

It raised a range of issues about corruption and its impact on the lives of the people of South Asia, particularly the poorest and the most vulnerable.

While making their speech, debaters from different countries moved the Conference Hall of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation with logics and emotions.

"The real price of corruption is not paid in currency after all. The true costs are eroded opportunities, increased marginalization of the disadvantaged and feelings of injustice" said Sheza Alqera Atiq, the student from Pakistan's Karachi Grammar School.

"Corruption is like a tree with branches of immeasurable length... they spread everywhere," said Devika Luniya, a member of Team India, quoting John Fletcher and to this she added, "it is also insidious pests that work underground and prevent development from taking root".

The judges were Director Transparency International India P S Bawa, well known southern actor Kamal Khan, Secretary General of Press Club of India Pushpendra Kulshrestha and senior officer of UNDP Omar Noman.

The judges came out with results after a long closed-door session. In the team category, Team India comprised of debaters of the Bai Avavai Franji Petit's Girl High School Mumbai was declared winners, and Team Bangladesh, debaters of the Manarat Dhaka International College, took the runners-up trophy.

In the individual category, Tshering Penjore from Motihang Higher Secondary School Bhutan was adjudged the winner in favor of the motion and Sheza Alqera Atiq, a student from Pakistan's Karachi Grammar School was the winner against the motion.

Presenting the prizes to the winning teams, India's Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee invoked Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy in life was to never compromise the means to reach the end. He detailed out the path for the young people of the society to fight corruption.

UNDP Resident Representative, Dr. Maxine Olson said in her keynote address: "Corruption is a global problem that affects all countries. It is probably true that wherever you find people you will find at least some level and some form of corruption."

Before long, the debaters were informed that they will be visiting Ms. Sonia Gandhi at her residence the next day. It was the most cherish moment for all the debaters. Ms. Sonia Gandhi congratulated everyone for participating, especially the winning and runner-up team for their achievement. She congratulated team Bangladesh and wished them success in life.