

Plagiarism: A serious academic delinquency

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WE are living in an online world and most of the time, whenever we want to invent something new, many of us are habituated to search Google to find necessary information. We then copy our required information and pass it off as our own work without taking permission or giving no credit to its original author. We do not want to use our own brain because of availability of information in virtual world. Same scenario takes place with printed materials. The copying information can be different types of published and unpublished works, ideas, images, data, facts and so on. "Plagiarism" is well-known circumvention in academic environment.

According to Oxford English Dictionary Plagiarism is "the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own". According to the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) strict definition, Plagiarism is when the six (06) words from the other text match consistently or 7-11 words are matched in the set of 30 words. Plagiarism occurs either intentional which includes plagiarism of ideas, texts, mosaic plagiarism and self-plagiarism or unintentional such as lack of using proper citation style, lack of understanding skills and so on.

Why we are rushing to establish copy-paste culture? Is internet responsible for this, obviously not. We will not only become lazy if we do not utilise our brain but also the brain will eventual-

ly become unproductive. I think our education system is partly responsible for creating this situation. If a student has lots of homework to finish within a very short time, he/she will depend on copy-paste. Education policy makers should look into this matter.

I also deem that our education has creative learning environment but how much are we fol-

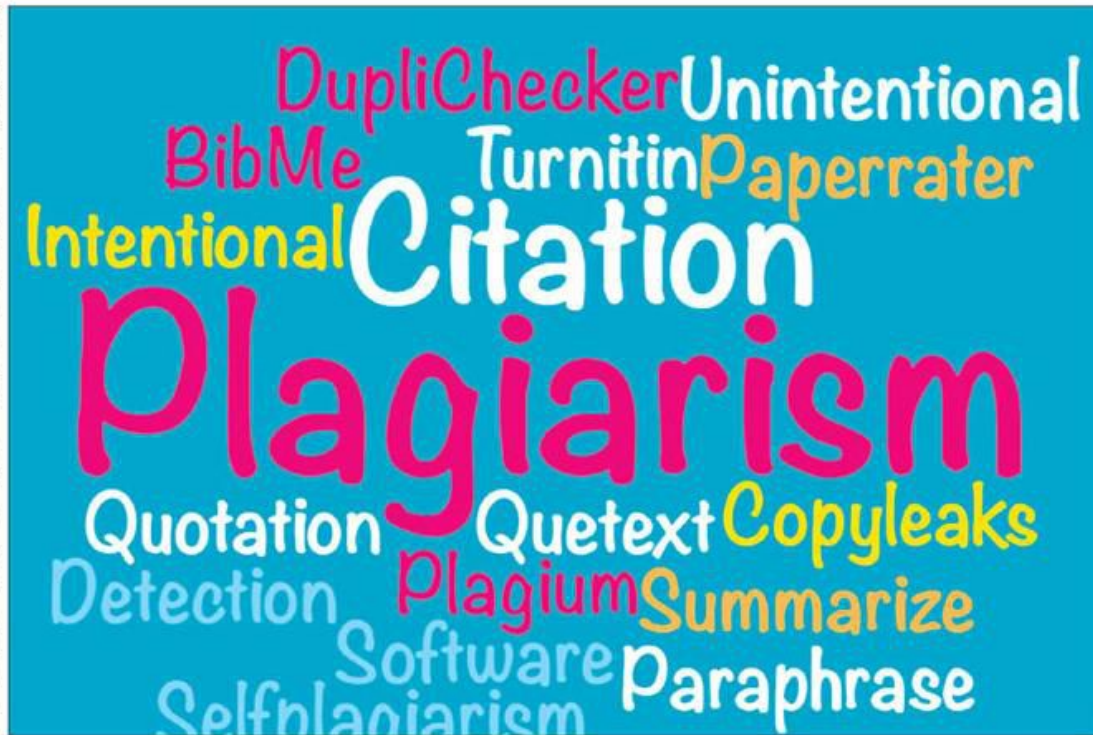
library. It should be mentionable here that Librarians are called as Information Literacy (IL) specialist and as IL specialists have entire knowledge on how to search information, evaluate and use the information in efficient and effective way. In this case, teacher collaboration with LIS professionals can develop a curriculum and implement it in higher education institutions.

In addition, all higher education institutions must have a policy on plagiarism and plagiarism detecting software. Recently, University Grant Commission (UGC) of India approved policy on prevention of plagiarism in academic environment where researchers can lose registration and teachers dismissed for plagiarism. The UGC of Bangladesh should emphasize on this matter. However, practices of paraphrasing the text or summarising the ideas and cite the sources in proper style are the ways to avoid plagiarism. Various types of free plagiarism detection software are available for academician including Quetext, BibMe, Plagium, Dupli

Checker, Copyleaks, Paperrater, etc.

It is noteworthy that East West University, BRAC University, North South University and few top public and private universities have plagiarism detector software named Turnitin and they are using this software in their community. Educators in Bangladesh need to know about plagiarism and try to commence "campaign on how to avoid plagiarism and build anti-plagiarism academic environment".

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lowing it? Do we evaluate it? What about our higher education system to deal with research-based environment and the possibilities of funding for research or how can this fund provide to researchers? These are the questions to think about it. Higher education institutions need to create research based community as well as combating plagiarism. As Library and Information Science (LIS) Professionals, I would recommend to introduce compulsory course for fresh students about avoiding plagiarism with the help of