



# Role of Plagiarism in Research Publication: A Review

Vijay Dalal

Librarian, BPSGMC for women, Khanpur kalan, Sonapat, Haryana

## Abstract:

*Plagiarism can occur at any stage of the research lifecycle from proposing to communicating and reporting research. Plagiarism is presenting and using another's published or unpublished work, including theories, concepts, data, source material, methodologies or findings, including graphs and images, as one's own, without appropriate referencing and without permission when permission is required. The present article tried to explain the most common causes and types of plagiarism and how to avoid managing and avoiding any type of plagiarism during writing of research paper or work.*

Keywords: Method, Paper, Research, Work.

## Introduction:

The essence of good medical writing, or for that matter, any kind of scientific writing, is a clear, concise, accurate, and honest presentation of the scientific idea. Medical writers often have to write within tight deadlines. Additionally, medico-marketing writing also involves a lot of competitive pressure to be able to present a drug, device, or healthcare service in a fair fashion.

Some of these fallacies are unintentional and easy to remedy. For example, when an article does not score high on clarity or lacks conciseness, the deficiency is typically unintentional. A writer with a good grasp of the concept and language can often amend these fallacies with some practice. This is not enough. Accuracy and honesty are very

important requisites when it comes to good scientific writing.

Jacobsen KH describes the five steps of research process. These are- problem identification, selection of research manner, the choice of study design and data collection, data analysis and conclusion.

A good quality research is published in a peer reviewed journal which becomes sources of information for other researcher. Good quality articles have to include trust, truth and honesty. Perhaps, the most widely recognized unethical practice in medical research writing is plagiarism. This present article will provide a brief review regarding the various factors about plagiarism.

## Plagiarism:

The term plagiarism is derived from Latin word 'plagiare' means to kidnap. Plagiarism is the act or process of copying someone's

written or creative work as your own, either in part or in whole, without specifying the source of the original work.

World association of Medical Editors (WAME) define plagiarism as the use of others published and unpublished ideas or words and other intellectual property without attribution or permission and presenting them as new and original rather than deriving from an existing source. WAME states that plagiarism implies when 6 or more consecutive words are copied in a continuous set of 30 words.

**Extent of the problem:**

In the recent years, research has become a growing industry. There is a strong competition among more than 7.1 million researcher in the world to have their research work published in over 25000 journals. Researchers are under pressure to get their work published in good journals. Rate of plagiarism increases day by day in research works due to less time, lack of research skills, easy to get information and data from the internet. In 2010, the Nature Publishing Group state that 23 percent of submitted articles are rejected due to plagiarism. These percentage increases day by day when the concepts of intellectual property and copyright are not well understood followed.

**Types of plagiarism:**

According to the intention, plagiarism can either be accidental (unintentional) or deliberate (intentional).

**Accidental or unintentional plagiarism:** It is usually seen among students and junior

researchers. It is caused by a lack of awareness of the limits of taking data from other sources. It may be occur due to lack of skills for appropriately acknowledging data sources and citing other work.

**Deliberate or intentional plagiarism:**

In this type, intentionally copying others work occurs. Legally, there is no distinction between these 2 types of plagiarism, both carry legal or financial penalties and can ruin a writer's reputation. So, it is necessary to check percentage of plagiarism of his/her own work before submitting it anywhere.

**Nature of the plagiarized production described the following types of plagiarism:**

1. **Plagiarism of ideas:** This type of plagiarism is very difficult to detect because of lack of proof and there is no tangible production stolen. In this, author does not copy any words and phrases from the original article, if he simply uses the same idea or thought and presents it as his own without proper acknowledgment, the same may amount to plagiarism. It is commonly present among postgraduate students who took ideas for their thesis after searching through earlier research papers.
2. **Plagiarism of text:** It is also known as copy-cut-paste or word-to-word writing. It is commonly present in medical research writing because scientific research is always based on someone else's previous work. It is common that some researchers take entire paragraphs from published

articles and think it is permissible as long as they cite the reference at the end of the paragraph this is plagiarism of text. Scientific findings are allowed to be taken from other's articles, but not their language or the exact text that they wrote.

3. **Self plagiarism:** It occurs when a researcher uses substantial parts of his research in two different publications. It is also known as 'redundant data'. If someone used his own previous published work in the new article, the journals rules violated. In research, an author sometimes publishes a series of articles on one research problem and uses his previous findings as a basis for new findings. A simple rule to avoid this problem is to refer to what has been published or to seek permission from publisher if the author needs to use the exact illustration from his own previous work.

#### **Consequences of plagiarism:**

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) is the largest committee that makes guidelines for publication ethics in the world. It has made and published many guidelines for authors and editors. When more amount of plagiarism is detected in a published article after it has been printed, the consequences can be destructive to the reputation not only of the plagiarist but also for the coauthors, the journal reviewers and editors and for the institution to which the plagiarist

belongs. In academic, plagiarism by students, professors or researchers is considered academic dishonesty and penalties are charged by the academic institutions. Sanctions of plagiarism for undergraduate and postgraduate students include one of the following- redo the paper, fail the paper, redo the degree, and fail the degree.

#### **Detection of plagiarism:**

In the past, detection of plagiarized work was the responsibility of the editors and was dependent mainly on personal experience. Every researcher has his own style of writing, coping and pasting from previous articles can be easily recognized by expert editors and reviewers. In recent years, many software has been developed for detection of software in which some are free and some are paid. eTBLAST is a free service provided by the Virginia Bio-informatics Institute which can detect the exact matches between two articles in several databases including Medline. Most famous and worldwide software is plagiarism software that is provided by IParadigms for use by teachers and professors. For this software, institutions have to pay charges annually to make available it for their staff and students. Now days, journals using plagiarism detection software to check submitted articles before accepting them for publication to avoid retractions after publication. These facilities can detect the percentage of matching between the submitted article

and the original sources. Journals and institutions put a figure between 20% to 30% acceptable plagiarism and above which a manuscript can be rejected. Plagiarism in the results and discussion part of work is not tolerated. However, minor amount in methodology can be accepted with proper citation and paraphrasing.

### **Methods for preventing and managing plagiarism:**

Production of plagiarism-free research work is a joint responsibility of any medical institutions. If the research work or paper is fully copy and paste then editors have the right to reject it uprightly. In such cases, editors must inform the head of department and the institution in which the research work was conducted.

Main facts have to follow before starting a research work, conduct a detailed study of the past and the existing facts.

- I. Follow proper scientific methodology while conducting the research
- II. During writing, use your own words, whenever another authors idea, theory, facts or words have to be included, then these words should be put in between quotation marks “ ” followed by crediting the source.
- III. When a scientific fact is taken from an original article, it should be written in the author's own words, not an exact copy

of the paragraph from the source, it is known as paraphrasing and does not change scientific facts.

- IV. Sources used should be reliable.
- V. When some statements are copied word to word, put them in quotations.
- VI. If ideas or text are taken from one's own previous published work, it needs to be cited; else it amounts to self-plagiarism.
- VII. Mention the complete bibliographic information in references.
- VIII. Last but not the least, be honest with yourself.

Institutions or medical university should ensure that researchers and students have enough knowledge about plagiarism, its forms, types, consequences and how to avoid plagiarism. Students and researchers will understand the entire issue of plagiarism and have to give knowledge them about it by delivered workshops and seminars. Much plagiarism detection software has available on the internet. These are very useful and helpful tools for both students and experts for checking their writing materials with the previous published articles. Such methods are very useful for decreasing the rate of plagiarisms in the research work.

### **Conclusion:**

Plagiarism is a form of scientific misconduct which demands a zero tolerance attitude. Running workshops, seminars and providing plagiarism detection software in institutions



are necessary steps for avoiding plagiarism in writing research work. Trust and honesty are at the heart of scientific research ethics, plagiarism shakes these values and creates environment of distrust that effects progress of researchers, university and country.

### References:

[1] Masic I. Plagiarism in scientific publishing. Acta Inform Med. 2012; 20(4): 208-213.

[2] Das N and Panjabi M. Plagiarism: why is it such a big issue for medical writers? Perspect Clin Res. 2011; 2(2): 67-71.

[3] Flow charts -committee on publication ethics: COPE [cited 2014 18th October, 2014]; Available from: [http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/All\\_flow\\_charts.pdf](http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/All_flow_charts.pdf); 2008.

[4] Rabab AA, Mohammed, Omar M, Shaaban, Dalia G, Mahran, Hamdi N, Attellawy, Makhlof A and Albasri A. Plagiarism in medical scientific research. Journal of Taibah University Medical Sciences. 2015; 10(1): 6-11.

[5] Masic I. plagiarism in scientific research and publications and how to prevent it. Mater Sociomed. 2014; 26(2): 141-146.