Sound Moral Values and Development of Right Attitudes as a Panacea to Examination Malpractice in Nigeria

Emperor Kpangban*, O. P. Ajaja** and Sylvester E. Umudhe

Department of Science Education, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria
E-mail:*<emkpangban@yahoo.com>, **< osawaruajaja@yahoo.com

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ABSTRACT The major purpose of this study was to find out the students perceived causes, effects and remedies to examination malpractice in the tertiary institutions in Delta State, Nigeria by applying the principles of sound moral values and development of right attitudes. To guide this study, five research questions were raised and answered. The instruments used include; one student questionnaire and an administrative staff questionnaire. The sample of study consists of 350 students drawn from 3 campuses of the State University, three State owned Colleges of Education and three State owned Polytechnics and 7 administrative staffs drawn from the institutions from where the students were sampled. The following are the major findings of the study: (i) the incidence of examination malpractices increased in all the institutions over years, (ii) students identified 8 main causes of examination malpractices with crave for paper qualification top in the list, (iii) students identified five main effects of examination malpractices with all the students agreeing that inability to defend certificates and reduction in quality and standard of education as the most serious ones; (iv) students recommended 8 remedies to examination malpractices and of the 8, 7 were hinged on the teachers calling them to be alive to their responsibilities, and (v) all the institutions studied have robust measures aimed at reducing the incidence of examination malpractices. It is mainly concluded that the incidence of examination malpractices in all the institutions is on the increase because of the ineffectiveness of the measures put in place and so the adoption of sound moral values in tackling the problem is therefore advocated.