

Culture of academic integrity: Practices of HEIs in Pakistan

Muhammad Rafiq Awan & M. Sarwar Bajwa
University of Management and Technology, Pakistan

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Abstract:

Cheating has always been a deplorable phenomenon in academic culture and considering the gravity of situation, Pakistani Institutions of higher education, especially, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, have introduced drastic measures to ameliorate the culture of low academic integrity. Addressing the issues of academic integrity in Pakistan has become herculean task for the authorities concerned. Therefore, the objective of the study is to conduct an inquiry to find out the prevailing mind-set of research students (PhD and MS) and faculty involved for instilling the positive culture of academic integrity. The investigation will be launched through mixed method of research so that empirical and rational evidence may be produced. A survey based questionnaire will be distributed among the research students to find their perceptions and practices related to academic integrity and how the culture related to this may be promoted among the prime stakeholders of academia. The qualitative feedback of faculty will be collected through in-depth interviews. Thus the study would initially set out connections of the paradigm through acquiring the ideas from the primary sources. The study will also investigate that the culture of academic integrity is prevailing at individual levels or it has been fabricated in the institutional environment within and outside classroom. The findings will help the decision makers to comprehend the issues related to academic integrity on the real academic bases. This approach has been considered necessary because the true therapy cannot be suggested without knowing primary cause.

Keywords: Academic integrity, Pakistan, plagiarism, plagiarism practices.