

PLAGIARISM AWARENESS AMONG POST GRADUATE STUDENTS OF KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY KURUKSHETRA (KUK)

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Abstract : To be in an era flooded with availability of information on each and every topic, it becomes very handy for us all to use that information and thus catering to our various need. But the very same **luxury** poses a serious threat when it is used in a very casual manner i.e. without showing proper gratitude for the origination of that content or ideas for that matter. This very **popper** targets this grave concern namely 'plagiarism'- to further explain the term and evaluating the awareness of this issue among scholars. How it has to be introduced effectively so that it could be understood with proper implications. To use material ethically and thus keeping all charges of intellectual theft or unethical. The study found that awareness program and plagiarism is part of PG syllabus for reducing the plagiarism.

Keywords: Plagiarism Awareness , ethical, Standard Citation System.

1.0 Introduction: Today the information is available in electronic form. Therefore, the access of electronic resource is easy. There are so many open source software for using the electronic resources.

Every human being undergoes the process of education throughout his/her life. In the initial stage, formal education plays a vital role in shaping a child as a future citizen .In the formal education, the child learns new things, which have been documented in a large number of books and other documents. In a simple language plagiarism is when we use other persons' words, ideas, views or work and do not give proper credit to the author of original work or present them as our own knowingly or unknowingly.

There is a copyright law for protecting the author right. Copyright law came into existence to protect our intellectual property. Copyright law came in India 1957 there have been many amendments in it from time to time. First amendment in 1983 and the recent amendment was in 2012. Copyright is represented by the © symbol.

2.0 Definition

Plagiarism is a kind of cheating which includes taking another person's ideas, views in our formal academic work. Such as a research work, preparing assignments and project report without his/her permission and acknowledgment.

According to Webster's Online Dictionary, (2014) plagiarism means "Steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use another's production without crediting the source; to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source."

3.0 Review of the Literature

(Patrick M and David R 2002) The study found that 28% of respondents use computer several time per day followed by 25% of respondents use 3 or 4 times per week. The study found that 80.7% respondents were strongly agreed that there is strict punishment if I 'hand in someone else's writing as one's own'. In the study found that 89.8% of respondents were strongly agree that it is wrong to purchase papers from online term paper mills. The respondents were aware about plagiarism act of copy text without citation with mean score of 1.88 self and 3.49 by others.

(Smith, Ghazali and Minhad 2007) The study found that there is requirement of more instructions, at course and subject level. Role of administrative and teaching staff needs more vigilance in the identification and punishment of plagiarism. There are lots of factors contributing to plagiarism activities as lack of awareness, personal attitudes, availability of internet facilities, lack of competence, time pressure.

(Idiegbeyan-ose, Nkiko and Osinulu n.d.) There were 51.8% male and 48.2% female respondents in the study. There was 32.5% of respondent's age between 26-30 years. In the study 56.8% of respondents were from the master degree. The study found that 46.4% of respondents were aware about plagiarism. Main cause of plagiarism was pressure to meet deadline to complete the work. 42% of respondents found that defined university policy on plagiarism reduce plagiarism.

(Wan, et al. 2011) The study found that most of respondents are not aware about plagiarism. There is need of university policy on plagiarism to aware the students. There are some factors, which reduce the plagiarism like as teaching of academic writing, guiding students to reduce good quality texts and the role of institution.

(Sharma 2007) The study found that 30% of respondents prepared their assignment with paraphrasing of texts/ideas and claiming them as their own. Web page and pasting without referencing for preparing the assignment. The study found that only 8% of respondents forgot to mention the source whereas 84% of respondents copying texts/idea make their writing better. There are 15% of respondents facing content problem and only 7% faces lack of knowledge of citation of sources.

4.0 Objectives of the Study

- To know students' acquaintance with the word plagiarism.
- To know the students understanding of plagiarism.
- To know the sources of information used by PG students.
- To know the students' understanding of citation.
- To understand students' views on reasons of student plagiarism.
- To know students' views on methods of reducing student plagiarism.

5.0 Methodology

The present study being empirical in nature, survey method was adopted to collect data from the population. The study was conducted on 130 PG students from Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. Total 130 questionnaires were distributed and response obtained of 110 students filled in questionnaires was received back with a response rate of 84.61 percent.

6.0 Data Analysis and Discussion

Table-1: Plagiarism Awareness Among Different Discipline Students

Discipline	Frequency	Percentage %
History	24	21.81
Political science	21	19.09
Economics	30	27.27
English	15	13.63
Sociology	20	18.18
Total	110	99.98%

Table-1 shows that the study based on multidiscipline PG students of KUK. The study shows that 30(27.27%) respondents are from Economics subject followed by 24(21.81%) from History, 21(19.09%) from Political Science, 20(18.18%) from sociology and only 15(13.63%) respondents from English subject.

Table-2: Students Definition of Plagiarism

Definition	Frequency	Percentage %
Copying, duplicate data, copy & paste, copying others work	28	25.45
Stealing others work	22	20
Cheating giving without credit other work	12	10.90
Cheating	06	5.45
No problem of plagiarism	24	21.81
Don't know	18	16.36
Total	100	99.97%

Table-2 shows that 28(25.45%) of respondents define the plagiarism as copying, duplicate data, copy & paste followed by 24(21.81%) do not know about plagiarism. The study found that 22(20%) of respondents define as cheating without giving credit to original owner and only 6(5.45%) of respondents have no awareness about problem of plagiarism.

Table-3: Sources of Plagiarism Awareness

Source	Frequency	Percentage%
Present University	18	16.36
Teachers	32	29.09
During reading	13	11.81
Workshop/seminar	20	18.18
Mass media	15	13.63
With classmate	12	10.90
Total	110	99.97%

Table-3 gets the information about source of plagiarism awareness. The table shows that 32(29.09%) of respondents source is teachers followed by 20(18.18%) of workshop/ seminar for plagiarism, 18(16.36%) from present university and 15(13.63%) form mass media. Only 12 (10.90%) of respondents source of its awareness is from classmates.

Table-4: Participation in Plagiarism Awareness Program

Response	Frequency	Percentage%
Yes	42	38.18
No	68	61.81
Total	110	

Table-4 shows that most (61.81%) of respondents did not attend the plagiarism awareness program and only 38.18% of respondents attended the plagiarism awareness program.

Table-5: Awareness of Citation of Book/Journal

Response	Frequency	Percentage%
Yes	48	43.63
No	62	56.36
Total	110	99.99%

Table-5 shows that 48(43.63%) of respondents are aware about the citing a book/journal and 62(56.36%) of respondents are not aware about the citing a book/journal.

Table-6: Awareness of A Standard Citation System

Response	Frequency	Percentage%
Yes	38	34.54
No	72	65.45
Total	110	99.99%

Table-6 shows that 72(65.45%) of respondents are not aware about any standard of citation for citing a documents. Only 38(34.54%) of respondents are aware of any citation standards.

Table-7: Need of Anti-Plagiarism Software

Statement	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly agree	23	20.90
Agree	45	40.90
Strongly disagree	14	12.72
Disagree	18	16.36
No idea	10	09.09
Total	110	99.97%

Table-7 shows that 45(40.90%) of respondents agree that there is need of anti-plagiarism software for detecting the plagiarism and only 14 (12.72%) of respondents strongly disagree about this. In the study 10(09.09%) of respondents have no idea about the need of anti-plagiarism software.

Table-8: Reason for Plagiarism

Statement	Frequency	Percentage%
Time/exam pressure	20	18.18
Writing skills	21	19.09
Excess work load	18	16.36

Lacking of searching materials	08	07.27
No fear	15	13.63
Unawareness	28	25.45
Total	110	99.98%

Table-8 studies the reason of plagiarism. The table found that 28(25.45%) of respondents are involved in plagiarism for the reason of unawareness about plagiarism followed by 21(19.09%) from writing skills, 20(18.18%) from time and exam pressure and only 8(07.27%) of respondents reason for plagiarism is lack of skills for searching materials.

Table-9: Suggestion of Reducing the Plagiarism

Statement	Frequency	Percentage%
Awareness program	92	83.63
Training & Education	67	60.90
University policy	54	49.09
UGC guidelines	45	40.90
Use & importance of software	42	38.18
Part of syllabus	85	77.27

Table-9 shows that there are many suggestions for reducing the plagiarism. This table shows that 92(83.63%) of respondents suggest that awareness program reduce the problem of plagiarism followed by 85(77.27%) respondents think that if plagiarism becomes a part of PG syllabus than it will reduce and 67(60.90%) of respondents suggest that plagiarism is reduce by providing the training and education program for PG students. Only 42(38.18%) of respondents agree that use of anti-plagiarism software will reduce the plagiarism.

Table-10: Awareness of Punishment for Plagiarism

Response	Frequency	Percentage%
Yes	42	38.18
No	68	61.81
Total	110	99.99%

Table-10 shows that 68(61.81%) of respondents are not aware about the provision of punishment for plagiarism. Only 42(38.18%) of respondents are aware about the punishment for plagiarism.

7.0 Conclusion

Today plagiarism is a big problem in digital age. Most of information is available in electronic form and access of these resources is easy. The present study is based on plagiarism awareness of PG students of KUK. The study indicates that maximum respondents from economics subjects. The study shows that 25.45% of respondents define the plagiarism as copy & paste, duplicate data and copying others work. Most of respondents are aware about the plagiarism with the help of teachers. Most of respondents did not attend the plagiarism awareness program. The study shows that most of respondents are not aware about standard citation system and nor of citing a book/journal. The study shows that 40.90% of respondents agree that there is need of anti-plagiarism software for detecting the plagiarism. Unawareness is the main reason for plagiarism and only 07.27% of respondents lack skills for searching materials. The study found that awareness program and plagiarism is part of PG syllabus for reducing the plagiarism. Only few respondents are aware about any punishment for plagiarism.

8.0 References

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