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ANALYSIS OF TECHNIQUES USED BY STUDENTS FOR UNFAIR MEANS IN THE EXAMINATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to explore and identify techniques of students for using unfair means in the conventional examination and the possibilities to minimize them in the examinations in Pakistan. The sample consisted of 280 teachers of various institutions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The primary data were collected through closed-ended interviews which were held with faculty members of various departments of Sarhad University of Sciences and Information Technology Peshawar, Swabi University Swabi, Abasyn University Peshawar, Government Colleges of Peshawar, and Brain Degree College Peshawar which were purposively selected. The data obtained were analyzed and rendered meaningful with discussion and interpretation. It was concluded that there is a chain effect of examination malpractices in our educational system and the society, as a whole, which is a bad sign for the present and future generations of Pakistan. The study recommended that strict legal actions should be taken against those students who are using unfair means in the examinations as well as against facilitators who are teachers, supervisory staff or relatives of the candidates. Honest and punctual invigilating staff with no political affiliation should be appointed for the students' internal and external evaluations.

Key Words: Identify Causes, Examination, Unfair Means, University, Responses.

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Education is regarded as an enterprise. The purpose of education is to produce the number and type of students, who have the knowledge and skills required for actual work market. As per National Education Policy (2009) policies of a well education system, a student must be able to recognize his/her potential strength of self-awareness and necessary skills to play and perform his/her duties for the good well of society. Similarly, they should be or should have progressive thinking regarding the well-being of their homeland. A part from this they must possess a heroic character with devotion and tolerance in order to justify the current situation of the democracy which further leads to know better their past history and culture. Obviously it will help them to

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clearly aware the Pakistan ideology, the role of Pakistani citizen and the aim of recognition the patriotism.

Khan (2014) viewed that excellent schools should focus on promoting skills of students and help promote their balanced personality. This will help students to learn more and will help eliminate unfair means in examinations. The following key factors in general, were identified for raising the schools to the apex of excellence and thereby preventing unfair practices of students in examinations:

- a) Necessary tools of learning process for future life.
- b) Teachers teaching/communication skills training.
- c) Periodic evaluation of teaching process.
- d) Feedback from student about his progress.
- e) Monitoring of student individual and social progress along with possible positive/negative norms.
- f) Emphasis on co-curricular activities necessary for better results/progress.
- g) Fair and transparent evaluation system of exams conducted.

Examination is the crucial point around which the entire arrangement of training spins and the achievement or disappointment of the arrangement of examination is for sure a marker of the achievement or disappointment of that specific arrangement of instruction. According to Wilayat (2009) it is appropriate to analyze the present arrangement of examination with a perspective to decide in the matter of whether it really fills the needs it indicates to serve. The two basic assumptions of any examination worth the name are that (a) it should be valid and (b) it should be reliable.

An examination is said to be valid if it performs the functions which it is designed to perform. The concept of reliability, of course, refers to consistency of measurement. In fact, the prevailing system of examination and its mode of conduct defy both these assumptions. The system has degenerated to an extent that its validity and reliability are questionable. Examination is no longer regarded as a test for evaluating the performance or judging the scholastic attainment of students. The reason being that there is a complete breakdown of the whole system of examination, almost all over the country, and at all levels of education. The system of examination needs review and reformation.

According to Callahan (2004) swindling is the getting of a prize for capacity or finding a simple way out of an obnoxious circumstance by untrustworthy means. It is for the most part utilized for the breaking of tenets to increase out of line favorable position in an aggressive circumstance. This wide definition will essentially incorporate demonstrations of pay off, cronyism, nepotism, scum and any circumstance where people are given inclination utilizing unseemly criteria. The guidelines encroached might be express, or they might be from an unwritten set of accepted rules taking into account profound quality, morals or custom, making the recognizable proof of bamboozling behavior a conceivably subjective procedure. Bamboozling can allude particularly to conjugal treachery. Somebody who is referred to for tricking is alluded to as a trick in British English, and a con artist in American English. A man portrayed as a "trick" doesn't as a matter of course cheat constantly, yet rather, depends on out of line strategies to the point of gaining notoriety for it.

According to a report of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (1992) the nature of training that we give to our childhood and the need at which we rate it contribute to a great extent to the arrangement of the mentalities they extend into open life. So whatever sort of seed we sow in the classroom, the way in which we support it and the quality which it soaks up in its different phases of development will all decide the harvest that the country will procure as its informed youth leaving the schools, universities and colleges. The engravings of these foundations of learning will get to be permanent checks plainly noticeable in all fields of our national life; be it an agent in an office, a trooper in the front line, a school expert in a town school, a University Professor, a civil servant running the organization in a seat of force. This extraordinary effect of training on the national character is reasonable once we perceive both the fleeting and in addition long haul power instruction uses over all who experience its procedure.

Abubakar (2015) remarked that the utilization of out of line means in examinations has been on the expansion however the administration has made some positive strides, particularly in the enormous urban communities, to check debasement. We have more instances of out of line means every passing year in our Board and University examinations. The explanations behind debasement in examinations are numerous. Most importantly, we discover defilement in all parts of our general public. Unscrupulousness and swindling are as normal today as genuineness was in time long past times. Also, the majority of our understudies can't purchase appropriate books or study in top notch instructive organizations because of low monetary conditions. Thirdly, the individuals who consider or lead examinations are additionally in charge of defilement in examination focuses. Invigilators, directors, and others are working for whatever length of time that eight hours a day can't acquire what a specialist workman gets for 60 minutes of work.

The stepping stool of debasement in examination is high. It oddly goes underground when answer books are carried out of examination focuses and workplaces for contender to compose answers. Some degenerate inspectors give such offices of replicating or acknowledge fixes to recompense undeserved checks or are affected by suggestions. On occasion, duplicating through cell telephones and other advanced contraptions are encouraged. It is in any event important to give excellent training to our understudies. There ought to be capable and productive educators and legitimate and enough libraries for them. According to a report of National Education Council (2013) commented the use of unfair means by students in examinations was fast increasing due to leniency of the authorities concerned. The basic reason behind use of unfair means was negligence and greed and it couldn't be checked unless joint efforts by all segments of society were made against it. Those promoting use of unfair means in examinations to secure good marks were, in fact, enemies of the new generation and the country. Also setting up of examination centres under the supervision of military and media at least for one year so that the rogue elements in the education sector could be exposed and dealt with strictly and creation of public awareness of the issue through seminars and workshops for reforms in examination system.

Seema Jamil (2013) suggested strict legal action against users of illegal practices in

examinations and their patrons. She urged the media to expose those elements behind the menace in the garb of educationists, saying this would help improve education system. She further stated that it was necessary to begin a crackdown on all those working against education system by encouraging use of unfair means in examinations and if that didn't happen, and then the country's future was bleak.

Educationists expressed concern about the growing use of unfair means in examinations and urged the government, school owners, media, educationists and civil society organizations to play their due role in overcoming the menace.

Habib (2016) reported that students must be graded not by how much they memorized but how well they were capacitated to use their learning to solve problems. "In science, knowledge is useful if it is internalized rather than memorized. It must become part of one's mental tool box,"

The problems that are deep-rooted in the education system are low budgetary allocation, memorization-based examination system, defective policies, implementation, lack of teacher quality, disoriented educational policy, directionless educational priorities, lack of political will, outdated curriculum, clumsy management, poor research and lack of uniformity.

According to a UNESCO (2016) report, "Majority of teachers are ignorant about lesson planning which renders them incapable of handling with multiple problems in the process of teaching and learning. Teachers depend on cramming of the materials by students. Students do not know the use of libraries in educational institutions. Thus, the reading habits are decreasing among the students. Teachers are highly responsible for all this mess. It is their professional responsibility to guide the students towards book reading. Teachers rely on lecture methods which do provide an opportunity to students to participate in the process of education as an active member. They only note the information and memorize this just to pass the examination. Thus, students are evaluated on the basis of memorization of facts and information rather than performance."

According to Humera (2009) our instruction does not mirror our capacity. One reason that has contributed most to this condition of issue is that we take plan of action to uncalled for means while taking examinations and in this way neglect to fathom the significance of information and in addition of life. The individuals who take response to such ways they themselves endure and in addition make others, i.e. society, endure ceaselessly. As a result of this, legitimacy endures and hence, the nation endures. The craft of utilizing uncalled for means at examinations as a part of our nation has entirely created throughout the years. A wide range of ploys are utilized to hole question papers and look for answers to these inquiries.

There are various types of cheating like using observing cheating during marking, helping material during attempting the paper, using unauthorized electronic devices, cheating involving another student, cheating through computer and impersonation.

We should demoralize utilization of unjustifiable means, regularly known as duplicate culture or duping at examinations, and other auxiliary matters. To guarantee that all examination focuses/lobbies/rooms must be fixed off similarly as pariahs are concerned. In addition, supporters inside the examination focuses ought to be found and

pulled up. Examinees ought to be altogether checked for conveying any manuals/settled papers and photograph state duplicates.

Humera further expressed that as there is at present no law to control the examination framework and to stop the duplicate culture and duping, a law must be made to incorporate direction of all examination focuses all through the territory. In such manner, a bill has been presented and submitted in Sindh Assembly called 'The Elimination of Copy Culture/Cheating at Examinations'.

This bill goes for guaranteeing a reasonable and straightforward examination framework all through the region and a genuinely demand to the Sindh Chief Minister and Education Minister to take suitable measures forthwith to check the duplicate society at examination and recovery our present and future eras.

According to Irfan (2016) the Board of Secondary Education Karachi (BSEK) and all other open instructive sheets of Sindh have absolutely neglected to check the hazard of utilization of out of line means in yearly examinations. There are gatherings as mafia, which are stamping millions through offer of various devices for utilization of uncalled for means, for example, transcription of answers to the hopefuls over mobile phones, paper sheets with printed answers and leaves of books conveying nitty gritty notes. The administration of instructive sheets particularly the Board of Secondary Education Karachi has likewise neglected to keep the shops of printers closed inside the breaking points of the examination focuses under area 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Pioneer of the Opposition in National Assembly Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah visited an examination focus at Public School Sukkur. On the occasion, Mr. Shah said that knowledge and merit are vital for character and personality building. Shah advised the students to refrain themselves from unfair means and firmly believe in merit. He expressed his satisfaction over the arrangements for the peaceful conduct of examinations.

Every year hundreds of candidates are caught red-handed while using unfair means in exams. Many candidates leave identification marks and even cell phone numbers with the intention of bribing paper checkers – a practice considered worst form of post-exam use of unfair means.

Cheating and use of unfair means is another menace in our society. In the case of objective type exams, which has become even more crucial. Every year hundreds of candidates are caught red-handed while using unfair means in examinations. Many candidates leave identification marks and even cell phone numbers with the intention of bribing paper checkers – a practice considered worst form of post-exam use of unfair means. This is happening in Punjab, KPK, Sindh and Baluchistan and all parts of the country. Recently, Balochistan Chief Minister emphasized the need of getting rid of cheating in examinations, while expecting that all stakeholders would have to play their due role in this regard. CM said evils had reached its maximum and now reforms must begin. He said the incumbent coalition government of the province was taking concrete and serious steps to improve the prevailing education system.

The sitting Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (2016) in a handout directed the authorities concerned to chalk out a strategy to stop the use of unfair means during the upcoming Secondary School Certificate examination.

Tahir (2011) expressed that use of unfair means in examinations needs to be strictly checked to improve credibility and standard of education. The problem of cheating during examinations has rendered Pakistan's examination system and its results invalid and unreliable. What is more dangerous is that some students think of it as their right.

The National Accountability Bureau in collaboration with BISEs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (2011) organized a seminar on the issue in which a strategy against the same was prepared. Cheating in the Boards' examinations, in one way or the other, is in the knowledge of all and everyone wants to correct the situation, states an official document prepared by a local BISE.

"Parents' obsession with their child's future, private education sector's efforts to ensure good grades for their candidates, lack of required facilities, non availability of sufficient teachers, books and material in schools, paucity of female teachers and invigilators, absence of criteria and favoritism in teachers' selection for examination duties both at the department and the Boards' levels and political interference etc, are some of the problems in this regard,".

Tahir (2011) suggested that it requires a three-pronged strategy to guard against cheating in examination: before, during and after the examination. Teachers and students need to fully commit themselves to teaching/learning process. Students should revise notes at home. Schools with hostel facility usually show better performance. Competitive environment in classes and a proper mechanism for guidance and counseling students are also needed in schools.

Teachers' unions should not be allowed to interfere in the examination. Ruling political parties will have to take initiative by disowning their political wings in teachers and let the Board administrators decide things on merit. Interference by outsiders can be prevented by police personnel and daily visits of inspectors to the examination centre. Moreover, fully enclosed examination halls could also help overcome the problem.

According to Wilayat (2009) if we focus on such practices like leakage of question papers or others mal practices such like miss-conductance within examination center and favoring the suitable invigilator or other demoral acts like creating a false award list are those factors which always create additional social and individual problem within a certain system and vicinity.

Waliyat further stated that many good students have been denied admission by the corrupt ones who, through examination malpractices have better scores and grades. The best brains that could help in research and development are likely to be thrown out or frustrated while seeking admission. This has a serious implication on the gross domestic product of the country. It also has effect on the general quality and standard. Imagine the havoc of a half backed medical doctor could wreck on human lives. What about teachers who cannot competently handle the subject they are trained to teach. There is a chain effect of examination malpractices on the educational system and the society as a whole.

Objective of the Study

1. Sought to explore and identify different techniques used by the students for using dissimilar unfair means in the conventional examination system

2. Remedial possibilities to minimize using unfair means in the examinations in Pakistan.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Closed-ended interviews with purposively selected teachers of various institutions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The sample consisted of 280 teachers of Government College Peshawar, and Brain Degree College Peshawar. The interviews were conducted with different faculty members of various departments of Sarhad University of Sciences and Information Technology Peshawar, Swabi University and Abasyn University Peshawar, Pakistan in October-February 2017-18.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What are the main reasons due to which students use unfair means in the examinations?

What are typical methods of cheating/corruption which students use in the examinations?

Who are responsible for the practice of unfair means in the examinations?

1. How the students can be motivated to avoid cheating in the examinations?
2. What will be the effect of cheating on students' future?
3. How the practice of unfair means can be minimized or stopped?

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study attempted to explore the perceptions of teachers about use of unfair means in the examinations in KP province of Pakistan. The outcomes of the interviews with teachers in summarized form are as follow:

1. What are the main reasons due to which students use unfair means in the examination?

- Students might not understand and what is considered or what comprises of.
 - They have poor study skills that prevent them from keeping up with material.
 - Due to competition with other students for their grades.
 - Since we have a culture of studying a day prior to the commencement of the exam, so what would be the level of the study and attempting the papers.
 - The responsibility dully lies on the part of the student as well because they do not give time normally required to cover up the subjects instead they spend their time more on sports and end of the day they rely on cheating.
 - The courses covered for exams, are burdensome and as a result students opt for cheating.
 - Semester workload too heavy
 - Teachers did not adequately explain learning material

- Job leaves no time for study
- Good grades needed for job or graduate school
- Irregularity in the class attendance
- Lack of monitoring and checks by the family and teaching staff
- Favoritism

2. What are typical methods of cheating/corruption which students use in the examinations?

- Getting help from class mates during exam both verbal and written
- Using mobile phones as cheating materials, using text messages or already saved drafts for carrying cheating materials and Bluetooth etc.
- Carrying cheating materials hidden in the various parts of the body
- Using notes, information or formulas that have been stored on MP3 players, cellular phones or calculators
- Writing on hand and legs.
- Copying from adjacent students.
- In wash room, or any other side room
- Allotment of choice examination center.
- Smuggling answer books in or outside the examination center.
- Helping the candidates to use unfair means in any form and by any one in or outside the examination center.
- Helping the candidates in viva voce, practical examination.
- Miss-representation/impersonation.
- Changing/replacing roll numbers and answer books.
- Misconduct, carrying offensive weapons, refusing/resisting the lawful orders of supervisory staff, creating disturbance, instigating other candidates, threatening or assaulting the invigilating staff, impeding the progress of examination, in or outside the examination
- Substituting the whole or a part of an answer book or a continuation sheet/supplement not duly issued to him for the examination

3. Who are responsible for the practice of unfair means in the examination?

- Academic cheating and fraud is prevalent today.
- Academic dishonesty includes academic fraud, plagiarism, and cheating.
- Some students claimed that the similarities in their answers were due to sharing notes or sitting in on sessions held by the same teaching assistant who conducted discussion groups, graded assignments, and advised them on interpreting exam questions.
- Students need to learn to take responsibility for their actions and failings and not blame the system. It's not surprising for us that students blamed others for their dishonesty.
- Educational researchers typically distinguish between two broad types of learning motivation: extrinsic and intrinsic. Students who are driven by extrinsic motivation seek external rewards for their learning:

- Students driven by intrinsic motivation, by contrast, seek to understand the course material for its own sake; they find it fascinating, or useful, or meaningful, and relevant to their lives.
- Teachers are responsible for performing their duties however students find ways to cheat and get the info.
- Students, particularly students' groups/federations, affiliated to political parties.
- Students, Checkers, Invigilators and the concerned higher authorities, all are involved in the use of unfair means, to some extent.

4. How the students can be motivated to avoid cheating in the examination?

- Proper counseling by the teaching staff is adopted to make students aware of the drawbacks and penalties due to use of unfair means
- Potential measures be taken to increase the interest of the students in the studies, the irregularity in the attendance should strictly be discouraged
- Special rewards and appreciation be given to students who come with performance high attendance ratios and originality of work in their studies
- From day one institution policy be clearly stated to the students with respect to cheating and unfair means and its consequences be clearly stated to them and should be clearly notified in the notice boards especially during start of the semesters and during exam days.
- The only way of encouraging students to avoid cheating in the examination is to clear the concepts of students in which they are confused and need clarity.
- When teachers give a test, arrange students' desks in neat rows and monitoring them through walking around.
- When students can't see you well, they are usually more nervous about trying to cheat. Those who are tempted to cheat usually will try to turn around to see where you are. That makes it easy for you to spot potential cheaters.
- Don't take away the paper of a suspected cheater, or reprimand him or her in the middle of taking a test. Such an action will cause a disturbance during the test, and the disruption will give other students an opportunity to cheat.
- Tell students at the start of the test, "During the test, cover up your answers. You might even let students know that any student who helps another cheat also will face repercussions.

5. What will be the effect of cheating on students' future?

- Cheating lowers the self-respect and confidence. And if others see you cheating, you will lose their respect and trust.
- Once the threshold of cheating is crossed, youth may find it easier to continue cheating more often, or to be dishonest in other situations in life.
- Students who cheat lose an element of personal integrity that is difficult to recapture. It damages a student's self-image.
- Students who cheat are wasting their time in their institutions.
- Most learning builds on itself. A student must first learn one concept so that they are prepared for the next lesson.
- If the student is caught, he could fail the course, be expelled, and gain a bad reputation with his teachers and peers.
- When students are hired by future employers based on the idea that they received good grades in a certain subject, they will not be able to solve problems, offer ideas, or maintain the workload in that subject area.

- Students who repeatedly plagiarize Internet content lose their ability to think critically and to distinguish legitimate sources from those that are not.
- Students who cheat in high school are more likely to do the same in college, and college cheaters, in turn, are more likely to behave dishonestly on the job.
- After graduation when he work/give progress in industry than he will have no knowledge and will get no good feedback.
- Teachers and parents must both actively discourage cheating if we have any hope of stopping this epidemic.
- The lack of competence and will hinder his performance in professional life.
- Will find difficulties in finding jobs and will not compete in any competitive examinations.

How the practice of unfair means can be minimized/stopped?

- Proper counseling by the teachers and family members
- Awareness session by institutes regarding penalties in case of unfair means
- Teachers role in creating interest of the students
- Attendance ratios could be enhanced.
- Student should focus on their studies.
- Every class work and homework assignment should be purposeful. Students should take it seriously.
- Mobiles to be switched off during their studies.
- To announce in start for having any UFM to get it out.
- To counter check every student pocket, hands, chair, other modern gadgets before exam.
- To give strict punishment to those students who misbehave.
- To brief students during lectures by every teacher not to cheat and be a student and work hard as using UFM can lead to failure.
- Eliminating the culture of memorization.
- Appointing the competent teaching faculty who holds a command over the assigned subject.
- Assigning duties to maximum number of examination supervisory staff to ensure transparency and minimized the chances of using unfair means.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strict legal actions should be taken against those students who are using unfair means in the examinations and also against those persons who are helping them whether relating to the institutions or outside the institutions.
- Honest and punctual invigilators/supervisory staff should be appointed for the students' internal and external evaluations.

- Monitoring and supervision in the examinations should be vigilant and strict with no favoritism.
- Political interference should be discouraged not only in the examination but in all matters of educational institutions.
- There should be no discrimination among public and private institutions regarding fair/impartial conduct of examination by examining bodies.
- Teachers should be appointed purely on merit in order to solve students' problems and guide them on right track and eliminate unfair means practices in the examinations.
- Awareness campaigns should be arranged with the help of print and electronic media and through functions and lectures, people should be convinced of the consequences of using unfair-means in a students' career.
- Written and oral instructions regarding use of unfair means in the examination and their consequences and penalties should be communicated to the students at least ten days before the examination.
- Use of cell phone, programmed calculators and other modern gadgets should strictly be forbidden in the examination centers.
- Examining bodies should be provided every possible facility including tight securities in hard areas.
- Major reforms should be recommended against low budgetary allocation, memorization based examination system, lack of political will, directionless education priorities, outdated curriculum, poor research, old and outdated libraries and lack of uniformity.
- Teachers' Union should cooperate for the elimination of this disease.

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