Awareness on Plagiarism among Research Scholars of Sri Venkateswara University: A Study

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Abstract: *The study aimed at the "Awareness on Plagiarism among research scholars of Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati". Structurred questionnaire was designed to collect the data. Out of 135 questionnaires 123 filled in questionnaires were received back. The present study describes various aspects of plagiarism such as awareness on plagiarism among research scholars, type of citation style which the research scholrs are using, problmes which the research scholars face while writing their own ideas on the thesis etc,.The study also described the suggestions made by research scholars of Sri Venkateswa University who are the respondents of the study.*
Keywords*: Research Scholars,Plagiarism, Citation Style, Anti-Plagiarsim software tools, UGC-Infonet,*

I.   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".Plagiarism is not a new concept. It was first observed in AD 561. Colmcille, who was an Irish monk, copied the ideas of Finnian, a fellow monk, from his religious manuscript. Finnian found his cheating and complained to the King Diarmait, who listened both arguments and finally concluded that as the author, Finnian only had right to the copy as well as the original. The king affirmed the rights of the original author and said that 'To every cow its calf, to every book its copy. The king's words gained importance and become famous in Irish Legal aspects.

Species Of Plagiarism
I   Sources not cited
The Shadow Author
 Borrowing the ideas of another's work, word for word as his/or her own.

The Duplicate Author
Copying important part of text directly from a single source, without changing

The Potluck Paper
Copying from related multi sources

The poor Disguise
Copying by alterting keywords and phrases

The labor of laziness
Paraphrasing most of the paper from other sources

The self-stealer
Copying from his or her previous work, breaking policies regarding the originaligh of work.

ii   Sources Cited
The Incomplete Footnote
Giving the importance to the author, and omitting the information like name of the title, journal, vol. and page numbers etc.

The Misinformer: Not providing exact information regarding the sources.

The Too perfect Paraphrase
Neglecting to put in quotation marks in the text which has been copied or close to the quotation marks.

II. Literature Review

The study discussed the tools, types, studies on plagiarism and the methods to control plagiarism. They also suggests for submission of E-thesis and prepation of databases of thesis and projects in India.(**Tripathi and Kumar,**2009)The authors opined that many researchers are still not aware of its seriousness. The guide and the librarian can play key role in reducing plagiarism by guiding students on how to use and cite proper sources of information through information literacy programs. The authors also discussed the issue of plagiarism along with examples from the field of Arts and Humanities and anti-plagiarism initiatives taken in India. They also suggested that to some extent plagiarsm can be avoided with an information literacy programme. (**Trupti and Vandana,**2011).The authors conducted a survey on prevalence of Plagiarsim among Medical Students. The authors found that only 17 (9%) of students did not plagiarize at all and 68 (34%) plagiarized less than 10% of the text. The average plagiarism rate (% of plagiarized text) was 19% (5-95% percentile=0-88). Students who were strictly warned not to plagiarize had a higher total word count in their essays than students who were not warned (P=0.002) but there was no difference between them in the rate of plagiarism. Students with higher grades in Medical Informatics exam plagiarized less than those with lower grades (P=0.015). Gender, subject source, and complexity had no influence on the plagiarism rate.The authors concluded that plagiarsim in writing essays is common among medical students.An explicit warning is not enough to deter students from plagiarism. Detection software can be used to trace and evaluate the rate of plagiarism. (**Lidija Bilic and others ,2005).**Mathieu stated that plagiraism is a crime against academy. It deceives readers, hurts plagiarized authors and gets the plagiarist undeserved benefits. The author also explained that copying a few sentences that contain no original idea is of marginal importance compared to stealing the ideas of others.(**Shahabuddin,**2009) explained that plagiarism sometimes creates legal and ethical problems for students and faculty. There are ways to stop plagiarism and are many tools available to detect plagiarism using software for detecting submitted articles. (**Amrita,**2007) examined students' understanding of plagiarism as it relates to their ability to write research papers. She found in her study that most students want to complete their research assignments honestly but find it difficult, simply because they are clueless on how to accomplish it. Doing research is an involved and detailed process that requires the ability to find, analyze, and synthesize information while applying the appropriate rules of grammar and citation. The concept of interpreting and implementing the rules of plagiarism to take information from varied sources and knead it into one's own research writing proves to be challenging and confusing for students.

In the United States and many other countries the authentic ideas are regarded as intellectual the propperty which are safeguarded by copyright laws. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some media such as a book or a computer file.

Objectives Of The Study
To know the students' awareness on plagiarism
To know the students' opinion on whether they are providing right references in their theses
To know the citation style of students' using in their research
To study the students' awareness on punishments for plagiarism.

Limitations Of The Study
➢ The study has covered Sri Venkateswara University Research Scholars in Andhra Pradesh.

III. Methodology

Based on the review of literature a structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data from the Research Scholars. For this purpose a total of 135 questionnaires were distributed among the research scholars and 123 filled in questionnaires were received, and then data was analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented. The response rate is 91.11**%.**

IV. Data Analysis

➢ It is evident from table 1 that 67 (54.47%) are male and 56(45.52%) are female respondents.
➢ Table 2 depicts that 123 (100%) respondents are aware of the plagiarism.
➢ Table 3 shows that 123(100%) respondents are disagreed on the opinion that Cutting and pasting the paragraph word-for-word, there is no need to make any acknowledgement. 113 (91.86%) respondents agreed that quoting the paragraph by placing it in block format with the source cited in text and in the bibliography.
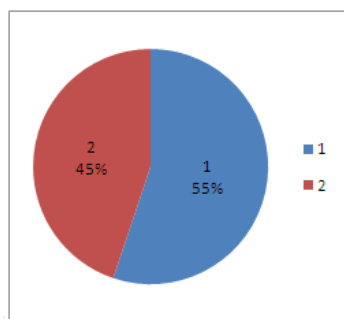
- It is clear from the table 4 that 86 (69.91%) respondents are known the citation style formats through their Teachers/Research Supervisors followed by 19(15.44%) respondents known through co-research scholars, 15 (12.19%) respondents are known through Internet and 03 (2.43%) respondents are known from friends.
- Table 5 depicts that 75 (60.97%) respondents are using APA citation style, 34 (27.64%) are using MLA citation style, 12 (9.75%) are using Chicago citation style and 02 (1.62%) are using other citation styles like AMA etc.
- Table 6 represents that 121(98.37%) respondents are aware of anti-plagiarism tools whereas 02(1.62%) respondents are not aware of the anti-plagiarism tools.
- Table 7 depicts that 123(100%) respondents are aware of the punishments for plagiarism.
- Table 8 shows that 65(52.84%) respondents are facing the problems of language skills, 32(26.61%) respondents are facing the problem of writing skills.
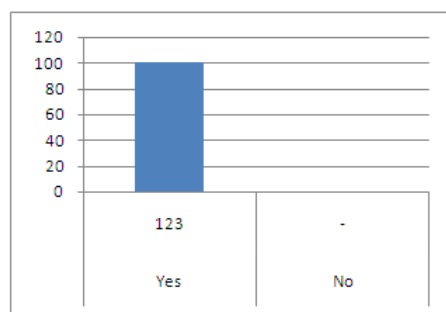
V.   Findings

- 67 (54.47%) are male and 56(45.52%) are female respondents.
- 123 (100%) respondents are aware of the plagiarism.
- 123(100%) respondents are disagreed on the opinion that Cutting and pasting the paragraph word-for-word, there is no need to make any acknowledgement. 113 (91.86%) respondents agreed that quoting the paragraph by placing it in block format with the source cited in text and in the bibliography.
- 86 (69.91%) respondents are known the citation style formats through their Teachers/Research Supervisors followed by 19(15.44%) respondents known through co-research scholars, 15 (12.19%) respondents are known through Internet and 03 (2.43%) respondents are known from friends.
- 121(98.37%) respondents are aware of anti-plagiarism tools whereas 02(1.62%) respondents are not aware of the anti-plagiarism tools.
- 123(100%) respondents are aware of the punishments for plagiarism
- 65(52.84%) respondents are facing the problems of language skills, 32(26.61%) respondents are facing the problem of writing skills.

VI.   Suggestions

- Teachers/Research Supervisors, Librarians may take claases for the research scholors   on how to cite texts properly.
- The Research Supervisors should check cross check the thesis in case of doubt and ignorant research scholars.
- Universities/libraries should organize conferences and workshops on plagiarism
- Libraries should conduct orientation programs on how to use the library information resources and services effectively.
- Libraries should provide training on how to use the various Electronic Information Resources like E-journals, E-books, and Subject Gateways how to search the information over Internet.
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Figure: 1 Distribution of Research Scholars by gender

Figure:2 Distribution of Research Scholars by awareness on plagiarism
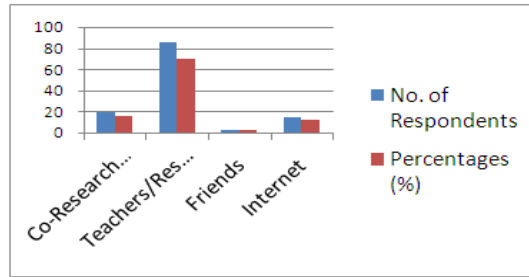
Figure 3 Distribution of Research Scholars by sources through which Citation style known
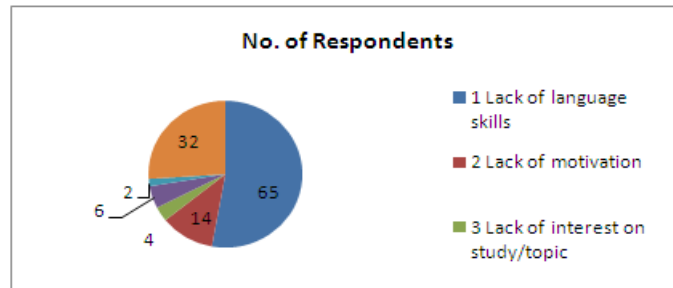

Figure: 4 Distribution of Research Scholars by problems faced while presenting the thesis in their own ideas

Tables

Table. 1 Distribution of Research Scholars by Gender

Sl.No.	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Male	67	54.47
2	Female	56	45.52

Table 2. Distribution of Research Scholars by awareness on Plagiarism

Sl.No.	Awareness on Plagirism	No. of Respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Yes	123	100
2	No	-	

Table 3. Distribution of Research Scholars by opinions on plagiarism

Statements	Agree	Disagree
Cutting and pasting the paragraph word-for-word, there is no need to make any acknowledgement.	-	123
Copying the paragraph word-for-word, but change a few verbs,add some different words, change the punctuation and list the book in a bibliography.	13 (10.56)	110 (89.43)
Cutting and pasting the paragraph using whole sentences from the original source but omitting one or two words and/or putting one or two in different order; no quotation marks; with in-text acknowledgment and a ibliographical acknowledgment.	09 (7.31)	114 (92.68)
Composing a new paragraph by taking short phrases from the original source and putting them together with words of your own to make a coherent whole, with an in-text acknowledgment and a bibliographical acknowledgment.	32 (26.01)	91 (73.98%)
Paraphrasing the paragraph by rewriting with major changes in language and organisation; the new version has changes in the amount of detail used and the examples used, in-text citation and source in bibliography.	115 (93.49)	08 (6.5)
Quoting the paragraph by placing it in block format with the source cited in text and in the bibliography	113 (91.86)	10 (8.1)

Table .4 Distribution of Research Scholars by sources through which Citation style known

Sl.No.	Sources through whichcitation styles known	No. of Respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Co-Research Schlors	19	15.44
2	Teachers/Research Supervisors	86	69.91
3	Friends	03	2.43
4	Internet	15	12.19

Table 5. Distribution of Research Scholars by use of citation styles

	Citation Styles	No. of Respondents	Percentages (%)
1	APA Style		
2	MLA style	-	
3.	Chicago style		

4.	Any other please specify:		

Table 6. Distribution of Research Scholars by awareness on anti-plagiarism software tools

Sl.No.	Awareness on Anti-Plagiarism Software tools	No. of Respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Yes	121	98.37
2	No	02	1.62

Table. 7 Distribution of Research Scholars by awareness on punishments for plagiarism

Sl.No.	Awareness on Plagiarism	No. of Respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Yes	123	100
2	No	-	

Table 8. Distribution of Research Scholars by problems faced while presenting the thesis in their own ideas

Sl.No.	problems	No. of Respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Lack of language skills	65	(52.84)
2	Lack of motivation	14	(11.38)
3.	Lack of interest on study/topic	04	(3.25)
4.	Lack of time	06	(4.87)
5.	Due to laziness	02	(1.62)
6.	Lack of writing skills	32	(26.61)

VII.   Conclusion

There is no conventional government system in India which work against plagiarism. But the society for   Scientific Values, New Delhi, University Grants Commission (UGC) and INFLIBNET flourishing the awareness on plagiarism and initiated towards the matter. UGC have already laid down the condition through its notification (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree, Regulation 2009 of dt.01.06.2009) that a soft copy of every M.Phil. and Ph.D. theses is to be submitted to INFLIBNET with the aim of facilitating open access to it worldwide through ETDs (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) over the internet. This will help in minimizing duplication of research work, containing plagiarism, and ensuring visibility to research. work. UGC has also suggested norms in research that every researcher has to publish two papers in reputed Indian journals during the course of his/her doctoral research. This ensures that a part of his research comes in public domain and if there is any wrongdoing or duplication, it gets noticed. UGC has recommended universities across the country to use anti-plagiarism software to detect copied material. UGC has recommended an anti-plagiarism software called 'Turnitin' to check intentional or non-intentional plagiarism in research.UGC has formulated the guidelines for research scholars that they should be submitted to INFLIBNET a soft copy of their thesis for open access through ETDs (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) over the Internet to avoid duplication of research work, containing plagiarism.UGC has also recommended norms in research that every research scholar has to publish two papers in reputed Indian Journals during the course of his/her doctoral research to make certain that a portion of his/her thesis available in open access and if there is any duplication, it may observed. UGC also recommended an anti-plagiarism software called 'Turnitin' to check intentional or unintentional plagiarism in research and also suggested universities all over the country to use anti-plagiarism software to detect copied material.

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