Influence Of Socio-Economic Status on Lying Patterns

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Abstract: The present study deals with the correlation between socio-economic status and lying pattern, the result of this study could be useful to any administrator, Law enforcement agency or whoever deals people management. In today’s world everyone has their own reasons and beliefs to lie despite the fact that it’s not an acceptable norm or a practice in any form of society across different regions, zones, religions and finally races and cultures, and inherently these aspects override the way one has to struggle for his daily living. This study enlightens the importance of understanding an individual’s reaction under various circumstances. A structured questionnaire was framed and a random sampling for four different classes was done. The results are amazing and open doors to bottom hidden reasons to understand how different classes support their point of views on Lying. Finally it could be derived from the statistics drawn from 12 (Twelve) selective issues VS responses, that Lying directly or in-directly attributed to socioeconomic status namely their needs, education and value system.

The base of the present study is about a particular human behavior called ‘Lie’ or lying. What a lie is, it is a matter of point of view which varies with individuals, thus if someone who is color-blind being says a green suit is red, he is not lying. Now, since lie is a subjective evaluation by the person of his own perception. It is difficult to define it. Though scientists have tried to define it; in his book Larson has defined lie as a “universal method of human being to escape from problems or difficult situation”. Another dictionary definition of lie has been given as “To utter falsehood with an intention to deceive or to knowingly utter untruth”. However, it may be defined as we all know that in today’s world lying has become a part of our life and some of us have even mastered the art of lying.

The history of speaking lies dates back to the civilization of mankind; with modernization many evils creped-in and the tendency to conceal facts more frequently and freely started. With the need to present oneself in the broader society in a very favourable light, the invention and the culture of speaking lies started. According to psychologists every single behaviour is a learned behaviour, telling lies is also behaviour and depends on the type of person and the situation he / she is facing.

Every person has his own reason for lying in a particular situation and thus a liar may add to a true statement by an adorning facts or inventing his own new reasons, or by hiding the truth. Why in first place people lie few most common reasons are

1. To hide information

Anything or any relationship that can be labelled comes with a set of expectations. Whether you are a teacher, student, husband, wife, CEO, manager, son, daughter, friend and so forth, anyone at all, living in the society, you are expected to behave in a certain manner. When you traverse the boundaries, you are suddenly out there in the open, unprotected and vulnerable. You have to protect yourself now, you have to safeguard the expectations and save your relationship.

If you hide the information, if no one gets to know you crossed the line, it leads to a temporary sense of peace, of fitting yourself now, you did not have to put up with the arguments that might have taken place had you shared the truth. You did not have to hurt the sentiments or trust of the other person by covering up your truth. This is the foremost cause of lying. People lie because they want to avoid confrontation and conflict. Hence lying becomes the easier route.

2. A matter of habit

Often pursuing the first one, that is, hiding information, one gets into the habit of lying. When you repeatedly do the same thing over and over again, it becomes your habit. The habit of lying is formed, like many other habits, right from the childhood. Why? It must trace back to certain incidents during their early years or the atmosphere at home where speaking truth mostly ended up in an unpleasant conflict and undue scolding. When parents start to behave like kids too, it gives their children a strong reason to lie. By lying, they feel safe. However, this becomes their habit, their coping mechanism, their strategy to put up with all undesirable situations later on in their own lives. Unfortunately it is incredibly hard to break the habit of lying.

Like many other habits of smoking, drinking, punctuality and so on, children also pick up lying from their parents, other elders and peers when lying becomes a habit, it leads to one of the two outcomes, and both are not mutually exclusive: the liar becomes restless with a insecure mind, or, they become aggressive with a depressed mind. Constant lying puts a tremendous burden on them to remember, to protect information, to bear the load of false information, to live thefalse identity. Over time, impatience, aggression, withdrawal, artificiality, depression, self doubt, low self-esteem, insecurity and the rest find a permanent home in the mind of a liar.

3. To Gain Attention in the Society

This third reason comes with a powerful revelation. It can help one to gain attention, respect, and power. When someone lies to you about an incident where he was the only witness, he now has access to information that no one else does. He has just created a new truth. Exclusive information naturally leads to greater power and more attention

Our present study is also based on the socioeconomic status of the society so let’s make it more clear what actually the term socioeconomic status or also known as class system.

Social class (or simply “class”), as in a class society, is a set of concepts in the social sciences and political theory centred on models of social stratification in which people are grouped into a set of hierarchical social categories, the most common being the upper, middle, and lower classes.
Class is an essential object of analysis for sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists and social historians. However, there is not a consensus on the best definition of the term "class", and the term has different contextual meanings. In common manner of speaking the term "social class," is usually synonymous with “socio-economic class,” defined as: "people having the same social, economic, or educational status," e.g., “the working class”; “an emerging professional class.”

In the late 18th century, the term "class" began to replace classifications such as estates, rank, and orders as the primary means of organizing society into hierarchical divisions. This corresponded to a general decrease in significance recognized to hereditary characteristics, concepts of social class often assume three general categories: a very wealthy and powerful upper class that owns and controls the means of production; a middle class of professional workers, small business owners, and low-level managers; and a lower class, who rely on low-paying wage jobs for their livelihood and often experience poverty significance of wealth and income as indicators of position in the social hierarchy.

The upper class is generally contained within the wealthiest 1 or 2 percent of the population. Members of the upper class are often born into it, and are distinguished by immense wealth which is passed from generation to generation in the form of estates. Sometimes members of the upper class are called "the one percent".

The middle class is the most contested of the three categorizations, the broad group of people in contemporary society who fall socio-economically between the lower and upper classes.

Lower class- (occasionally described as working class) is those employed in low-paying wage jobs with very little economic security.

Dependent – we have formed one more class for the sake of this study ie dependent class, these are the people who don’t belong to any other class and are dependent on all their needs for other classes example: housewives students & elder people. They may have their own reason and perception about lying so we will be studying this class along with other main classes of our society

Objective - The objective of the present study is to find out the influence of socioeconomic status on individual lying.

Methodology - Random sampling was done from various segments of the society, at Chennai, Tamilnadu region. Sample size is 20 from each segment

Four different categories namely were undertaken:
1. Dependents
2. Business class
3. Salaried employees
4. Daily wagers

Questionnaire - A questionnaire was developed consisting of different aspects of Lying and were given to the subjects to respond

ANALYSIS - The analysis of the data has been done through frequency distribution table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLNo</th>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
<th>MEASURE/RESPONSE</th>
<th>DAILY WAGERS</th>
<th>SALARIED</th>
<th>BUSINESS</th>
<th>DEPENDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reason for lying</td>
<td>FUN</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Monetary Benefit</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blame others</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gain attention</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Feel guilty of lying for small things</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Feel guilty of lying for Big things</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feel necessary to lie in today’s world</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thom do they lie with often</td>
<td>Superiors</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Co-workers</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>After telling lies</td>
<td>Afraid of being caught</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Just forget &amp; Relax</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Do you think small lying is acceptable in</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Daily wagers
   - To fulfill their basic needs.
   - To save their jobs.
   - To gain some monetary benefits’ from the upper-class telling some story.

2. Salaried employees
   - To gain attention.
   - To shift blame.
   - Ego.
   - To save their stature in society

3. Business class
   - To gain monetary benefits
   - To shift blame.
   - To save their stature in society.

4. Dependents (kids, Students, Grandparents)
   - For Fun
   - To gain attention

Some inside thoughts while collecting & after reading the data

Why kids lie
To escape from punishments and scolding’s, or many times to gain monetary benefits from parents which they have to do because of peer pressure. If parents would understand this the basic understanding is increased between them and a strong bond would form which helps for their psychological growth of the child.

Why spouse lie to their partners
Partners with less or nil compatibility in terms of Culture, education and maturity, fails to identify his/her needs, desires, likes, dislikes, thought process and outlook towards life make them lie with each other.

Why old people have to lie to their own children.
In old age people become dependent and have to look upon their kids for every need ,when their needs are not been full filled and proper attention not given to them as a family member they start lying for pity things. But most of these problems arise when: Kids were not given proper affection and love so in turn they don’t respect their parents They never seen their own parents taking care of their elders in turn they do the same.
In some cases despite been given a good family atmosphere and moral values they are so involved in monetary benefits that spending on their own parents is like a big expenditure for them.

Why Business classes lie
To save their money, power and stature in society, which becomes their top most priority as their all others basic needs are already met with.
To fulfill their basic needs like their survival, to save their jobs, to gain some monetary benefits.
Finally, in today’s society, as per this study, lying has become an integral part of our life and people do accept it. Hence if we understand the bottom line of the behavior and try to correct our self, such that the other person doesn’t need to lie with us. We do can make a difference to the society. Then there will be no need or reason to lie for reasons best known like.

Lying to be Nice
- Lying to Make Oneself Feel Better,
- Lying to Avoid Confrontation,
- Lying to Shift Blame or to fulfill their basic needs.

Data obtained from the above classes helps in
- Law enforcement agencies to understand these categories whenever they are involved in any kind of crime
- Institutional heads can understand the behavior of his employees there by creating, improving interpersonal behavior and organizational growth
- Institutional heads of the education institutions to create better citizens to future India.
- Data obtained from kids and students helps them in
  - Shaping them in to good citizen
  - Improving child parent relationship
  - Creating harmonious peer behavior
- Data obtained from grand parents
  - Resolves generation gap
  - clarify the attention – needs issues
  - Family issues.

REFERENCES:


