Academic Honesty from A Saudi Student’s Point of View: Dealing With Negative Stereotype

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Academic Integrity From A Saudi Student Point of View: Dealing With a Negative Stereotype

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Abstract

Despite all the research showing the academic dishonesty of Middle Eastern students, and Saudi students in particular, many Saudi students are working hard to obtain their degrees honestly. This process is being made harder by the stereotype that is placed upon them simply because of their nationality. Due to the large number of Saudi students in higher education institutions in the United States, it would be helpful for these institutions to come up with ways to assist these students in dealing with any negativity, as well as ways to help professors avoid putting forth a negative stereotype toward these students.

Purpose of the Research

This research aims to disprove the negative stereotype that many Saudi students engage in academically dishonest practices. In addition, it will prove that despite the stereotype, Saudi students who come to the United States to study do so with the intention of earning their degrees in a manner that is completely ethical. This research also addressed the stereotype itself, being that the students are dishonest, and the fact that the stereotype has a negative effect on the students who are trying to earn their degrees honestly.

Research Questions

This research strived to answer two important questions. The first of these questions addressed the experiences and feelings of the honest students when the professors did not appreciate the fact that their work was original and not influenced by any outside sources. The second research question discussed ways these students overcame the negative stereotype.

Results

Demographic information regarding reasons for coming to the United States (scholarship, family, the American dream, etc.), level of English, study preparedness, and academic standard adaptation was gathered from each student. Two additional questions asked if these students had experienced some negativity due to their nationality as well as their opinions on whether this negativity had been difficult to overcome.

A negative stereotype regarding the academic integrity of Saudi Students is felt by some professors. Have you experienced any negativity in your classes due to your nationality?

![Chart showing responses to the question about negativity in classes.]

Based on your experiences and feelings, was it difficult to handle the negativity you experienced? On a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being not difficult at all and 5 being extremely difficult to handle.

![Chart showing difficulty levels in handling negativity.]

Next, the students were asked whether they had engaged in the listed activities never, once or more than once.

Turning in work done by someone else

![Chart showing responses to the question about turning in work done by someone else.]

Selected References


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