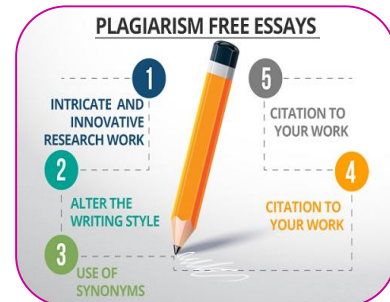


**RESEARCH FREE FROM PLAGIARISM****Dr. N. Ramakrishnan****Professor and Head, Dept. of Educational Technology ,
Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University ,Chennai.****Plagiarism has been a potent threat to academic excellence or to foster excellence, efforts to contain it are the herculean task of universities.**

Plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property of others. The intellectual properties may be video, audio, story, texts and so on and so forth. It has become the customary thing for the people to use others' writings in the academic arena the reason being easy going nature of people. The culture of copy, cut and paste is so easy and handy nowadays. Presentation will be made ready in faster pace in a shoe lace tying time. The internet browsers like Google, Mozilla Firefox and so on helps us not only to get information quicker but also to take easily. It is on the increase after the advent of internet. The search engines provide a wider platform for people to go for plagiarism. Among all, the Wikipedia is the main source for people to copy, cut and paste. It possesses a large amount of information. The purpose of the Wikipedia is different, it is to provide knowledge source like an encyclopedia. The mass copying as a result of the internet has increased manifold. How to counter all these? Is there any checking point for this? What is that which is lacking in our researchers who tend to go for plagiarized content? Barring research scholars, academicians with repute are also often caught with plagiarized content. Much has been done to damage the image of academicians. It is so natural that everything which has a mushrooming growth will have its natural end.

**Plagiarism in the past**

There are cases reported in the past also about plagiarism. It has been reported often in stories, novels, music, cinema and so on. Most often than not the echoes of original writers of stories, composers of music and playwrights against plagiarism are rarely heard. It is true that the plagiarism was in vogue in the past too. But the technical underdevelopment has made plagiarism remotely possible. With the rapid pace of development in internet, plagiarism has become so easy and uncontrollable now. What was once remote possibility has become near possibility now because of technological development.

Plagiarism at present

The word Plagiarism is gaining momentum in the context of Ghost writers. They are the people who write thesis and research papers. It has become a marketable commodity now. There are many terms used for plagiarism they are essay mill, document theft and contract cheat. Whatever may be its jargons, the credibility of the thesis is in big question now. Isn't it alarming our academic system? Do they give alarming bell to quality and originality? The researchers have to exercise deterrence in copying from others or they should learn the noble and best practices of citation. They should cite the material from which it has been taken. All should show restraint in using other's materials. They should develop putting citation. The academic institutions should develop the culture of properly indicating the source of information. Plagiarism checker, a free software and UGC recognized Urkund soft wares are on the use. The softwares clearly identify and show percentage of plagiarism and percentage of originality. The concept of plagiarism has

gained currency now. To some extent, the argument for delinking degrees from jobs may seem good seeing threatening nature of plagiarism. The clarion call for originality and creativity goes unheard by the so called contract cheaters. The frail voice of genuine researchers is not going into the ears of ghost writers. The lure of money is greater than morals. Ethical principles imbibed by an individual and institution are the governing factors in this direction.

People and Plagiarism mindset

The culture of the people is most essential for law to be followed or broken. If the culture of the people is for good standards and morals, the chances for doing wrong things will be minimal. There is a saying that if thief has not decided himself to change his lifestyle no one can do alter his lifestyle. The thoughts once assimilated into our mind goes into the mill of our brain for processing and come out as colorful outputs with originality of expression. That is the beauty of individual differences. Nature is unique. No two persons are alike in their thoughts and deeds. There are differences among fraternal twins and identical twins too in their thoughts and thought processes. That is the beauty of the nature by which we are able to identify thieves and thugs. Without which our forensic system would be in jeopardy. In the same way, if the society is blessed with a lot of creative potentials, there are microscopic chances for copying. The anti-plagiarism is to promote citation and bring out originality. Moreover, it stresses on expressing the unique potentialities of a person.

Academic dishonesty has seen mushroom growth in academic circles in recent years. How do you use the resources available for bringing out originality in your writing research paper or thesis? The score for publications and presentations which are calculated in terms of no. of papers than the quality of the papers is a moot point. For want of more papers and scores, the papers are seen multiple publication. The introduction to Surveys of Researches in Education stresses for quality research not quantitative research. The papers without numbers and of descriptive in nature like case studies and action researches are rarely considered for publication. The large scale corruption and nepotism in appointment of professors in Universities and colleges add fire to the problem of plagiarism. For want of API Scores, there are essay mills which produce papers on behalf of professors for a price on the rise. The journals are also eyeing on profit out of these quality parameters. If you have paid money for publication, it will be published. All that they claim to be peer reviewed is just a mockery of things for paid publications. They even publish two times or three times without even checking the grammatical correctness of titles of the papers. The journal scandals are so big that it corrupts the entire academic stream. The people are making money on the loopholes of the system. The assessment of teacher quality and standards are in terms of numbers which lacks quality checking. The numbers count more than quality.

Ethical principles are taking the backseats in the academic institutions. The people who for a long period of time maintained quality aghast with the rapid no. of journals and private parties which make thesis or papers as a commodity. The genuine people have become dumbstruck with these loopholes. The individual characters like honesty, truthfulness and individuality are the buzzwords which will eradicate the menace of plagiarism. The Kohlberg's stages of at least conventional level not the post conventional level will be the minimum expectation from the public on developing anti plagiarism mindset. Ultimately the people are the determinants of quality and standards. If plagiarism is negated both in profession and public there will be an academic culture devoid of plagiarism.

The question of individual responsibility to ethical and moral standards will improve the system as a whole. If the responsibility of individual goes down, the mischief makers will be in central scene. The trend will mellow down the progress in academic circles. Already we are lagging behind in innovation and filing for patent rights. A nation's progress is in its productivity. If we are just be a spectator to all the scientific inventions not as an active contributor for scientific inventions. Every paisa we spend will go to either European countries or to china. There the innovation is the buzzword. Academicians without innovation most remotely get a chance to be elevated to the higher posts.

Innovation should be infused into the blood of our young minds. The thought that milling around should be for originality and creativity. The reproduction exercise in examination is a stumbling block for innovation. In the world, where objective type questions are taking the main course sliding the essay type question to backstage, it is clear we expect only reproduction of what we give not what we can get out of their thought process. The lack of writing skill of our researchers may have been eliminated by more rigorous practice of writing exercises. Inculcation of creativity is lacking in our curriculum. The creativity in young researchers will make people come out with the obsession of plagiarism. Moreover, the easy going nature of people should be avoided. The task of making each individual of his or her own product and processes is the uphill task of the teachers. For all the above, what do we need is an attitudinal change among people. The attitude should be for original and independent thinking. This attitudinal change and effect will not be immediate reckoner. It is a long overdue process. To provide for that let us vouch ourselves against plagiarism.