



4. "A Study of Awareness and Knowledge of Plagiarism among college students in Mumbai"

Dr. Roopa Gokhale-Shahade

Librarian, R.D. And S.H. National College,

Email gokhale1shahade@gmail.com Mob. 9869214521

Abstract

Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them. Falsification is Manipulating research material, equipment or processes or changing or omitting data or results. Internet provides exorbitant information which can be accessed very easily. The browsers think that copying and pasting will not be a serious matter. A researcher is not able to write on his own, the publication in standard way. Therefore such researcher tends to copy and paste the work of other scholars. In last few decades the plagiarism increased to a considerably due to easy availability of electronic sources. This study is undertaken to understand the awareness levels about the word plagiarism at college level and their knowledge about plagiarism as a crime and also about the awareness levels about the different tools about plagiarism.

Keywords: Plagiarism, Internet, Social Media, Students, Teachers, Tools

Introduction

The advent of internet has resulted in explosion of information. It transfers millions of bytes of information to every computer that is connected with internet. There are several search engines .That helps information seeker in searching, filtering and retrieving required information 24/7 of a Week. This has helped internet users to use someone's ideas, facts in their information activities. This has created problems like violation of copyright, unethical utilization of information belongs to others. According to United states Public Health Services (USPHS) research misconduct is "fabrication, or plagiarism, in proposing or reviewing the research or in reporting research results. Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them. Falsification is Manipulating research material, equipment or processes or changing or omitting data or results. Such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record. Plagiarism is the Appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate Credit." (Satyanarayana, K.; 2010). According to Macmillan dictionary, Intellect Property Rights means "someone's rights relating to ideas, products and work that they created and that can be protected by a copyright.

Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is:

- ✓ To study the awareness levels about the word Plagiarism
- ✓ To analyse the knowledge levels about plagiarism as a crime



- ✓ To evaluate the responses to committing plagiarism
- ✓ To analyse the awareness about Plagiarism tools

Review of Literature

In his compassionate thought about the philosophy and ethos of science John Ziman notes that 'plagiarism is as infamous as fabrication in a scientific paper' (p. 40). Plagiarism percentage is increasing.

After scanning or browsing through some manuscripts that appeared to go beyond the acceptable limits, he came across a copy of an editorial entitled 'Plagiarism in the age of electronic publishing'. The case discussed, involved a review article published in an 'online journal', in which it appeared that same case was previously published in *Population Ecology*. The editorial analysis provided interesting statistics; the plagiarized paper used 29% of the original text without modification, while '93% (in terms of words)' were common between the two papers. The editorial noted that 'the prevalence of plagiarism in scientific papers is an acute problem, but tackling it is not easy when considering the rapid expansion of scientific journals supported by the worldwide exposure through the Internet'

Plagiarism in India came to limelight by the Kumaun University's scandal a few of years back- The physics of plagiarism, Ramachandran, R., *Frontline*, 26 October–8 November 2002.

Some years ago, several plagiarism cases hammered the Chinese scientific establishment (*Science*, 1996, 274, 337). The issue was burning few years later in plagiarism and unethical practices when it was discussed at the 2003 meeting of the Chinese Association of Science and Technology. More recently, plagiarism came to picture when several papers in the area of materials science were, published from Cambridge University (Giles, J., *Nature*, 2004, 427, 3).

According to John Ziman : "The scientific culture depends fundamentally on personal honesty and mutual trust. For this reason, deliberate plagiarism – the expropriation of genuine research results – is almost as reprehensible as their fabrication. And yet, in spite of peer review and other safeguards, it is relatively easy to get fraudulent research claims into the literature, and to profit from them career wise for a while. Such cases, when found out, stimulate much institutional turmoil and public comment. The contrast between their condemnation as instances of grave social deviance and the relatively lenient sanctions applied to those who perpetrate them tells us a lot about the internal sociology of research communities."

John Crace in his article from *The Guardian* entitled 'Ethics and plagiarism' has described the rise of Jude Carroll, who is dubbed as a 'leading authority on plagiarism'. Carroll's research has focussed on plagiarism practised by students who turn in essays and reviews of literature as part of their coursework at high school or university. Copying has become easier,

The availability of research work is easily available on the Internet. Now a day's Google has enhanced the downloading of material by providing easy access which helps in completing assignments in record time. The new generation students are quickly attracted by the ease of



electronic plagiarism. Ironically, the search engines are playing vital role in the detection of plagiarism. However, constant fear facilitates any scholarly activity.

Cases of plagiarism are uncovered, usually by accident, long after publication, often leading to prolonged correspondence between the editors and the offending authors. Demands for redressed from the victims of plagiarism must also be addressed. These episodes are unpleasant and consume a great deal of time. In the end, there are no winners. .

The scientific community growth worldwide has pressed towards the competitive pressures which lead to unethical practices in science has become more common. Today, even students in India who wish to enter Western universities for Ph D degrees attempt to spend summers in research laboratories as apprentices in science. Some years ago, this short stint was viewed as 'research experience' that could be flaunted on an application form. Now, there is pressure to obtain publishable results in a very short period, inexperience notwithstanding.

Research Methodology

The data on plagiarism is collected from a sample of 150 students at college level in Mumbai with the help of telephonic survey and personal interview. Out of these 150 students, 75 were at Graduate level, 55 were at Post Graduate level and the remaining 20 were at Doctorate level.

The data relating to the following variables on plagiarism was collected to test their awareness and knowledge on the same.

- Awareness about the word Plagiarism
- Knowledge about plagiarism is crime
- Responses to committing plagiarism
- Awareness about Plagiarism tools
- Awareness about the Plagiarism Policies

Their responses are tabulated and analysed to test their knowledge on plagiarism and their level of awareness.

Reasons for plagiarism:

1. Information explosion:

Internet provides exorbitant information which can be accessed very easily. The browsers think that copying and pasting will not be a serious matter. The thought behind it is that the analysis and interpreting of vast data is very difficult, so it is easy to copy and paste the available data on the internet. Thus information on internet provides gateway to steal information.

2. Decreasing value of ethics:



Stealing of information for the project work, research work and their publication is increasing, The external efforts are not sufficient for creating ethical values among researchers. Creating Self-interest and encouragement to conduct ethical research is the only way to solve this problem.

3. Laziness:

Lack of enthusiasm to do work diligently is another reason. Researchers should be encouraged to do research with full of interest and enthusiasm.

4. Ignorance:

Ignorance towards the copyright issues and citation methods in scholarly publications reinforces the act of plagiarism.

5. Inability to write by self:

A researcher is not able to write on his own, the publication in standard way. Therefore such researcher tends to copy and paste the work of other scholar.

6. For scholarly publication:

The national educational institutions like UGC, AICTE has made it mandatory to gain points through publications in national and international and impact factor journal. Many researchers are not capable to write qualitative and original work. This has given rise to copy paste the work of others.

There are several types of plagiarism:

(Shobhna, 2010)

- Complete plagiarism: submitting some other person's work as our own.
- Partial plagiarism: This refers to copy information partially or changing original words phrases, with similar meaning.
- Verbatim Copy: It refers changing original work completely and presenting it as it is own work.
- Photocopy: In this type the plagiarist copy the significant part of the text straight from some persons work without doing any alterations.
- Potluck Paper: In this type the plagiarist steal information from different sources and alters some paragraphs of it and presents it as it is own work.

In last few decades the plagiarism has increased considerably due to easy availability of electronic sources. Even though libraries are knowledge centres, the plagiarist prefer to copy and paste the matter from e resources. Therefore the dependency on written material has decreased. Therefore it is necessary for the LIS professionals to conserve and preserve the



intellectual assets available in the library. But it requires continues awareness among the members of the library. Reasons for plagiarism are various from lack of writing skill to internet factors. These are found out from survey based on questions, answer through mobile and personal interaction with the research.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

a. Analysis of Categories of participants

Table 1:Categories of participants.

Graduates	75	50%
Post Graduate	55	37%
Doctorate	20	15%

Based on the responses of above mentioned categories the answers were evaluated which is presented in the tabular form given below. Out of 150 students 75 students were graduate and 55 were post graduate and 20 were doctorate. All were college students.

b. Analysis of Awareness about the word Plagiarism

Table 2: Awareness about the word Plagiarism

Yes	80	53%
No	30	20%
Not Aware	40	27%

53% students are aware about the word plagiarism where else 20% are not aware of what it deals with. However, 27% don't have any clue what plagiarism means.

c. Analysis of Knowledge about Plagiarism

Table 3: Knowledge about plagiarism is crime

Yes	90	60%
No	40	27%
Not Aware	20	13%

60% of students know that plagiarism is a crime where else 27% thinks otherway and remaining 13% are not aware at all. This indicated that maximum respondents are aware of plagiarism as a crime.

d. Analysis of Responses to committing plagiarism

Table 4: Responses to committing plagiarism

Yes	50	50%
No	30	30%
Not Aware	20	20%

50% students were found to be aware of doing Plagiarism in their work. 30% students didn't know about it and 20 % are those who are who are unaware of its existence.



e. Analysis of awareness about plagiarism tools

Table 4: Awareness about Plagiarism tools

Yes	80	53%
No	45	30%
Not Aware	25	17%

53% students are aware about the Plagiarism tools and 30 % are not aware about it. But 17 % are those students who have no knowledge of these tools.

f. Analysis about the Plagiarism about the Plagiarism Policies

Table 5: Awareness about the Plagiarism Policies.

Yes	90	60%
No	40	26%
Not Aware	20	14%

60% students are aware of the Plagiarism policies. Whereas 26% students are not fully aware of these set policies. 14% are the students left out who are not at all aware of it.

Conclusion

Plagiarism is a crime which is a well accepted fact and in all countries there is severe punishment for all forms of plagiarism. However among college students the awareness levels still needs to be created. The problem of plagiarism is a matter of concern and need to be addressed in the 21st century knowledge society. In a country like India, where about 40% of the population earns less than one US dollar per day and only a small part of the budget is spent on health, it is hard to believe that government intervention can give us solution to it. The plagiarism can be controlled by strict laws and intervention from the researchers and the librarians should play an important role in it. The regulatory bodies like international the Committee on Publication Ethics, UK and the ORI, USA have to take stricter actions against those indulging in plagiarism. The corrupt practices prevalent among the seniors to enforce their names in the dissertation/projects/thesis of their students have to be controlled. The role of governing bodies, both at the local level like the colleges and at the national level like the Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, UGC etc. has to play a major role to control this practice prevalent in the developing countries like India. Even with controls at multiple levels it will never be possible to stop plagiarism, however with efforts at all the levels related to publication it can be minimized. Plagiarism results in loss to authors who plagiarize, if it is detected the papers are withdrawn, the editors or publishers who unknowingly publish such materials are penalised..

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