INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT IN HIGH SCHOOLS: PAVING A WAY TO MISCONDUCT?

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9-11 MAY 2018 EPHESUS, TURKEY
• Sociologist in academic ethics since 2015
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• Chair of Working Group for Academic Integrity and Ethics under Lithuanian University Rectors’ Conference
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• Publications on integrity management (namely research integrity)
RESEARCH RELEVANCE
LITERATURE REVIEW

TEACHING STAFF

• Although teachers have understanding about dishonest behaviour and its types, they potentially underestimate the scale of integrity issues in high school (Evans & Craig, 1990; Crawshaw, 2015)

• Deficiencies in pedagogy and insufficient competences related to latest technologies may lead to tolerance (neutralization) of dishonest student behavior (Murdock et al., 2004; Sisti, 2007; Högberg, 2011)

MANAGERIAL STAFF

• School administration is one of the stakeholders of integrity management (Dickerson, 2007) that forms teacher’s role and professional prestige (Schab, 1991), HOWEVER administration does not position itself in a such role

• There is a need for clarity on school policy regarding bad practices while targeting the whole school community (McCabe et al., 2001; Sisti, 2007; Lai & Weeks, 2009; Williamson & McGregor, 2011)
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

DATA COLLECTION

• Public gymnasiums located in Vilnius city (N=32)

• Publicly available policy documents (N=136)
  • Statutes
  • Attendance regulations
  • Regulations on evaluation of progress and achievements
  • Rules of students’ conduct
  • Regulations on bullying prevention and intervention
  • Rules for papers and other projects
  • ...

DATA ANALYSIS

• Qualitative content analysis

• Documents analysed
  • Regulations on evaluation of progress and achievements
  • Rules of students’ conduct (including codes of ethics and rules of internal order)
  • Rules for papers and other projects
  • Library rules (including rules on the use of computers and the internet)
RULES OF STUDENTS’ CONDUCT

• Ethical behaviour is associated with being intolerant towards immoral behaviour, behaving fairly and ethically, learning and completing assignments honestly and on time. Gymnasiums link unethical behaviour to the use of bad language, gambling, public exposure of close relationships, gum chewing, fighting and so on.

• School students are forbidden unauthorised use of mobile phones (including the calculator function), earphones, players and other technologies during classes; HOWEVER, usually this restraint is outlined without any specification on what it aims to.

• Documents mention clauses related to personal data protection; HOWEVER gymnasiums do not clearly state restraint to plagiarise, crib or cheat in other ways.
### REGULATIONS ON EVALUATION OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of malpractices</th>
<th>N of gymnasiums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overdue repeated assignment (e.g. test)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unreasoned absence on test</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of unacceptable help or means during tests</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cribbing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overdue submission of a paper</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plagiarised paper</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishonestly completed assignment</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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</table>
RULES FOR PAPERS AND OTHER PROJECTS

• One third of gymnasiums have such rules approved; HOWEVER they lack coherence, e.g. some rules require providing a list of sources, but citation is not considered; or it is specified that in-text citation of pictures is compulsory whereas the same is not required for general in-text citation.

• Requirements are not directly linked to assessment criteria.

LIBRARY RULES

• Libraries provide consultation regarding the search of literature needed; HOWEVER little attention is paid on how to properly use sources in terms of intellectual property rights.

• Rules of libraries mostly refer to potential losses caused by school students using printed materials or devices.

• Restraints in relation to the use of ICT: it is forbidden to install any software, use computers for gaming, watch movies, navigate on sites that induce negative effects, distribute viruses, hack, stimulate violence, etc.
DISCUSSION

• The structure of gymnasium websites is quite clear; however, no gymnasium has a separate section on integrity, and only single clauses mention how gymnasiums cope with integrity issues.

• School rules and regulations explicitly refer to legal liability regarding fighting, use of drugs or other psychotropic substances, but they do not refer to criminal liability imposed for misappropriation of authorship, or administrative liability imposed for contract cheating.
DISCUSSION

• The lack of (effective) integrity management inclines to dishonest behaviour in gymnasiums. As a rule, plagiarism and cribbing are matters between teacher and student, without the involvement of managerial staff.

• Solutions when ethical infringements occur differ between universities and high schools; however, endeavors for taking an educational approach are highly limited at both organizational settings. An educational approach ought to be continuous from high school to university.
CONCLUSIONS

• A position on integrity management is under development in Vilnius city gymnasiums
  • There is no clear division of responsibilities between members of school community, especially between administrative staff, teachers and students
  • There is no coherence in prevention and intervention of dishonest behaviour

• The lack of consistency in integrity management paves the way to malpractices in gymnasiums that, consequently, transcend to the university setting
Integrity Management in High Schools: Paving a Way to Misconduct?

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(under peer review)
THANK YOU!
ANY QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

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REFERENCES


