

Factors Directly Related to Economic Corruption Behavior of Civil Servants at the State Economic Management Agencies in Vietnam

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Abstract: *The study aims to evaluate the impact of factors directly related to the economic corruption behavior of civil servants at the state economic management agencies. The study applies the structural equation model (SEM), based on the data provided by 437 civil servants to evaluate the impact of factors on corruption behavior. The results show motivations for corruption behavior are the most affective factors, and ability to rationalize corruption behavior is the lowest ones. The results suggested significant solutions to reduce the corruption behavior of civil servants.*

Key words: *Corruption behavior, motivations for corruption, civil servants, state agencies*

1. Introduction

Corruption is not only a national problem of each country, but also a global challenge. In early 2021, Transparency International (TI) released 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). Accordingly, Vietnam reached 36/100 points, less 1 point compared to 2019 and ranked 104/180. The CPI is assessed based on the perceptions of domestic entrepreneurs and experts about corruption in public sectors. Vi-

etnam's CPI score is currently lower than the average score of the ASEAN region (42/100), but higher than some countries in the region such as the Philippines, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. This shows that corruption in public sectors in Vietnam is strongly problematic. It is necessary for Vietnamese government to adopt a new approach and to have a deeper perception about corruption in order to improve the Vietnam's CPI score.

Existing literature often provide analysis, assessments and statements that emphasize on the

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