ANALYTICAL STUDY OF STUDENT CHEATING IN NATIONAL PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS IN KENYA

BY

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research project was to analyze factors contributing to student cheating in National Public Examinations in Kenya. The objectives of this study were; to determine the nature of cheating in National Public Examinations; to find out whether the syllabus was adequately covered; to establish the personal characteristics of those who cheat in examinations; to establish the situational factors that lead to cheating in schools; and to find out the possible solutions that can help stop cheating in National Examinations.

The population of the study was the students and teachers/invigilators from selected schools. The sample was drawn using stratified random sampling procedure from a population which was heterogeneous. The questionnaires were pre-tested to confirm clarity of the questions. The researcher used both primary and secondary data. A questionnaire with closed and open-ended questions was used to collect the data. The data was analysed using quantitative and qualitative techniques and presented using descriptions; tables and charts. Percentages have been used to interpret the data to give it more meaning.

From the study it can be concluded that there are some situational factors that may lead to cheating such as; teaching style, invigilator leaving the examinations room, the academic integrity of teachers, and peer pressure. Use of crib notes, copying from other students, taking unauthorized material to the exam room and inadequate syllabus coverage also contributed to examinations cheating.