

AMORAL CRIMINALS - A BEHAVIORAL GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

In educational institutions we often face amoral conduct from the students during examination situation. What are the factors responsible for such behavior has been studied with the base of behavioral approach by through inductive reasoning collecting data from different educational institutions. Intention of this research work is to suggest the ways to tackle the problem of cultural as well as moral degradation within our society.

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the study lets consider, the use of unfair means during exam is a criminal activity or not. In this purpose first we have to decide what is crime? In legal terms crime is that it is behavior or an activity in violation of the legal code. On the other hand the social the social definition of crime is that it is behavior or an activity that offends the social code of a particular community. It may be pointed out that if examinee holds for using unfair means during exam a case of cheating and criminal conspiracy under section 420, 120-B of the IPC normally lodge by the police. So, legally malpractice during exam is a criminal activity. Behavioral geography specially deals with the spatial behavior and relation in spatial platform. On the matter of malpractice during exam it is consider as an offence as it loose the spirit of hard work and value of success and destroy spatial pattern.

THE STUDY AREA

The study conducted on over 5 general degree colleges of Asansol city and within the periphery of 30 km from the city core with special focus in about cheating nature among the pupils during the college level exam. Asansol is a growing metropolitan city of India located in Burdwan district of west Bengal state with coordinates 23° 40' 48" N, 86° 59' 24" E. The metropolitan city has area 127.3 sq km with population 1,243,008 with 84.82 percent literacy rate according to 2011 census report of India. The general degree colleges within the periphery of 30 km of Asansol city are BB college, BC college, Asansol

girls college, kulti college, Desbandhu chittaranjan college, kaji Najrul Islam Mahavidyalaya and Panchakoat Mahavidyalaya (though it situated in purulia district). Name of the 5 colleges is not possible to mention due to research ethic of keep privacy in sensitive matter as promised by the author during his observation.

DATABASE & METHODOLOGY

For this observation primary data base was prepared from 240 personal interviews and several group discussions. Students are randomly selected from the institutions and to reduce the error in sensitive matter several group discussions were conducted. This survey was not pursued under any official permission or official visit; social sources were relevant in this regard.

OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION

After the study following facts are come in front

- i. Age of the students is within 17 to 20 year.
- ii. Most of the students are from middle and lower middle class family.
- iii. 34 percent students have A or above A grade while remain possess B to B⁺ grade.
- iv. 36 percent willing to carry cheat copy with them while remain are not hesitated to take help of invigilator (if they wish to do so) and help from friends during exam.
- v. Most students not consider taking helps as amoral behavior to secure marks only 0.07 percent think it is amoral.

It is very significant that unfair means during exam has a cultural base rather than the merit base. The students who have secured more than 60 percent marks many times select unfair means. To assess the causes of such type of nature among the students several group discussion were organized. Following results are obtained from the observation

- i. Environment is a great factor behind amoral criminality (Amoral criminal- Those who have somehow failed to internalize and fully accept the moral principles of their socially-oriented families and subculture) .Environment or associate condition during the exam is very vital in this regard.
- ii. Socio cultural environment from where student come also very vital. Human being cultured with the passage of time and school environment play an important role to shape the morality. It is observed that those students use cheat copy in exam were developed their skill in school level.

- iii. Abnormal family indicates the family where we observe lack of morality or ethical conduct, which also called family environment. Those students are belonging to abnormal family are more prone to unfair means in exam.
- iv. Contextual environment as cited by Porteous (a behavioral geographer 1977) like Friend circle, peer group relation, imitating nature among the youth, social rush to secure more marks are few more factors responsible for this kind of behavior.

Though personal traits or ethical values are significant but these are also shaped by the surrounded environment.

SUGGESTION

Emergence of Amoral criminals is a serious problem of our society. The student today practice unfair means in exam in academic life tomorrow he or she pursues the same in national/ state level competitive exam. There are several examples where accused student spoiled their life in punitive form due to malpractice in competitive exam and academic exam also. Some times such back grounds lead the group of anti-socials. Can this observation suggest some remedy in this regard? It is hard nut to crack but it is noteworthy that solution lies in the cause of problem. Family and School environment both are play very vital role to shape the moral nature of student in primary stage. In higher education institutions students are almost mature about their thought and work. But their still have to do something. First, counseling, organize seminars and work shop to cultivate and enforce moral values. Need to inject the knowledge of particular subject within the students in such a manner that that leads the inner creativity and interest of students. Secondly, punitive measures, educational administrators should have to be strong to prevent malpractice during exam. We must have to remember that mercy some times lead the weakness and a wrong justice for laborious students.

CONCLUSION

Some times we ignore that matter of malpractice in exam and the environment which can gradually makes changes in social forms. Here a verdict “Director (Studies) & Ors. vs Vaibhav Singh Chauhan on 4 November, 2008” of supreme court of India can be cited where a Bench comprising Justices Altamas Kabir and Markandey Katju said that “If our country is to progress, we must maintain high educational standards, and this is only possible if malpractices in examinations are curbed with an iron hand.” At the eve of 26th January 2013

President of India mentioned in his speech that “ it is the time to set our moral compass”. In rapid passage of time we really unknown what we are doing and where we are going. Behavioral geography has opened new dimensions of discussion about such kinds of human behavior but still we have to do something may it is the need to create a dimension of crime geography.

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