

EDITORIAL

PLAGIARISM: AN INTIMIDATING CHALLENGE IN SCIENTIFIC DISCOURSE

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As described in the oxford dictionary the word Plagiarism is described as the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. This often consists of stealing a concept or accomplishment without acknowledging or recognizing the original source which would therefore infringe and trespass statutes such as copyright and intellectual property rights. The word plagiarism finds its origin in the Latin word 'Plagiarius'. It means abducting or marauding. With the dawning of internet, digital technology and intensified competition amongst the researchers, it has now grown to disturbing proportions. Mostly, plagiarism is seen as 'premeditated' or 'in excess of' where someone else's achievement is proposed as own triumph or as in 'misrepresenting the translations'; which is a re-representation of a text or passage. Seldom, it is defended as 'unintentional', though both summon similar judicial clearances. The penalties of plagiarism are far-reaching; with forfeiture of personal/professional reputation, moral impeachment and legal/monetary corollaries.

'Stature' or 'Obliviousness' will not be able to come to the rescue of the indicted in a court of law. Further, such plagiarized researches place the investigators at an appalling low with skepticism amongst peers. Awareness regarding plagiarism and its consequences has to be increased among students and professionals, in the academic circles, clinical and industrial segment. The scientific journals in our country need to incorporate 'sound checks' to decrease plagiarism in order to be at par with international standards. Though plagiarism is officially dealt in the lines of 'copyright infringements;' scholastic fraudulence' carry out more of a moral transgression than legal implication. It would also require a public confession, withdrawing of research funding, loss of professional standing and job. With regards to this problem, hard work of UGC to curtail plagiarism is very reassuring. Two publications for every thesis of PhD degree is mandatory if done from any Indian university would show case the accomplishments of higher education establishments and bring answerability to their commission. Journals from all over the world have perfected a exclusive way of integrating every article passing through rigorous software analysis meant

for the same and no case of Plagiarism can go unchecked. A multi-tier appraisal system at each level with appropriate controls is essential to stop this kind of action. The significance of keeping plagiarism out of research and scientific journals deserves highlighting and it will be stride towards generating testimony in the progress of a sound system of publications in general and health care organization in particular.



About the author:

Lt Gen Dr Vimal Arora, PVSM AVSM VSM & Bar; OSRE (Oman) is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Dental Health & Research. He is presently working as the Chief Clinical Officer of Clove Dental, the Largest Dental Chain of India. He manages more than 350 clinics and 900 dentists for delivery of dental treatment at all echelons in 27 cities across the country. Gen Vimal has a 40 years history of working in the Army Dental Corps. He superannuated as the Director General of Dental Services & Colonel Commandant of Dental Corps and was appointed the Honorary Dental Surgeon to the President of India. He was also a Member of the Dental Council of India. He is the highest awarded Army Dentist, four times recipient of the Presidential Award in India and once from Sultan of Oman. He is the author of several research papers in highly acclaimed journals and also a celebrated writer for his books on dentistry.