Verda Y.B.

Academic Honesty & Its Onus on its Stakeholders

With weapons of 'mass distraction' right in our palms, we tend to be at the height of losing focus and diverging attention to important tasks at hand in general. It goes without saying that in case of students, 'procrastination' becomes one of the lethal side effects that hampers their ability to engage in constructively responsible tasks and therefore stumble in being punctual with deadlines. With an absolute academic take here, we identified that students fail to realize the adverse consequences to their deeds and resort to short cuts that go against them only.
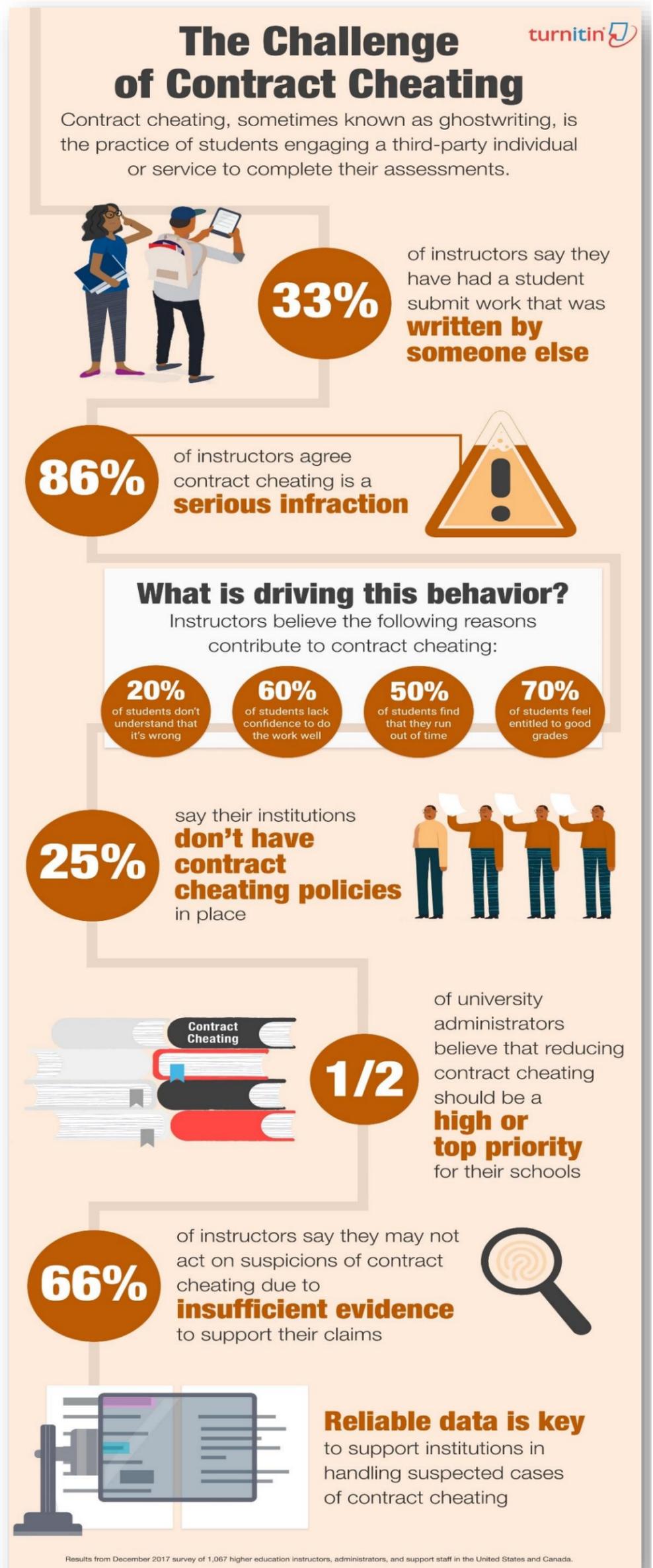
Unfortunately, where students falter is in the need to *understand what is required of them academically.* Despite the fact that learners are expected to realize their commitment and duty towards honest academic performance, they are counseled and coached to be ethical in submission of academic work. Thus, learners are expected to realize that it is their qualification that is supposed to build their skill set and nurture knowledge, therefore, resorting to unethical means translates as a testament to severe breach of their *'Learner-Teacher-Educational Institution Contract'* that essentially requires them to be dutiful and honest to begin with.

Academic Honesty necessarily does not implicate the values in a human being, in fact like skills, it can be coached and inculcated. The significant aspect being the 'intention' for it. Research has shed some profound light on such behaviour by students as the adjacent infographic exhibits. 👉

Nevertheless, learners need to be educated and thoroughly briefed about the repercussions that lead to dishonesty in their academic assignments. In order to ensure academic honesty by students, academic institutions share their 'Academic Honesty Policy' to apprise students about what is required of them, stating precisely what are the dire consequences should they fail to abide by them. At TMUC, it is an eminent feature to hold Academic Honesty workshop during the orientation day/week for new learners, that culminates with students signing the policy in person of the same.

At TMUC, we feel that the onus lies jointly on all stakeholders involved but in sequential phases. Being the educational institute, TMUC is to share the requirements, objectives, reasons and repercussions related to Academic Honesty so that the students are fully aware of what is expected of them during the study programmes at TMUC. While the expectation to fulfill the desired then lies on the student from thereon, students are reminded of their commitment by the instructors/teachers. As much as the academic instructors need not emphasise on the authenticity, originality and integrity of the assignments submitted repeatedly, at TMUC, teachers make it a point that learners do not plagiarize, collude or fabricate content that they submit for grading to admonish against any use of unfair means. It is imperative that students need to be conscious of their conduct when it comes to academics and must exhibit academic honesty at all times to avoid any undesirable action against their submissions which usually is failing the course without a second chance.

For Queries, feel free to reach out to info@tmuc.edu.pk or write to students.lhe@tmuc.edu.pk

The Challenge of Contract Cheating

turnitin

Contract cheating, sometimes known as ghostwriting, is the practice of students engaging a third-party individual or service to complete their assessments.

33% of instructors say they have had a student submit work that was **written by someone else**

86% of instructors agree contract cheating is a **serious infraction**

What is driving this behavior?
Instructors believe the following reasons contribute to contract cheating:

20% of students don't understand that it's wrong

60% of students lack confidence to do the work well

50% of students find that they run out of time

70% of students feel entitled to good grades

25% say their institutions **don't have contract cheating policies** in place

Contract Cheating

1/2 of university administrators believe that reducing contract cheating should be a **high or top priority** for their schools

66% of instructors say they may not act on suspicions of contract cheating due to **insufficient evidence** to support their claims

Reliable data is key to support institutions in handling suspected cases of contract cheating

Results from December 2017 survey of 1,067 higher education instructors, administrators, and support staff in the United States and Canada.

To streamline the digital tools in use so far, under one platform, QAD is pleased to present a new online system called **QUALTRIX** (QA of Learning and Teaching with Real-time Information eXchange).

ACADEMIC HONESTY & TMUC DIGITAL VISION

The digital journey is incomplete without the presence of an 'originality check' provision. TMUC has subscribed to Turnitin services for the past 3 years and supporting students and staff with similarity indexes and ensuring academic honesty. Support sessions to use the latest service from Turnitin "SIMCHECK" was introduced and is straight forward to use for TMUC staff.

Raza Ali Soomro- Manager Quality Assurance & Academic Compliance

The Academic Committee at TMUC has revised the Turnitin use policy.

Excerpts from the policy are as follows:

SIMCHECK Accounts are only allowed to Programme Leaders. Turnitin feature must not be used for draft assignments, or formative submissions.

SIMCHECK to be used for NCC/ UOL & UH programmes.

Turnitin embedded feature within MS Teams shall only be used for following programmes:

A. Pearson Higher Nationals
B. UCA Undergraduate Programmes
C. UCA Postgraduate

In continuation of the strategies and approach since the outbreak of pandemic in March 2020 and uncertain conditions as the COVID-19 spread spikes again, TMUC will continue to ensure 'uninterrupted learning' for all our students across the programmes nationwide.

TMUC has already licensed the **MS OFFICE 365** for its enterprise and all academic management and delivery has been digitised through the use of **MS TEAMS** as a digital learning platform. This includes academic management channels and academic delivery channels for each qualification across the five TMUC Campuses.

The Academic delivery channels enable faculty and students, who all have their individual TMUC logins to conduct and attend online lessons.

The Turnitin facility has been embedded so that faculty and students can generate similarity reports.

To support the T&L process, QAD has successfully digitalized student admission queries through TAWKTO App, as well as the entire registry process called Collaborative Enrolment Sheet. Therefore, most tasks and deliverables can be completed off-site, online.

To streamline the digital tools in use so far, under one platform, QAD is pleased to present a new online system called **QUALTRIX** (QA of Learning and Teaching with Real-time Information eXchange).

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