

## **An investigation of plagiarism on higher education students: Awareness, information sources, reasons**

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### **Abstract:**

Many early-carrier researchers commit plagiarism, due to different reasons, part of which can be resolved with influential anti-plagiarism policies. Present study is a revised replication of a survey conducted in 2013 in Tabriz University-Iran and Ankara University-Turkey. Current study consisted of three questionnaires applied to 170 higher education students from each university. The aims were, first to identify the participants' overall knowledge including information about plagiarism, its seriousness and consequences; second to find out their sources of information, and third to discover reasons of committing plagiarism; notes from participants' comments were also taken and included. Though majority of participants from Iran (87.06%) and Turkey (99.41%) knew that plagiarism is a serious offense ( $P = 0.000$ ), they lacked the information about the details of it, for example self-plagiarism, the consequences of it and the policies of their universities. Besides, quite high percentages of neutral answers were detected for some of the statements. There were important differences in information sources between participants from Iran and Turkey. Lecturers (73.3%), internet (64.3%), articles (60.2%) and anti-plagiarism courses (31%) were some main sources for Turkish participants. The results of reasons of plagiarism showed clear differences and suggested that due to some internal and external factors students still commit plagiarism. Participants' comments highlighted the fact that different types of plagiarism happen among them. The comparison of the previous and the current study revealed improvements in both Iranian and Turkish participants' knowledge while Turkish participants were still ahead of Iranian ones.

**Keywords:** Higher education, information sources, Iran, overall knowledge, plagiarism, reasons, Turkey.