

### Hidden Risk of Plagiarism In Medical Research

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#### Abstract:

Plagiarism is defined as "The use of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions, and or the representation of them as one's own original work without crediting the source". The prevalence of plagiarism varies from one faculty to another, with reported rates from 11 to 19% in medical institutions. In India for the purpose of academic promotion the academicians need to publish their research work in indexed journals, and due to lack of time & experience the quality of research work is hampered which in turn increases the rate of plagiarism.

**Keywords:** Plagiarism, Medical Research, UGC Plagiarism Regulation 2018

The first description of "Plagiarism" is found in a document from English in the year 1601 by the dramatist Ben Jonson. He described it as someone guilty of literary theft.<sup>1</sup> Ample number of cases of plagiarism seen in nearly every speciality in science, including health sciences. It is defined as "The use of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions, and or the representation of them as one's own original work without crediting the source".<sup>2,3</sup> The word plagiarism is derived from the latin word plagiare, it means to "kidnap or abduct". In recent years, research has become an important component in every field. The University of Johannesburg describes plagiarism as a 'cancer' which is proliferating in higher education institutions (Friedman 2015). There is fierce competition among more than 7.1 million researchers across the

world to have their research papers published in more than 25,000 journals. Researchers and academicians are under pressure to get their work published in indexed journals to gain either promotions or financial support. Also, in India, health science teachers are required to follow UGC care list of journals for publications required for promotions. It was observed by many agencies and researchers that when the pressure of publications is coupled with a lack of time and lack of research skills, automatically the rate of plagiarism increases. In 2010, the Nature Publishing Group reported an alarmingly increasing level of plagiarism, according to report about 23% of submitted articles were rejected because of high percentage of plagiarism.<sup>4</sup> The prevalence of plagiarism varies from one faculty to another, with reported rates from 11 to 19% in medical institutions.<sup>3,4</sup>

The UGC, to cut down the plagiarism, issued the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018, so that plagiarised work does not acquire any credibility or value in evaluation.

Many authors have classified plagiarism in different ways, most commonly, plagiarism is classified in four different types, they are: **Direct plagiarism:** When a text is being copied word-to-word without a partial or complete acknowledgement of the primary source, this form of plagiarism is called direct plagiarism. **Mosaic form:** It is basically the theft of ideas and opinions or a few words and phrases without the appropriate citation. **Self-plagiarism:** When somebody re-uses his/her own work without the use of quotation marks and permission to reproduce the text. **Accidental plagiarism:** If an author ignores and refuses to cite a source or unknowingly paraphrases the source with similar words, then the instance of accidental plagiarism takes place.<sup>5</sup>

It is very important to teach and aware the faculty and students in health science institutes that when preparing a manuscript and research projects, they has to be more conscious about writing it in their own words, literally and figuratively.

There is always room for improvement for poor language and grammar but it cannot be compromised at the expense of plagiarism.<sup>6</sup> UGC has already notified about actions to be taken in various levels of Plagiarism, extending up to cancellation of degree obtained. Nowadays, there are various antiplagiarism softwares (for example, Urkund, CrossCheck, iThenticate, etc.) available which can detect good amount of the plagiarism in any article in various steps. This gives the liberty for researchers to check and recheck their articles for plagiarism and reduce the level of plagiarism in their articles. Also the health science researchers should be trained in writing skills and thinking process in research. Many Universities conduct research workshops for Phd Scholars and PG students, it should include a lecture on "Plagiarism" prevention and recent guidelines of UGC and ICMR.

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