“Plagiarism in Research: What we need to know”

Anil K. Bhat

Dear Readers and KOA members,

It gives me immense pleasure to inform the publication of the first issue of our KOA journal in 2018. This will be the first time that we will be able to publish two issues in one conference year. This is a significant step towards increasing our footprint in the publication world and also towards obtaining indexing in various reputed indexing agencies.

I would like to thank the KOA members for their support in submitting articles which has helped us in bringing this first of the two issues. The Index Copernicus indexing obtained last year has largely helped in authors submitting their articles to the journal. If this momentum keeps up, we may be able to publish three issues per year in future.

A word of caution about plagiarism at this juncture would be appropriate. Plagiarism means the practice of taking someone else’s work or idea and passing them as one’s own. The recent UGC Gazette notification on Promotion of academic integrity and prevention of plagiarism in higher educational institutions, 2018 is applicable to students, faculty, researchers and staff of all higher educational institutions of the country and is aimed at promoting academic integrity.

The regulations highlight this academic Integrity as intellectual honesty in proposing, performing and reporting any activity, which leads to the creation of intellectual property. The objectives of these regulations are to create awareness about responsible conduct of research, thesis, dissertation, promotion of academic integrity and prevention of misconduct including plagiarism in academic writing among student, faculty, researcher and staff. It also provides guidelines to establish institutional mechanism through education and training to facilitate responsible conduct of research, thesis, dissertation, promotion of academic integrity and deterrence from plagiarism. The final objective is to develop systems to detect plagiarism and to set up mechanisms to prevent plagiarism and punish a student, faculty, researcher or staff committing the act of plagiarism.

Penalties in case of plagiarism in academic and research publications proposed are:

I. Level 0: Similarities up to 10% - Minor similarities, no penalty.

II. Level 1: Similarities above 10% to 40%
   i) Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript.

III. Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60%
   i) Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript.
   ii) Shall be denied a right to one annual increment.
   iii) Shall not be allowed to be a supervisor to any new Master’s, M.Phil., Ph.D. Student/scholar for a period of two years.

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IV. Level 3: Similarities above 60%
I) Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript.
II) Shall be denied a right to two successive annual increments.
III) Shall not be allowed to be a supervisor to any new Master’s, M.Phil., Ph.D. Student/scholar for a period of three years.

We are in a situation where predatory journal publications are rampant due to compulsion of promotions in work place and regulatory body requirements. Plagiarism is inevitably woven into this practice. Hence we need to tread our research pathway with utmost caution and encourage our students and faculty not to adapt any such malpractices in their professional life. Our journal is committed on such integrity and hence, I look forward to receiving good quality articles for future publications from all our members and readers which will enhance the reputation of our journal.

Thanking you all,

Dr Anil K. Bhat

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References
1. University Grants Commission (Promotion of academic integrity and prevention of plagiarism in higher educational institutions) regulations, 2018 New Delhi, the 23rd July, 2018, f. 1-18/2010(cpp-ii).

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