




OPEN PEER REVIEW

The Relationship Between Administrative Impartiality and Conflict of Interest and Its Impact on Reducing Administrative Corruption

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The article discusses the challenge of conflicts of interest leading to corruption but could benefit from a more in-depth exploration of real-world examples or case studies to contextualize the abstract concept of “conflict of interest.”

The phrase “the study advocates for continuous review and amendment of laws in line with international standards” could be expanded to clarify which international standards are referenced here (e.g., United Nations Convention Against Corruption).

The claim that “administrative impartiality increases public trust” should be supplemented with studies or examples where this effect has been observed.

The section defines conflict of interest well but could benefit from an expansion into how such conflicts are detected and addressed in practice within Iranian administrative law.

The comparison between Iranian laws and international systems is a valuable aspect but could be further enhanced by mentioning specific countries as reference points for better contextualization.

The article mentions that violating impartiality can lead to “unjust and discriminatory decisions.” Could you include examples of such cases to illustrate these points?

Consider expanding the term “Anti-Corruption Laws” to briefly discuss whether the discussed Iranian anti-corruption laws are aligned with the UN Convention Against Corruption.

The point on “Transparency in Decision-Making” could be enhanced by adding potential challenges that could arise in implementing transparent decision-making processes within bureaucratic settings.

The list lacks specificity in the "Establishing Reporting Systems" section. Consider providing examples of systems (such as hotlines, online reporting, etc.) and their effectiveness in combating corruption.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence, "An impartial administration is one of the fundamental principles in public management," could benefit from a brief citation to anchor this statement in existing literature.

While discussing the goals of impartiality, you mention "the administration serves all citizens fairly." Please provide a concrete example or a reference to clarify what "serving all citizens fairly" entails in practice.

The sentence "conflict of interest is both a simple and complex issue" could be revised for clarity, as the juxtaposition here is somewhat ambiguous. Clarifying the specific "simple" versus "complex" aspects may enhance reader understanding.

The article states, “Transparency prevents the abuse of power and increases public trust in government institutions.” It would strengthen this section to include empirical evidence or data demonstrating the correlation between transparency and public trust.

The explanation of “objective impartiality” and “subjective impartiality” might be improved by providing examples illustrating the difference between the two.

The phrase "Judicial Pursuit of Violations" could be revised to specify which legal frameworks support these pursuits within the Iranian context.

The recommendation for "Continuous Educational Programs" is important, but it would benefit from specifying who should lead these programs (governmental, academic, or independent organizations) and the curriculum focus.

The recommendation to “draft more comprehensive laws” is excellent but could be enhanced by suggesting how stakeholders, such as civil society, might contribute to this process.

The recommendation for "internal oversight mechanisms" is useful, but the section could discuss examples of effective internal oversight mechanisms from other countries that Iran might emulate.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.