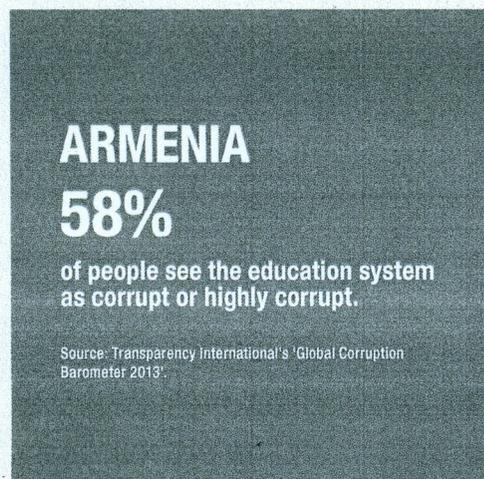


Box 5.3 In focus – The youth in Armenia speak out against corruption

Varuzhan Hochtanyan⁷



In Armenia, corruption in the education system is even acknowledged by the minister of education himself, who in November 2010 admitted to the existence of 'numerous manifestations of corruption' in schools and universities, also acknowledging that 'legal instruments are either not enforced properly or are too weak'.⁸ This was consistent with public opinion polls: the 2006 corruption perception survey conducted by the Transparency International chapter in Armenia⁹ and Transparency International's 2013 Global Corruption Barometer both found that respondents in Armenia perceived the education system to be corrupt.¹⁰

Corruption in education has increasingly become a matter of concern not only for the authorities but also for civil society organisations, and in particular youth organisations. In 2010 an Armenian student group with the support of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) conducted an opinion poll on higher education in the framework of a project aimed at promoting engagement with corruption in Armenian higher education.¹¹ The poll found that 25 per cent of 1,200 first- to third-year students pursuing their bachelor degrees at the universities in Yerevan and Gyumri had been personally involved in bribery transactions, while 36.5 per cent had heard about such transactions and believed the information to be true. It also revealed that almost 63 per cent of the respondents thought that the relevant state institutions either did not fight against corruption (27 per cent) or were merely pretending to fight (36 per cent). In addition, out of the 28 per cent of respondents who thought that the government was fighting corruption, only one-third believed that the fight was efficient.

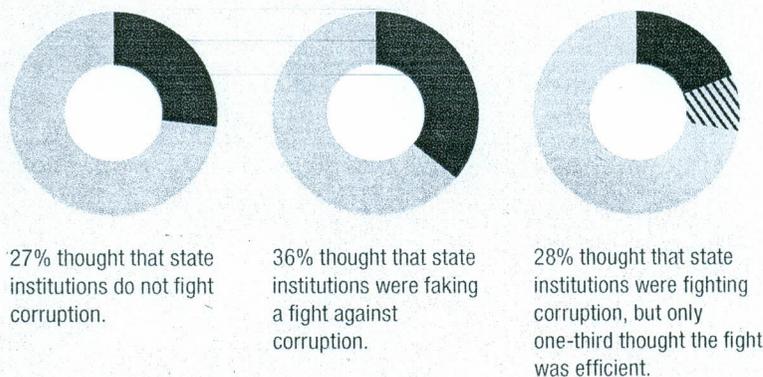


Figure 5.4 Higher education in Armenia

Source: 'Student Perception on Corruption in the Armenian Higher Education System', (Yerevan: Asoghik Publishing, 2010), available at <http://www.osce.org/yerevan/75096>.

8. *Armenia Liberty* (Armenia), 'Armenian Ministries Accused of Corruption, Mismanagement', 5 November 2011, available at <http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/2211024.html> (accessed 6 January 2013).
9. Center for Regional Development (CRD) and Transparency International Armenia, *2006 Corruption Perception in Armenia* (Yerevan: CRD, 2006), p. 15.
10. See Transparency International's 2013 Global Corruption Barometer (forthcoming). On a scale of 1 to 5 (1: not at all corrupt; 5: extremely corrupt), the average score for education in Armenia was 3.7. The next most corrupt sectors were the police (3.9), the health sector (4.0), civil servants (4.0) and the judiciary (4.0).
11. *Student Perception on Corruption in the Armenian Higher Education System* (Yerevan: Asoghik Publishing, 2010), available at <http://www.osce.org/yerevan/75096>.