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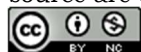
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**PREVALENCE OF PLAGIARISM AMONG
MEDICAL STUDENTS**

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ABSTRACT:

Plagiarism is copying another person's ideas, words or writing and pretending that they are one's own work. It can involve violating copyright laws. This survey study was conducted among different medical and dental college students of different medical and dental colleges. Different questions were asked regarding plagiarism, reasons for plagiarism and measures to avoid plagiarism. A total of 67 medical and dental students participated in the study. There were 52 males and 15 females. The mean age was 22.56 ± 2.01 years. All the students were aware of the term plagiarism. The main reasons for plagiarism were failure to produce own content due to inappropriate capacity building, limited material to explore (due to limited medical libraries) and slackness in one's attitude.

**Keywords: Plagiarism, Medical Students,
Dental Students**



INTRODUCTION:

Plagiarism is copying another person's ideas, words or writing and pretending that they are one's own work. It can involve violating copyright laws. College students who are caught plagiarizing can be expelled from school. It can permanently damage a student's reputation. Writers who plagiarize commit serious legal and ethical violations. It is the representation of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions as one's own original work. Plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty and a breach of journalistic ethics.

It is subject to sanctions such as penalties, suspension, expulsion from school or work, substantial fines and even incarceration. Recently, cases of "extreme plagiarism" have been identified in academia. The modern concept of plagiarism as immoral and originality as an ideal emerged in Europe in the 18th century, particularly with the Romantic movement. Plagiarism is not in itself a crime, but like counterfeiting fraud can be punished in a court for prejudices caused by copyright infringement, violation of moral rights, or torts. In academia and industry, it is a serious ethical offense. Plagiarism and copyright infringement overlap to a considerable extent, but they are not equivalent concepts, and many types of plagiarism do not constitute copyright infringement, which is defined by copyright law and may be adjudicated by courts.

Plagiarism might not be the same in all countries. Some countries, such as India and Poland, consider plagiarism to be a crime, and there have been cases of people being imprisoned for plagiarizing. In other instances, plagiarism might be the opposite of "academic dishonesty," in fact some countries find the act of plagiarizing a professional's work flattering. Students who move to the United States from countries where plagiarism is not frowned upon often find the transition difficult.

It has been estimated that as many as two-thirds of students cheated at some point of their college careers at the turn of the 20th century. Fraternities



often operated so-called essay banks, where term papers were kept on file and could be resubmitted repeatedly by different students, often with the only change being the name on the paper. The issue of academic dishonesty became more prominent in the latter half of the twentieth century, as universities shifted towards more democratic approaches to admission (1-3).

MATERIAL OF METHODS:

This survey study was conducted among different medical and dental college students of different medical and dental colleges. Different questions were asked regarding plagiarism, reasons for plagiarism and measures to avoid plagiarism. All the data was analyzed with SPSS Ver. 23.0. Relevant statistical analysis was performed. The qualitative variables were presented as frequency and percentages. The quantitative variables were presented as mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS:

A total of 67 medical and dental students participated in the study. There were 52 males and 15 females. The mean age was 22.56 ± 2.01 years. All of the students were well aware of the term plagiarism. The main reasons for plagiarism were failure to produce own content due to inappropriate capacity building, limited material to explore (due to limited medical libraries) and slackness in one's attitude.

DISCUSSION:

In the academic world, plagiarism by students is usually considered a very serious offense that can result in punishments such as a failing grade on the particular assignment, the entire course, or even being expelled from the institution. The seriousness with which academic institutions address student



plagiarism may be tempered by a recognition that students may not fully understand what plagiarism is. A 2015 study showed that students who were new to university study did not have a good understanding of even the basic requirements of how to attribute sources in written academic work, yet students were very confident that they understood what referencing and plagiarism are. The same students also had a lenient view of how plagiarism should be penalised.

For cases of repeated plagiarism, or for cases in which a student commits severe plagiarism (e.g., purchasing an assignment), suspension or expulsion may occur. There has been historic concern about inconsistencies in penalties administered for university student plagiarism, and a plagiarism tariff was devised in 2008 for UK higher education institutions in an attempt to encourage some standardization of approaches.

However, to impose sanctions, plagiarism needs to be detected. Strategies faculty members use to detect plagiarism include carefully reading students work and making note of inconsistencies in student writing, citation errors and providing plagiarism prevention education to students. It has been found that a significant share of (university) teachers do not use detection methods such as using text-matching software. A few more try to detect plagiarism by reading term-papers specifically for plagiarism, while the latter method might be not very effective in detecting plagiarism – especially when plagiarism from unfamiliar sources needs to be detected. There are checklists of tactics to prevent student plagiarism (4-6).

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