



The Corruption Perception Index Dynamics Among Public Service Workers in South African Cities: A Theoretical Framework

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Abstract

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI), a widely recognised tool for measuring perceptions of public sector corruption globally, has been operational in South Africa since . Public service workers are often at the forefront of corruption and its effects, making them key actors in understanding CPI dynamics. The study employs qualitative content analysis on CPI data from to , focusing on public sector worker perceptions and regional variations. A thematic approach is used to identify patterns and themes in the data related to perceptions of corruption across different cities and regions. This study highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of CPI dynamics at the subnational level in South Africa to inform more targeted anti-corruption strategies that address specific regional contexts. Policy makers should consider implementing region-specific anti-corruption interventions based on local perceptions and governance structures, emphasising community engagement and accountability mechanisms tailored to urban realities.

Keywords: *African geopolitics, public sector corruption, social determinants of corruption, qualitative methodology, power dynamics, bureaucratic resistance, legitimacy theory*

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