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Research Article

ACADEMIC CHEATING AMONG NURSING STUDENTSFaira Ali¹, Mamoona Safdar², Irtaza Fatima³¹Tehsil Headquarter Haroonabad, ²Bhu Khairy Wala, ³Nishter Hospital Multan.**Article Received:** November 2019 **Accepted:** December 2019 **Published:** January 2020**Abstract:**

Academic dishonesty, academic misconduct, academic fraud and academic integrity are related concepts that refer to various actions on the part of students that go against the expected norms of a school, university or other learning institution. A total of 88 female nursing students from different classes were included in this study. A predefined questionnaire was served, and responses were collected after two days. Data was entered and analyzed in SPSS Ver. 25.0. The mean age of students was 23.23±2.12 years. Twenty-two students from each class first year to fourth year were included. There is seen high prevalence of academic cheating in nursing students.

Keyword: *Academic cheating, nursing students.***Corresponding author:****Faira Ali,**
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INTRODUCTION:

Academic dishonesty, academic misconduct, academic fraud and academic integrity are related concepts that refer to various actions on the part of students that go against the expected norms of a school, university or other learning institution. Definitions of academic misconduct are usually outlined in institutional policies. Academic dishonesty has been documented in every type of educational setting from elementary school to graduate school. Throughout history this type of dishonesty has been met with varying degrees of penalties [1, 2].

Student cheating on college campuses is believed to be a common occurrence, but academic dishonesty among nursing students is a source of legitimate concern to nursing faculty members because of its potential effect on present and future professional practice. Strategies are outlined that can promote academic honesty in the nursing program through moral and character development of nursing students, teaching moral decision-making skills, role modeling of honest academic behavior, and developing and enforcing an appropriate academic integrity policy [3, 4].

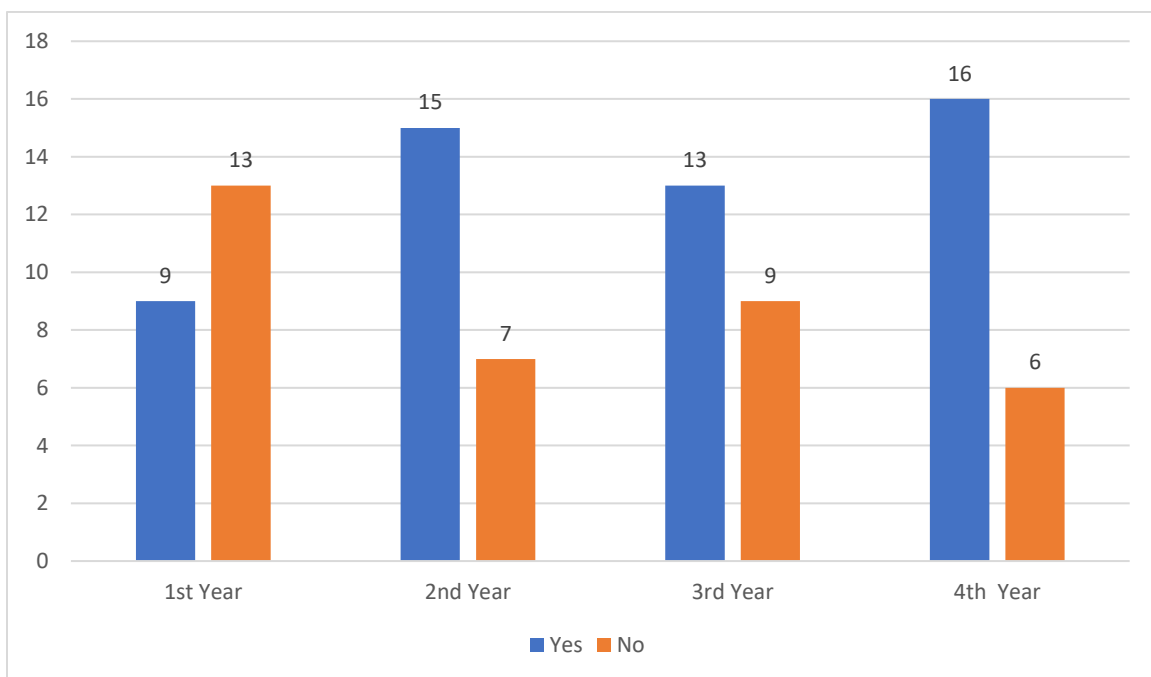
Academic dishonesty includes the misrepresentation of knowledge, of work produced, or of skills performed as authentic by the student in an educational setting. For the purpose of this study, academic dishonesty is defined as the “intentional participation in deceptive practices regarding one’s academic work or the work of another” [5, 6]. The purpose of this study is to explore the trends of academic cheating among the nursing students.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

A total of 88 female nursing students from different classes were included in this study. A predefined questionnaire was served, and responses were collected after two days. Data was entered and analyzed in SPSS Ver. 25.0. The qualitative variables were presented as frequency and percentages. The quantitative variables were presented as mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS:

The mean age of students was 23.23 ± 2.12 years. Twenty-two students from each class first year to fourth year were included. Distribution of student responses that they cheat during their assignment and examination is presented in a graph:

**DISCUSSION:**

Academic integrity is described as the prevalence of honesty in all academic matters. Violation of academic integrity - in other words, academic dishonesty - commonly manifests as cheating in examinations

and/or committing plagiarism and forgery, resulting in the student not acquiring the expected knowledge. Therefore, in order to explore the status of academic integrity, the extent of academic dishonesty needed to be established. Academic integrity is an undisputed

ethical imperative in the educational environment [7, 8].

However, it is well-established in the literature that, generally, academic dishonesty is a growing problem at academic institutions all over the world. According to Searle, nursing is deemed a highly ethical profession and relies on the moral integrity of individual practitioners to provide safe nursing care. Some researchers expected that academic dishonesty would be less common amongst nursing students and this was initially confirmed by Hilbert, who found that incidents of academic dishonesty occurred less frequently amongst nursing students compared to the general student body [1, 3, 9].

However, later studies established that academic dishonesty was also a common occurrence amongst nursing students. The importance of these findings for nursing lies in the potential for unethical classroom behavior to be transmitted to clinical practice, causing a threat to the safety and well-being of patients. Researchers identified existence of a positive correlation between unethical academic practices and future professional unethical behavior [2, 5, 7].

CONCLUSION:

There is seen high prevalence of academic cheating in nursing students.

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