



NORTHERN

Exploratory Research to Study Reactions of Liars: Opinions of NNMC Students and Social Media, Regarding What Encourages Them to be Honest

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Let your data be your guide!

Abstract

The research question will investigate whether people believe it is ok to lie and what motivates them to stay honest.

My theory is that fear is the number one motivator. Based on religious views and fear of being caught in a lie.

Introduction

In today's self-serving world, the reasons for lying can outweigh reasons for telling the truth.

Honesty is not only important in our personal lives but it is essential for society as a whole.

•There have been numerous studies on why people lie. Mental illness is one factor and self-involvement and selfishness also plays a part. However, there are fewer studies on why people tell the truth. Perhaps the reasons for telling the truth are fewer than why people lie.

Theory

Religion and fear are the top two motivators for staying honest. Fear of disobeying their God or fear of getting caught in a lie or fear of getting caught by the person they are lying to.

Hypothesis

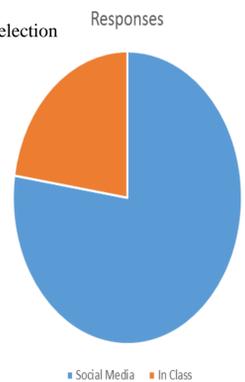
The hypothesis is that people refrain from lying out of fear of getting caught or out of fear based religious views.

Data Collection and Methods

The sample for this study comprises of all the students attending the Gender and Sexuality class at NNMC of fall 2018, selected by the probability sampling method random sampling. The class only consisted of 7 students. With a sample size of N=7. The survey was self-administered while they were in class and then hand collected. I also conducted a computer-based self-administration by having the survey available on social media site Facebook and email. 24 people took the survey online. Before posting the survey I stated that it is voluntary and completely confidential. I used random sample to pick the category of students at NNMC. However ultimately having people from the college and people online as participants is because of convenience; only the selection of students chosen was by random sample. Snowball sampling did occur. Other users shared my link and in turn recommended my survey to other people, who then messaged me that they participated in taking the survey.

Data Analysis and Findings

Table 1. Sample Selection



•The Sample Size is (N=31) With no missing data. 77.42% online participants. 22.58% NNMC Students.

Table 2: Univariate Analysis

Q4. Are you spiritual or religious?

Answer Choices –	Responses –
– Yes	87.10%
– No	12.90%
–	4
TOTAL	31

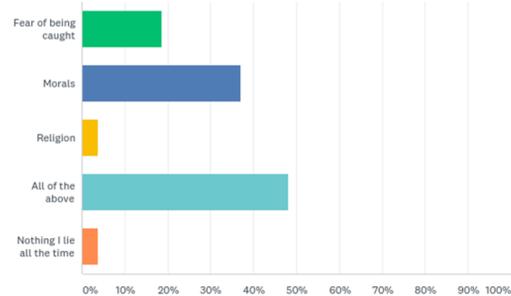
Table 2. Independent Variable

Quantitative Data Analysis and Findings

Question 4 in the survey is dichotomous rather than a continuous variable and it depicts the independent variable. (87.10%) Of the 31 reported being spiritual or religious. (12.90%) answered that they are not.

Table 3. Dependent variable Y= (Fear) Fear of getting caught or fear based on religious views.

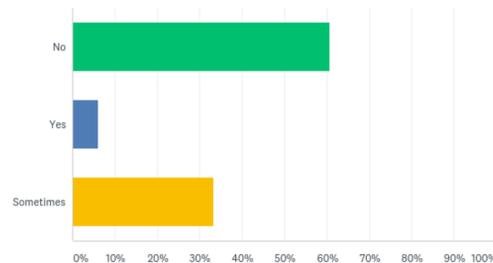
Q12: What keeps you from lying?



•Almost 50% answered all of the above, at least 1 person answered, nothing I lie all the time. Morals and fear of being caught are endorsed far more strongly than religion, which is not what I expected.

Table 4. Independent Variable X= (Honesty)

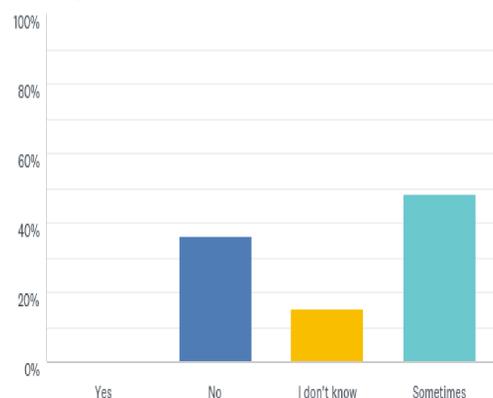
Q7: Do you think it is ok to lie?



•60% of participants replied, no it is not ok to lie. 33% believe it is ok sometimes. However in the next chart, they were asked:

Q8: Is lying justifiable?

59% replied that it is, sometimes.



Conclusion

•Enough data was collected to reject my hypothesis. Out of 31 participants 5 skipped the question that asked what keeps them from lying. Out of the 26, only one answered that they do not lie because of religious beliefs, 5 do not lie do to fear of being caught and 10 answered that they do not lie because they have morals. The null hypothesis was, that there would be no relationship between honesty and fear. Data collected rejects the null hypothesis. More participants and a wider range on social media will be beneficial to future research, since it was only available to a small number of students, friends and family due to convenience with a sample size of N=31

Ethics

•I have completed "Protecting Humane Research Participants" which is certified by the National Institute of Health. I administered inform consent orally to participants in person and written to participants partaking in the project online. All participants were notified it is exploratory research for my senior project in Research Design. I also explained that the participants will be anonymous and confidential. I did not deceive people into participating by false advertising or trickery.

References

•Casey, D. M. (2013). Deception and Lying . Salem Press Encyclopedia of Health. Retrieved from: <http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=1&sid=1a5bd6c7-fcfe-4223-9cb6-b6d7de4da6c5%40sessionmgr103&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmU%3d#AN=93871879&db=ers>
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