Plagiarism: How to Control the Unethical Practice?

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Abstract—This paper is an attempt to understand the intricacies of plagiarism.

Keywords—Plagiarism, unethical practices

1 Introduction

Wilson Miznor, the American playwright who is remembered for his witty retort once said “Copying from one source is plagiarism, copying from two is research”. Copying from one or two or any number of sources without acknowledgement is unethical. Plagiarism is more of an ethical and moral offence than a legal offence. We all know that copyright is more of a legal offence. What is plagiarism? According to Random house Webster’s unabridged Dictionary Plagiarism is “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s own original work”

According to “MLA Handbook for writers of research paper” [4] plagiarism refers to a form of cheating that has been defined as a “false assumption of authorship. Using another person’s ideas, information or expressions without acknowledging that persons work or passing on another person’s ideas information or expression as your own to get some advantage “Plagiarism is the theft of someone else’s creative or intellectual work without intellectual property and is not acceptable in whether it is art science or literature or any field of knowledge”.

In 1989, the American Association of University professors (AAUP) issued a formal statement regarding plagiarism. They states Plagiarism as “taking over the ideas methods or written words of another author without acknowledgement and with the intention that they be taken as the work of the deceiver”. Someone else ideas can be their language, words, phrases, Symbols, style data, statistics, evidence research creative project, art work, intellectual ideas, websites, email, photographs, videos, audio etc.