

SYNOPSIS

CONTRACT CHEATING: A CONSIDERATION OF SOCIAL LEARNING, ORGANIZATIONAL CITIZENSHIP AND GLOBAL DIMENSIONS

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Abstract: The global epidemic of contract cheating in higher education remains cause for concern. In terms of academic integrity violation, contract cheating goes beyond plagiarism (the use of uncited work) to deliberate purchase of another's work to submit as one's own. Contract cheating is difficult to detect (text-matching services are often ineffective) or to prevent (efforts include severe penalties or required periodic updates on long papers). The negative consequences of "successful" contract cheating extend beyond the student, to the institution, and to the larger academic community.

Therefore it is appropriate to consider facets of Bandura's social cognitive theory as cause and/or consequence. Self-efficacy, the opinion of a person to succeed at a specific task, has been studied for relationship to contract cheating. Results have been contradictory. The scope of inquiry could be extended to the organization with an OCB (organizational citizenship behavior) perspective. The larger community may be examined with Hofstede's global cultural dimensions. There is some work on the relationship between cultural dimensions or OCB and self-efficacy, but none to date has included a study of contract cheating.

This paper presents a framework to examine contract cheating that includes Bandura's work, Hofstede's global cultural dimensions, and OCB concepts. Best practices for detection, remediation, and prevention of academic dishonesty are considered in the context of this framework.

Key words: contract cheating; Bandura; OCB; Hofstede

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