

## **Primary School Teacher Candidates' Opinions On Cheating in Exams**

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### ***Abstract***

The purpose of this study is to examine opinions of primary school teachers candidates about what kinds of actions or activities are being considered as cheating. In this study, students are the cheating at the exams shapely need which they heard and their shapely cheating reason has been investigated. The research was conducted on senior students studying in Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Faculty of Education Primary School Teaching Programme. Out of a population of 194 students 179 were selected to constitute the sample. In the study a scale developed by the researcher has been used. Obtained data has been estimated statistically and necessary interpretation has been done. Results of the study indicated that 43% of the primary school teacher candidates had never attempted to cheat in the exams and that 35% of the cheaters thought that the questions had been tempting them to cheat.

**Keywords:** primary school teacher candidates, cheat, exam.

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## **Extended Summary**

### **Purpose**

21st century has been the century when the factors affecting human behaviors have changed substantially and therefore human behaviors diversified and the frequency of displaying negative behavior increased. Although cheating is a former example adapted in education and training environments of the situations such as “hitting the jackpot by a shortcut”, “achievement in easy way”, “disrespect to labor”, “sailing under false colours”, it has been done more frequently by technological support in our country like any other country in the world, and brings about dramatic results. The behaviors of "organized" or "individual" cheating which has reached unimaginable dimensions even in the exams conducted with the participation of millions of students all over the country by a central system in 2010 and 2011, once again revealed that the necessity to discuss the importance of the issue in terms of educators, to research it in terms of academicians, and to remake arrangements also in terms of managers.

The perception of a situation called as social corruption as normal or the evaluation of not cheating as abnormal by students, constituting an important part of the society, is indeed significant also sociologically as much as legally. Given that how much commands as “cut, copy, paste” even in computer environment facilitate human life, the fact that how much we are alienated from the practice of writing at the same time or we start to think the thoughts of others in other words there is an existence of someone thinking for us, should not be overlooked. Therefore, this study aims to reveal the views about the cheating case of primary school teacher candidates that have an important share in the first years of our children in formal education.

### **Method**

This survey is a descriptive survey and has been conducted by means of screening models. A valid and reliable scale developed by the researchers has been used to determine the views of students about their case of cheating in exams.

In this study, students are cheating at the exams shapely need which they heard and their shapely cheating reason has been investigated. The research was conducted on senior students studying in Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Faculty of Education Primary School Teaching Programme. Out of a population of 194 students 179 were selected to constitute the sample. In the study a scale developed by the researcher has been used.

### **Results**

Obtained data has been estimated statistically and necessary interpretation has been done. Results of the study indicated that 43% of the primary school teacher candidates had never attempted to cheat in the exams and that 35% of the cheaters thought that the questions had been tempting them to cheat.

Some of the results obtained as a result of the research are as follows:

- Male primary school teacher candidates have been the majority of cheaters,
- The students of evening education constitute the majority of cheaters,
- Approximately 61 % of the teacher candidates have been stated to have cheated at educational levels before university,
- 6th – 8th grades of primary school is the period when most students meet cheating,
- 42,5 % of the primary school teacher candidates have stated that they did never attempt to cheat in exams whereas approximately 1% of them have stated that they always attempted to cheat in exams,
- 35 % of the teacher candidates think that questions encourage cheating,
- Approximately two-thirds of the teacher candidates have determined to cheat more in classes of female instructors,
- Approximately three-quarters of the teacher candidates have determined to cheat more in classes of elder instructors,
- Approximately one-quarters of the teacher candidates have revealed to adopt the view that “A sign should be placed on his/her exam paper and the student should continue the exam.” when a student is caught cheating.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

According to Whitley (1998), the studies on cheating can be analyzed in two groups.

1. The studies that research the spread of cheating among students and determination of rates of cheating, and whether there is an increase in cheating by years, according to school levels.
2. The studies on the factors affecting cheating. These factors can be outlined as characteristics of students (demographic, academic ability, etc.), their attitudes towards cheating, personality characteristics and features of the exam environment (Transmitted by: Kaymakcan, 2002).

Cheating has become an important problem for the educational systems of all countries. The surveys on this issue are observed to increase since 1920s. There are surveys of Selçuk (1995), Kùlahçı (1996), Yeşilyaprak and Öztürk (1996), Dirik (1997), Yıldırım (1998), Oksal and Bilgin (1999), Tan (2001) Akdağ and Güneş (2002), Kaymakcan (2002), Semerci (2004), Semerci and Sağlam (2005), Çetin (2007), Özgüngör (2008), and Tayfun and Yazıcıoğlu (2008) about the issue in our country. Although the numbers of surveys conducted in our country are insufficient, the results of surveys show similarity with the results of surveys conducted at abroad, and revealed that the attitude of cheating is continuing in schools.

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