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International Conference
on

"Transforming Libraries and Information Centres in Digital Era"

Chief Editors
Dr. Pardeep Rai & Dr. Dharam Kumar

Editors
Dr. N.S. Shokeen
Dr. O.N. Chaubey
Dr. Rishi K.Tiwari
Dr. Pravin K. Choudhary
Dr. G.H.S. Naidu

Organised by
Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya
Indore (M.P.)
and
Indian Library Association
New Delhi
2019

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Transforming Libraries and Information Centres in Digital Era

(Proceedings)
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Efficacy of Plagiarism Policy of University Grants Commission in Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions of India: A Study of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar- Haryana

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Abstract: Plagiarism is a serious issue on academic campuses. Even it has been considered as great albatross around the neck of the research scholars. Plagiarism is not new in the world's education system in general and in India's education system in particular. It has been prevailing since inception of academic societies. However after emerging the Information and Communication Technology in academics, the concept plagiarism got more exposed and familiar amongst the academicians, students, and research scholars at primary secondary, secondary and territory levels of education. In addition, with digital contents, the access of the material/s is very easy and copying also. Hence the cases of plagiarism have been noticed and scholars trapped whether they committed the same with intentionally and unintentionally. At early stage, scholars were not very much aware about the citation styles of the web material/s. With the demand of the time, the things are marching towards digitization as it has been observed that the digitization shall bring the transparency in the education system and up to level it has brought. However cases of plagiarism have been increased since one decade. Hence to curb the plagiarism in Higher Education System the regulatory body namely University Grants Commission has brought

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a policy on plagiarism. The present paper shall try to elicit the efficacy level of the plagiarism policy of University Grants Commission in Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar.

Keywords: Plagiarism, ICT, UGC, Plagiarism Policy, Digital Contents, Citation, HEIs.

1. Introduction

Many scholars have defined the academic integrity and plagiarism. Even University Grants Commission had prepared a draft and circulated the same in Higher Educational Institutions in all over India vide letter no. F.1-18/2010(CPP-II) dated 1st September, 2017 and feedback & comments were invited before 30th September, 2017. In draft, the Academic Integrity and Plagiarism both have defined precisely. "Academic Integrity is the intellectual honesty in proposing, performing and reporting and activity, which leads to the creation of intellectual property". "Plagiarism means an act of academic dishonesty and a breach of ethics. It involves using someone else's work as one's own. It also includes data plagiarism and self plagiarism". However in final notification the "Academic Integrity" definition remains same but "Plagiarism" definition changed i.e. "Plagiarism means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing them as one's own." Therefore, as of now, it is open ended definition; hence its scope is wider and will cover every type of plagiarism. University Grants Commission has tried to include and define each and every term like Academic Integrity, Author, Commission, Common Knowledge, Degree, Departmental Academic Integrity Panel, Faculty, Higher Educational Institution- HEI, Information, Institutional Academic Integrity Panel, Notification, Plagiarism, Programme, researcher, Script, Source, Staff, Student, University, and Year. These definitions surely remove ambiguities when any student and research scholar will trap under plagiarism.

Objectives of the UGC (promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018

In higher education many issues arise time to time as it is the back-bone and ascertains the growth of any country at national and international level. After emerging the information and communication technology, the concept plagiarism has elicited and started to fetch the academic and research activities. Therefore, the concept need to be addressed and finally, the regulatory body namely University Grants Commission brought a regulation to promote the academic integrity and prevent plagiarism so that fair research may be conducted. The main objective of the regulation is to curb the plagiarism in toto by using some norms and create awareness about the responsible conduct of research thesis dissertation, research

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paper and etc. Moreover, to impart the training through different modes and develop the system to detect the plagiarism and set up mechanism to prevent the same so that the budding scholars may conduct qualitative research without any fear and the HEIs may sustain in the 21st digital and fast growing of social and economic development.

Brief about Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar- Haryana

Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology started its journey on October 20, 1995 under Haryana State Legislative Act No. 17 of 1995 at Hisar, Haryana State of India to impart education on the frontiers of Technology, Pharmacy, Environmental Studies, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Mass Media, and Management Studies. The University is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under Section 2(f) for recognition of degrees on 11.1.1996 and under section 12(B) of the UGC Act to be eligible for central assistance on 7.2.1997.

Level of Research @ Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar

Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology Hisar, the research is on its apex level and having 74 h-index as per Scopus which is one of the highest among the region and among technical universities all over India. In addition, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (National agency to accredit higher education institutions) -NAAC peer team visited the university in the month of October 2014 and accredited 'A' Grade consecutively for third time and the same is extended up to 2021. The peer team is pleased to be witness 2422 articles published by the faculty members in leading International/National Journals during the tenure of 5 years which shows the extensive use of electronic resources. Apart from the above, the Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar has the honor to be the 1st Technical University of the Country, established in 1995.

What was the requirement of UGC (promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018?

To bring the uniformity in the plagiarism policy with the purpose to curb the plagiarism and to prevent the academic integrity in toto among Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), the regulation was required. Take the example of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, the research of the university is highly advanced but before this regulation, there was no policy on plagiarism with the university. Although, university was using the anti-plagiarism tool namely URKUND- a pedagogical support system for plagiarism checking and its link was given to every faculty member but what percentage shall be in permissible limit

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that was not defined. Some cases have been noticed of plagiarism but in absence of proper guidelines/policy the accused could not be punished. Therefore, for seamless and sound policy, the regulation was required.

Impact of UGC (promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018

Undoubtedly, after notifying the UGC regulations, the HEIs felt relaxed. The same feelings have been with Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar. The university authorities, supervisors, scholars, and students felt happy as policy shall protect them from the accusation of plagiarism, if anyone commits the same without intention. Even UGC regulations have recommended that "If any member of the academic community suspects with appropriate proof that a case of plagiarism has happened in any document, he or she shall report to the Departmental Academic Integrity Panel-DAIP. The DAIP shall investigate the matter and submit its recommendations to the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel of the HEI". It means the DAIP shall work as filter as during investigation. It has to undergo the facts and analysis accordingly which shall surely lead the transparency in the process. If the accusation is false, then concerned is safe at the primary stage or local level.

Regulation gives the freedom to scholars up to a level of plagiarism i.e. "Level 0: Minor Similarities, no penalty. Level 1: Similarities above 10% to 40%, shall be asked to withdraw manuscript, Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60%, shall be asked to withdraw manuscript, shall be denied a right to one annual increment, shall not be allowed to be a supervisor to any Master's, M.Phil., Ph.D. Student/ scholar for a period of two years. Level 3: Similarities above 60% shall be asked to withdraw manuscript, shall be denied a right to two successive annual increments, shall not be allowed to be a supervisor to any Master's, M.Phil., Ph.D. Student/ scholar for a period of three years. For scholars/students the penalties have also been defined according to the levels".

In the light of the UGC Regulations, the Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology has prepared its own policy on plagiarism. The university has considered all the recommendations or adopted in *toto*. However, on the request of the faculty members, the university has permitted to exclude the *'Material and Methods'* portion during checking of the similarity index of the thesis. This step has given the relaxation to supervisor and scholars also. The major impact of this regulation is that the university has taken the subscription of word wide anti-plagiarism tool namely Turnitin and Vice-Chancellor GJUS&T has ordered that every thesis has to be checked with Turnitin before final submission, then

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the concerned shall be allowed for final submission. This step surely proves mile stone in the history of GJUS&T academic/research and shall lead the qualitative research in the existing and coming time.

Level of Awareness among Research Scholars about UGC (promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018 of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar

A tool of few prominent questions has been prepared and through qualitative method of research the interview of 150 research scholars of different disciplines of the university has been conducted. The purpose is to simply know the view and level of awareness about this regulation. For analyzing of data, the Excel tool has been used. The result of the discussion is as under:

Statements	Interviewee Responses (in percentage)	
	Yes	No
Are you aware about UGC (promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018?	80.3%	19.7%
Are you aware about the various recommendations of the regulations regarding to curb the plagiarism?	55%	45%
Do you agree with the objectives of UGC Regulations, 2018?	45% fully agreed but 35% partially agreed as they said to implement the same concerned HEI has to take the initial steps.	20% said need to incorporate few points also.
Do you agree with the recommendations in toto which have been notified in UGC Regulations, 2018?	35% were agreed with the recommendations in toto.	65% said we did not undergo throughly with the same so far, hence we cannot say anything in this regard.
Do you agree with the statement that only single policy shall work for all disciplines like Science, Technology, Commerce, Humanities, and Arts?	25% said it shall work efficiently.	75% said that at initial stage, we have to go with the single policy but in coming years we have to develop the plagiarism policy according to individual disciplines.

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Are you aware about the filters recommended or Works excluded during checking the similarity index?	45% aware about the filters of anti-plagiarism tool i.e. Turnitin. 30% are aware about the filters only which have been recommended in the regulations.	Remaining 25% is aware about only two filters i.e. Exclude bibliography & reference and Quotes.
Do you feel that similarity and plagiarism both are synonyms of each other?	85.6%	14.4%
Are you aware about the levels of plagiarism and punishments which have been notified for Supervisors' and Scholars'?	During interview 90% scholars were aware about levels but only 65% were aware about the punishments which have been notified for Supervisors and Scholars and 20% were thinking that the scholars have no punishments whether he or she has committed the plagiarism.	Rest 15% were aware both i.e. levels and punishments for Supervisor/s and Scholar/s.
Do you know the role of Departmental Academic Integrity Panel- DAIP?	Only 35.4% scholars were knowing the role of DAIP in the Higher Academic Institution..	Rest 64.6% replied that no o department having such type of the Departmental Panel in GJUS & T.
Do you know about the penalties if anyone commits the plagiarism repeatedly, other than levels punishments?	10% were aware about this concept.	90% said there are no penalties after punishing according to levels.
Do you know who will be the Chairman and members of Departmental Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP)?	2%	98% were not aware about the Chairman and members.
Are you aware about the role of Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) and its Chairman and Members?	1%	99%

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Do you agree that the HEIs should conduct the training and awareness programs on plagiarism and UGC Regulations 2018?	75.3%	Rest 24.7% said that to understand the concept of the Plagiarism and UGC Regulations 2018, the teachers and scholars must go through the same by themselves. Everything cannot be done on behalf of HEIs.
Do you know that GJUS&T Hisar is having its own policy on plagiarism?	65.3% scholars agreed with the statement and 20% said that they are aware partially but the percentage of similarity permissible limit i.e. 10% needs to be defined again.	Remaining said we are not aware about this policy.

2. Conclusion

The scope of the study is confined with Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology Hisar; hence its results cannot be generalized. Therefore, to investigate the level of efficacy among scholars of UGC (promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018 in others technical institutions of higher education of Haryana need to be involved in study so that results may be generalized and a better, sound, and seamless policy on plagiarism may be framed in the light of the existing UGC regulations 2018. Moreover, further research may be conducted and accordingly more awareness and training programs may be organized for research scholars. Thereby, qualitative & quantitative research may be held. After analyzing the responses of the interviewee, many issues have found on alarming edge which needs to be addressed without further delay. The alarming issues are as under:

Do you know the role of Departmental Academic Integrity Panel- DAIP?	Only 35.4% scholars were knowing the role of DAIP in the Higher Academic Institution.	Rest 64.6% replied that no o department having such type of of the Departmental Panel in GJUS & T.

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Do you know about the penalties if anyone commits the plagiarism repeatedly, other than levels punishments?	10% were aware about this concept.	90% said there are no penalties after punishing according to levels.
Do you know who will be the Chairman and members of Departmental Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP)?	2%	98% were not aware about the Chairman and members.
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Therefore, it is the duty of the concerned institute to address all these alarming issues so that the awareness of this regulation may be created among the scholars, thereby at initial level of their theses, they may aware about each and every ins and outs of the plagiarism and conduct a fair research.

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