

Plagiarism and Library Integrity

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Abstract

Plagiarism is a growing problem at universities around the world. Several factors influence the researcher's behavior towards plagiarism. The Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Universities (UGC) Regulations 2018 has been reported to promote academic integrity in universities and reduce plagiarism. However, this provision has many flaws that must be addressed in the pursuit of academic integrity. This article attempts to identify these regulatory gaps. It also seeks to address the academic community's over-reliance on plagiarism detection tools.

Key words: higher education, quoted work, PDS

Introduction

India's university regulator, the University Grants Commission (UGC), issued regulations in 2018 to promote academic integrity and prevent plagiarism in colleges. The deal came about in the face of several cases of plagiarism that were reported in the media. Several well-known Indian university rectors, institute directors and scientists have been sued for plagiarizing other research papers in their publications. These reports prompted the UGC to take concrete actions and formulate policies to address research integrity issues and challenges. The purpose of the regulation is not only to control plagiarism, but also to ensure the quality of the scholarly production of the Indian academic community.

The regulation provides that each research result is subjected to a plagiarism detection tool before being accepted for conclusion and/or publication. Unfortunately, although the guidelines have been issued to combat plagiarism, they focus on the similarity rate generated by the Plagiarism Detection Software (PDS) provided by UGC to all Indian Universities as part of their ShodhShuddhi (roughly translated as cleaning of researchers with many covers) is made available the entire process of writing research papers to clarify and refine the UGC Regulations 2018 to Promote Academic Integrity and Prevent Plagiarism in Universities², referred to in this discussion as the UGC Regulations 2018. Article also uses the term researcher as a generic term for students pursuing academic studies, teachers and scientists.

Plagiarism: crushing the shoulders of giants

Plagiarism is a serious threat to plagiarists in science today. It has become a common way to easily gain advanced degrees, positions, and various types of academic achievement without recognizing the work of others. Often the research papers produced are not original at all, but are a complete copy of other people's work modified to circumvent professional electronic means such as plagiarism detection software (PDS). This raises the question of what motivates researchers, professors and students to resort to such blatant interference in the work of their peers.

According to various studies, several factors influence the attitude and behavior of researchers towards plagiarism. Peer pressure, gender, academic discipline, desire for a higher degree/position, demographic characteristics, personality and situational factors, etc. have all been found to influence researchers' behavior when dealing with plagiarism.

Another factor affecting the Plagiarism Committee is the sponsor's attitude towards their own scientists. Colleagues' beliefs/behaviours towards plagiarism also influence the researcher's attitude towards plagiarism. Procrastination, the delay in work due to lethargy or other reasons, has been reported as a cause of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism among scholars. Researchers' tendency to hold back or delay/procrastinate leads to poor time management, influencing, and pushing deadlines.

As the deadline for the assignment submission approaches, students begin to worry and look for an easy way out. The same goes for academic staff fighting for promotion. In India, UGC implemented the Academic Performance Indicators (API) program¹² in 2010 to improve research outcomes. Doctorates within a certain period of time were permitted if the faculty had scientific output in the form of journal articles, theses, books, conference proceedings, projects, etc. These regulations were later amended in 2016 and 2018 respectively, but are completely independent from the reality of Indian universities. Many universities, especially state universities and even some newly established central universities, lack infrastructure. Many faculty positions remain vacant for years despite the steady increase in student places, leaving faculty-student ratios lopsided and faculty overloaded with teaching hours at Indian universities. are dedicated to the preparation of your conferences. In such a scenario, it is totally unrealistic to expect scientists, and in particular university professors, to produce several original, innovative and groundbreaking scientific publications in a limited period of time.

As such, it has sparked an unprecedented publishing rush that has led to an overproduction of plagiarized texts and a proliferation of pirated journals, damaging the image of the scientific community in India. Recognizing the seriousness of the situation in academia, UGC has made several rule changes, including a UGC CARE journal list, to address the problem of predatory journals. It also enacted the UGC Regulations of 2018 to counter the rise in plagiarism cases and increase academic integrity.

However, the damage has already been done internationally, with Indians among the leading authors of fake and predatory journals. Unethical academic behavior has also been attributed to cultural differences. Demographics, ethnicity, and acculturation are also cited as contributing factors to plagiarism among students. The globalization of education has made the student population ethnically and culturally diverse. According to culture clash theory, when students accept the idea that everyone in their culture (i.e. college) cheats, they become more likely to engage in such behavior.

The dichotomy between cultures, confirmed by numerous studies, leads to differences in understanding or perception of what can be considered "fraud and plagiarism". Pratt and McLaughlin (1989) found that students believe they have higher standards than their peers but feel compelled to cheat because they feel their peers are cheating. Many studies also suggest that students who take unethical approaches have less confidence in their writing abilities. The problems faced by non-native English speakers when writing research papers have been discussed by many scholars and have added a broader perspective to the definition of plagiarism. But even for native English speakers, the ability to understand and paraphrase a particular concept or idea varies.

Many scholars would find it difficult to put their thoughts into words even after understanding a pre-existing text. Sometimes the existing text is so well expressed that it is difficult to retain the meaning after paraphrasing. Furthermore, it may be unnecessary for the researcher to paraphrase when the thought is already well expressed. You would probably rather quote and quote than paraphrase. However, there are no standard rules for the range of direct quotes allowed in a given layout. Even the 2018 UGC rules do not address this issue. In addition, the current educational structure does not require a smooth transition from student to researcher.

While the curriculum aims to facilitate this change, the situation at the implementation level is very different. Many students who enroll in research are familiar with the various aspects of research writing, such as: B. Quoting and referencing, and not aware of their importance in avoiding allegations of plagiarism. Additionally, an instruction that did not involve intensive writing for the assessment and/or did not emphasize written self-expression would result in delays in obtaining author approval. This creates unintentional plagiarism that researchers only discover when the work is finally submitted.

The UGC introduced a semester-long course in 2019 to train researchers in the research process within university doctoral programs and a mandatory pre-doctoral degree in publications and research ethics, but the scenario has not materialized yet. It is no exaggeration to say that the lack of a strong academic integrity policy encourages plagiarism among scholars. Weaker academic integrity policies would leave scholars more vulnerable to dishonest practices, as the penalties do not outweigh the benefits of such misconduct. The factors discussed above have a strong impact on the formation of positive attitudes towards plagiarism among academics, which is an important indicator of plagiarism intent and involvement in unfair academic practices. UGC Regulation, 2018 in brief Responsible research has been identified as a priority by several research agencies in their policies. These include the ICMR Research Integrity Policy & Publication Ethics, CSIR Research and Governance Ethics Guidelines, Draft National Academic Ethics Policy by the GoI Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser (PSA), including UGC Rulebook, 2018. These guidelines, while following a different path, all point to the same goal, namely "to educate and educate Indian scholars to address issues of academic integrity and scholarly conduct".

As this study aims to provide insight into the scenario of academic integrity in Indian universities, it is important to thoroughly analyze the UGC Regulations 2018. The ongoing discussion becomes all the more important as UGC regulations are adopted without improvisation by most universities to address various issues that may arise during the research process. Research writing is an important aspect of the research process that requires strategy and insight to clearly articulate the research process. When researching literature, the researcher should arrange existing knowledge in his research area.

Correctly cited text is not considered plagiarism, but the question of the extent to which quoted or quoted text is permissible in a particular document remains unanswered. Sometimes even correctly quoted or quoted text results in a higher similarity rate. This area is much less discussed in the research community and clear guidelines on how to deal with it should be included in the UGC statutes. Second, it is very common in some disciplines, particularly Science, Technology, Engineering, and Medicine (STEM) to publish the results of one's research in the form of scientific articles, reports, or communications before presenting them in one's thesis or memoir.

Another practice, also widespread in all disciplines, is the publication of scientific articles, books, book chapters on the basis of the submitted thesis or dissertation. The UGC guidelines on self-plagiarism include the duplication or recycling of text from a researcher's published work without proper citation as plagiarism. However, as mentioned, the acceptable range of reference text in a document has not yet been clarified to classify and consider a submitted document as new or original. The self-plagiarism guidelines suggest the intervention of experts, which would vary based on their experience in the field. Judgment may be affected by alliances or professional commitments. The UGC Regulation 2018 proposes to set up and provide a technology-based mechanism to ensure that the submitted document (dissertation/dissertation/research work) is free from plagiarism.

Several plagiarism detection programs (PDS) are available for the plagiarism check. The performance and reliability of such software depends on the size of the database, which ultimately affects its cost. A PDS with a larger database would be more efficient but more expensive. The accuracy of the similarity percentage index generated by these PDSs is much higher, as is the reliability of their analysis report. However, the cost of these highly effective tools would discourage many smaller institutions and universities (not supported by UGC or AICTE) from choosing a cheaper but less reliable option. Also the normalization of the similarity index variables from different DPs for a given document should be discussed and implemented in the UGC rules.

It is very common for most publishers, academic institutions and administrators to use similarity ratings as the sole criterion for accepting or rejecting a study without objectively studying the analysis report produced by their preferred PDS. Weber-Wolff D. identified several anomalies in the PDS similarity analysis report. He claims that the analyses produced by this software are difficult to interpret and navigate, often producing false textual similarities. Common expressions, journal/institution names, generic names, standard tools and techniques, equations, theorems, scientific terms, bibliography, etc. may result in a higher similarity rate.

For a detailed discussion of plagiarism detection software, see the following section with relevant examples. Recognizing that the index of similarity generated by the PDS can be used “as is” to determine the fate of a future publication or thesis submission, the UGC Regulations of 2018 have clear guidelines for the exclusion of such texts the analysis of the PDS determined what would be possible to return a high similarity index. The rules establish the exclusion of the following essential elements of the work:

- o All works cited are reproduced with all necessary permissions and/or attributions.
- o All References, Bibliography, Table of Contents, Foreword and Acknowledgments.
- o All generic terms, laws, standard symbols and standard equations.
- o Known or random terms, up to fourteen consecutive words. Although clear guidelines are in place, researchers are required to revise and resubmit their theses or dissertations if the similarity rate exceeds 10% due to the factors listed above.

Plagiarism Detection Software (PDS): Not a panacea for plagiarism There are several free and commercial tools for detecting plagiarism. These tools work with advanced pattern matching algorithms to compare the content of the uploaded document against a set of documents/databases and generate a similarity index/percentage based on the corresponding text. The UGC Regulations 2018 mandates the use of a plagiarism detection tool (software) by higher education institutions in India to reduce plagiarism. PDS is an effective plagiarism detection tool, but you cannot fully rely on their analysis. A PDS can report a high similarity score for several reasons: a. Some studies rely on secondary data or survey data based on a standardized scale. Such studies may contain repeated references to common headings or terms such as bank names (commerce/finance), village/ethnicity (sociology), etc., which may result in a higher similarity rate. In addition, these tools invariably highlight current slang and common expressions. Here are some very common issues that require another level of examination, including thorough and in-depth investigation by b subject matter experts.

These tools are still in the early stages of development when it comes to processing Indic language documents. is fine. The accuracy of the similarity rate depends on the size of the PDS database, and the PDS is not able to cover/index all information that exists on the web, especially those that exist behind the paywall, deep web or plain text . Therefore, the similarity index would vary depending on the PDS. No library in the world can hold all the publications in the world, and no single PDS can be expected to hold all the publications in its database. BC Chr There is and will be plagiarism only in printed materials. The PDS

can only process them if they are digitized. e) There is no specific validity scheme for the PDS similarity percentage for a given document.

The percentage changes as more documents are added to the PDS database. Lives Recognizing that there may be legitimate reasons to report a higher percentage similarity rate for a document, the developers of plagiarism detection software (PDS) have taken a neutral approach and do not use the term "plagiarism rate" for the similarity found for a document. Instead, they call it the "similarity index." The similarity index can be different for each document. It is well known in academic circles that a 0% similarity rate does not necessarily mean that a document is free from plagiarism and vice versa. Therefore, the similarity index cannot be considered as the only indicator for identifying plagiarism. gr. The acceptable limit of the document similarity index varies depending on the type of research performed. For historical research, the similarity rate would be high since the purpose of historical research is to examine the historical aspects of the subject and it would rely heavily on literature reviews and secondary data.

Experimental studies, on the other hand, would focus on reporting laboratory setup and test results, with only cursory references to work already done in the field. These few examples suggest that PDS, while effective, has limitations. Therefore, the full reliability of the similarity index generated by these tools would not serve to reduce plagiarism. Tips and Conclusions Plagiarism has become a major challenge for all Indian universities. regulations and various measures were issued to control plagiarism. But it is also true that these measures have their limitations and are not completely efficient to control plagiarism. One needs to understand that plagiarism is entirely a matter of an individual's morality and ethics.

Sanctions or restrictions of any kind are a cause for concern but do little to promote the integrity of the individual. As previously mentioned, several factors influence a researcher's attitude towards plagiarism. Therefore, it is necessary to establish the researcher's intention when making the final decision about his work. In today's highly competitive job market and research funding environment, students and researchers have become less conscientious. It is important that the researcher is made aware of the plagiarism as early as possible and trained to develop their ability to understand and grasp the knowledge. This would enable them to think critically and conduct research effectively for the development of society. It has been observed that while universities often sanction plagiarism very clearly, they are unaware that their students/researchers are not adequately trained in referencing techniques.

As mentioned above, there is a compulsory course on research methodology and ethics in Indian universities, but it is compulsory only for researchers. A special system needs to be developed to instill academic integrity in young scientists. Young scholars must be prepared for higher morals and ethics at a very early stage of their education; Otherwise, the plagiarism problem in science will remain. To do this, we need to raise awareness of the credibility of the school from the early stages of education (preferably at school level). Today's highly STEM-oriented school education system puts a lot of pressure on students to achieve academic achievement at all costs. Fundamental changes in the way schools teach are needed. You need to emphasize ethics, morals, and professional behavior, not just getting good grades in subjects. Students need to learn that how they get high is more important than how they get high.

We need to get back to basics, that is, the means are just as important as the ends. Another problem identified is the standardized practice of research writing, as it inhibits the researcher's independent thinking, who must legitimize his thoughts through the writings of others⁴⁴. Researchers should be encouraged not only to develop their own thinking, but also to acquire additional training in academic writing, particularly in English, which is

considered an international research language, for non-native speakers. This helps them to have more confidence in their abilities and not fall for illegal means like plagiarism. UGC must also rationalize the percentage of similarity according to different disciplinary perspectives. For example, when studying the literature for interpretations of the works of other authors, it may be necessary to quote much of the original text as is. Quoting the original text is an essential part of the interpretation.

The same applies to the drafting of legal texts. Interpretation of the provisions requires citation of the original text to establish context. In addition, the number of citations and references allowed in a research paper from a paper is subject to discussion by subject matter experts when assessing the originality of the research paper. The role of university authorities/governments and how they work proactively to achieve academic integrity at their institution is paramount. It has been reported that even after the 2018 UGC regulation, many universities only updated their Research Methodology on Promoting Academic Integrity and Plagiarism course in a pre-course. – Compulsory doctoral studies on publications and research ethics. Such a careless approach by executive agencies defeats the purpose of any policy or regulation and delays/corrupts the entire research process. The role of university administration in creating an enabling environment is extremely important in promoting academic integrity among scholars.

They must ensure that their anti-plagiarism policies and strategies are constantly updated as there is no standard anti-plagiarism strategy or policy. Universities cannot avoid reporting cases of plagiarism and policies/sanctions imposed on a scientist. Not only will this set an example for new researchers to adhere to fair research practices, but it will also encourage other academic institutions to take the lead in promoting research integrity.

Conclusion

This part of the article summarizes the chosen research topic and presents many points of insight that support the avoidance of plagiarism and the preservation of the scholarly integrity and sanctity of scholarly writing. Researchers in the early stages of their exploration should learn the skills needed for proper referencing and detection, or their quest will prove futile and unreliable. This unreliability of the researcher's work would obviously result from the depth of ignorance. Hence the famous saying, "Where ignorance is bliss, it is foolish to be wise" reminds seekers that ignorance leads to foolishness. In short, it also means that ignorance can never be fruitful in research. Therefore, the researcher must have adequate knowledge of the research process, including academic integrity and proper credit.

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