



ACADEMIC PLAGIARISM

Nursing

Prof.(Mrs.) Harjit* College of Nursing, Christian Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab.
*Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

Recently, the problem of plagiarism is becoming an important issue in many debates in the fields of Education and Technology. The wide use and availability of electronic resources makes it easy for students, authors and even academic people to access and use any piece of information and embed it into his/her own work without proper citation. The problem is raising in an exponential manner the thing which puts the education process under threat. There are divergent views on how to define plagiarism and on what makes plagiarism reprehensible. In this article we explicate the concept of "plagiarism" and discuss plagiarism normatively in relation to academics. We suggest that plagiarism should be understood as "someone using someone else's intellectual product (such as texts, ideas, or results), thereby implying that it is their own" and argue that this is an adequate and fruitful definition. We discuss a number of circumstances that make plagiarism more or less grave and the plagiarizer more or less blameworthy. As a result of our normative analysis, we suggest that what makes plagiarism reprehensible as it distorts the academic credit. In addition, intentional plagiarism involves dishonesty. There are, furthermore, a number of potentially negative consequences of plagiarism.

KEYWORDS

Plagiarism and Academics

INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism is not a new phenomenon. Copying from other writers is probably as old as writing itself, but until the advent of mass-produced writing, it remained hidden from the public gaze. According to (Mallon, 1989)¹ the Elizabethan playwright Ben Johnson was the first person to use the word plagiarize to mean literary, theft, at the beginning of the 17th century. Academic plagiarism occurs when a writer repeatedly uses more than four words from a printed source without the use of quotation marks and a precise reference to the original source in a work presented as the author's own research and scholarship.

Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is derived from Latin word "*plagiarius*" which means "kidnapper," who abducts the child (Aronson JK, 2007)². The word plagiarism entered the Oxford English dictionary in 1621. Plagiarism has been defined by the *Encyclopedia Britannica* as "the act of taking the writings of another person and passing them off as one's own" (Jawad F, 2013)³.

It is an act of forgery, piracy, and fraud and is stated to be a serious crime of academia (Pechnick JA, 2001)⁴. It is also a violation of copyright laws. The World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) defines plagiarism as "the use of others' published and unpublished ideas or words (or other intellectual property) without attribution or permission and presenting them as new and original rather than derived from an existing source."

Types of Plagiarism

According to Ali et al., 2011, Barnbaum, 2006 & Clough, 2003⁵ plagiarism is classified into six categories. These categories are:

- **Copy and Paste Plagiarism**—This is verbatim copying the text from the source without acknowledging the original authors using quotation marks.
- **Word Switch Plagiarism**—The plagiarism where plagiarizer takes a sentence from the source and change the few words without acknowledging the source.
- **Style Plagiarism**— Copying another author's style of reasoning by taking sentence by sentence organization of his thoughts.
- **Metaphor Plagiarism**—Someone uses creative style of someone to present his ideas without crediting the original author of the creative style.
- **Idea Plagiarism**— This is the practice where a person takes someone's idea or solution proposed by another person and using it as his own creativity without crediting the author.
- **Plagiarism of Authorship**: This is a form of plagiarism where student directly put his name on someone else's work and Self-Plagiarism—Reuse of one's previous work and submitting it in a new assignment (Vij, Soni & Makhdumi, 2009)⁶.

Reasons of Plagiarism

1. Genuine lack of understanding:- Some students plagiarize

unintentionally, when they are not familiar with proper ways of quoting, paraphrasing, citing and referencing and/or when they are unclear about the meaning of 'common knowledge' and the expression 'in their own words'.

2. Efficiency Gain:- Students plagiarize to get a better grade and to save time. Some cheat because of what one calls 'the GPA thing, so that cheating becomes 'the price of an A' (Whiteman & Gordon, 2001)⁷. Auer & Krupar (2001)⁸ identify a strong consumer mentality amongst students, who seem to believe that 'they should get grades based on effort rather than on achievement'.

3. Time Management:-There are many calls on student's time, including peer pressure for an active social life, commitment to college sports and performance activities, family responsibilities and pressure to complete multiple work assignments in short amounts of time. Little wonder that Silverman (2002)⁹ concludes that 'students' overtaxed lives leave them so vulnerable to the temptation of cheating'.

4. Personal Values/Attitudes:-Some students see no reason why they should not plagiarize or do it because of social pressure, because it makes them feel good or because they regard short cuts as clever and acceptable.

5. Defiance:- To some students plagiarism is a tangible way of showing dissent and expressing a lack of respect for authority. They may also regard the task set as neither important nor challenging.

6. Students' Attitudes towards teachers and class: - Some students cheat because they have negative attitude towards assignments and tasks that teachers think have meaning but they don't (Howard, 2002). Burnett (2002)¹⁰ emphasizes the importance of a relationship of trust between student and teacher, because 'the classes in which students are more likely to cheat are those where students believe their professor doesn't bother to read their papers or closely review their work'.

7. Denial or Neutralization:-Some students deny to themselves that they are cheating or find ways of legitimizing it by passing the blame on to others

8. Temptation and Opportunity: - It is both easier and more tempting for students to plagiarize as information becomes more accessible on the Internet and web search tools make it easier and quicker to find and copy.

9. Lack of deterrence. To some students the benefits of plagiarizing outweigh the risks, particularly if they think there is little or no chance of getting caught and there is little or no punishment if they are caught (Park C., 2003)¹¹.

Penalties for the Academic Plagiarism

In order to establish and apply penalties against plagiarism, it is

necessary to define what is considered plagiarism from a technical standpoint. **Macdonald & Carroll (2006)**¹² suggest that the characterization of plagiarism should include the analysis and documentation of how this was detected and analyzed, taking into account:

1. The extent to which it was committed: the written work which was plagiarized (a sentence, paragraph, entire sections all work) was a whole text section or not.
2. The level of student: whether a student is a beginner or is already in advanced level.
3. Knowledge of institutional rules and norms by the student.
4. The disciplinary rules adopted by the institution.

The Disciplinary Actions for Plagiarism are:

- Agree with the student a course of corrective action.
- Agree with the student on a course of counselling.
- Prohibit or deny access to or use of University premises, University facilities and services or University activities for up to two weeks.
- Require the student to resubmit, or revise and resubmit, the whole or part of the assessment, examination or research.
- Disallow or amend a mark or grade for the whole or part of the assessment, examination or research.
- Fail the student.
- Recommend to the Vice-Chancellor that the student's enrollment be suspended for any period and on such terms and conditions as the committee considers necessary or appropriate.
- Recommend to the Vice-Chancellor that the student's enrollment be terminated.
- Recommend the revocation of the award.

Other Consequences of Academic Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not just unethical; there are legal repercussions for taking the legal property of someone else. Plagiarism can affect students, journalists, professionals, authors and anyone who creates a product. The consequences of plagiarism are:-

Loss of Reputation for Student

One of the biggest consequences that one has to face for committing plagiarism is the loss of reputation. And once the student loses his/her reputation over plagiarism, it incurs an absolute irreparable loss to him/her. There's nothing he/she will be able to do to regain reputation.

Loss of Professional Reputation

For a popular person or a well-known personality, the accusation of plagiarism means his name getting ruined, and the hopes of a meaningful career end.

Disciplinary actions

A usual disciplinary action is the last thing that one could expect as a result of plagiarism. In some cases, plagiarism can even lead to suspension from educational institutes and universities.

It limits the Creativity Level

Students tend to lack the skills of creative thinking, which in turn affects their whole semester grade.

Loss of confidence

Plagiarism might work for students to achieve good grades, but in the long run, it results in the loss of confidence.

Copyright infringement

If a student tries to copy someone else's work for his/her project, then the original author has the right to sue him/her in a court of law on the basis of copyright infringement.

Strategies to Avoid Plagiarism

Avoiding plagiarism is paramount as a writer because it compromises a student's integrity. Aside from losing the respect of his/her mentors and peers, it could cost him/her valuable professional referrals and future career advancement. Here are some useful tool to help the students avoid plagiarism:-

a) Avoid Verbatim Writing: The cut, copy and paste way of writing should be completely avoided. If a student comes across an article that is relevant to his/her topic, paraphrase the information.

b) Research: The modern technology makes it easier for a person to access information today, find articles related to one's topic, source

appropriate content and note down pointers that could help one for one's assignments or research papers.

c) Avoid Last Minute Thinking: Students end up plagiarizing due to time crunches and the pressure to adhere to deadlines. Students are advised to begin working on the assignments well in advance before submission dates to research and understand the topic.

d) Mention the Sources: Referring to articles on the internet for ideas is vital. Therefore it is important to cite the sources after finishing the assignment. (**Sanjeev P Sahni, & Sweta Lakhani, 2019**)¹³

Other Strategies are:

1. Read the instructions for authors provided by the journal.
2. Always acknowledge the contributions of others and the source of ideas and words, regardless of whether paraphrased or summarized.
3. Use of verbatim text/material must be enclosed in quotation marks.
4. Acknowledge sources used in the writing.
5. When paraphrasing, understand the material completely and use your own words.
6. When in doubt about whether or not the concept or fact is common knowledge, reference it.
7. Make sure to reference and cite references accurately.
8. If the results of a single complex study are best presented as a cohesive whole, they should not be sliced into multiple separate articles.
9. Write effective cover letters to the editor, especially regarding the potential for overlap in publication. The cover letter should detail the nature of the overlap and previous dissemination and ask for advice on the handling of the matter.
10. Become familiar with the basic elements of copyright law. (**Cicutto L., 2008**)¹⁴

CONCLUSION

Plagiarism sometimes creates legal and ethical problems for students and faculty. It can have serious consequences. Fortunately, there are ways to stop plagiarism. There are many tools available to detect plagiarism, e.g. using software for detecting submitted articles. Also, there are many ways to punish a plagiarist, e.g. banning plagiarists from submitting future articles for publication. In addition, scholarly journals should clearly state their policies regarding plagiarism and require authors to sign a statement indicating that their articles meet the requirements of original work. The reviewers should be supported by the journal's board and editors when they report any occurrences of plagiarism. **Parmley (2000)**¹⁵ suggested that all academicians and practitioners be reminded that Plagiarism is WRONG no matter what the extent. It is a serious form of scientific misconduct. As mentors, we must teach by example and by explicit statement. When we find it, we should deal with it firmly and appropriately in each situation.

REFERENCE

1. MALLON, T. (1989) Stolen Words: forays into the origins and ravages of plagiarism (London, Ticknor & Fields).
2. Arson J(2007) Plagiarism- please don't copy, Journal of Clinical Pharmacology Vol 64 Issue 4.
3. Jawad F (2013) Plagiarism and Integrity in research, J Park Medv Assoc Nov, 63 (11): 1446-7
4. Pechenik JA. A short guide to writing about biology, Harper Collins College, British Publishers
5. Ali et al (2011) Overview & comparison of plagiarism detection tool Jan 457-458.
6. Vij, R., Soni, N.K. & Makhdumi, G. (2009) 'Encouraging academic honesty through antiplagiarism software', 7th International CALIBER 2009. Puducherry, India, February 25-27, pp. 439-448.
7. Auer NJ, Krupar EM. Mouse click plagiarism: The role of technology in plagiarism and the librarian's role in combating it. Library Trends. 2001; 49(3):415-32.
8. BURNETT, S. (2002) Dishonor and distrust, Community College Week, 7 August, 14 (24), pp. 6-8.
9. SILVERMAN, G. (2002) It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Plagiarism Buster!, Newsweek, 15 July, p. 12
10. HOWARD, R. M. (2002) Don't police plagiarism: just teach!, Education Digest, 67 (5), pp. 46-50
11. Park C. In other (people's) words: Plagiarism by university students literature and lessons. Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education. 2003; 28(5):471-88.
12. Macdonald R, Carroll J 2006. Plagiarism -a complex issue requiring a holistic institutional approach. Assess Eval High Educ 31: 233-245
13. Sanjeev P Sahni , Sweta Lakhani, Awareness About Plagiarism In Schools & Colleges The Need Of Hour 06 January, 2019
14. Cicutto L. Plagiarism: avoiding the peril in scientific writing. Chest. 2008 Feb;133(2):579-81.
15. Parmley, W. W. (2000). Plagiarism: How serious is it? Journal of the American College of Cardiology. 36(3), 953-954