

CHAPTER III

PLAGIARISM AWARENESS AND ITS NECESSITY IN ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Introduction:

The primary concern of Plagiarism in higher education has received particular emphasis in recent years in research. Fair treatment of all students and strong levels of trust between faculty and students are the foundations of honesty. Recognizing the contributions of others is necessary for maintaining academic integrity. A large amount of research on plagiarism combined with a substantial amount of inaccurate information from university colleagues indicates that there has been an increase in copying. It is important to have a solid understanding of the phenomenon known as plagiarism before talking about awareness of plagiarism, its causes, attitudes towards it, and other pertinent information. This chapter makes an effort to explore a little deeper into it.

The use of other people's opinions, their copyrighted information, and their proprietary information without giving credit to the original author or citing their work and including it in the final output is known as plagiarism. Although plagiarism may occur unintentionally, deliberate steps may still be made to prevent such circumstances. Plagiarism is suspected when information from third-party documents is included in academic, research, or industrial reports without citing the sources, or when information is copied and pasted from other sources. The volume and breadth of plagiarism opportunities are increased by the amount of content that is available from internet sources. According to sources, over 30% of students report being prone to plagiarism in the academic setting and this number is only likely to rise with the increasing complexity and quality standards that are present in the educational environment.

The scholarly journal "Current Science" has an editorial explaining plagiarism as an infectious disease that spreads. According to John Ziman, 'plagiarism is infamous as fabrication in a scientific paper' The editorial analysis offers fascinating data, which comprised 29% of the original text unmodified, while 93 % in terms of terminology that was used and found in two research.

3.2 Definitional analysis of Plagiarism:

The word plagiarism is derived from the Latin "plagiarius," which meaning "kidnapping." Plagiarism is defined by Black's Law Dictionary as the act of taking another person's words or ideas and passing it off as one's own. Many saw the development of technology as a blessing, and they actively employed it to create the tools to achieve their goals. However, the misuse of technology started off small, with plagiarism, and it quickly grew out of control, destroying a positive academic environment. Plagiarism cannot be defined in a way that applies to every circumstance. This is due to the fact that many people allow themselves to be plagiarised based on different interpretations. Plagiarism does not have a single definition that applies to every circumstance. This is due to the fact that many people allow themselves to be plagiarised based on different interpretations. In fact, there is debate about the term plagiarism itself because it encompasses deeply held beliefs about intellectual politics in addition to being a cultural and economic word.

(i) The Merriam–Webster dictionary defines plagiarism as

(a) The theft and use of other people's ideas or words as yours;

(b) Use of sources without attribution;

(c) Literary theft and

(d) Presenting some ideas as own and as it is new, while this idea already exists in other source.

(ii) The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) defines research misconduct using the FFP model which includes:

Fabrication – Making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

Falsification – Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

Plagiarism- It is appropriation of Person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion
(Definition of Research Misconduct / ORI - the Office of Research Integrity, 2001).

So, Plagiarism broadly is defined as follows:

- (i) Taking another person's ideas, writing, or inventions as one's own;
- (ii) Appropriately utilising an idea that is taken from another work or another literary theft; and
- (iii) Presenting a product or idea that is taken from an existing source as new and original.

It is a popular misconception that plagiarism is related to copyright; however, this is not in fact a legal doctrine. The development of sophisticated technologies and the consequent usage of electronic publications in India made plagiarism a significant problem. To put it methodically, plagiarism is an ethical, not a legal offence and enforceable by academic authorities rather than by court. The act of stealing intellectual property, known as plagiarism, has existed for as long as people have created artistic works and research. Plagiarism has become a major issue for publishers, researchers, and educational institutions due to the ease of access to big databases on the internet in general.

3.3 Types of plagiarism

Plagiarism can be classified into two categories: unintentional and intentional. unintentionally comprises partially paraphrased or partially quoted sentences; poorly cited means providing an incomplete or incorrect citation; poorly paraphrased means modifying a few words without altering the original sentence structure, or it can involve changing the sentence structure entirely.

3.3.2 Grammarly.com has mentioned the following 7 types of common plagiarism:

- a) **Complete plagiarism:** It occurs when a writer submits someone else's complete work in their own name. The writer pays for writing the paper and presents it as one's own creation.
- b) **Direct plagiarism:** The complete sentence or paragraphs are directly picked from another's work and used for one's own.
- c) **Paraphrasing plagiarism:** It is changing some words or phrases of others' work without due attribution.
- d) **Self-plagiarism:** It is using one's own earlier published work without acknowledgment.

- e) **Patchwork plagiarism:** The plagiarized work is interwoven with the writer's original work.
- f) **Source-based plagiarism:** In this type, the writer might reference a secondary source in their work but only credit the primary source from which that secondary source is derived or may render the citation and reference improperly.
- g) **Accidental plagiarism:** It happens inadvertently when the authors copy the text and forget to cite and acknowledge it. Unawareness to plagiarism might be another reason for it" (*7 Common Types of Plagiarism, With Examples 2022*).

To put it another way, the most common forms of plagiarism are as follows: paraphrasing without giving credit; direct plagiarism, self-plagiarism without giving due credit etc. The Plagiarism and cheating have existed throughout the history of academic pursuits and are not just a recent issue (Webb & Mallon, 1990).

3.3.3 Types of Plagiarism by Turnitin

The Plagiarism Spectrum 2.0 lists twelve categories of unoriginal work, including both traditional plagiarism practices and emerging trends. Comprehending various types of plagiarism aids in the growth of creative thinking abilities and enables students to produce their finest, original work (*Plagiarism spectrum 2.0*, n.d.) These are as follows-

- (i) **Original Thinking:** When a student turns in assignments that are entirely original and comprise creative concepts based on properly cited sources.
- (ii) **Students Collusion:** Collaborating with fellow students on an assignment intended for personal evaluation.
- (iii) **Word-for-Word Plagiarism:** Stealing and copying text without giving due credit.
- (iv) **Self Plagiarism:** Reusing someone else's previously written material without giving proper credit.
- (v) **Mosaic Plagiarism:** Incorporating sentences and material from other sources into one's own work. Changing phrases without adding quotation marks or giving attribution.
- (vi) **Software-based Text Modification:** Using a software tool like text spinner or translation engine to process content that has been authored by someone else to avoid being detected as plagiarised.

- (vii) **Contract Cheating:** Hiring a third party to finish a task (for free, for a fee, or in kind) and passing it off as your own.
- (viii) **Inadvertent Plagiarism:** Inadequate referencing or quoting of sources, or unintentional paraphrasing.
- (ix) **Paraphrase Plagiarism:** Altering concepts from a source without giving proper recognition.
- (x) **Computer Code Plagiarism:** Modifying or duplicating source code without getting consent from the original author and giving them credit.
- (xi) **Source-based Plagiarism:** Giving inaccurate or insufficient information about sources so that it is impossible to locate them.
- (xii) **Manual Text Modification:** Writing false content in order to deceive the plagiarism detection software
- (xiii) **Data Plagiarism:** Falsifying or manipulating data, or stealing someone else's ideas without permission, endangering the reputation of a publisher, institution, or researcher. (*Plagiarism spectrum 2.0*, n.d.)

3.4 Copyright, Plagiarism and Fair Use: An Overview

One of the most significant intellectual properties is copyright, which grants the author of any creative work the sole authority to reproduce the work in any format. Protecting the creative effort of those who contribute to various intellectual creations is the goal of copyright. The right to reproduce literary, dramatic, musical, and creative works as well as cinematographic films and sound recordings is known as copyright. The goal of copyright law is to incentivize authors, composers, and artists to produce original works by granting them the sole authority to duplicate the work for public use for a set amount of time. It is actually a set of rights, including the right to copy, communicate with the public, adapt, translate, and use the work in innovative contexts. As technology develops, there is a growing risk of copyright violations. The easy availability to information in the age of digital technology has made infringement easier.

Nowadays, plagiarism is a serious problem that poses a threat to both pre-existing and newly created content that is in the public domain. The sacredness of original work must be upheld, and society must demand that these acts of plagiarism be controlled. It is an ethical concept based on community standards. It is a severe violation of academic integrity in the context of academic environment. Plagiarism can occur intentionally or unintentionally. When a writer

seeks to deceive another it is intentional plagiarism. In fact, intellectual honesty standards in academic environment are frequently stricter than copyright regulations imposed by the government. For example, we are unlikely to receive preferential treatment if we plagiarise a document whose copyright has expired than if we had plagiarised copyright material. Additionally, cut and paste is also a major concern in these days. Unintentionally, people can also do it sometimes. Instead of concentrating on punitive measures, we should strive to eradicate plagiarism. The university should impose punishments on those who engage in such behaviour. Copyright is a form of intellectual property protection which is given under Indian law to the original work. Thus, copyright can be defined as a legal notion pertaining to original works of authorship that are fixed in a tangible medium.

A copyright is a legal right established by the law of a country that gives the author of an original work the only right to distribute and use it. There is a time limit on this. This is not the absolute right. The harmful impacts of copyright protection on intellectual property, especially copyright privacy, have been extensively debated by Indian courts. The court has rendered decisions in a number of matters pertaining to the imposition of strict responsibility for copyright infringement. In the well-known case of *Microsoft Corporation v. Yogesh Pupot*, the Delhi High Court held the defendants' infringement actions in the highest regard. The plaintiff was awarded 1,975 million in damages by the court, which based its decision on the principle used by several jurisdictions to determine the appropriate amount of damages (*Microsoft Corporation Vs Mr. Yogesh Papat And Anr. on 22 February, 2005. (n.d.). Retrieved July 12, 2023*)

In a recent case at the University of Delhi, former vice-chancellor Deepak Pental was accused of plagiarism, cheating, and forgery along with another individual. Pental was accused of misappropriating genetic material from the University of Science Lab and of cheating. Pental was accused of misappropriating genetic material from the University of Science Lab and of cheating. The court's challenge was to: (i) establish a committee within the UGC to define plagiarism; (ii) run academic work through plagiarism software (*Former DU V-C Deepak Pental released from jail after High Court's order, 2014*).

Similarly, in a previous case, the vice chancellor of Pondicherry University was accused of using cheating text in papers on legal education and the legal profession in India. Similarly, in a landmark case in 2015, guidelines on plagiarism published in the Indian journal of

dermatology were copied from a questionnaire used for dissertations (*Three cases of fake Phd thesis reported, two involved vcs: HRD 2018*)

The term “fair use” denotes some guidelines to decide whether the use of a source is acceptable or contravene copyright laws. Below some are viewpoints that determine the fairness of any given usage:

- The nature of use
- The amount used
- The effect of used material on the original

The nature of use

If an author has merely copied something from an original source, it is unlikely to be considered ‘fair use’. But if the original source has been transformed through interpretation, analysis, etc. and presented as an original output, it is more likely to be considered as ‘fair use.’

The amount used

If the amount of borrowing from an original source is less then it is less likely it is to be considered fair use. The more you borrow, the more it is likely to be considered as fair use.

The effect of used material on the original

If an author has substantially borrowed from an original source and created a work that competes with the original source in the market which may do the original author economic harm, is likely to be considered fair use.

It is always better to have difference in objective of the work or its target audience from that of the original work to avoid possibilities of ‘fair use’. Intellectual property rights and ethical standards should be strictly observed to during this process. However, sometimes he or she may want to pass for an original study. Sometimes a researcher will publish the same work under somewhat different circumstances—perhaps with an addition or deletion—without giving credit to the previous publication. Here, he or she violates the publisher's copyright ownership of his or her earlier research, including the publication of his own work.

3.5 Academic Plagiarism and its Penalties:

The charge of plagiarism is a serious one for all writers. Plagiarists are often seen as incompetent-incapable of developing and expressing their own thoughts-or, worse, dishonest, willing to deceive others for personal gain. When professional writers, such as journalists, are exposed as plagiarists, they are likely to lose their jobs, and they are certain to suffer public embarrassment and loss of prestige. Almost always, the course of a writer's career is permanently affected by a single act of plagiarism. The serious consequences of plagiarism reflect the value the public places on trustworthy information. Students exposed as plagiarists may suffer severe penalties, ranging from failure in the assignment or in the course to expulsion from school. This is because student plagiarism does considerable harm. For one thing, it damages teachers' relationships with students, turning teachers into detectives instead of mentors and fostering suspicion instead of trust. By undermining institutional standards for assigning grades and awarding degrees, student plagiarism also becomes a matter of significance to the public. When graduates' skills and knowledge fail to match their grades, an institution's reputation is damaged. For example, no one would choose to be treated by a physician who obtained a medical degree by fraud. Finally, students who plagiarize harm themselves. They lose an important opportunity to learn how to write a research paper. Knowing how to collect and analyze information and reshape it in essay form is essential to academic success. This knowledge is also required in a wide range of careers in law, journalism, engineering, public policy, teaching, business, government, and not-for-profit organizations (Craig & Gibaldi, 2003).

The word "plagiarism" has a big cultural impact, although its true meaning is a little ambiguous. Plagiarism is defined differently depending on the culture in which it is practiced, and there is no universal understanding. It appears that copying a single word or a brief passage verbatim is frequently permitted as long as the original literary source is mentioned (Macdonald & Carroll, 2006).

Students frequently have limited knowledge about plagiarism and lack guidance on the subject. Assignments, projects, dissertations, and doctoral theses must all be prepared. They need to be instructed about the concept of "plagiarism" by their teachers, which is extremely important. In order to do this, the teachers must also be aware of the plagiarism policies set forth by the higher education system for research and the penalties associated with using plagiarized material, which is offensive to both the students and the teachers who helped them.

3.5.1 University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018

University Grants Commission adopted the rules, which included a graded plagiarism penalty. The new UGC regulations of 2018, titled the “University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018”, brings about a special emphasis on the integrity and prevention of misconduct including plagiarism in academic writing among student, faculty, researcher and staff. These regulations promote establishment of institutional mechanism through education and training to facilitate responsible conduct of research, thesis, dissertation, promotion of academic integrity and deterrence from plagiarism. These regulations also develop a system to detect plagiarism and to set up mechanisms to prevent plagiarism and punish a student, faculty, researcher or staff of HEI committing the act of plagiarism. These Regulations are operational from 23rd July, 2018. These Regulations shall apply to the students, faculty, researchers and staff of all Higher Educational Institutions in the country (*UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018*).

3.5.2 Definitions under Regulations

“Author” includes a student or a faculty or a researcher or staff of

Higher Educational Institution (HEI) who claims to be the creator of the work under consideration;

“Higher Educational Institution (HEI)” means a university recognized under section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 or an institution deemed to be university under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 or an affiliating college / institution or a constituent unit of a university;

“Information” includes data, message, text, images, sound, voice, codes, computer programs, software and databases or microfilm or computer generated microfiche;

“Plagiarism” means the practice of taking someone else’s work or idea and passing them as one’s own.

“Programme” means a programme of study leading to the award of a masters and research level degree;

“Researcher” refers to a person conducting academic / scientific research in HEIs;

“Staff” refers to all non-teaching staff working in HEIs in any capacity whatsoever i.e. regular, temporary, contractual, outsourced etc.;

3.5.3 Levels of Plagiarism and Its Penalty

According to the regulations, there are four levels of plagiarism which are based on the proportion of copied content and each level has a clearly defined penalty as per the regulations (*UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018*)

Sl No	Level	Margin of plagiarism	Penalties of plagiarism
1	Level 0	Plagiarism up to 10%	No Penalty
2	Level 1	Up to 10%-40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For thesis and dissertations: The student must submit a revised script within 6 months of the original submission date. • For academic and research publications: The candidate withdrew the manuscript.
3	Level 2	Up to 40%-60%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For thesis and dissertations: The student will be prohibited for a year from submitting the revised script. • For academic and research publications: The candidate will not be eligible for one annual increment and will be asked to retract the document. In addition, for a two-year period will not be permitted to supervise any new Master's, M.Phil or PhD students or scholars.
4	Level 3	Up to 60% or more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For thesis and dissertations: The student will no longer be able to register for the programme. • For academic and research publications: The candidate will not be granted the chance to receive two consecutive annual increments and will be asked to withdraw

the manuscript. In addition to being prohibited from supervising any forthcoming Master's, M.Phil., or PhD students or scholars for three years.

3.5.4 Examples of some Indian Institutions/Universities with Cut off % for Plagiarism

- The PhD thesis at Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has a 20% limit.
- A 30% limit has been imposed on master's and thesis projects at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTUA), Anantapur.
- Delhi University has made it mandatory that all the theses submitted will be subjected to plagiarism check using specialized software.
- Dr. M.G.R. Medical University of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
 - At the time of submitting the dissertation, each student must pay a fee of Rs. 1000/-
 - Twelve continuous words should be identified and reported as plagiarised.
 - Up to 25% similarity is permissible.
 - Candidates may use the software up to ten times.
- 15% has been set for a PhD thesis by Pondicherry University.
- Gagannath University, Jaipur has set 20% for a PhD thesis.

3.6 An overview of Plagiarism Detection Tools

Plagiarism detection and prevention have become educational issues in several academic organisations, such as universities, schools, and institutes, because a significant number of students and researchers cheat on assigned tasks and projects. This is due to the abundance of resources available online. There are different types of Plagiarism Detection tools available, ranging from open source solutions to commercial products. Some of them are as follows-

Urkund(Ouriginal)

The anti-plagiarism programme Urkund (Ouriginal) was developed by eGalactic. It is entirely an automated system from the input of research results to the creation of reports on similarities by contrasting the given materials with millions of other source materials. Uukund(Ouriginal) never finds if the content supplied is plagiarised. Its precise function is to compare the submitted document with existing sources, such as from its archives, the

Internet, and published information, and then provide access to the original material where the similarities were discovered to the submitter.

Advantages of Urkund (Original):

- a) High content of digital fingerprints/source materials
 - 130Mn of articles from global publishers
 - 300Mn URKUND's archives
 - 43Bn web pages
- b) Maximum source content search to check for plagiarism within the short time. iii.
Support of 30 foreign languages

Disadvantage of Urkund (Original):

- a) Poor in local Indian language

Turnitin

The most widely used commercial anti-plagiarism tool is Turnitin. Turnitin keeps track of and generates a distinct fingerprint for each document. For a chosen set of documents with comparable fingerprints, it computes detailed document similarities. Books, journals, periodicals, and preserved student papers make up internal document storage. The process of automatically crawling web pages is expanding the storage of documents. 19 languages are supported by Turnitin: English, Arabic, Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Vietnamese (R. et al., 2015).

EVE2

Another commercial anti-plagiarism technology is called EVE2. It provides links to web pages from which an author could plagiarise an input document. "Advanced searching tools" are used by EVE2 to find suspicious sites. It contrasts the provided and discovered documents and indicates instances of "plagiarism" in red. These systems were developed only for English, while other programs were adapted to deal with French, German and Chinese languages (R. et al., 2015).

Viper

Viper is a free plagiarism detector available only in English and for Windows. They claim that it searches through more than 10 billion websites, online journals, and news sources (R. et al., 2015).

3.7 Plagiarism Detection Software (PDS) Policy by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

Since September 1, 2019, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, has launched the "ShodhShuddhi" programme, which gives all Indian universities and institutions access to plagiarism detection software (PDS) on the advice of the Sub-Committee, National Steering Committee (NSC) of e-ShodhSindhu. There are more than 1100+ institutions listed, including

- Central Universities
- State Universities
- Deemed-to- be Universities
- Private Universities
- Centrally funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs)
- Inter-University Centre (IUCs) of UGC

Under the ShodhShuddhi initiative, Universities and other institutions around the country now have access to Ouriginal (previously Urkund), a web-based plagiarism detection software system, which was officially inaugurated by the Former Minister of Education (formerly MHRD) on September 21, 2019, and it continued until the contract with M/s Ouriginal by Turnitin concluded on September 30, 2023. As part of the same ShodhShuddhi programme, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can now offer the 'DrillBit-Extreme Plagiarism Detection Software' from the INFLIBNET Centre as of October 1, 2023. This software will go through a trial period in October 2023 and launch, with full-fledged service set to commence on November 1, 2023 (*Shodhsuddhi Enhancing Research Quality,2023*)

3.8 Conclusion

Plagiarism is a concept that is difficult to define. Although most higher education institutions have policies aimed at minimising and addressing student plagiarism, little research has examined the ways in which plagiarism is discursively constructed in university policy documents, or the connections and disconnections between institutional and student understandings of plagiarism in

higher education. Software is just one instrument in the arsenal against plagiarism. There are serious problems with the current generation of tools. There are several types of defects in the system: theoretical, technical, and resulting from a disregard for ethical and social considerations.

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