

## **Sustainable Society 2020: Polytechnic Students Towards Examination Mal- practice**

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This research for a measure of students' achievement has led to the adoption of examination among other measures. Examination, therefore, is the series of questions asked in order to determine whether or not the students have mastered what they are supposed to know or acquire. Although, students' performance in examinations may not be the true reflection of their ability, however, it is the closest indicator of the extent of the students' achievement in a given skill. Hence, examination becomes a tool

we can adopt in determining the level of students' ability. We can therefore use examination to categorize students into high and

low ability. Those with high ability are given preference above those with low ability. Of course, those with low ability would want

the same preferential treatment and in the bid to demonstrate high ability, they go into all kinds of vices. One of such vices is examination malpractice. One educational problem that has been of more concern and which has generated very serious discussion-

among contemporary Nigerians is the issue of examination malpractices or misbehaviors. It constitutes one of the greatest problems confronting the school system and it is assuming dangerous proportions in our society.

There is a public outcry and deep concern by educators, parents, government functionaries and employers of labor over the consistent reports of examination malpractices in our secondary schools particularly in West African School Certificate Examination (WASCE) /National Examination Council (NECO) /National Business and Technical Examination Board (NABTEB)

conducted examinations, in the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) for admission into our Colleges of Education/

Technology and Universities conducted by Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) as well as internally and externally

conducted examinations. Ezekwesili lamented that the pervasive culture of examination malpractice impedes the realization of

character and learning in education which is the foundation for creating and sustaining a good society; nurturing the mind and

ability to compete globally. Examination malpractice is a cancer worm that has eaten deep into the fabric of academic development

in Nigeria and it cuts across all levels of education in the country. Adaramola argued that the problem has eaten deeply into the

fabric of our educational system and the assessment of curriculum objectives is loaded with bias. He further opined that things

have degenerated to the level that the validity and authenticity of certificates awarded in Nigerian institutions may be questionable to the outside world.

Examination malpractice is not a recent phenomenon or something peculiar to Nigeria or Africa alone but it is a global issue

· Examination malpractices have been in existence for very long time. Although, there seems not to be a consensus agreement

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on the first incidence of examination malpractice in public examination because while Okoye observed that it occurred in 1948, Famiwole claimed it occurred in 1945. Examination misbehaviours or malpractice has been defined variously by experts with more or less the same meaning. Eperokun posited that examination malpractices involve various methods employed by candidates to cheat before or during examination. Olumerovie defined examination malpractice as any examination not conducted in accordance with specified norms set up by the examining institution or body. Oluyeba and Daramola also asserted that examination malpractice is an irregular behaviour exhibited by a candidate or anybody charged with the conduct of examination before, during or after the examination which contravenes the rules and regulations governing the conduct of such examination. Olayinka defines examination malpractice as a misconduct or improper practice in any examination with a view to obtaining good results through such a fraudulent action. Ongom also described examination malpractice as a wrongdoing in an examination which involves misconduct, irregularity as a situation which is contrary to the established rules and directives to be followed in order to affect fair conduct of examination. He further opined that misconduct is an improper behaviour by candidates with or around the examination hall and dishonesty as an unfair practice devised with intention to cheat in examinations. Similarly, World Bank Education Website defines examination malpractice as a deliberate act of wrongdoing contrary to the official examination rules and is aimed at placing a candidate at an unfair advantage or disadvantage. Fatai also described examination malpractices as wrongdoings in an examination, which involve misconduct and irregularity contrary to the established rules and directives or regulations guiding the fair conduct of both internal and external examinations. It is a deliberate act of wrongdoing, contrary to official rules, and is designed to place a candidate at an unfair advantage or disadvantage. It is a careless, illegal or unacceptable behavior by a candidate in a formal test of his knowledge or ability and integrity of an examination. Examination malpractice as used by Nwahunanya is the act of omission or commission intended to make a student pass examination without relying absolutely on his/her independent ability or resources. Nwana, while discussing aberrations on the Nigerian educational system stated that examination malpractice as the massive and unprecedented abuse of rules and regulations pertaining to internal and public examinations, beginning from the setting of such examination through the taking of the examinations, their marking and grading, to the release of the results and the issuance of certificates. Odonogbo says that examination malpractice refers to an act of wrongdoing carried out by a candidate or group of candidates or any other person with the intention to cheat & gain unfair advantage in an examination. Awanbor, opines that examination malpractice is the application of unusual means to obtain a score or set of scores that is normally beyond the mental capability or the state of preparedness of a candidate for that examination. Viewing examination malpractice from both legal and moral perspectives, Salami defined examination malpractice as an improper and dishonest act associated with examination with a view to obtain

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an unmerited advantage while Adaramola sees the issue in an operational term as “any situation that offers an examinee undue advantage over others in an examination”.

## CONCLUSION

Examination malpractice is a contagious and cancerous virus that has spread throughout the nooks and crannies of the society and has eaten deeply into the fabrics of the entire nation. All stakeholders- government, school authorities, parents, guardians, students/pupils, and the public have all contributed in one form or the other to the menace and malaise. Nothing short of a holistic approach - cleansing the society and the whole educational system will solve the problem. The task requires urgent attention in order to redeem our totally tarnished or battered image locally, nationally and internationally. If our country will emerge as a first class world power and breakthrough technologically, all examination leakages and other dishonest practices must be done away with because no nation can rise above or beyond her education level.

The respondents affirm that there is prevalence of examination malpractices before, during and after examination in our educational institutions. However, it can be concluded that there is no significant difference in the mean perception between male and female students as well as between ND and HND students of the existence of examination malpractice in the polytechnics.

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