



IN 10 YEARS' TIME...

I will have my Masters in Computer Science and will be a successful entrepreneur, having established my own business and creating work opportunities in my community.

Nastassja Philippou

HOMETOWN	Johannesburg, South Africa
UNIVERSITY	University of the Witwatersrand
FUNDING	Parents

More about Nastassja

Favourite subjects:

Astrophysics, Mathematics, Economics, Physics and Programming.

Interests:

Astronomy, reading, politics, economics, music, dancing and travel.

Inspired by:

My mother, Carl Sagan, Emma Watson and Richard Feynman.

Main achievements:

- Top 10 CERN International Beamline Competition.
- Certificate for Wits Material Science Competition.
- Academic Bursary throughout high school.
- Finalist: Nedbank and Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition.
- Selected for Golden Key Society.

Community activity:

Volunteer work at old age homes and orphanages.

Essay synopsis

Nastassja points out that corruption erodes the core on which sustainable development depends by destroying trust in the government, as well as widening the income gap between the rich and poor.

In South Africa, she says, it's estimated that 20% of the GDP is lost to corruption each year. And she notes that it's the poor who suffer the most as a result of corruption.

Big government-funded infrastructure projects make bribery easier to conceal, Nastassja says, with deals given to the highest bribe payer.

Entrepreneurship is also sensitive to corruption, since new businesses face many barriers while starting up, including heavy regulations. And it has an effect on education, with the IMF stating that "government spending on education as a ratio to GDP is negatively and significantly correlated with corruption".

Evidence suggests that low levels of corruption correspond with high levels of investment across the

world. However, foreign direct investment might be a cause of corruption in poor, resource-rich countries, if international investors exploit natural resources by paying bribes to government officials.

"Corruption is corrosive to any economy it enters."

Some economists argue that corruption may aid economic growth because corrupt practices allow the avoidance of bureaucratic delays, especially in countries with strict regulations (known as the "Asian Paradox"). However, analysis has shown that removing the regulatory impediments is better than circumventing them by corruption.

Corruption is corrosive to any economy it enters, concludes Nastassja, and efforts to eradicate it will ultimately be for the good of the world.