

Plagiarism: An Academic Offence

Mohammed Nadeem Ahmed Bijle¹, Shankargouda Patil²

Contributors:

¹Executive Editor, Journal of International Oral Health

Lecturer, Department of Pedodontics & Preventive Dentistry, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune; Dr. D. Y. Patil Dental College & Hospital, Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra, India.

²Editor-in-Chief, Journal of International Oral Health

Reader, Department of Oral Pathology & Microbiology, M S Ramaiah Dental College & Hospital, Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

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Plagiarism in recent times has sought great attention in dental research and publications. Now often there are instances reported where blatant cases of plagiarism have been exposed and dealt with seriously. However, if one analyses reported plagiarism issues over decades, it can be easily justified that in previous couple of years the count has increased enormously. On close and detailed scrutiny one can present the availability of e-literature as a potential reinforcer and sound rationale for the proclamation aforesaid. Apart, the significance of bibliometrical indices in academics has also contributed to the tenacity of reporting plagiarism once encountered by respective contributors.

Within the purview of research and academics, plagiarism is considered as a deceit or an offence which does not have a legal implication per se (i.e. no legal petition or lawsuits can be considered to file against the accused under the jurisdiction of constituted governmental law) but is condemned strongly and penalised to the extent of expulsion from the associated institutions/universities. However, the severity of imposition depends upon the stature of the inculcate and act accused for.

As per the definition of Oxford dictionary, plagiarism is “*The practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own*”.¹ With reference to publication an add-on factor would be duplication of literature content and claiming the same to be self work without giving due credit to the master of existing and published script. Although many researchers find it difficult to script their research work who eventually take support of existing literature as their base or copy the content alike which displays the work to be non appreciable and rejectable. On similar lines, the question arises is “*What would be the possible solution to avoid Plagiarism?*”. The answer to this in the current era is simple - due to the availability of many freebie softwares which detect *Plagiarism* online it is easier to reveal plagiarism. This would help in diagnosis of plagiarised literature content and define specific areas which require thorough attention. It would be always better for a researcher who intends to publish explored scientific facts to at least once run the manuscript for plagiarism check before submission to avoid such issues.

As the famous saying goes - “*prevention is better than cure*”, it is always better to prevent plagiarism than to commit penable offence and ruin self career in long term.

References:

1. Available at <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/plagiarism?q=Plagiarism>. [Last Accessed on 24 Apr 2014].