

Causes and Effects of Plagiarism among the Student Community in Universities and Colleges in UAE-An Overview

Rameshwaran Byloppilly, City University College of Ajman, United Arab Emirates

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This paper throws light on the repercussions on plagiarizing literature of one author and using it by another author for publication purposes. It has been found that many authors use the data of one or more authors and publish it as their own without citing the name or authorship of data which can lead to misconduct and academic dishonesty. The researcher has conducted a descriptive study across universities and colleges in UAE to unearth the reasons and effects of plagiarism and why students fabricate and falsify data in doing their assignments and project works. A stratified random sampling procedure has been employed in the study. Interview schedules have been used by enumerators as their research instrument to collect data. The sample frame of the study is the students and researchers in universities and colleges in UAE. The researcher has collected data from a sample size of 200 students and researchers studying in universities and colleges in UAE. The data were analyzed using appropriate statistical tools and has come to meaningful conclusions. The term plagiarism takes its root from the Latin word *plagium*, which means 'to kidnap a person', i. e. 'theft', which is taking material authored by others and presenting as one's own. The researcher has concluded saying that the illegal appropriation of other people's spiritual property is attributed to many reasons like 'easy access to someone else's authorized sources of literature', 'the pressure to publish a paper in a reputed journal', and 'the fear of committing mistakes in writing an article' which will lead to fabrication and falsification of data. The recommendations of the study are that there should be 'stringent stipulations' to authors to prevent misconduct and academic dishonesty while writing or publishing an article. They should cite references and acknowledge the source from which they have taken the ideas and should mention the complete bibliographic details. If a sentence copied from any other source has more than 4 consecutive words, they should take the permission from the author or writer or publisher. Special permission should be obtained for reproducing any copyrighted material. Some ethical considerations also has to be taken like – researchers have to follow ethical codes of Good Scientific Practice based on the principles of integrity and honesty and become responsible for what they publish.