

Research Plagiarism and its Effects

Dr. Muthu Maha Laxmi¹

¹ Assistant Professor of Economics, St. Mary's College (Autonomous) Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

Abstract- The word "Plagiarism" generally refers to the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own for their own benefit. It may be also called as academic dishonesty. Plagiarism has become a major issue in research. In today's research era while preparing a research paper or for a matter of any research work, in order to get better results, one starts with surfing the net for getting some new ideas related to their topic. We also try to get some reference from other secondary sources like various Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, books and websites or any other source. In this process of reference, it is essential to indicate the source of information within your writing, using an internal citation whenever you state sentences or phrases from any other source. Listing out all the sources at the end of the research work in the form of bibliography is not enough. When you fail to properly mention, quote or acknowledge the person's ideas within your internal citation leads to plagiarism. Plagiarism may occur intentionally or unintentionally. But this may lead to severe effects and consequences. The primary objective of the paper is to create a proper awareness about plagiarism among young researchers. Hence, this paper emphasis on explaining the concept of plagiarism, its types and consequences. It also suggests the ways to avoid plagiarism in today's research world.

Key Words: Plagiarism, Internet, surfing, internal citation, Software.

INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism is an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author.¹ It is the "wrongful appropriation" and "stealing and publication" of another author's "language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions" and the representation of them as one's own original work.⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ Plagiarism may be intentional or reckless or unintentional. Plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty and a breach of journalistic ethics. It is subject to sanctions like penalties, suspension, and even expulsion.⁴ All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To clearly explain the concept of plagiarism.
2. To discuss the various types of plagiarism and its effects.
3. To suggest measures to avoid plagiarism.

Plagiarism occurs when another person's work is copied and republished without an appropriate reference or citation. It may range from small infractions such as not putting quotes around a quotation to blatant violations like copying an entire website. Even if the original content has been modified, such as an altered image, it is still considered plagiarism if no credit is given to the original source.

We live in a world where most information is available in a digital format. While this makes it easier to access information than ever before, it also makes it easier to

plagiarize other people's work. All it takes is a simple copy operation to copy large amounts of text or images from another source. This content can be pasted into a document or another publication in a matter of seconds. Anyone with a website can potentially republish the content for the whole world to see, without citing the original author. Because it is so easy to copy and paste digital information, plagiarism in the information age has become a serious problem. Fortunately, there are laws in place to protect against plagiarism. The most notable is international copyright law, which states that each individual's published work is automatically protected by copyright. This means others cannot copy the work without the author's approval and can be held liable for breaking the law if they do so. In 1996, the U.S. Senate passed the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), which heightened penalties for copyright infringements on the Internet.⁵

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. An intentional plagiarism refers to copying someone's words or ideas without citing them, in order to pass them off as your own. It is simply cheating. Whereas an unintentional plagiarism means accidentally leaving off the required citation(s) because you don't understand the rules of citation and plagiarism. Sometimes people don't realize they need to include a citation for any information they learned from a source, even if they are using their own words to paraphrase the information they learned.⁶ Within academia, plagiarism by students, professors, or researchers is considered academic dishonesty or academic fraud, and offenders are subject to academic censure.

Types of Plagiarism⁷

Plagiarism are of various types. The major types of plagiarism are stated below:

Secondary Source Plagiarism

This happens when a researcher uses a secondary source like a Meta study but only cites the primary sources contained within the secondary one. Secondary source plagiarism not only fails to attribute the work of the authors of the secondary sources but also provides a false sense of the amount of review that went into the research.

Invalid sources (Misleading citation, Fabrication, Falsification)

It occurs when researchers reference either an incorrect or non-existent source. It may be the result of sloppy research or it can also be an attempt to increase the list of references and hide inadequate research.

Duplication (Self-plagiarism, Reuse)

Duplication happens when a researcher reuses work from their own previous studies and papers without attribution. The ethics of duplication depends upon the content copied.

Paraphrasing (Plagiarism, Intellectual theft)

Paraphrasing is taking another person's writing and changing the words in order to make it appear that an idea is original. Paraphrasing ranges from simple rephrasing to completely rewriting content without acknowledging the original author.

Repetitive Research (Self-Plagiarism)

Repetitive Research Plagiarism is the repeating of data or text from a similar study with a similar methodology in a new study without proper attribution. This often happens when studies on a related topic are repeated with similar result but the earlier research is not cited properly.

Replication (Author Submission violation)

Replication is the submission of a paper to multiple publications, resulting in the same manuscript being published more than once. This can be an ethical infraction, particularly when a researcher claims that a paper is new when it has been published elsewhere.

Misleading attribution (Inaccurate Authorship)

Misleading Attribution is an inaccurate or insufficient list of authors who contributed to a manuscript. This happens when authors are denied credit for partial or significant contributions made to a study, or the opposite-when authors are cited in a paper although no contributions were made.

Unethical collaboration (inaccurate authorship)

Unethical Collaboration happens when people who are working together violate a code of conduct. Using written work, outcomes and ideas that are the result of collaboration, without citing the collaborative nature of the study and participants involved is unethical.

Verbatim plagiarism (Copy and Paste)

Verbatim Plagiarism is the copying of another's words and works without providing proper attribution, indentation or quotation marks. This can take two forms. First, plagiarists may cite the source they borrowed from, but no indicate that it's a direct quote. In the second, no attribution at all is

provided, essentially claiming the words of someone else to be their own.

Complete plagiarism (intellectual theft, stealing)

Complete plagiarism is an extreme scenario when a researcher takes a study, a manuscript or other work from another researcher and simply resubmits it under his/her own name.

Effects of Plagiarism⁸

Plagiarism is a breach of academic integrity. One should acknowledge the right person at the right place. Plagiarism has severe consequences and it may even destroy one's whole career. With plagiarism detection software plagiarists are being caught at an alarming rate. One cannot be excused because of his ignorance and unawareness. The effects may be personal, professional, ethical and legal. People committing plagiarism include academics, professionals, students, journalists, authors, and others. Some of the effects and consequences of plagiarism are discussed below:

- Plagiarism effects student's reputation. It can cause a student to be suspended or expelled. Their academic record can reflect the ethics offense, possibly causing the student to be barred from entering college from high school or another college.
- It harms reputation of professionals like businessman, Government officials and politicians. It may damage their entire career. They are held responsible for the plagiarism and they might be asked to resign their position and it will be difficult for them to find a respectable job thereafter.
- In academics, the consequences of plagiarism in widely reported. The academic career of a person may be destroyed due to plagiarism. One may lose the ability to publish further in their career.
- The legal repercussions of plagiarism can be quite serious. Copyright laws are absolute. One cannot use another person's material without citation and reference. Some plagiarism may be considered as criminal offense and it may lead to a prison sentence. Those who write for a living, such as journalists or authors, are particularly susceptible to plagiarism issues. Those who write frequently must be ever-vigilant not to err. All frequent writers must be aware of all types of plagiarism and ways to avoid it. For a professional writer plagiarism may cause legal issue.
- Plagiarism may lead to monetary repercussions. When researchers, professionals, journalists engage in plagiarism, they may have to pay penalties in terms of money.
- Sometimes, plagiarism in medical field may lead to lose of human life also.

How to avoid plagiarism?

While preparing a research paper, we face many challenges like gathering of review of literature and evidences to make

our paper worthy. The consequences of plagiarism are severe. So one should be careful while preparing a research paper or writing a report or project. Every researcher should know what plagiarism means and the ways to avoid it. The ways to avoid plagiarism are:

- ❖ First plan your research paper properly.
- ❖ Understand the views and ideas of the reference paper and put it in your own words. Avoid copying and pasting text from reference or cut-copy method.
- ❖ Whenever you state words or sentences from other research papers, put them in quotes.
- ❖ Avoid using texts without citation from your own previous research papers as it may lead to self-plagiarism.
- ❖ Citation is essential for scientific evidences.
- ❖ Keep a record of the sources of your reference. There are citation software like EndNote or Reference Manager with the help of which you can manage your citations.
- ❖ When publishing contents from a website, add a reference and a link to the website where the information is from.
- ❖ Providing proper reference is essential. Proper format should be followed while giving references.
- ❖ Use plagiarism detection software to check for any inadvertent plagiarism in your manuscript.

CONCLUSION

Copying the hard work of others without providing proper acknowledgement to the concerned author is a serious academic offence and it may lead to severe consequences like paper retractions and bad reputation. Hence, a researcher should be aware of the forms of plagiarism and know how to provide appropriate citations wherever needed. This will help in maintaining the personal dignity and reputation of the institution.

REFERENCES:

- [1] <http://www.dictionary.com>
- [2] Qtd. in Stepchychyn, Vera; Nelson, Robert s. (2007). Library Plagiarism Policies. Assoc. of College & Research Libraries. P 65. ISBN 0-8389 -8416-9 1995. From Random House Compact Unabridged Dictionary.
- [3] Oxford English Dictionary
- [4] O'Connor. Z (2015) Extreme Plagiarism: The rise of e-idiot? International Journal of Learning in Higher Education, 20(1), pp1-11, ISSN 2327-7955 (1)
- [5] <http://techterms.com/plagiarism definition/>
- [6] Askus.baker.edu>faq (Difference between intentional and unintentional plagiarism)
- [7] Eassom, H. (2013) 10 types of plagiarism in research. <http://uniklib.wordpress.com>, <http://exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2015/11/12/10-types-of-plagiarism-in-research/>
- [8] [www.ithenticate.com/resources/6 consequences of plagiarism/](http://www.ithenticate.com/resources/6-consequences-of-plagiarism/)
- [9] [https://www.enago.com/academy/ how to avoid – plagiarism-in-research papers.](https://www.enago.com/academy/how-to-avoid-plagiarism-in-research-papers)
- [10] www.ox.ac.uk
- [11] www.custorepapers.com/plagiarism
- [12] Vaibhav Kalani and Ashok Twinwal, Plagiarism and its Consequences, Department of electrical engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi, Dec 11, 2013.
- [13] Gert Helgesson, Stephan Eriksson, Plagiarism in Research, Medical Health Care and Philos, (2015) 18:91-101, DOI 10.1007/s11019-014-9583-8. Published online : 4 July 2014
- [14] Gordon, Colin H., Peter Simmons, and Graeme Wynn. "Plagiarism - What It Is and How to Avoid It." Plagiarism - What It Is and How to Avoid It. University of Pennsylvania, 18 July 2013. Web. 07 Dec. 2013.
- [15] M. J. Kumar, "Literal and Intelligent Plagiarism: Students Beware!" IETE Technical Review, Vol.29 (3), pp.181-183, May-June 2012.
- [16] Khan, B.A. 2011. Plagiarism: an academic theft. International Journal of Pharmaceutical Investigation 1 (4): 255