

EDITORIAL

Plagiarism: What Authors Need To Know

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, describes Plagiarism as “the practice of claiming or implying original authorship of (or incorporating material from) someone else's written or creative work, in whole or in part, into one's own without adequate acknowledgement.”¹ While on Higher Education Commission website with reference to Chambers dictionary a plagiarist is a kind of thief, “one who steals the thoughts or writings of others and gives them out as his [sic] own”. When this is also used for gain – in the University to gain credits for a module or modules – then an additional dimension of dishonesty is added.²

This is an important issue about which all authors ought to know and try not to indulge in it. Stating that one did not know about plagiarism is not accepted. The HEC website also shows details of how many university faculty members have been punished on account of being plagiarist. There was recent debate in press and electronic media regarding this professional misconduct and rightly so. If a faculty member himself is involved in these unethical practices how can he be trusted to inculcate a just and fair approach towards teaching and training of juniors.

There is a dire need of teaching authors as to how to avoid plagiarism. One should know how to cite references, phrase, and put quotation marks etc. It is therefore necessary for the authors to read the searched literature and then write discussion part based upon their own research and comparing what is reported in literature. This description should critically analyze similarities and differences. Plagiarism is easy to identify and many soft wares are available to detect them. Paraphrasing is also a type of plagiarism and can also be picked up easily. At times the manuscript may get unnoticed and published. Someone then points out the plagiarism in that article. In this regard the editorial board is bound to ask for explanation and should also notify monitoring bodies like PMDC, HEC and concerned universities. Although the type of punishment to be given to such authors is not agreed upon but usually the editorial board blacklists such a person for some period of time and retracts such article.

We hope our contributors will not indulge into such unethical practices.

References

1. www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism What Is Plagiarism?.
2. www.hec.gov.pk/QualityAssurance/Plagiarism.htm

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