

A Study of Academic Cheating Among School Students in Relation to their Peer Pressure and School Environment

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Abstract- The main purpose of the research work is to study about Academic Cheating Among School Students in Relation to their Peer Pressure and School Environment. Survey method is used in this research work and for data collection, research tools used by the researcher are Academic Cheating Scale by Kalia and Dalal (2011), Peer Pressure Scale (PPS) by Saini and Singh (2010) and School Environment Inventory by Mishra (2011). the conclusion of this research work is that a Significant interaction effect of peer pressure & school environment was found on academic cheating among Sr. Sec. school students.

Keywords- Academic Cheating Peer, Pressure and School Environment.

Introduction - The secret to using knowledge to tackle a society's complex challenges is education. As a result, numerous nations throughout the globe engaged in efforts to guarantee their inhabitants' access to education. The quality of education, however, is currently capturing the interest of academics all around the world. Since it can be easily measured via standardised exams, academic accomplishment is frequently used as a gauge of a school's quality. In contrast, other outcomes may be more complicated and less quantitative (SIDA, 2000). This implies that accurate evaluation of academic performance metrics, such as tests, examinations, and assignments, may determine the quality of education. In the Nordic nations' academic institutions, issues with student cheating have emerged more and more during the previous ten years. Yet, cheating or academic misconduct is not a recent occurrence; it is a well-known issue in India and many European nations. At the age of adolescence, parental pressure is also significant with regard to academics (Strom & Strom, 2007). Parents put pressure on them to enrol in prestigious and competitive universities (Taylor, Pogrebin, & Dodge, 2002). Some students think that by lying about their grades, they may receive the ones that they want or the ones that their parents want. Moreover, they believe that by doing this, they may outperform their peer group. Academic dishonesty results from mounting parental pressure and a desire to outperform peers. Cheating is seen as an issue that affects all academic institutions. Exam cheating is a widespread problem, claim Berhan & Desalegn (2014). Because of its detrimental effects on a student's

education, it has become a major worry, particularly for educators. Cheating diminishes education and undermines the entire goal and core of learning, particularly when it occurs during exams. Also, students need to be careful not to readily conform to what their friends are doing out of a desire to fit in. They shouldn't sacrifice their morals in order to get the approval of their pals. On the other side, parents should learn how to control their expectations so that their kids won't feel too driven to get good marks. Parents shouldn't push their kids to the point of cheating, even if it's healthy to expect them to do well in school. Parents should encourage their kids to put in additional effort in their schoolwork. An individual who is under too much pressure may use improper measures. Even though school may be challenging, students should constantly make an effort to lead morally upright lives since integrity always comes before academic accomplishment.

Rationale Of The Study : It is believed that a well-designed school will provide educational outcomes that will support strong student academic performance, an effective teaching and learning process, and healthy social, political, and economic independence. A positive & supportive learning environment at school can give pupils the resources, fortitude, or skills they need to endure the risks they may face in the home or in the wider society. The substantial correlation between school atmosphere and achievement has cemented its place in the minds of educational scholars. The type of learning environment students are receiving has a big impact on their ability to learn. Children may be brilliant from birth and receive good nutrition at home, but it

scarcely needs to be said that a supportive school setting aids in a student's ability to demonstrate greater academic accomplishment. A focused effort is required to develop a learning-friendly environment in schools.

Statement Of The Problem : "A Study of Academic Cheating Among School Students in Relation to their Peer Pressure and School Environment"

Objectives Of The Study :

1. To find out the main effect of peer pressure on academic cheating among senior secondary school students.
2. To find out the main effect of school environment on academic cheating among senior secondary school students.

Hypotheses Of The Study :

1. There will be no significant effect of peer pressure on academic cheating among senior secondary school students.
2. There will be no significant effect of school environment on academic cheating among senior secondary school students.

Delimitations Of The Study : Due to paucity of time and resources and to make it more meaningful, the present study will be delimited in the following aspects :

1. The study will be delimited to 600 senior secondary school students only.
2. The study will be delimited to one dependent variable i.e. academic cheating and three independent variables i.e. peer pressure, parental pressure and school environment.

Sample : For any research, it is not possible to observe the whole population because it requires large amount of time and resources. Keeping that in mind, multi-stage random sampling technique was used to select the sample of 600 Sr. Sec. school students studying in Sr. Sec. schools, affiliated to CBSE of Punjab State.

Tools Used : The investigator has used the following tools for her study :

1. Academic Cheating Scale by Kalia and Dalal (2011).
2. Peer Pressure Scale (PPS) by Saini and Singh (2010).
3. School Environment Inventory by Mishra (2011).

Major Findings Of The Study :

1. Significant effect of peer pressure was found on academic cheating among Sr. Sec. school students.
2. It was found that significant effect of school environment existed on academic cheating among Sr. Sec. school students.

Educational Implications : The child's environment at home as well as school be such that the youngster develops into a responsible and mature individual who can manage problems maturely without engaging in anti-social behaviours such as academic cheating. Parents should be aware of the changes their children are undergoing and the pressures they confront in their daily activities. Parents need to be informed that they can contribute to the education of their children through encouragement, provision of learning facilities, and active assistance among other strategies. They need to know their role in the education of their children.

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