit them.

**Keywords**—Transparency, Society, Government, Corruption, Institutions.

## INTRODUCTION

Non-compliance in terms of transparency by the obligated subjects emanates from different categories of analysis, which have been identified based on the empirical, later in the course of the study their presence or absence will be justified theoretically. One of them is the high rate of corruption that exists in the government apparatus. According to Sánchez (2017), “Corruption is a sensitive issue in the perception of Mexican citizens, most of the ills of the State, the Government and the Public Administration are attributed to it” (p.29). The bad habits of public officials is a cause of non-compliance in terms of transparency, since, in the absence of accountability, a high percentage of workers abuse their power in turn for illicit individual enrichment. Consequently, there are few mechanisms for citizen participation because they do not have tools to question actions and decision-making in the political sector. Therefore, the need to promote a culture of

transparency, with the aim of strengthening access to public information and protection of personal data, thus regaining confidence in government agencies and instances. In short, corruption sets the standard for the problem of non-compliance in terms of transparency to increase, despite the institutional models that have been implemented. This way the performance of the institutions lacks efficiency, it is important to mention that there are indeed mechanisms that strengthen transparency, however, they have not been of good use. Subsequently, measurements that reveal the degree of functioning of governments are resumed, with the aim of visualizing the expansion of the problem.

Unfortunately, a series of illegal acts are observed by public servants in favor of particular interests within the administration, as mentioned above, however, the involvement of citizens in the public sphere has caused officials to be questioned regarding their actions and decisions through requests for access to public information. In the same way, the asymmetry of information is another variable against transparency, since it allows the manipulation of information by the rulers, due to the lack of knowledge of citizens towards public affairs. Although it is true that there is protected information which is not made available to the population, in order not to harm interpersonal interests. In short, the most viable way to eradicate corruption is by strengthening government transparency, which allows observation and supervision of public actions, based on regulations so as not to fall into the game of speculation (Sánchez, 2017).

## MAIN BODY

In the present analysis, a qualitative investigation is carried out, using participatory tools, which allow the theoretical review to access data that reaffirm that indeed the

main cause of non-compliance in terms of transparency is corruption. Transparency is a long-term job, it is necessary to modify habits, guidelines, the way of organizing bureaucratic work, among others, in the same way the availability of financial and human resources is needed, which leads to a series of public problems. For this reason, corruption represents a problem, as a result of the lack of willingness on the part of some officials in accountability. It is important to mention that there are administrations where the hiring of personnel does not arise from the profiles according to the assignment, but rather from the political commitments assumed by the authorities during electoral processes, hence the lack of ethics and responsibility.

Therefore, some statistics are shown that reaffirm that corruption has been the general problem for which an institutional impulse has been given to transparency by strengthening the regulatory framework and access to public information.

The National Surveys of Corruption and Good Government carried out by *Transparencia Mexicana* in the governments of Fox and Calderón (2001,2003,2005,2007 and 2010), as in the National Survey of Government Quality and Impact prepared by INEGI (2012), continue to show that the perception of citizens is that administrative corruption has not decreased, but rather increased. The quantitative data show by State, that the procedures are the most corrupt and the indicators show that the internal and external control measures in the federal entities have not given the expected results. (Sanchez, 2017, p. 36)

Therefore, on the administrative issue, a poor implementation of the bureaucratic model has been observed by some public servants, who use their position for their own benefit, namely, that the objective of public efforts lies in the satisfaction of needs and social demands for the achievement of the common good. For this reason, the interest

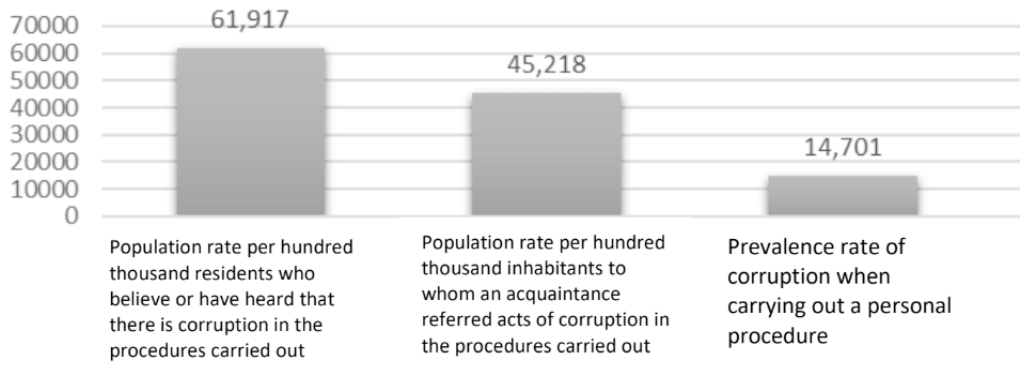
in studying the mechanisms that detect the degree of compliance as obliged subjects, this way the officials will feel observed and therefore they would take precautions in their actions. It is a reality that, the lower the degree of transparency, the greater the degree of corruption.

Sánchez (2017) states that corruption has existed since the times of the conquest, however, it has expanded due to the lack of a clear and defined law to combat irregularities in the public administration, as well as a body with sufficient skills and knowledge to apply preventive control and punitive control, finally the little political will of the authorities to address the problem.

In the same way, it is identified that corruption is a broad, multifactorial and complex phenomenon that occurs frequently at the time of carrying out some type of government procedure, therefore, it is based on the following statistics provided by the INEGI.

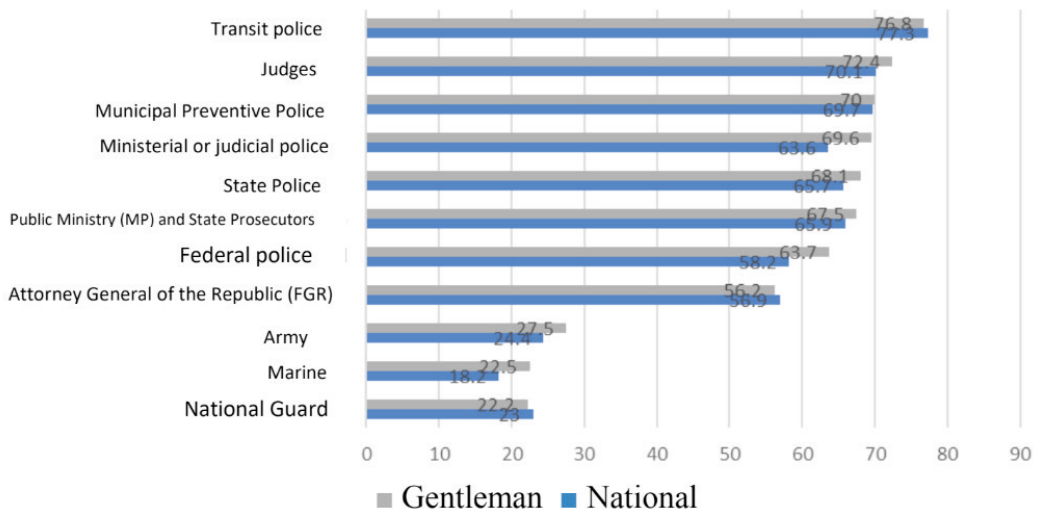
Derived from the above, it is inferred that, out of a total of one hundred thousand inhabitants, approximately 61,917 consider and have even perceived through third parties that corruption is indeed behind some government procedures, since extra charges have been identified to speed up some procedures or modify data. However, it is a reality that in most cases, to carry out corruption, the intervention of two or more actors is required, firstly, the public servant who has the possibility of carrying out what is requested by the citizen, the latter as a second participant. Therefore, said procedure is obtained quickly and illegally addressing individual needs, therefore, the increase in bribery towards public authorities.

Another perceived case lies in the issue of preventive security (graph 2), when committing an infraction the citizen prefers to give extra money to the police forces before



Graph 1. Corruption prevalence rate per hundred thousand in habitants Own preparation with information from INEGI (2021) Transparency and anti-corruption.

### Level of perception of corruption in the authorities



Graph 2. Own elaboration with information from the National Survey of Victimization and Perception Public security (ENVIPE) 2020 (para. 1).

they apply what is established in the regulatory framework, however, when only the official participates in the corruption in his case in the breach of his obligations as an obligated subject, there is usually the possibility of an asymmetry of information.

According to Vergara (2005), "Information is distributed unevenly, within an organization, some have information that others ignore and vice versa" (p.16). In this sense, data play a fundamental role in decision-making, which leads to action, however, a lack of knowledge of the issue addressed by the population has been observed, hence the abuse of the power conferred by the authorities and the pursuit of particular interests above the common good, consequently, the inefficiency in the provision of public services, as well as the lack of interest and disagreement in transparency issues.

It is important to establish a publication of the catalog of procedures to be carried out that are within the reach of the agency, as well as costs and fixed times, of which the public is aware in order to avoid the manipulation of information and therefore reduce departmental corruption, considering that normally in each municipal administration there is someone known who offers alternative paths.

Returning to the irregularity of corruption, a graph is shown as an example of the high percentage of illegal acts carried out by public servants in the state of Hidalgo during 2020, mainly in the area of public security, as mentioned above.

Due to the above, it is identified that, in 2020 in the state of Hidalgo, it is the traffic police sector which is made up of the highest rate of corrupt people, followed by areas of judges and municipal preventive police, just to mention a few in which a greater number of illegal acts are committed. As a result of the foregoing, the reason for the increase in corruption in public administrations is

explained and interpreted, considering the important role played by the security issue within the administrative sphere, hence the need to designate responsible persons while having the appropriate profile according to their functions, but above all, who really demonstrate interest in acting honestly in the assigned area. This in order to stop corruption, it is useless to have manuals, codes, laws, regulations among others, if it is the same authorities who omit them, therefore, the opposition to render accounts as a mechanism to strengthen transparency.

The Superior Audit Office of the Federation (ASF), as well as State Superior Oversight Bodies, are important tools to combat corruption, even in elite cartels.

According to the Department for Effective Public Management (DGPE) and the Organization of American States (OAS) (2013), "Regarding the government performance indicator of 35 Latin American countries that were analyzed on a scale in which 12 is the maximum score, indicating that government performance has been efficient, while 0 is the minimum, showing an incompetent exercise with a high degree of corruption. This way, there is an average of 8, which suggests that for most countries, improving public management and transparency is an urgent challenge. In this record, Barbados has the highest score and Cuba the lowest."

As presented in the table below:

According to the table, it is identified that 18 countries are in the average or below the average, being this qualified with a percentage of 8, considering that the total sample is equivalent to 35 countries evaluated, therefore, more than half present administrative deficiencies, at the same time it is observed that the problem goes beyond the geographical location, number of inhabitants and even public resources, since the problem is current internationally.

<b>Freedom House Freedom Index 2021 Functioning of Government (12/0) Average: 8</b>			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Value</b>
Barbados	12	Paraguay	5
Canada	12	Colombia	7
Uruguay	11	Granada	10
Bahamas	10	San Vicente and Grenadines	9
Chile	12	Belize	11
Dominica	10	Panama	9
Santa Lucía	11	Brazil	8
United States of América	10	Trinidad and Tobago	9
Costa Rica	11	Antigua and Barbuda	7
San Cristóbal y Nieves	10	Argentina	6
El Salvador	9	Ecuador	6
Surinam	8	Guatemala	5
Dominican Republic	9	Honduras	4
Jamaica	8	Nicaragua	4
Guyana	7	Haití	5
Peru	7	Venezuela	2
Bolivia	7	Cuba	1
Mexico	7		

Table 1. Functioning of the government in 2021, own elaboration with information in DGPE and OEA (2013) (As cited in: Freedom House, 2012, p. 6-7).

On the other hand, by resuming research history on the subject, even by conducting exhaustive searches on the web pages of the different municipalities of Hidalgo, as well as on the National Transparency Platform, it has been identified that our status in statistics is in the 12th place of compliance, as mentioned in the introduction section, it is a reality that there are administrative gaps, or else only what is displayed is incompletely known, which is why the need to question is created. According to Shedler (1999) there are 3 dimensions in accountability, first, the informative, second, the explanatory, then the demanding and finally the receptive. In view of this, it is perceived that in Hidalgo only the explanatory dimension has been developed, by making known what is done at certain times, however, a series of unknowns arise, which must be resolved by the corresponding regulated entities, for these reasons it is important to strengthen regulatory transparency that promotes the government obligation to fully publish certain data on official websites, as well as to respond in a timely manner to what is requested by society.

The lack of compliance, culture, political will and even lack of interest on the part of the obligated subjects have caused the issue of transparency to be addressed, which is demanded to a greater extent due to inefficiencies within public administrations, as well as the population increase. Based on Werner:

To the extent that populations have grown, societies have become more and more complex and plural, the technical issues of governing have become more difficult to manage and even more difficult to observe and understand from the outside, so it can be verified that Said control has assiduously diminished, in fact, the people are less and less the basis of democracy and become passive. (2008, p. 343)

This way, the social component plays an

important role, since it is useless to improve and perfect the mechanisms of citizen participation if they are not used properly even if they are unknown, considering that this implies high political, economic, administrative, and even cultural costs, therefore, a highly active society in public issues is required.

In this sense, the guarantor body ITAIH (2018) as an alternative solution began to carry out verifications to the National Transparency Platform, with the objective of corroborating that the information published by the obligated subjects is complete and updated, in addition to having the elements of form, terms, deadlines and formats established in the technical guidelines, approved in the Fourteenth Ordinary Session dated July 11, 2018, and published on August 21 of the same year in the Official Newspaper of the State of Hidalgo. This way, it is perceived that the obligated subjects have the obligation to make the information public, but there is no area or guideline that determines how real the data provided is, considering that the ITAIH does not perform any function in this regard, since it does not have within its powers to question the origin of said information, therefore, on repeated occasions, the servers only load what is requested to comply and avoid sanctions, for this reason providing erroneous data would still be cause for reprimand. In other words, the exercise of access to information really needs to exist, through which different cases of corruption have come to light.

According to data from ITAIH (2021), approximately 80 reprimands were applied, due to non-compliance by obligated subjects. From the above, it can be deduced that this problem is current and recurring mainly in municipalities of the state of Hidalgo, it is important to analyze the effectiveness of the municipalities as obligated subjects, in order to glimpse improvement strategies in favor

of the common good, as well as broaden the political-administrative horizon towards the social sector.

## FINAL COMMENTS

Derived from the high rate of corruption that exists in the country, mainly in public servants, the need arises to generate a series of actions by the guarantor bodies to achieve a better applicability of the regulatory framework, as well as to promote the culture of transparency in the obligated subjects, at the same time as citizen participation for the exercise of the right of access to public information, these being the bases for the creation of public policies on the subject of eradicating corruption. The foregoing facilitates an approach to issues such as assigned budget, declarations of patrimonial situation, salaries of public officials, development plan, execution of public works, vacant positions among others, for which it is essential to strengthen said dependencies that allow the best conditions to govern.

The issue of Government Transparency in the municipalities of the State of Hidalgo in 2021, with the passage of time, has become more relevant in the administrative institutional and organizational field. A series of illegal acts by public servants have been observed by not promoting accountability as indicated by the Transparency Law of the State of Hidalgo, which is why it acquires greater importance when considered a local public problem according to the concept of Parsons (2007), "the dimension of the public problem is understood as a collective situation of social dissatisfaction, which requires a solution through state intervention" (s.p.). Therefore, this issue is present on the government agenda since it affects the interests and well-being of the population, therefore, there are various dependent and independent variables that have caused different municipalities to fail

to comply with certain indicators, therefore candidates for a reprimand, however, greater rigidity is needed in the actions of the sanctioning body, in order to obtain an improvement in response to current problems and in the provision of services during the efforts.

Despite the mechanisms that are in place today on the issue of transparency, a series of anomalies are identified such as the lack of information, disregard of the regulatory framework, among others, for these reasons the need arises for a more participatory society, in the words of Werner (2008) "that there is more transparency in terms of being able to better control the rulers and where citizens and civil society play a more important and integrated role in the management of democracy" (p.3).

It is necessary for civil society to become more involved in the public sector, which allows them to be aware of what is happening around them and can participate in the functioning of the administration, so that this way they commit governments to raise the levels of transparency to guarantee full security.

According to Werner:

Transparency plays a fundamental role in this democratization because when the information on the acts of the government and rulers is made public, citizens can express their opinion on the validity of these actions and punish the representatives as they consider appropriate, at the same time, the fact of knowing that the people will know their actions, the fear of punishment and loss of reputation, would work as inhibitors for the rulers to stop patronage and corruption, and therefore change their behavior and give real meaning to the values of democracy. Thus, transparency can be used as an engine in the development of a country which, together with other mechanisms, will finally lead to the practice of good governance. (2008, p.3)



Due to the above, the need to strengthen the issue of transparency in the municipalities of the state of Hidalgo is derived, since by promoting citizen participation the degree of observation of illegal acts of public servants increases and therefore greater possibility of application of the regulatory framework, by not intervening in the situation the percentage of corruption increases and therefore puts the well-being of the population in

general at risk, knowing that the greater the citizen participation, the higher the rate of governance.

It is a reality that the existence of this type of investigation is scarce, due to the lack of interest of the authorities in correctly exercising the mechanisms of citizen participation, for this reason the absence of information in addition to the inefficiency in the use of the instruments.

## REFERENCES

Departamento para la Gestión Pública Efectiva (DGPE) y Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA). (2013). El Acceso a la Información Pública, un Derecho para ejercer otros Derechos.

Encuesta Nacional de Victimización y Percepción sobre Seguridad Pública (ENVIPE) (2020), consultada por Internet el 15 de marzo del 2023. Dirección de internet: <https://www.cpchidalgo.org/estadísticas-e-indicadores>

Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), consultada por Internet el 25 de marzo del 2023. Dirección de internet: <https://www.inegi.org.mx/>

Instituto de Transparencia, Acceso a la Información Pública Gubernamental (ITAIH), consultada por Internet el 29 de marzo del 2023. Dirección de internet: <https://www.itaih.org.mx/>

Parsons W, (2007) **Políticas Públicas: una introducción o lo teoría y lo práctica del análisis de políticos públicas**, FLACSO.

Sánchez, J. (2017). **La Corrupción en la Administración Pública y el Sistema Nacional Anticorrupción en México**. Fundación Universitaria de Derecho, Administración y Política, S.C. Colección FUNDAP.

Schedler, A. (1999). **¿Qué es la rendición de cuentas?**, consultada por Internet el 10 de abril del 2023. Dirección de internet: <https://idaip.org.mx/bibliotecadigital/product/cuadernillo-3-que-es-la-rendicion-de-cuentas/>

Vergara, R. (2005). **La Transparencia como Problema**, consultada por Internet el 20 de abril del 2023. Dirección de internet: <https://idaip.org.mx/bibliotecadigital/product/cuadernillo-5-la-transparencia-como-problema/>

Werner, A. (2008). **Transparencia y el Gobierno Electrónico – Dos Herramientas Del Buen Gobierno en el Proceso de Democratización**, consultada por Internet el 22 de abril del 2023. Dirección de internet: <https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/1995/199520720029.pdf>