

To Identify Measures that Can be Adopted to Curb the Menace of Malpractices in Examinations as Perceived by (i) Senior Secondary School Students; (ii) Senior Secondary School Teachers; and (iii) Community Members

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ABSTRACT

It may be said that adequate procedure is adopted by Board of School Education, Himachal Pradesh to curb malpractices in examinations by high and senior secondary school students at school and board examinations stage. Further, the given procedure is quite descriptive and provides clear guidelines with respect to curbing the malpractices in examinations to all the stakeholders. Thus the assumption that “The Board of School Education, Himachal Pradesh takes adequate steps to curb malpractices in examinations by high and senior secondary school students at school and board examinations stage” holds true.

1. INTRODUCTION

According to Himachal Board of School Education, Examination Regulations (2017), Chapter 9, the procedure to curb the use of unfair means are given below:

1.1 Appointment of Flying Squads

The Chairman or any officer authorised by him may constitute such number of Flying Squads consisting of such persons as he may deem fit or/and appoint Inspector of examination for all or any centres for particular dates to check the menace of copying during examination. The Flying Squads may be provided such facilities and vested with such powers as, in the opinion of the Chairman, are necessary to make them effective in the field.

1.2 Dereliction of Duty

If during the conduct of examination, it is found that any Centre Co-ordinator, Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Invigilator, Assistant Superintendent (Clerk), a person on the flying Squad, Inspector of examination or any other person assigned any duty concerning the conduct of examination is neglecting his duty or misusing his position or indulging directly or indirectly in using or promoting or abetting the use of unfair practices detrimental to the smooth and fair conduct of examination, he may be immediately relieved of his duty by the competent authority. The Chairman, after satisfying himself that any person assigned any duty in connection with conduct of examination has not discharged the same to the satisfaction of the Board, or has misused his position or has engaged himself directly or indirectly in using or promoting or abetting the use of unfair practices detrimental to the smooth and fair conduct of examination, may impose any or all of the following penalties on him:

1. Forfeit the whole or part of the remuneration due to him.
2. Disqualify him for specified period or permanently from assigning any duty of the Board.
3. Recommend disciplinary action against him through the departmental agency.
4. Initiate legal action against him.

1.3 U.M.C. Committee

One or more UMC Committees shall be constituted to deal with cases of alleged miss-conduct and use of unfair means in connection with examinations annually. (Amended vide 94th Board's Meeting under Item No. 5 on Dated

29.07.2009) For the purpose of constituting U.M.C Committees the Board shall approve a panel 30 officers serving or retired having adequate experience in the field of education, administration or judiciary. The Secretary shall be ex-officio member on the panel.

The U.M.C. Committee shall consist of a minimum of three officers from the approved panel. The Committee will be constituted by the Secretary and he shall also convene its meetings. If the committee is unanimous, its decision shall be final. If the committee is not unanimous, the matter shall be referred to the Chairman whose decision in the matter shall be final. If a candidate brings to the notice of the Chairman in writing certain facts within 30 days of the decision made by the UMC Committee and the Chairman feels that had those facts been brought before the committee, the same might have resulted into a decision other than the one arrived at by the committee. The Chairman may order that the case be brought before the UMC committee again. UMC Committee shall then re-consider the case. The unanimous decision of the committee shall be final but in the event of any difference of opinion, the case shall be referred to the Chairman whose decision in the matter shall be final. If owing to special circumstances of a case, the UMC committee feels that a lenient view of the case is called for, the committee may so decide the case with the prior approval of the Chairman. (Remuneration increased in 103th Board Meeting under Item No. 16 on dated 02.07.2014) All the members of the panel except the Secretary shall be entitled for a remuneration at the rate of Rs. 500/- per day or as prescribed by the Board from time to time for each day on which the UMC Committee meets, besides TA/DA to the members coming from outside Dharamsala shall be paid as per TA/DA rules as prescribed by the Govt. of H.P.

1.4 Unfairmeans Cases & Penalties Therefore

If during an examination, a candidate is found having in his possession or accessible to him papers, books or notes due to inadvertence but which papers, books or notes should be of assistance to him, he may be debarred from passing in that paper as a disciplinary measure. (Amended vide 100th Board's Meeting under item No.23,(2) on dated 20-6-2012) If during an examination, a candidate is found having in his possession papers, books or notes or clothes worn by him or any part of his body or table or desk or is found in possession of foot rule and/ or instruments like setsquare, protectors, slide rules, etc. with notes on them and which notes, papers or books or the material written on foot-rules or instruments etc., is helpful to him during the examination, and if his possession of such material is found to be mollified he may be disqualified from appearing in any Board examination up to two years, including that in which he is found guilty. If during an examination, a candidate is found talking to another candidate or any person inside or outside the examination hall, during the examination hours, without the permission of a member of supervisory staff, before he has handed over his answer book, his answer book for that particular paper maybe cancelled. If the answer book of an examinee shows or if it is otherwise established that he has received or attempted to receive help from or given help or attempted to give help to another candidate, he may be disqualified from appearing in the examination in which he is found guilty.

If during an examination, a candidate is found having copied or indulging in copying from any paper or notes or if he has allowed or is found allowing any other candidate to copy any matter from his answer book or to have in any manner rendered any assistance to another candidate in solving a question or a part of question set in the question paper, he may be disqualified for a period up to two years, including that in which he is found guilty. If a candidate during an examination of the Board is found swallowing or attempting to swallow a note or paper runs away with it or is guilty of causing disappearance or destroying any such material, he may be disqualified from appearing in any Board examination for a period up to two years including that in which he is found guilty. If a candidate during an examination of the Board is found consulting books, note books or papers or any other matter found with him while outside the examination hall but during the examination hours and before he has hand delver his answer book to the Superintendent or any other member of the supervisory staff, he may be disqualified from appearing in any Board examination for a period up to two years including that in which he is found guilty. If a candidate who during the course of the examination writes either on blotting paper, or any other piece of paper, a question set in the paper or anything connected with or relating to a question set in the paper or solution thereof, his examination in that paper may be cancelled. If a candidate is found guilty of passing on or attempting to pass on during the examination, a copy of a question set in the paper or the question paper itself or a part thereof or a solution of a question set in the question paper ,to anyone, his examination in that paper may be cancelled.

A candidate found guilty of possession of a solution to a question set in the paper through connivance of any member of a supervisory or menial staff or some outside agency may be disqualified from appearing in any Board examination for a period up to two years and /or shall also be liable to such other punishment as the U.M.C Committee may decide. A candidate found guilty of having made previous arrangements to obtain help in connection with the question paper may be disqualified from appearing in any Board Examination for a period up to two years. The person with whom previous arrangement has been made by the candidate may also be disqualified from appearing in any Board examination for a period up to two years and /or also be liable to such other punishment as may be decided by

the U.M.C Committee. A candidate found guilty of smuggling in an answer book or a continuation sheet or taking out or arranging to send out an answer book or continuation sheet, during or after the examination with or without the help or connivance of any person connected with the examination centre or of any agency within or outside examination centre, may be disqualified from appearing in any Board Examination for a period up to three years. He shall also be liable to such other punishment as may be decided by the U.M.C Committee/Chairman. A person found guilty of having written outside the examination hall, an answer book or a continuation sheet for a candidate which the latter smuggled into the examination hall or of having managed otherwise to replace the answer book of the candidate after the examination may be disqualified from appearing in any Board examination for a period up to three years and /or shall also be liable to such other punishment as may be decided by the U.M.C. Committee. A candidate found guilty of serious misconduct in the examination hall or misbehaviour towards the Superintendent or any member of the supervisory staff outside the examination hall may be disqualified from appearing in Board examination for a period up to three years according to the nature of his misconduct.

If a candidate is found guilty of using abusive or obscene language in the answer book his examination in that paper may be cancelled. (Amended vide 99th Board's Meeting under Item No. 12(1) on Dated 08.01.2012) Any person who impersonates a candidate may be disqualified from appearing in any Board Examination for a period up to three years if that person is a student on the rolls of an affiliated/recognised school. If that person is not on the rolls of an affiliated /recognised school, he may be declared as not a fit and proper person to be admitted to any future examination of the Board and the case, if necessary, may be reported to the Police. The candidate for whom impersonation was attempted may also be disqualified from appearing at any examination of the Board for a period up to three years. A person who commits an offence under Regulation 10.2.16, but is not a candidate for any Board examination may be dealt with as under:

- (i) The Chairman may, if he so desires, handover the case to the Police.
- (ii) In the case of a teacher or a person connected with an institution, his conduct shall be reported to the Managing Body of the institution and he shall be debarred from any remunerative job in the Board.

A candidate obtaining admission to the examination on a false representation made by him in his application form may be disqualified as under:

- (i) A candidate for any examination who is discovered before the commencement of the examination, to have made a miss-statement in his admission form, regarding the name of the institution in which that candidate is studying on the date on which he had left that institution may be declared ineligible to appear in the examination.
- (ii) If the false representation relates to a previous examination not actually passed by the candidate, he may be disqualified from appearing in any examination of the Board for a period, which may extend to 3 years as the Chairman may determine in each case.
- (iii) If the false representation pertains to his eligibility to appear in the examination as a private candidate or any other matter not covered by, (ii) above, he may be disqualified from appearing at any examination of the Board for a period up to two years as the Chairman may determine in each case.
- (iv) If it is found that a candidate or his guardian or parent has deliberately given a wrong date of birth in the admission application form, or in the affidavit accompanying the form, the Chairman shall have the power to declare the candidate ineligible to appear in the examination or if the fact is found after the candidate has appeared in the examination, to cancel his examination.

A candidate forging another person's signature on his admission form or using a forged document knowing it to be forged and with a view to seeking admission may be disqualified by the Chairman from appearing at the examination of the Board. If a candidate for an examination in Science or some other subject, presents to the examiner a practical or class work note book which does not belong to him, his examination of that year may be cancelled. If a candidate leaves the examination hall without delivering the answer book to the supervisor concerned and takes away the same with him or intentionally tears off or otherwise disposes off his answer book or any part thereof or the continuation sheet or part thereof inside or outside the examination hall, he may be disqualified from appearing in any Board examination for a period up to two years, including that in which he is found guilty. If a candidate is found guilty of deliberately disclosing his identity or making distinctive marks in his answer book for that purpose, his examination in the paper/papers concerned may be cancelled. If a candidate is found guilty of communicating or attempting to communicate directly or through a relative, guardian or friend with an examiner or with the Secretary with the objective of influencing him in the award of marks his examination concerned may be cancelled. If a candidate is found guilty of approaching or influencing directly or indirectly regarding his unfair means case a Member of the U.M.C Committee or any Board official, he may be disqualified for one year more in addition to the punishment awarded to him under the Regulations for his offence of using unfair means. Where a candidate has made an appeal to the examiner through an

answer book, such answer-book shall be liable to be cancelled. For cases of unfair means not covered by these Regulations, the U.M.C. Committee may impose punishment according to the nature of the offence.

A candidate who refuses to obey the Superintendent of the Examination or any other member of the Supervisory staff or changes his seat with another candidate or deliberately writes another Candidate's Roll Number on his answer book or creates disturbance of any kind during the examination or otherwise misbehaves in or around the examination hall, shall be liable to expulsion by the Superintendent and may be awarded any of the following punishments according to the seriousness of the offence:

- (i) Cancellation of the answer book of the paper concerned.
- (ii) Disqualification from appearing in any Board Examination which may extend to three years.

Re-Examination & Abolition of the Examination Centre

If the Chairman is satisfied after enquiry that the integrity of a Board examination had been violated at an examination centre as a consequence of wholesale unfair assistance rendered to the examinees, the Chairman may order re-examination, besides taking action under Regulations relating to unfair means and may also abolish the examination centre for future or for a specified period.

Singh (2016) stated that Flying Squads of the Board of School Education, Haryana, (BSEH) registered 221 unfair means cases (UMC) on the first day of Class X and XII exams on Tuesday. Sources said outsiders clung to walls of exam centres to pass on the slips to students in Bhiwani, where the BSEH headquarters is located. A policeman on duty said he was helpless. "If I chase a youth away on one side of an exam centre, a group of youths gather on the other side," he said. The Bhiwani control room, comprising Bhiwani, Jhajjar and Mahendragarh districts, registered maximum of 117 UMCs. The Rohtak control room, comprising Rohtak, Sonapat, Jind and Panipat districts registered 47 UMCs; in all, 25 UMCs were registered in the Kurukshetra control room, comprising Gurgaon, Ambala, Panchkula, Yamunanagar, Karnal and Kurukshetra. In Fatehabad control room, comprising Fatehabad, Sirsa and Hisar, 32 UMCs were registered. A board spokesperson said the BSEH was trying its best to curb cheating and rein in outsiders. Chaang, Jui and Jhanveri villages have come forward to support the BSEH in chasing away youths gathered outside examination centres.

Singh (2016) commented that armed with sticks, women-folk of Dhanana village headed by sarpanch Sunita Ghanghas took charge of the examination centres to curb cheating in the class 10th and 12th board examinations. Sunita said, "Village men had taken up the stick for reservation, but they took it up for a good cause". She added that despite the best efforts of the administration and school staff, outsiders continue to be a serious hindrance in conducting the examination in a free and fair manner. They have taken up the stick to teach such rowdy elements a lesson who dare to sneak inside the examination centres to pass cheating slips. Laxmi Devi, another member of the group said that the community was putting up efforts for reservation in jobs, but what could one expect from the students who would pass their examinations by copying and cheating. She said that the womenfolk of the village themselves came forward as they wanted to set an example for the junior students to prepare for their examinations well or they would flunk. School principal Nihal Singh said that the presence of the sarpanch was sufficient enough for them to take action against those who violate the norms.

Kalita (2020) reported that a total of 36 candidates for the class X State Board examinations were expelled for cheating from various districts across Assam on Monday. Moreover, Jaynal Abedin, a teacher of Chirakhawa High school, who was on exam duty in Alamganj Geramari Amalgamated Higher Secondary school in Dhubri district, was arrested for allegedly helping students to adopt unfair means. He was sending the question paper outside the examination hall and getting answers to some of the questions from outside sources. He was caught red-handed, said senior official of the state education department.

Controller of examinations Nayan Jyoti Sharma said that the most number of candidates 21 were expelled in Dhubri district. Besides Dhubri, 5 students were expelled in Hailakandi, 4 in Nagaon, 3 in Lakhimpur, 2 in Darrang and 1 in Goalpara. The students who were expelled on Monday may face a ban on appearing in examinations for the next two consecutive years. Assam Higher Secondary Education Council Officials said that mobile phone jammers will be installed in about 20 to 25 examination centres to prevent cheating with the help of smart phones. Besides, it has been made mandatory to install CCTV cameras in every examination centre

2. Objective of the Study:

The following objective was formulated for the present study:

To identify measures that can be adopted to curb the menace of malpractices in examinations as perceived by (i) senior secondary school students; (ii) senior secondary school teachers; and (iii) community members

3. METHOD

The objectives laid down for the study at hand conform to all the characteristics of descriptive method. Hence, descriptive method of research was used in the present study.

3.1 Sample

The State of Himachal Pradesh has twelve districts. Out of these, the following five districts were selected randomly viz., Solan, Kullu, Shimla, Lahaul&Spiti and Kangra. In the second stage, ten Senior Secondary Schools each from five districts were chosen randomly. In the third stage, thirty senior secondary school students from each school were taken randomly the total sample comprised of 1500 students. From each of the 50 selected schools, the willing teachers were included in the sample. The total sample comprised of 200 school teachers and 200 willing community members were included in the sample. Forty community members were taken from each district applying the technique of incidental sampling.

3.2 Tool Used

The instrument used to collect data from students, teachers and community members for this study was a scale titled "Examination Malpractices Scale"

4. RESULTS

- a. The responses of senior secondary school students in terms of frequencies for twenty five measures to curb the menace of malpractices in examinations are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Responses of senior secondary school students in terms of the frequencies for twenty five measures to curb the menace of malpractices in examinations along with χ^2 values

HOW TO CURB USE OF MALPRACTICES/COPYING IN EXAMINATIONS							
5 = Strongly Agree; 4 = Agree; 3= Uncertain; 2 = Disagree; 1 = Strongly Disagree							
S. No.	Item	5	4	3	2	1	χ^2
1-	Strict implementation of examination rules	1020	292	63	82	43	2294.02**
2-	Allotment of decent examination venues with proper seating arrangement	658	492	194	93	63	917.61**
3-	Use of CCTV cameras in examination halls	905	280	115	104	96	1602.27**
4-	Invigilator should be provided security for honestly performing his/her duty as per rules.	709	448	196	117	30	1021.03**
5-	Old examination system should be replaced say by open-book examinations	503	360	401	110	126	404.62**
6-	Employing qualified, competent and dedicated teachers	652	369	265	135	79	686.52**
7-	Parents should be involved in discouraging their wards in malpractices	552	440	162	217	129	460.93**
8-	Over emphasis on certification should not be done	724	356	231	93	96	907.13**
9-	Question papers with different serial numbers should be used	619	352	276	152	101	555.15**
10-	Use of extensive CCE (continuous, comprehensive evaluation) should be encouraged	486	486	250	146	132	412.11**
11-	Strict punishment provisions for students/teachers/institutions involved in malpractices such as expulsion of erring students from schools and imposing heavy fines on teacher and institutions should be made.	601	417	238	142	102	572.34**
12-	Adequate teaching sources like teaching aids, methods, etc. should be used by teachers while teaching	529	392	344	134	101	433.33**
13-	Restoring discipline in every facet of our national life	485	340	394	159	122	320.75**
14-	Checking bribery and corruption among teachers and principals in schools	700	358	264	79	99	846.34**
15-	Abolishing examinations altogether	307	293	234	261	405	56.67**
16-	Proper counselling should be given to students, parents, and the general public, from time to time on the ills of examination malpractices	574	417	315	143	51	585.47**
17-	Banning the institutions involved in malpractices from setting up exam centres for a specified period of time	541	466	223	222	48	537.18**

18-	Local teachers should not be appointed as invigilators	507	408	338	144	103	397.01**
19-	Helping staff should be well monitored and observed	636	421	219	139	85	687.48**
20-	Randomize seating order to avoid friends or cliques sitting together	662	360	326	59	93	787.05**
21-	Require all students to bring ID cards in examination	612	332	307	162	87	542.77**
22-	Arrangement of proper security at examination centers should be made to avoid any offensive activity	505	449	380	96	70	550.47**
23-	Giving oral and written instructions concerning material allowed /not allowed in the examination hall at the beginning of the examination	619	431	271	114	65	698.61**
24-	Strict checking should be done before entering the examination hall	813	288	190	125	84	1175.65**
25-	Emphasis should be on testing skills than mere rote memory	631	392	279	115	83	665.93**

** Significant at 0.01 level of confidence

Interpretation

It is revealed from Table 1 that χ^2 value is significant at 0.01 level of confidence for all the twenty five items studying how to curb the use of malpractices in examinations. This indicates that the responses of senior secondary school students in terms of frequencies for strongly agree, agree, uncertain, disagree and strongly disagree differ significantly for all the twenty five items. The scrutiny of Table 1 indicates that the senior secondary school students have responded more favourably to ‘strongly agree & agree’ options for all the items except item number 15 to which they responded more favourably to ‘strongly disagree & disagree’ option. However, in order to get a clearer picture, the responses for ‘strongly agree & agree’ and ‘disagree & strongly disagree’ are added and the following scenario emerges.

Table 2: Added frequencies for ‘strongly agree & agree’ and ‘disagree & strongly disagree’ based upon Table 1

Item No.	Strongly Agree+Agree	Uncertain	Disagree+Strongly Disagree
1	1312	63	125
2	1150	194	156
3	1185	115	200
4	1157	196	147
5	863	401	236
6	1021	265	214
7	992	162	346
8	1080	231	189
9	971	276	253
10	972	250	278
11	1018	238	244
12	921	344	235
13	825	394	281
14	1058	264	178
15	600	234	666
16	991	315	194
17	1007	223	270
18	915	338	247
19	1057	219	224
20	1022	326	152
21	944	307	249
22	954	380	166
23	1050	271	179
24	1101	190	209
25	1023	279	198

Table 2 shows that the number of responses added for ‘strongly agree & agree’ is larger for twenty four items in comparison to responses added for ‘disagree & strongly disagree’. Further, the number of responses added for ‘strongly disagree & disagree’ is larger for one item in comparison to responses added for ‘strongly agree & agree’. This indicates that senior secondary school students view twenty four measures to curb the use of malpractices in

examination as important. However, senior secondary school students view the following ten measures to curb the use of malpractices in examination as most important.

S. No.	Most Important How to Curb Use of Malpractices/Copying in Examination Perceived by Students
1	Strict implementation of examination rules
3	Use of CCTV cameras in examination halls
4	Invigilator should be provided security for honestly performing his/her duty as per rules.
2	Allotment of decent examination venues with proper seating arrangement
24	Strict checking should be done before entering the examination hall
8	Over emphasis on certification should not be done
14	Checking bribery and corruption among teachers and principals in schools
9	Question papers with different serial numbers should be used
23	Giving oral and written instructions concerning material allowed /not allowed in the examination hall at the beginning of the examination
25	Emphasis should be on testing skills than mere rote memory

On the other hand, most of the senior secondary school students reject altogether the following one measure to curb the use of malpractices in examination.

S. No.	Least Important How to Curb Use of Malpractices/Copying in Examination Perceived by Students
15	Abolishing examinations altogether

- b. The responses of senior secondary school teachers in terms of frequencies for twenty five measures to curb the menace of malpractices in examinations are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Responses of senior secondary school teachers in terms of the frequencies for twenty five measures to curb the menace of malpractices in examinations along with χ^2 values

HOW TO CURB USE OF MALPRACTICES/COPYING IN EXAMINATIONS							
S. No.	Item	5	4	3	2	1	χ^2
1-	Strict implementation of examination rules	109	76	13	2	0	245.75**
2-	Allotment of decent examination venues with proper seating arrangement	87	99	8	6	0	236.75**
3-	Use of CCTV cameras in examination halls	106	81	5	3	5	246.04**
4-	Invigilator should be provided security for honestly performing his/her duty as per rules.	89	84	17	9	1	183.07**
5-	Old examination system should be replaced say by open-book examinations	54	76	49	18	3	85.65**
6-	Employing qualified, competent and dedicated teachers	79	87	27	7	0	164.07**
7-	Parents should be involved in discouraging their wards in malpractices	61	102	24	10	3	170.25**
8-	Over emphasis on certification should not be done	95	88	13	3	1	223.07**
9-	Question papers with different serial numbers should be used	70	98	24	5	3	177.85**
10-	Use of extensive CCE (continuous, comprehensive evaluation)should be encouraged	61	95	28	13	3	142.07**
11-	Strict punishment provisions for students/teachers/institutions involved in malpractices such as expulsion of erring students from schools and imposing heavy fines on teacher and institutions should be made.	67	89	31	7	6	136.04**
12-	Adequate teaching sources like teaching aids, methods, etc. should be	75	92	27	6	0	171.35**

	used by teachers while teaching						
13-	Restoring discipline in every facet of our national life	79	80	34	5	2	145.65**
14-	Checking bribery and corruption among teachers and principals in schools	83	84	19	13	1	161.09**
15-	Abolishing examinations altogether	42	42	39	33	44	1.85
16-	Proper counselling should be given to students, parents, and the general public, from time to time on the ills of examination malpractices	59	109	22	9	1	198.02**
17-	Banning the institutions involved in malpractices from setting up exam centres for a specified period of time	73	75	38	9	5	112.06**
18-	Local teachers should not be appointed as invigilators	44	75	41	31	9	57.01**
19-	Helping staff should be well monitored and observed	46	97	46	6	5	142.55**
20-	Randomize seating order to avoid friends or cliques sitting together	41	99	40	17	3	134.05**
21-	Require all students to bring ID cards in examination	77	88	29	6	0	163.75**
22-	Arrangement of proper security at examination centers should be made to avoid any offensive activity	62	94	37	7	0	152.45**
23-	Giving oral and written instructions concerning material allowed /not allowed in the examination hall at the beginning of the examination	72	87	28	10	3	141.15**
24-	Strict checking should be done before entering the examination hall	74	100	20	6	0	197.08**
25-	Emphasis should be on testing skills than mere rote memory	76	80	25	12	7	124.85**

** Significant at 0.01 level of confidence

Interpretation

It is revealed from Table 3 that χ^2 value is significant at 0.01 level of confidence for twenty four items studying how to curb the use of malpractices in examinations except item number fifteen which is not significant at 0.01 level of confidence. This indicates that the responses of senior secondary school teachers in terms of frequencies for strongly agree, agree, uncertain, disagree and strongly disagree differ significantly for twenty four items. The scrutiny of Table 3 indicates that the senior secondary school teachers have responded more favourably to 'strongly disagree & disagree' options for all the twenty four items. However, in order to get a clearer picture, the responses for 'strongly agree & agree' and 'disagree & strongly disagree' are added and the following scenario emerges.

Table 4: Added frequencies for 'strongly agree & agree' and 'disagree & strongly disagree' based upon Table 3

Item No.	Strongly Agree+Agree	Uncertain	Disagree+Strongly Disagree
1	185	13	2
2	186	8	6
3	187	5	8
4	173	17	10
5	130	49	21
6	166	27	7
7	163	24	13
8	183	13	4
9	168	24	8
10	156	28	16
11	156	31	13
12	167	27	6
13	159	34	7
14	167	19	14
16	168	22	10
17	148	38	14
18	119	41	40
19	143	46	11
20	140	40	20
21	165	29	6
22	156	37	7
23	159	28	13
24	174	20	6
25	156	25	19

Table 4 shows that the number of responses added for ‘strongly disagree & disagree’ is larger for all the twenty four items in comparison to responses added for ‘agree & strongly agree’. This indicates that senior secondary school teachers view twenty four measures to curb the use of malpractices in examination as important. However, senior secondary school teachers view the following ten measures to curb the use of malpractices in examination as most important.

S. No.	Most Important How to Curb Use of Malpractices/Copying in Examination Perceived by Teacher
3	Use of CCTV cameras in examination halls
2	Allotment of decent examination venues with proper seating arrangement
1	Strict implementation of examination rules
8	Over emphasis on certification should not be done
24	Strict checking should be done before entering the examination hall
4	Invigilator should be provided security for honestly performing his/her duty as per rules.
9	Question papers with different serial numbers should be used
16	Proper counselling should be given to students, parents, and the general public, from time to time on the ills of examination malpractices
12	Adequate teaching sources like teaching aids, methods, etc. should be used by teachers while teaching
14	Checking bribery and corruption among teachers and principals in schools

- c. The responses of community members in terms of frequencies for twenty five measures to curb the menace of malpractices in examinations are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Responses of community members in terms of the frequencies for twenty five measures to curb the menace of malpractices in examinations along with χ^2 values

HOW TO CURB USE OF MALPRACTICES/COPYING IN EXAMINATIONS							
S. No.	Item	5	4	3	2	1	χ^2
1-	Strict implementation of examination rules	121	53	12	5	9	242.05**
2-	Allotment of decent examination venues with proper seating arrangement	79	69	28	18	6	103.65**
3-	Use of CCTV cameras in examination halls	101	56	13	15	15	148.09**
4-	Invigilator should be provided security for honestly performing his/her duty as per rules.	84	68	24	19	5	116.05**
5-	Old examination system should be replaced say by open-book examinations	58	54	55	18	15	46.35**
6-	Employing qualified, competent and dedicated teachers	61	64	46	19	10	59.85**
7-	Parents should be involved in discouraging their wards in malpractices	60	73	28	20	19	61.85**
8-	Over emphasis on certification should not be done	99	59	21	8	13	148.09**
9-	Question papers with different serial numbers should be used	73	56	44	20	7	71.25**
10-	Use of extensive CCE (continuous, comprehensive evaluation) should be encouraged	60	72	36	15	17	64.85**
11-	Strict punishment provisions for students/teachers/institutions involved in malpractices such as expulsion of erring students from schools and imposing heavy fines on teacher and institutions should be made.	53	67	43	20	17	45.09**
12-	Adequate teaching sources like teaching aids, methods, etc. should be used by teachers while teaching	71	60	37	23	9	65.05**
13-	Restoring discipline in every facet of our national life	61	62	53	14	10	66.75**
14-	Checking bribery and corruption among teachers and principals in schools	80	58	35	11	16	84.15**
15-	Abolishing examinations altogether	53	51	41	28	27	15.01**
16-	Proper counselling should be given to students, parents, and the general public, from time to time on the ills of examination malpractices	68	70	36	22	4	83.00**
17-	Banning the institutions involved in malpractices from setting up exam	63	70	43	19	5	77.06**

	centres for a specified period of time						
18-	Local teachers should not be appointed as invigilators	54	62	34	37	13	36.35**
19-	Helping staff should be well monitored and observed	70	70	33	18	9	82.35**
20-	Randomize seating order to avoid friends or cliques sitting together	61	58	57	13	11	65.06**
21-	Require all students to bring ID cards in examination	78	63	36	10	13	90.45**
22-	Arrangement of proper security at examination centers should be made to avoid any offensive activity	61	79	38	15	7	92.00**
23-	Giving oral and written instructions concerning material allowed /not allowed in the examination hall at the beginning of the examination	67	77	32	19	5	95.07**
24-	Strict checking should be done before entering the examination hall	87	58	32	15	8	106.15**
25-	Emphasis should be on testing skills than mere rote memory	69	61	36	21	13	59.07**

** Significant at 0.01 level of confidence

Interpretation

It is revealed from Table 5 that χ^2 value is significant at 0.01 level of confidence for all the twenty five items studying how to curb the use of malpractices in examinations. This indicates that the responses of community members in terms of frequencies for strongly agree, agree, uncertain, disagree and strongly disagree differ significantly for all the items. The scrutiny of Table 5 indicates that the community members have responded more favourably to ‘strongly agree & agree’ options for all items. However, in order to get a clearer picture, the responses for ‘strongly agree & agree’ and ‘disagree & strongly disagree’ are added and the following scenario emerges.

Table 6: Added frequencies for ‘strongly agree & agree’ and ‘disagree & strongly disagree’ based upon Table 5

Item No.	Strongly Agree+Agree	Uncertain	Disagree+Strongly Disagree
1	174	12	14
2	148	28	24
3	157	13	30
4	152	24	24
5	112	55	33
6	125	46	29
7	133	28	39
8	158	21	21
9	129	44	27
10	132	36	32
11	120	43	37
12	131	37	32
13	123	53	24
14	138	35	27
15	104	41	55
16	138	36	26
17	133	43	24
18	116	34	50
19	140	33	27
20	119	57	24
21	141	36	23
22	140	38	22
23	144	32	24
24	145	32	23
25	130	36	34

Table 6 shows that the number of responses added for ‘strongly agree & agree’ is larger for all the twenty five items in comparison to responses added for ‘disagree & strongly disagree’. This indicates that community members view all the twenty five measures to curb the use of malpractices in examination as important. However, community members view the following ten measures to curb the use of malpractices in examination as most important.

S. No.	Most Important How to Curb Use of Malpractices/Copying in Examination Perceived by Community Members
1	Strict implementation of examination rules
8	Over emphasis on certification should not be done
3	Use of CCTV cameras in examination halls
4	Invigilator should be provided security for honestly performing his/her duty as per rules.
2	Allotment of decent examination venues with proper seating arrangement
24	Strict checking should be done before entering the examination hall
23	Giving oral and written instructions concerning material allowed /not allowed in the examination hall at the beginning of the examination
21	Require all students to bring ID cards in examination
19	Helping staff should be well monitored and observed
22	Arrangement of proper security at examination centers should be made to avoid any offensive activity

Some important result emerges from the present study. The senior secondary school students view the following ten items of how to curb use of malpractices in examination as most important. i.e. item no. 1,3,4,2,24,8,14,9,23,25. Similarly Senior secondary school teachers view the following ten items of how to curb use of malpractices in examination as most important. i.e. item no. 3,2,1,8,24,4,9,16,12,14 and Community members view the following ten items of how to curb use of malpractices in examination as most important. i.e. item no. 1,8,3,4,2,24,23,21,19,22. The following six items of how to curb use of malpractices in examinations have been viewed by all the three samples of subjects i.e. students, teachers and community members as the most important. i.e. item no. 1,3,4,2,24,8.

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