Reason why people cheat in education and business. Some of the harms that come from these acts. Understanding cheating from different theories.

Cheating is a vice that is perpetrated by individuals at a disadvantage by violating regulations that were entrusted to them. It is commonly seen in educational systems and business, where people engage in corrupt and unscrupulous practices. The situations of these two cases are different, with varying motivating powers. However, cheating inflicts harm, and the moral perspective. The need to pass in education is among the primary reasons why individuals cheat. The parents, teachers, and the society around the students place great pressure on the students, with the grades being regarded as their intelligence and worth. The fear of failure and competitions of less opportunities and the lack of preparation make students resort to cheating as a measure of a shortcut (Dawson et al., 2024, p.1007). The reason why cheating is a common practice in business is due to pressure to generate profits or take the lead over other business rivals. When promotions, financial rewards, or even a job are pegged on the result, an individual, as an organization, will be able to manipulate facts, lie about products, or even identify loopholes to succeed. Cheating in both cases appears to be typically done under the guise of others and there was no way in which could help, and personal moral responsibility is then diminished.

The consequences of cheating are devastating and last long. With regard to learning, cheating is unproductive. Cheating students could have good grades but fail to achieve critical ability, discipline, and integrity. This corrupts the performance of those students who perform well and destroys the rapport between teachers and learners. In the long-run, the integrity of the learning institutions can be compromised by the increased prevalence rates of academic dishonesty to the point where the value of the degrees becomes meaningless. Cheating in business may harm the image, with financial loss and distrust. The counterfeit products or untrue

information can harm the consumers, a deceitful culture in the workplace harms the employees, and results in instability of the entire market once the counter practice of being dishonest becomes the convention.

According to the deontological ethical approach, cheating in any way is unethical because it contradicts ethical considerations such as honesty and fairness. According to Immanuel Kant, action could only be moral when the action is possible to be performed everywhere, and no contradiction could occur (Dilbar, 2024, p.58). And if we cheat, we would destroy the education system and the business because the grades, contracts, and promises would be useless. At that, cheating is not tested morally. The utilitarian perspective that puts an action as morally wrong or right based on its consequences on human life also makes cheating unethical. Even though the immediate gains to the cheater can be obtained, the overall impact of the cheating will be mistrust, undue impacts, and society-based life losses that outweigh personal gains.

Virtue ethics also gives an account of the wrongness of cheating if it focuses on the character rather than the rule or consequences of the actions. Cheating depicts the ills of greed, laziness, and dishonesty rather than the good of integrity, accountability, and justice, among others (Caniglia et al., 2023, p.496). Moral character and social trust apply in business and education, and are established through ethics in business and education, which are crucial for success and cooperation.

In conclusion, people cheat in education and business when they are pressured, and they feel the need to thrive in a competitive situation, and they cheat out of moral reasons; however, these result in grave losses to individuals and corporations. The morality theories have constantly proved the fact that cheating is an evil act because it harms the concept of duty in a positive way,

and it erases the morality in character. Honesty forms the premise of the personal integrity and well-being of society.

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