

EFFECT OF EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ON ACADEMIC CHEATING AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS-A SOCIAL CONCERN

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ABSTRACT

Academic cheating has been on a rising trend for the past few years with many learners using different and innovative ways of cheating. Innovations in cheating were highly noticeable among all students irrespective of the subjects they learn. Learners from the field of computer science and IT were selected as samples for the study for every examination from Theory to Laboratory Practical conducted and that is the major area of this study.

A survey was conducted in Mumbai, India for a sample size of 148 students, which focussed on three perspectives - Learners, Family background and Institution of study. The frequency and type of cheating were also studied. The results and findings were discriminant based on the learner reviews and comprehensive efforts were required to promote honesty and teach the student values that cannot be earned with the advancement of technology. The results of the survey confirmed the effects of inequality among the students behaviour towards the act of dishonesty and diversity in the educational background learner and his/her family and inclusion of student psychological behaviour in the class as a key area of academic dishonesty.

Keywords: Academic cheating, Diversity, economic inequality, Inclusion on academic backgrounds, principles and ethics of students and learners, technology enablers of cheating.

Introduction

The Exploding interest in the course of computer science and IT but the decreasing number of students getting placed due to low grades, has an undesirable side effect. Students have been caught borrowing computer code from their friends or cribbing it from the internet. An article from the New York Times "...[1](Jess,2017), many online articles consecutively demonstrate how many computer science students lack the incompetency in practical program coding after having continuous lab lectures in the period of study. [2](Shreya, 2017). Academic

dishonesty is seen highest among first year students rather than compared to the final years who try to learn for company placement and job offers that need to boost up the grades. They do not realise that often, an act of copying can destroy their career.

Studies in the early 90s began to look at academic dishonesty by students found that dishonesty and other forms of academic dishonesty were perceived to be normal behaviour for Learners. Student beliefs that 'everyone cheats', or that cheating is a normal part of life are normal for most students [3]. Correspondingly, cheating rates are high and due to

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