



HOW THE CORRUPTION ERADICATION COMMISSION (KPK) PROMOTES ANTI-CORRUPTION PRACTICES IN INDONESIA

I Gede Sujana^{1*}, I Gusti Ngurah Santika², I Putu Windu Mertha Sujana³, I Nengah Suastika⁴, I Wayan Wiryawan⁵, Ni Nyoman Sri Mastini⁶

^{1,2,6} Universitas Dwijendra

^{3,4} Universitas Pendidikan Ganehsa

⁵ IKIP Saraswati

*Corresponding author: dalungsujana@gmail.com

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: January 28, 2026

Received in revised: May 7, 2026

Accepted: May 10, 2026

Available online: May 30, 2026

KEYWORDS

Keyword1; Corruption

Keyword2; Culture

Keyword3; Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Corruption remains a persistent challenge to governance, public trust, and socio-economic development in Indonesia. This study examines the role of the Corruption Eradication Commission (Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi, KPK) in fostering an anti-corruption culture, focusing on its dual mandate of enforcement and prevention. Using a qualitative case study approach, data were collected through document analysis of KPK reports, academic literature, and media sources published between 2015 and 2023, with source triangulation applied to enhance validity. Findings indicate that the KPK's high-profile prosecutions have contributed to a deterrent effect, as reflected in increased public awareness and shifts in perceptions of accountability and integrity. The analysis also shows that preventive initiatives, such as public awareness campaigns, integrity education in schools, and community engagement programs, are associated with increased public understanding of anti-corruption values. However, the effectiveness of these initiatives is constrained by several factors. Institutionally, legal restrictions following the 2019 revision of the KPK Law have limited operational independence. Politically and socially, persistent patronage networks and public tolerance for petty corruption continue to undermine anti-corruption efforts. The study concludes that a synergistic approach integrating enforcement, education, and public participation is essential, and highlights the KPK as a case demonstrating how anti-corruption agencies can function as both legal enforcers and agents of cultural change in developing democracies. The KPK exemplifies how an independent anti-corruption agency can act as both a legal enforcer and a cultural catalyst, offering a model for institutionalizing ethical governance in complex political contexts.

INTRODUCTION

Corruption continues to represent a fundamental challenge for governance; however, limited studies have specifically examined how the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) integrates enforcement and cultural strategies to promote anti-corruption practices in Indonesia (Santika, 2020). Despite decades of reform, corruption persists in public administration, public procurement, and political financing, undermining citizen trust in state institutions and eroding the efficiency of government services (Transparency International, 2023). While existing studies emphasize the importance of

combining legal enforcement with cultural transformation, there remains limited empirical analysis on how these approaches are operationalized by anti-corruption institutions such as the KPK (Ridhwan, 2025). In this context, the Corruption Eradication Commission (Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi, KPK) has emerged as a central institution in Indonesia's anti-corruption landscape. Established in 2003 under Law No. 30 of 2002, the KPK is tasked with investigating, prosecuting, and preventing corruption, with a mandate to operate independently from political and bureaucratic interference.



The KPK's establishment during the post-Suharto reform era marked a significant institutional response to systemic corruption, providing a foundation for analyzing how institutional autonomy contributes to both enforcement and cultural change. During the post-Suharto reform era, Indonesia faced widespread systemic corruption, with conventional law enforcement institutions often failing to prosecute high-level officials implicated in complex corruption networks (Sugiarto, 2013). In response, the KPK was granted extraordinary powers, including the authority to conduct independent investigations, wiretapping, and the ability to prosecute cases that exceeded the capacity or willingness of ordinary law enforcement agencies (Sosiawan, 2019). These powers enabled the Commission to pursue cases involving senior politicians, ministers, and business elites, signaling a decisive break from previous norms of impunity and demonstrating the potential of institutional autonomy in anti-corruption enforcement.

While enforcement remains a cornerstone of the KPK's strategy, the Commission increasingly emphasizes in this study, an anti-corruption culture refers to a set of societal norms, values, and behaviors that reject corrupt practices and promote integrity, accountability, and transparency in both public and private spheres. Theoretical frameworks in corruption studies highlight that legal sanctions alone cannot eradicate corruption; societal norms, public ethics, and cultural values play a critical role in either enabling or constraining corrupt practices (Tanzi, 1998; Ridhwan, 2025). In line with this understanding, the KPK has implemented a range of preventive measures, including public education campaigns, integrity-building workshops in schools and universities, and community engagement programs designed to these developments raise critical questions about whether institutional constraints have diminished the KPK's capacity to function effectively as both an enforcement body and a driver of cultural change. (Ridhwan, 2025; Prasetyo & Santiago, 2025). These initiatives are aimed at fostering ethical decision-making, promoting civic

responsibility, and creating an environment in which corrupt practices are socially unacceptable.

Despite these achievements, the KPK's role in nurturing an anti-corruption culture is not without challenges. Regulatory and political developments, particularly the controversial revision of the KPK Law in 2019 (Law No. 19/2019), have raised concerns regarding institutional weakening and threats to its independence (Asis, 2024). Scholars argue that limitations on the KPK's investigative autonomy, combined with political interference in appointments and oversight, may reduce the Commission's effectiveness in both enforcement and cultural advocacy (Prasetyo & Santiago, 2025). Furthermore, structural factors such as entrenched patronage networks, regional disparities in governance capacity, and public tolerance for petty corruption continue to complicate the Commission's efforts to achieve comprehensive cultural transformation.

From a socio-legal perspective, the KPK's work exemplifies the intersection of law enforcement, institutional design, and societal engagement. By prosecuting high-profile corruption cases, the Commission not only deters potential offenders but also reinforces public expectations of accountability, contributing to normative shifts in political and bureaucratic behavior (Sosiawan, 2019). Simultaneously, educational and community-based initiatives target the root causes of corruption by challenging long-standing attitudes that condone bribery, nepotism, and rent-seeking behaviors. This dual approach—combining punitive measures with preventive strategies—aligns with international best practices in anti-corruption governance, where fostering a culture of integrity is recognized as essential for sustainable reform (Johnston, 2005; Ridhwan, 2025).

This study contributes to the literature by providing a socio-legal analysis of how an anti-corruption agency simultaneously functions as a legal enforcer and a cultural actor in shaping societal norms. Anti-corruption agencies are most effective not only when endowed with robust legal powers but



also when they engage in proactive community outreach, transparency promotion, and collaborative initiatives with civil society, academia, and the media. In Indonesia, the KPK's engagement with educational institutions, civil society organizations, and youth movements has contributed to a growing discourse on ethics, transparency, and civic responsibility, demonstrating that institutional action can extend beyond legal enforcement to influence societal norms (Prasetyo & Santiago, 2025).

Nevertheless, the sustainability of these achievements depends on continuous institutional support, political commitment, and public vigilance. Strengthening internal mechanisms for accountability, expanding outreach and education programs, and promoting civic participation are critical for embedding anti-corruption norms at multiple societal levels. Without these reinforcements, the cultural impact of the KPK risks being constrained by political pressures, limited public engagement, and the persistence of systemic corruption practices that remain resistant to reform (Asis, 2024; Prasetyo & Santiago, 2025).

The remainder of this article is structured as follows: the next section outlines the research methodology, followed by an analysis of the KPK's enforcement and preventive strategies, and a discussion of their implications for anti-corruption governance in Indonesia. Its combination of investigative powers, prosecutorial authority, and preventive initiatives positions it uniquely to influence both institutional behavior and societal values. While significant challenges remain—particularly regarding institutional autonomy and societal compliance—the KPK's experience underscores the importance of integrating legal enforcement with cultural change strategies to achieve long-term governance reform. As Indonesia continues to grapple with corruption, the Commission's evolving role offers valuable insights into how specialized institutions can serve as catalysts for ethical governance, civic education, and cultural transformation in complex political environments.

METHODS

This study adopts an explanatory qualitative case study design, focusing on the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) as the unit of analysis to examine how its enforcement and preventive strategies influence anti-corruption practices in Indonesia. A qualitative approach is appropriate for this study as it enables an in-depth exploration of how the KPK's institutional strategies interact with societal norms and perceptions in the Indonesian anti-corruption context (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Specifically, this research employs a case study approach, focusing on the KPK as a single institutional case, which allows for an in-depth analysis of its strategies, programs, and challenges in promoting anti-corruption norms within the Indonesian context (Yin, 2018).

Data collection involved multiple sources to ensure triangulation and enhance the validity of the findings. Firstly, documents were selected based on their relevance to KPK enforcement and prevention strategies, official publication status, and accessibility, ensuring that only credible and policy-relevant materials were included. This enabled the study to examine both the legal framework and practical implementation of anti-corruption initiatives (Bowen, 2009). Secondly, academic literature such as peer-reviewed articles, books, and conference proceedings was reviewed to contextualize the KPK's activities and compare findings with prior studies (Ridhwan, 2025; Prasetyo & Santiago, 2025). Thirdly, media reports were critically assessed by comparing multiple sources to minimize potential bias and ensure balanced representation of public perceptions (Sosiawan, 2019).

Thematic analysis was conducted through several stages, including data familiarization, initial coding, theme identification, theme review, and interpretation, following the framework proposed by (Braun and Clarke, 2006). This approach allowed the researcher to extract key insights related to the KPK's strategies for prosecuting high-profile corruption cases, the design and implementation of preventive



and educational programs, and the societal responses to these initiatives. Through iterative coding, the key themes identified include 'deterrence through enforcement,' 'integrity education,' and 'institutional constraints,' which were derived from recurring patterns across the data (Santika, 2019).

To enhance research validity and reliability, the study employed several strategies. Triangulation was conducted by cross-checking findings from KPK official reports, academic literature, and media sources to identify consistencies and discrepancies in reported outcomes and public perceptions (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Peer debriefing was conducted through structured discussions with two experts in governance and anti-corruption studies to review coding decisions and interpretive conclusions (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). Additionally, an audit trail was maintained by documenting all data sources, coding decisions, and analytical procedures, ensuring transparency and replicability of the research process (Santika, 2020b).

Although this study primarily relies on secondary data, ethical considerations included accurate representation of secondary data, avoidance of misinterpretation, and careful handling of sensitive information related to corruption cases. All sources were properly cited, findings were accurately represented, and confidentiality was respected where sensitive information was involved (Orb, Eisenhauer, & Wynaden, 2001). These measures align with accepted ethical standards in social science research and uphold academic integrity. By combining qualitative case study analysis with multiple data sources and rigorous thematic analysis, this methodology provides a comprehensive framework for understanding how the KPK contributes to fostering an anti-corruption culture in Indonesia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings of this study are organized into three main themes: (1) enforcement as deterrence, (2) preventive and educational strategies, and (3) institutional and societal constraints. Analysis of

official reports, academic literature, and media sources indicates that the KPK has successfully positioned itself as a central institution in Indonesia's anti-corruption architecture. One of the most significant contributions of the KPK lies in its ability to prosecute high-profile corruption cases that other law enforcement agencies have historically struggled to address (Sugiarto, 2013; Sosiawan, 2019). High-profile prosecutions targeting ministers, parliamentarians, and regional heads have led to legal sanctions and are associated with increased public awareness and media attention, indicating a potential deterrent effect on corrupt behavior. Such cases demonstrate the potential of institutional autonomy in altering normative behaviors within both political and bureaucratic systems (Lestari et al, 2025).

In addition to its enforcement role, the KPK has actively engaged in preventive and educational initiatives designed to cultivate a culture of integrity across different societal sectors. These initiatives include public awareness campaigns, school-based integrity programs, and community workshops aimed at enhancing ethical awareness and civic responsibility (Ridhwan, 2025). For instance, the KPK's collaboration with educational institutions to implement integrity and anti-corruption curricula has contributed to shaping the ethical orientation of young Indonesians, promoting values of honesty, transparency, and civic engagement. Thematic analysis of public reports and academic studies suggests that these programs have begun to influence societal attitudes, gradually shifting norms from passive acceptance of corruption to active rejection of unethical practices (Prasetyo & Santiago, 2025).

The findings indicate that the KPK's preventive approach reflects elements of global anti-corruption frameworks, particularly in integrating legal enforcement with cultural initiatives (Johnston, 2005). By addressing both structural and behavioral dimensions of corruption, the KPK moves beyond traditional punitive models to a more holistic approach that targets the root causes of corrupt behavior. For example, the Commission's community



engagement programs seek to foster local-level participation in monitoring public services and reporting corrupt practices. These programs appear to be more impactful in regions with limited oversight mechanisms, although their effectiveness varies depending on local governance conditions (Ridhwan, 2025; Sosiawan, 2019).

However, the effectiveness of the KPK in promoting an anti-corruption culture is constrained by institutional, political, and societal challenges. The 2019 revision of the KPK Law (Law No. 19/2019) has led to observable constraints in enforcement processes, including procedural delays and reduced investigative flexibility, which may weaken the KPK's overall effectiveness (Asis, 2024). Scholars argue that these changes threaten the KPK's ability to act decisively against high-level corruption and may undermine public confidence in the institution's impartiality (Prasetyo & Santiago, 2025). Indeed, media reports and civil society analyses indicate that enforcement outcomes have been affected by delays and procedural restrictions, suggesting that institutional weakening could compromise the KPK's dual mandate of legal enforcement and cultural transformation.

Societal factors also play a critical role in shaping the impact of the KPK's initiatives. While there is evidence of growing public awareness and support for anti-corruption efforts, social tolerance for petty corruption and informal patronage networks persists, particularly in rural areas and among lower socio-economic groups (Sosiawan, 2019; Prasetyo & Santiago, 2025). This suggests that fostering a robust anti-corruption culture requires not only institutional measures but also broader societal engagement, including media literacy, civic education, and mechanisms for citizen participation in monitoring government actions. In this regard, the KPK's educational campaigns and public outreach programs serve as essential complements to legal enforcement, providing tools for citizens to challenge corrupt practices and reinforcing the social norms necessary for long-term change.

Another significant finding relates to the interplay between enforcement visibility and cultural impact. High-profile prosecutions, while effective in demonstrating the rule of law, may not automatically translate into deep-rooted changes in societal values (Johnston, 2005). The literature suggests that visible enforcement must be coupled with sustained educational initiatives, institutional transparency, and participatory mechanisms to create lasting cultural shifts (Ridhwan, 2025). In Indonesia, the KPK's integrated approach—combining prosecution, prevention, and public engagement—illustrates a model in which legal and cultural strategies reinforce one another. For example, KPK-led integrity schools and public workshops not only educate citizens but also legitimize enforcement actions by framing them within a broader narrative of social accountability and civic responsibility.

The Commission's work also highlights the importance of institutional credibility and independence in fostering public trust, which is essential for cultural transformation. Studies indicate that public confidence in anti-corruption institutions is positively correlated with willingness to report corrupt practices, comply with regulations, and adopt ethical behaviors (Ridhwan, 2025; Sosiawan, 2019). The KPK's ability to prosecute high-ranking officials independently has historically reinforced its credibility, enhancing its moral authority and cultural influence. Conversely, perceived political interference or legal restrictions, as observed after the 2019 law revision, can undermine public trust and weaken the normative impact of the Commission's activities (Asis, 2024).

Furthermore, the findings suggest that synergies between the KPK and civil society organizations are crucial for cultural embedding. Collaborative initiatives with NGOs, universities, and media outlets amplify the reach of educational campaigns, foster public dialogue on corruption, and provide platforms for citizen oversight. These collaborations are particularly effective in promoting participatory governance and reinforcing societal



norms of integrity (Prasetyo & Santiago, 2025). By combining institutional authority with grassroots engagement, the KPK exemplifies how formal institutions can influence cultural practices while remaining accountable to the public they serve (Santika, 2022).

Despite its achievements, the study underscores that challenges remain in achieving a fully entrenched anti-corruption culture (Sila et al, 2025). Structural issues, such as entrenched political patronage, regional disparities in governance capacity, and the normalization of small-scale corruption, continue to limit the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives (Sosiawan, 2019). Addressing these challenges requires a multi-layered approach, including legal reform to strengthen institutional autonomy, continuous public education to cultivate civic ethics, and mechanisms that incentivize transparency and accountability at local and national levels. In this sense, the KPK's experience illustrates that legal enforcement, cultural education, and public engagement are mutually reinforcing components of an effective anti-corruption strategy (Santika, 2023).

In summary, the findings demonstrate that the KPK's dual approach contributes to shaping anti-corruption practices, but its impact is contingent upon institutional autonomy and societal engagement. Its high-profile prosecutions serve as deterrents and reinforce normative expectations of accountability, while its preventive programs and public engagement initiatives cultivate ethical awareness and civic responsibility. However, the Commission's impact is shaped by political, institutional, and societal factors that can either enhance or constrain its effectiveness. The findings suggest that a sustainable anti-corruption culture depends on the continued independence of the KPK, the expansion of educational and outreach programs, and the active participation of civil society. By integrating enforcement and cultural strategies, the KPK demonstrates a model of institutionalized anti-corruption efforts that not only addresses immediate

legal violations but also contributes to long-term societal transformation.

CONCLUSIONS

This study demonstrates that the KPK's dual strategy combining enforcement and preventive measures plays a significant role in shaping anti-corruption practices, although its impact varies across institutional and societal contexts. The KPK's ability to prosecute high-profile corruption cases serves not only as a deterrent but also as a normative signal, reinforcing societal expectations of accountability and integrity (Sugiarto, 2013; Sosiawan, 2019). In parallel, its preventive initiatives, including public awareness campaigns, integrity education programs in schools and universities, and community engagement activities, contribute to shaping ethical behaviors and civic responsibility across various social strata (Ridhwan, 2025; Prasetyo & Santiago, 2025).

Despite these achievements, the study highlights that the KPK's effectiveness is influenced by institutional, political, and societal factors. Legal reforms, particularly the 2019 revision of the KPK Law, pose challenges to the Commission's autonomy and may limit its capacity to act decisively against high-level corruption (Asis, 2024). Social and cultural factors, such as persistent tolerance for petty corruption and entrenched patronage networks, also constrain the full realization of an anti-corruption culture. Therefore, fostering long-term cultural change requires strengthening institutional independence through legal safeguards, expanding integrity education programs, and enhancing citizen participation in monitoring public sector activities (Johnston, 2005; Ridhwan, 2025).

The findings suggest that sustainable anti-corruption efforts depend on a synergistic approach, where enforcement, education, and community participation reinforce one another. High-profile prosecutions must be accompanied by continuous preventive programs and participatory mechanisms that empower citizens to monitor public institutions and adopt ethical practices. The KPK's experience



demonstrates that specialized institutions can act as catalysts for cultural transformation when they combine credible legal authority with proactive engagement and public accountability.

In conclusion, the KPK exemplifies how an independent anti-corruption agency can influence both institutional behavior and societal values, highlighting the importance of combining law enforcement with cultural and educational strategies. For Indonesia to achieve a deeply rooted anti-corruption culture, continuous support for the KPK's institutional autonomy, expansion of civic education programs, and active civil society participation remain essential. The Commission's dual role—as a legal enforcer and a cultural catalyst—offers a context-specific example that may provide insights for other countries with similar governance challenges.

REFERENCES

- Asis, A. (2024). The legal position of the KPK as an independent anti-corruption agency in Indonesia: A review in Law No. 19 of 2019 and UNCAC. *Unnes Law Journal*. <https://journal.unnes.ac.id/journals/ulj/article/view/1877>
- Bowen, G. A. (2009). Document analysis as a qualitative research method. *Qualitative Research Journal*, 9(2), 27–40. <https://doi.org/10.3316/QRJ0902027>
- Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3(2), 77–101. <https://doi.org/10.1191/1478088706qp0630a>
- Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2018). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches* (4th ed.). Sage Publications.
- Johnston, M. (2005). *Syndromes of corruption: Wealth, power, and democracy*. Cambridge University Press.
- Lestari, L. D., Kandia, I. W., Santika, I. G. N., Bara, Y. P., & Syukur, F. M. (2025). COEXISTING IN HARMONY: THE ROLE OF TRI HITA KARANA PHILOSOPHY IN THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF BALINESE SOCIETY. *International Journal of Education and Social Science Studies*, 1(3), 147–152.
- Lincoln, Y. S., & Guba, E. G. (1985). *Naturalistic inquiry*. Sage Publications.
- Orb, A., Eisenhauer, L., & Wynaden, D. (2001). Ethics in qualitative research. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 33(1), 93–96. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1547-5069.2001.00093.x>
- Prasetyo, R., & Santiago, F. (2025). KPK's performance dynamics in combating corruption after the 2019 revision of the KPK law. *Demokrasi: Jurnal Riset Ilmu Hukum, Sosial dan Politik*. <https://journal.appihi.or.id/index.php/Demokrasi/article/view/1220>
- Ridhwan, D. S. (2025). Nurturing anti-corruption culture through pedagogical approaches. *Jurnal Edukasi*. <https://jurnaledukasi.kemenag.go.id/edukasi/article/download/1651/685>
- Santika, I. G. N. (2019). Presidensialisme Dan Problematika Mekanisme Impeachment Presiden Dan/Atau Wakil Presiden Berdasarkan UUD 1945 Pasca Perubahan (Perspektif Pergulatan Hukum Dan Politik). *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Sosial*, 5(1), 23–34.
- Santika, I. G. N. (2020). Menelisik Akar Kegaduhan Bangsa Indonesia Pasca Disetujuinya Hasil Revisi UU KPK Dalam Perspektif Pancasila. *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Sosial*, 6(1), 26–36.
- Santika, I. G. N. (2020b). *Menggali dan Menemukan Roh Pancasila Secara Kontekstual*. Penerbit Lakeisha.
- Santika, I. G. N. (2022). *Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan: Problematika Hasil Perubahan UUD 1945 Secara Konseptual*.
- Santika, I. G. N. (2023). Kedudukan Pancasila dalam Peraturan Perundang-Undangan di Indonesia.



IJOLARES: Indonesian Journal of Law Research,
1(2), 47-51.

Sila, I. M., Santika, I. G. N., Kandi, D. N., & Ngana, C. R. D. (2025). DEMOCRACY AND THE 1945 CONSTITUTION: A POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE ON INDONESIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK. *International Journal of Education and Social Science Studies*, 1(2), 93-102.

Sosiawan, U. M. (2019). Peran Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi (KPK) dalam pencegahan dan pemberantasan korupsi. *Jurnal Penelitian Hukum De Jure*.
<https://www.lawpolicyjournal.id/index.php/dejure/article/view/760>

Sugiarto, T. (2013). Peranan Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi (KPK) dalam pemberantasan tindak pidana korupsi di Indonesia. *Jurnal Cakrawala Hukum*, 18(2).
<https://jurnal.unmer.ac.id/index.php/jch/article/view/1123>

Sujana, I. G., Santika, I. G. N., Karmani, G., & Mesa, J. (2025). Integrasi Prinsip-Prinsip Pancasila dalam Perumusan Kebijakan Hukum Nasional. *IJOLARES: Indonesian Journal of Law Research*, 3(2), 66-74.

Yin, R. K. (2018). *Case study research and applications: Design and methods* (6th ed.). Sage Publications.

Transparency International. (2023). *Corruption Perceptions Index*.
<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023>

Tanzi, V. (1998). Corruption around the world: Causes, consequences, scope, and cures. *IMF Staff Papers*, 45(4), 559-594.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/3867572>