

INCIDENCES, METHODS AND CONSEQUENCES OF CHEATING IN EXAMINATIONS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE CHURACHANDPUR DISTRICT OF MANIPUR, INDIA

Jangkholum Mate

Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Churachandpur College, Manipur, India

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ABSTRACT

Cheating in exams is a worldwide phenomenon perpetuating at all levels of education - primary, secondary and tertiary levels. This has seriously consequences on the education system and students' life in their social and educational and psychological values. The study was designed to highlight certain facts related to Cheating in exams, i.e., the extent of incidences of such undesirable behavior - at the college level in the Churachandpur district in the state of Manipur, India. The study had also aimed to determine the various methods and forms of cheating adopted by the college students and the various consequences or action imposed upon on such undesired behavior of the students.

KEYWORDS: *Cheating in Exam, Methods of Cheating, College Student, Copying*

INTRODUCTION

Academic cheating may be defined as copying from another's test, copying during examinations, using crib notes, plagiarizing, copying laboratory experiments, dry-labbing, padding bibliographies, theft and stashing of library materials, stealing lecture notes, and falsifying transcripts and letters of recommendation. Nevertheless, the present study had focused on the investigation into the incidences, methods, and consequences of cheating during examination among the college students in the Churachandpur District of Manipur, India. Cheating is highly prevalent in the college examinations and spread across the whole world. Many studies have revealed this fact.

Studies have found out that majority of the student frequently-indulge in cheating during the examination (Madara & Namango, 2016; AL-Dossary 2017; Dömeová & Jindrová, 2013; Fendler, 2018; Dodeen, 2012). Studies also revealed that greater number of female students indulged in cheating during the examination than male students (Mokula & Lovemore, 2014) The various methods used by students to cheat during the examinations are leakages, impersonation, script swapping, taking unauthorized materials to the test, using devices – mobile by text messaging; some even admitted to snapping photographs of the exam with a camera phone, and forwarding it to their colleagues, browsing for answers in the internet and calculators, collusion, writing on parts of the body (hands, legs) or desks, writing on the clothes, helping another student to cheat, going out of test room to cheat, ordinary objects (use rubberband and miniaturized chits printing) (Madara & Namango, 2016; Dömeová & Jindrová, 2013; Mokula & Lovemore, 2014; Fendler, 2018; Dodeen, 2012; Shon, 2006). The consequences of cheating in an examination were suspension, disqualification, expulsion, counseling and nullification of results, imposing fines (Mokula & Lovemore, 2014; Rocha, et.

al., 2007; Taderera, et. al., 2014). Studies also revealed a higher frequency of possible cheating on a multiple choice exam (Fendler, 2018; Shon, 2006),

Churachandpur is one of the fast-growing districts, in terms of development, urbanization, and education, in Manipur which is located in the northeastern region of India. The district covers an area of 4,750 Sq. kilometers. Churachandpur is the most populous hill district of Manipur. It lies between 23° 55'N and 24° 30'N Latitudes and between 92° 59'E to 93° 50'E Longitudes and is situated at an elevation of 914.4 m above mean sea level. In 2011, Churachandpur had the population of 274,143 of which male and female were 138,820 and 135,323 respectively. The crude literacy rate is 84.29 per cent. Male and female literacy rates for the same census year are 88.34 per cent and 80.13 per cent respectively. Majority of the population belong to the Kuki-Chin-Mizo-Zomi tribes.

In Churachandpur district, there are 4 colleges which provide general education in the discipline of Arts and Science only. Out of the 4 colleges, 2 colleges are fully government funded and 2 are private managed institute. All the colleges are affiliated to the Manipur University, Canchipur, Imphal, Manipur, India.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study were;

- To find out the incidence or occurrence of cheating during the examination at the college level in the district of Churachandpur.
- To study the morality of college students toward cheating in exams in Churachandpur district
- To find out the gender susceptibility to cheating among the college students in the Churachandpur district.
- To identify the methods of cheating during the examination at the college level in the district of Churachandpur.
- To find out the consequences for cheating on college examination in the Churachandpur district.

METHODOLOGY

Universe of the Study

The universe of the Study covers all the colleges within the Churachandpur district of Manipur, India. The number of colleges in the district was 4 colleges. The total number of students in all the colleges during the period under investigation was 4351 where 2129 were female and 2222 were male.

Sample of the Study

The sample of the study included 284 out of 300 proposed, which was randomly selected from the students in all the college of the district.

Tool used and Data Collection

The tool used for data collection was self-developed questionnaire which contained items related respondent's personal profile, incidences, and methods of cheating in exams. The questionnaire was administered to 300 students from all the colleges in the district and 284 were returned and 16 were the refuse.

Data Analysis

After obtaining the responses from 284 respondents out of 300, as some respondents refuse to return the questionnaire, analysis of the data was undertaken as it was felt that the left out data would not affect the representativeness of the sample. Analysis of the data was determined by using tabulations, categorizations and graphs in MS-Excel program and the percentages were used as the basis for drawing inferences.

RESULTS

Incidence or Occurrence of Cheating During the Examination at the College Level in the District of Churachandpur

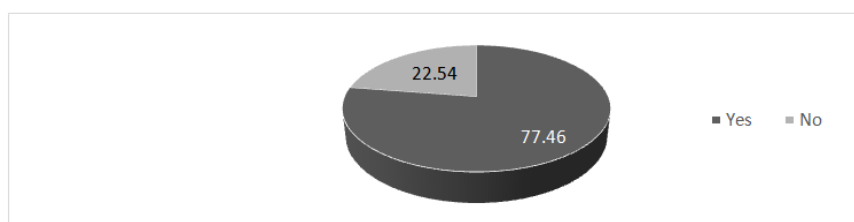


Figure 1: Percentage of Respondent who had indulged in Cheating in Exams

Analysis of the above figure revealed that the majority of the respondents (77.46%) had resorted to cheating during the semester examinations.

Inferences from Figure 1

Majority of the college students of Churachandpur district generally resort to cheating during exams.

Further, the following figures will reveal the occurrence of cheating in exams from various dimensions.

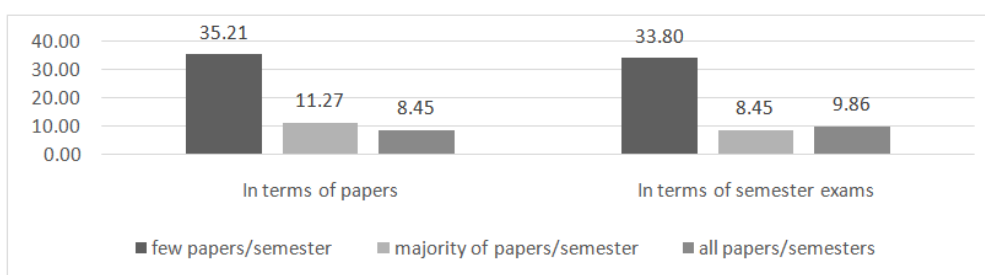


Figure 2: Frequency of the Respondents who had indulged in Cheating in the Exams

Analysis of the above figure revealed to what extent the respondents indulged in cheating during exams. It is interesting to note that 8.45% and 9.86% of respondents indulged in cheating in all the papers and in all the semester exams, respectively. 35.21% and 11.27% of respondents revealed that they resort to cheating in a few papers and majority of papers, respectively. 33.80% and 8.45% of respondents resorted to cheating in a few semesters and majority of semesters, respectively.

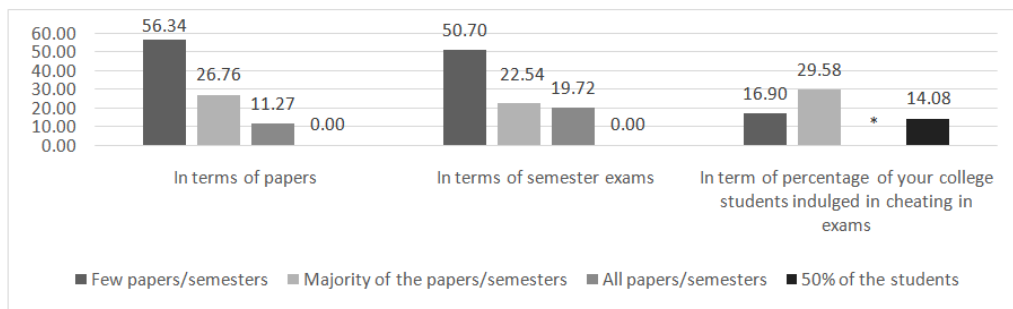


Figure 3: Frequency of the College Students Indulged in Cheating in the Exams

* All papers and semester option not applied/applicable.

Analysis of the above figure revealed how much cheating was prevalent during exams. 11.27% of students and 19.72% of students indulged in cheating in few papers and semesters, respectively, according to respondents. 56.34% of students, 50.70% of students and 16.90% of students indulged in cheating in the majority of papers and semesters, respectively, according to the respondents. 11.27% and 19.72% of students indulged in cheating in all papers and semesters, respectively, according to the respondents.

Inferences from Figure 2 & 3

The following inferences may be drawn by analyzing the above two figures.

- Majority of respondents (77.46%) admitted to cheat in the exams during their college-level examinations.
- Out of 10 students, 1 student resorted to cheating in all the papers and semester exams.
- Out of 10 students, 4-6 students resorted to cheating in a few papers and semester exams.
- Out of 10 students, 1 student resorted to cheating in the majority of papers and semester exams.

Morality of College Students on Cheating

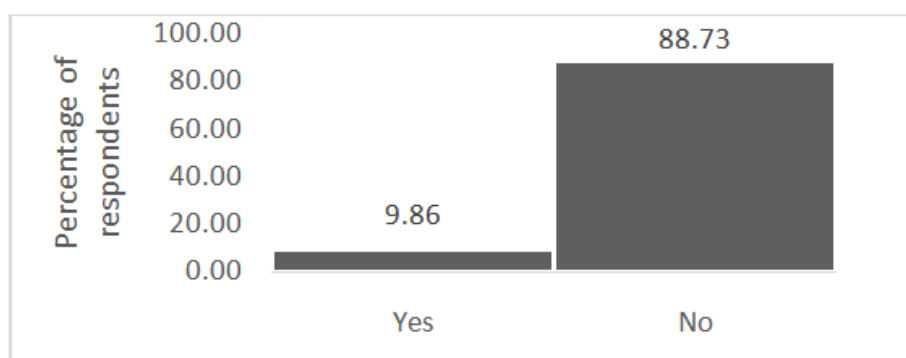


Figure 4: Percentage of Respondents who think Cheating in Exam is Moral Right

Analysis of the above figure revealed that a huge majority of the respondents (88.73%) felt that indulging in cheating during exams was morally wrong. Ironically, 9.86% of the respondents felt that it is proper to cheat in exams.

Inference

- 1 out of 10 students thought it is proper to cheat in the exams.
- Majority of the students resorted to cheating in the exams thought they felt it improper. Students; resorting to cheating in spite the feeling that it is immoral may be attributed to lack of motivation, laziness, lack of study materials, high rate of absenteeism, lack of suitable study atmosphere at home, parents’ indifference toward cheating, lack of proper invigilation, poor seating arrangement, lack of penalties or actions to cheaters, etc. Thus, a study is needed to investigate the motivating factors to cheating among the college students in Churachandpur district.

Gender Susceptibility to Cheating among the College Students in the Churachandpur District

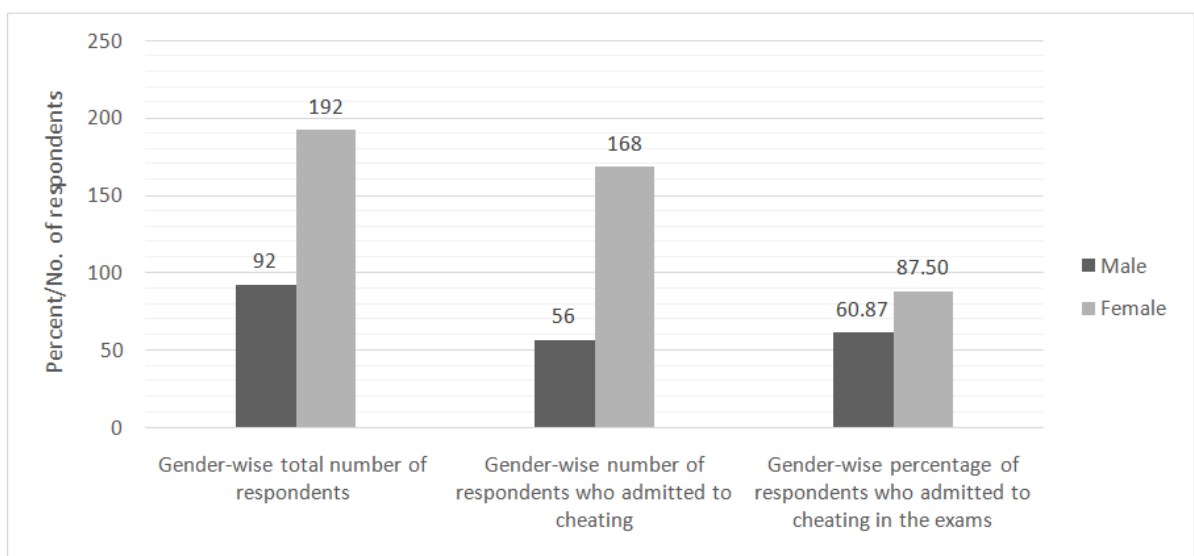


Figure 5: Gender-Wise Indulgence in Cheating in Exams

Analysis of the figure revealed that the majority of both genders of the respondents resort to cheating in exams 60.87% of male and 87.50% of female, respectively. Further, it was found out that more female students indulged in cheating in exams than male students. This may be attributed to the factors such as parents’ indifference towards girls’ education, leniency in frisking to female students, female students are less ambitious than male students, and so on so forth. Thus, further study in this area is suggested.

Inferences

- Female students are more susceptible to cheating in exams than males. In other words, the greater number of female students indulged in cheating than male students.

Methods of cheating in exams used by the college students in the district of Churachandpur:

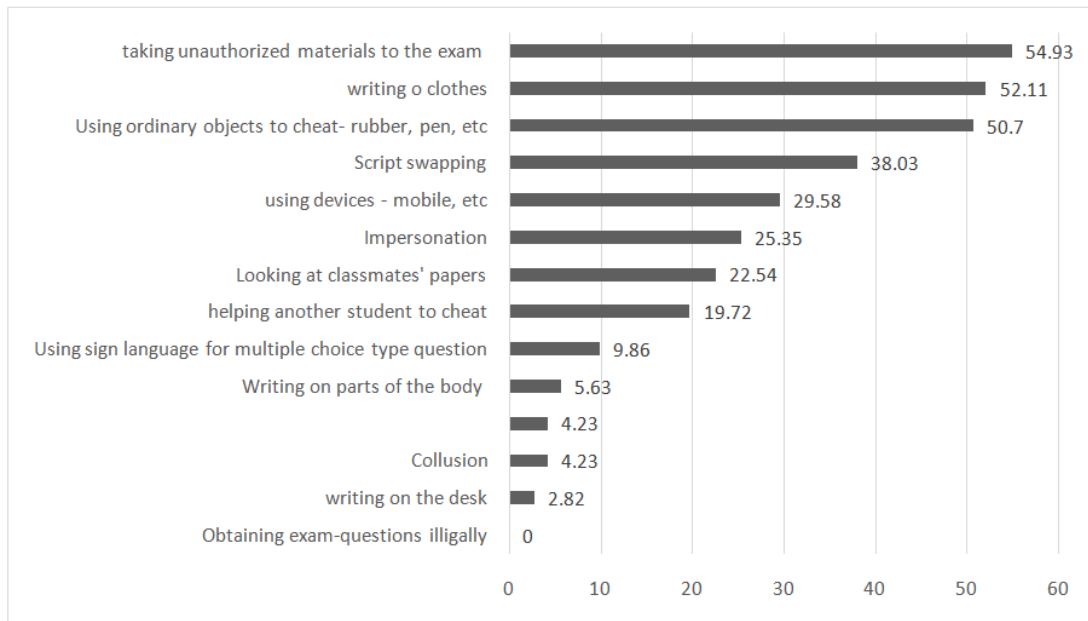


Figure 6: Various Methods of Cheating Used by Students

Analysis of the above figure clearly revealed the various methods of cheating adopted by the college students of the district under investigation in order of their usage percentage.

Inferences

- The most three popular methods of cheating adopted were the use of unauthorized materials to the exam – like a guidebook, miniaturized printed chits, and miniaturized handwritten chits; writing in clothes; and usage of ordinary objects.
- Other popular methods are script swapping; usages of devices- mobile; impersonation; looking at classmates papers and using sign language.
- Interestingly, 2 out of 10 students resorted to helping their classmates.
- The least popular methods were writing on parts of the body; storing lecture notes in the washroom/toilet/other places for use during the exam.
- Obtaining question papers beforehand apparently was not used by any students.
- Interestingly, the study revealed that students were able to smuggled unauthorized materials through the techniques like hiding it in their private areas, inside the shoes, and sneaking in through the fencing walls.

Consequences for Cheating On College Examination in the Churachandpur District

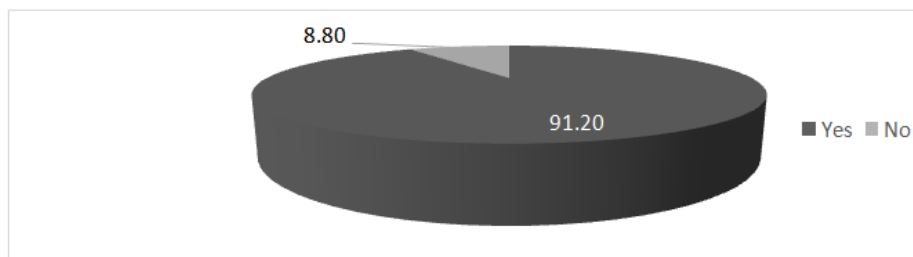


Figure 7: Action Taken Against the Cheaters

Analysis of the above figure clearly revealed that actions were taken against cheaters in the exam. 91.20% of respondents revealed the actions were usually taken against cheaters.

Table 1: Different forms of Actions Taken Againsts Cheaters in Exam by Different Authorities

Various forms of Actions Taken Against Cheaters in Exam by Different Authorities	University Flying Squad		Invigilators		Controller of Exam	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Suspension	33	11.62	0	0	0	0
Seize the materials used for cheating and allow examinees to continue with warning	0	0	163	57.39	0	0
Seize the materials used for cheating and do not allow examinees to continue	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0
Counselling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nullification of results	0	0	0	0	0	0
Imposing fines	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheating penalties	0	0	0	0	0	0
Publicize offender in college notice/newsletter/etc	0	0	0	0	0	0

Analysis of the above table vividly indicates that no strong action was taken against the cheaters in the exam by the authorities except the university flying squad whose severe action was just suspending the cheaters (revealed by 11.62% of respondents). 57.39% of the respondents revealed that the invigilators only action againsts cheaters were seizing of the materials used for cheating and allow examinees to continue with the warning. While no respondent revealed that any actions taken by the

Inferences

- No strong action was taken against cheaters in the exam which has the potential to demoralize cheaters or create fear towards cheating.
- The forms of actions taken against cheaters were suspension and seizing of the materials used for cheating and allow examinees to continue with the warning.

CONCLUSIONS

Cheating in college-level exams is quite rampant in the Churachandpur district of Manipur, India. Majority of students were involved in cheating during exams though they felt it was improper. This may be attributed to lack of motivation, laziness, lack of study materials, high rate of absenteeism, lack of suitable study atmosphere at home,

parents' indifference toward cheating, lack of proper invigilation, poor seating arrangement, the lack of penalties or actions to cheaters, etc. Thus, a study to investigate the motivating factors for cheating among the college students in Churachandpur district. It was also found that female students are more susceptible to cheating in exams than males. This may be attributed to the factors such as parents' indifference towards girls' education, leniency in frisking to female students, female students are less ambitious than male students, and so on so forth. Thus, further study in this area is suggested. Churachandpur district students resorted to cheating by using the different methods such as taking unauthorized materials to the exam – like the guidebook, miniaturized printed chits, and miniaturized hand written chits; writing in clothes; and usage of ordinary objects, script swapping; usages of devices- mobile; impersonation; looking at classmates papers and using sign language; writing on parts of the body; and storing lecture notes in the washroom/toilet/other places for use during exam. Out of these methods, the most popular ones were taking unauthorized materials to the exam – like guidebook, miniaturized printed chits, and miniaturized handwritten chits; writing in clothes; and usage of ordinary objects, script swapping; and usages of devices- mobile. Interestingly, the study revealed that students were able to smuggled unauthorized materials through the techniques like hiding it in their private areas, inside the shoes, and sneaking in through the fencing walls. Such widespread cheating among the college students was, perhaps, due to lack of fear which is the key to prevent cheating among them. Therefore, in order to prevent cheating among the college students in the exams a strong and variety of actions like – suspension, disqualification counseling nullification of results imposing fines, cheating penalties, and publicize offender in college notice/newsletter/etc., must be taken against cheaters corresponding to the ferocity of cheating in the exam.

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