A Study on Academic Cheating Behaviors and Its Causes in Elementary School Students

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to give a general description of the academic cheating behaviors of elementary students in Taiwan and to propose an explanation. 864 elementary students throughout Taiwan were selected through a stratified random selection. Statistical analysis is conducted and suggestions for further studies and related educational practices are drawn based on the findings.

The major findings are as follows: 1. The rate of academic cheating behaviors among elementary students in Taiwan is 48.3%. 2. Six kinds of cheating patterns were found in this study among students who cheat. 3. Males tend to have a higher academic cheating frequency than females. 4. Sixth grade students tend to have a higher academic cheating frequency than fifth grade and fourth grade students. 5. Academic cheating behaviors are positively correlated with parental expectations, classroom performance goal and academic cheating attitudes; academic cheating behaviors are negatively correlated with teachers' guidance, academic self-efficacy and classroom mastery goal. 6. The results of Logistic regression show that academic cheating attitudes, grade, academic self-efficacy, competition of peers and teachers' guidance can predict academic cheating behaviors, and the regression model can correctly classify 71.9% of the subjects studied in the project.

Keywords : effect of significant others ; academic self-efficacy ; classroom goal structure ; academic cheating attitudes ; academic cheating behaviors

Table of Contents

中文摘要................................................iii 英文摘要................................................iv 許謝辭..................................................v 內容目錄................................................vi 表目錄..................................................viii 圖目錄..................................................xi 第一章緒論..........................................1   第一節 研究動機與目的............................1   第二節 研究問題..................................8   第三節 名詞解釋與研究限制........................8 第二章文獻探討......................................13   第一節 作弊行為之意涵、概況及影響因素............13   第二節 作弊行為與重要他人之相關研究..............21   第三節 作弊行為與教室目標結構之相關研究..........24   第四節 作弊行為與學業自我效能之相關研究..........29   第五節 作弊行為與考試違規態度之相關研究..........31   第六節 作弊行為與背景變項之相關研究..............33 第三章研究方法......................................36   第一節 研究架構與研究假設........................36   第二節 研究對象..................................38   第三節 研究工具..................................41   第四節 研究程序..................................63 第四章研究結果與討論................................66   第一節 國小學童作弊行為及其因素之常態檢定........66   第二節 國小學童作弊行為、因素之分析..............68   第三節 作弊行為與背景變項的關係..................83   第四節 國小學童之內在因素及外在因素與作弊行為之關係..................................96   第五節 國小學童背景因素、內在因素及外在因素對作弊行為的預測............................99 第五章結論、討論與建議..............................103   第一節 結論與討論................................103   第二節 研究建議..................................112 參考文獻................................................122 附錄研究問卷........................................142

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