



Analytical Study of UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018

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Article Info: - Received : 29 July 2023

Accepted : 20 August 2023

Published : 31 August 2023

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This research paper conducts an in-depth analysis of the University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations titled "Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions, 2018." In the modern era, the misuse of technology has led to a surge in plagiarism cases within the Indian higher education system. To address this issue, the UGC introduced these regulations with the primary aim of raising awareness among researchers, promoting responsible conduct, preventing misconduct, and eradicating plagiarism. The paper explores the regulations' definitions, exceptions, procedures, penalties, and recommendations for effective implementation. While acknowledging the significance of these regulations in curbing plagiarism, the paper suggests the need for more stringent penalties, including the possibility of imprisonment, to act as a stronger deterrent against severe plagiarism. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of ongoing awareness initiatives to foster an ethical culture among academics, students, and researchers. To combat plagiarism effectively, collaborative efforts between the government and higher educational institutions are essential, including funding for modern plagiarism detection tools, stamped declarations of originality, publication repositories, and awareness campaigns.

Keywords: *Academic Integrity, Plagiarism Regulations, Higher Education, Plagiarism Detection, Ethical.*



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1. INTRODUCTION

Now a day, with the emergence of technological development, the cases of plagiarism are increasing due to misuse of such technology. It was very much essentials to have some regulation to curb such misuse specially the plagiarism from Indian higher educational system ([The Gazette of India, 1940](#)). To steal someone's academic or research intellect is not only unethical but also very harmful, to the research activities of the nation. Hence, there was the need to

penalize such act with specialized law, to protect the interest of original authors or writers, to have academic and research oriented growth ([A.K. Ahuja, 2017](#)).

Hence, finally, the UGC introduced the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018, with an object to bring the awareness among the researchers to behave responsibly and to avoid or prevent the

misconduct and also the person could not to indulge into any kind of plagiarism (M K Bhandari,2021). Moreover, the intention behind this Regulation 2018 is to promote the academic integrity among the staff and students who are involved in any kind of research activities like dissertation, thesis, book chapters, research papers etc. The said Regulation 2018 has introduced the mechanism at institutional level to achieve the above objects and also have directed to develop the plagiarism detection systems to avoid the any kind of plagiarism along with punishment to the wrongdoers (Kumar, N. A. 2020).

2. MEANING OF PLAGIARISM

Under the present Regulation 2018, the term 'plagiarism' is defined in very simple word, if any person takes an idea or work of another person and shows it as its own work or idea is called as a plagiarism (Raibagkar, S. S. 2021). When we go through the meaning of plagiarism, it show that, it is just one kind of theft as well as cheating committed by the person who shows others works, which are in the forms of written, opinion expressed ,in any electronic tools like video, audio or image etc. as his own work or idea. Such practice, create damages to the true author or creator of those work or idea (Ismail, R. 2019).

3. EXCEPTION TO PLAGIARISM

Although, the similarities in research work or idea could be called as a plagiarism, still while doing further research there is a probabilities to mentions same laws, quotations, generic terms, common knowledge etc. which can't be changed or altered by researcher. Therefore, this aspect required to be addressed while dealing with plagiarism, otherwise, it would create unnecessary hindrance in future research activities. Hence, in the Regulation 2018 some exceptions to plagiarism are provided, which do not come under the plagiarized acts (Chandere, V., Satish, S., & Lakshminarayanan, R. 2021). Those things are reproduction of all the quotation work by taking required permission, all the preface, table of content, reference, bibliography, acknowledgements, and all the laws, standard symbol and equations, generic terms etc. Furthermore, the common knowledge or any coincidental terms up to fourteen successive words are also excluded from plagiarism. Apart from these, up to 10% minor similarities are also excluded from the penalties.

4. PROCEDURE AND PENALTIES

The penalty for the plagiarism is depending upon the severity of such plagiarized act. It has been divided in two major categories i.e. plagiarism while submitting thesis, dissertation and plagiarism in publication of academic and research. In case of, earlier category i.e. plagiarism while submitting thesis,

dissertation the four levels have been created depending upon the severity (Tripathi, S., & Patel, D. 2021). In case of level 0, there is no penalty, if the similarity level is up to 10%. But in level 01, if it is more than 10% to 40% then it should required to be resubmitted with revised script within maximum six months or in case of level 02, if similarities is more than 40% to 60% then the student will get debarred for one year and he should submit the revised script after the said debarred period or if similarities is more than 60% than the program registration of such student would get cancelled in this level 03.

And if, any students commit the repetitive plagiarism act then, such student would be punished for one higher level of previous level. And if, he had previously committed the plagiarism act of highest level then for the repetition of same, he will get punishment of same level i.e. level 03. In case of, the degree or credit is already awarded then such degree or credit would get temporary suspended till the recommendation of Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) and approved by the Head of the Institute. This IAIP is required to be constituted, which could consider the recommendation given by the Departmental Academic Integrity Penal (DAIP) and take the decision in case of plagiarism allegation and fix the penalties (Hasan, N., & Khan, N. H. 2018).

In the case of other categories i.e. plagiarism in publication of academic and research, there is no penalties in if the similarities is up to 10%, which is called level 0. And if, the similarities are more than 10% to 40 than the guilty person, would be directed to withdraw the manuscript, which come under level 01. But, if the similarities are more that 40% to 60% than the punishment is more sever in nature and the such guilty person would be asked to take out manuscript, there will be denial of one annual increment, not to allow any research supervisory work for two years. If, the similarities is more than 60 than, such guilty person would be asked to take out the manuscript, the two annual increments would be denied, no research supervisory work for the three year (Das, A. K. 2019).

If, such previously guilty person repeats the same act of plagiarism then the he will be punished for one higher level of earlier punishment. But if, the guilty person had repeatedly committed highest level 03 plagiarism act then, the disciplinary action against such person along with suspension or termination as per the concerned service rules would take place by the Higher Education Institute. And, where the benefit or credit is already obtained and plagiarism act is prove later on then, such benefit or credit will get temporary suspended till the suggestions of IAIP and Head of Institution's approval. If the plagiarism is committed by the Head of the Institute than the Controlling

Authority of such Institute would take the action against such guilty Head.

5. HOW TO CONTROL THE PLAGIARISM

To prevent or control such unethical practices of plagiarism in modern days requires the collective efforts of government and higher educational institute (Sonkar, S. K., & Bajpai, M. K. 2021). The concerned government should provide the adequate fund so that, maximum institute could avail the modern and up to date plagiarism tools or software's, which could be easily accessible to those entire person who are doing research work. The undertaking on stamp paper about the original work and not plagiarized should be taken, from all those, who submit their research works and also from the concerned supervisor of said research work. There should be repository of publication works at Institutional level along with the promoting academic integrity. At the same time; the higher educational institute should bring the awareness that, how to maintain a responsible behavior towards the research oriented activities to avoid the plagiarism (Devi, M. 2020).

6. CONCLUSION

Generally, it is observed that, the research oriented activities are very tired in nature, which requires patient and consistent intellectual hard work. As a result of this, many students, faculties, researchers try to adopt short cut or faster ways by making plagiarism of available material, to get the credit or to have benefit from such material. In other word, they commit theft of other person's hard work or intellect for personal gain, without giving credit or benefit to real author or writer. No doubt this Regulation 2018 appears to be a good law to prevent plagiarism and maintain academic integrity and also have played important role in curbing the plagiarism. However, the punishment prescribed under this regulation is lenient in nature and there is no single day imprisonment given to the guilty person, even in case of severe kind of plagiarism. The punishment should have been more severe in nature, by prescribing imprisonment which may extend to six months, along with present forms of punishments, to deter the person who indulges in severe kind of plagiarism and also, there is need to bring more awareness by conducting or organizing various programmes to inculcate ethical culture and make the faculties, writer, students, and researchers more responsible towards the academic integrity. Apart from these, there is need to avail the adequate number of detection tools or software's for plagiarism finding, so that the objectives of this regulation could get achieved in reality.

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Cite this article as: Dr.Vardhaman Vinayak Ahiwalea., (2023). Analytical Study of UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018. *International Journal of Emerging Knowledge Studies*. 2(8), pp. 216-218.