

Plagiarism Consequences in Indian Academic Research: A Review of the Copyright Act 1957 and UGC Regulations 2018

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The paper aims to review the consequences of plagiarism in academic research through the lens of the Indian Copyright Act of 1957 and UGC Regulations on Plagiarism, 2018. By tracking its historical roots and classifying it into intentional and unintentional forms, this review discusses the multifaceted nature of plagiarism. In this study, the Indian Copyright Act's legal framework is examined focusing on the provisions that deal with copyright infringement and the associated penalties. At the same time, it examines the UGC Regulations 2018, which highlight the role and responsibilities of the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) in implementing the rigorous standards for identifying and penalizing plagiarism in academic institutions. The article further highlights a wide range of plagiarism consequences in the light of the mentioned Act and Regulations, from academic sanctions like degree revocation and professional ruin to criminal penalties like fines and imprisonment. It also discusses ways to prevent plagiarism and promotes ethical technology use, legal framework awareness, and appropriate citation practices. Finally, the review affirms that strict institutional and regulatory frameworks, along with awareness and ethical conduct, are necessary to prevent plagiarism and to carry on academic integrity in India.

Keywords: Consequences, Plagiarism, Academic Research, Indian Copyright Act of 1957, UGC Regulations 2018

Plagiarism is an unethical act of using someone else's words, ideas, or creative output and re-appropriating it without properly citing the original author, and it is degrading the quality of research day by day. It is not a new concept but an old one, as centuries ago, Roman poet; Martial complained that another poet had plagiarized his versus.¹ It is plagiarism to copy another's words, ideas, thoughts and expressions etc. directly without any proper citation. It is a form of cheating and a serious moral and ethical offence and also known as 'academic dishonesty' – plagiarists are viewed as unethical and incompetent, lacking the capacity for creative thought or study, which damages their reputation and academic credibility.² Plagiarism is a violation of copyright law, as it infringes on the protected original works of authorship. In India, plagiarism is a direct infringement of intellectual property rights under the Indian Copyright Act of 1957, which places it in line with broader IP jurisprudence rather than just U.S. copyright law as an imported notion, even though it is frequently presented as an ethical breach.³ It is generally agreed upon that plagiarism has been made more prevalent by the development of the internet and related technologies, which has created new difficulties for

India's intellectual property laws, which this study aims to analyze within the framework of scholarly investigation.

The Notion of Plagiarism

The word 'plagiary' is derived from a Latin word 'plagiarius' which means 'kidnapper'. The renowned dramatist Ben Jonson initially fixed it up in English in 1601, during the Jacobean Era, to mark out someone's guilty of literary theft. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word 'plagiarism' was entered into English in 1621.⁴

Globally recognized dictionaries and scholars have defined "Plagiarism" differently. Plagiarism, according to the Collins Online Dictionary, is a secret act that involves intentionally stealing concepts, words, or music from someone else's work.⁵ But the Merriam-Webster Dictionary views it as a moral error, highlighting the inability to recognize another person's words or ideas as theirs. Similarly, the Oxford Living Dictionaries interpret it as a fraudulent act in which someone claims authorship of another's ideas or work. The Modern Language Association (MLA) Handbook states that plagiarism is the act of passing off someone else's thoughts, words, or creative output as one's own. This is considered a dishonest act similar to fraud, with the intention of

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obtaining unjustified advantages. Jude Carroll, an internationally recognized expert on plagiarism, views it as a passing off someone else's work, either intentionally or unintentionally, as your own, for your own benefit.⁶ In the same way, Walliman defines it as directly copying someone else's work into your report, thesis etc. and letting it be assumed that it is your own.⁷ These definitions all agree, from an intellectual property standpoint, that plagiarism is illegally acquiring of another person's work and this idea is essential to the Indian Copyright Act's protection of original expression over ideas alone.⁸ Thus, plagiarism is a grave offence, akin to steal someone's 'intellectual property' as stealing of ideas is considered more serious and offensive than stealing someone's car and it predicts the incapability of a writer in his/her work.

Classification of Plagiarism

Plagiarism can be classified into two broad categories: Intentional and Unintentional

Intentional Plagiarism

Intentional plagiarism is the intentional theft of someone's ideas, text, data, etc. without proper citation or referencing. It emerges, as Roka suggests, when a writer purposefully or intentionally copies entire texts, paragraphs, or data and passes them off as original work. This is a deliberate act of dishonesty in claiming undeserved authorship.⁹ This happens when an author claims to be the author of a work written entirely by someone else – by removing another's name from the title page of a book or article and replacing it with their own, so taking credit for the full work of another person.¹⁰ Therefore, it is a serious form of plagiarism in which the original author becomes a ghost author. It is also known as direct plagiarism because text etc. is taken from other source directly without giving any credit to the original author. Sometimes an author pay someone for writing an article etc. and submit the same as his/her own work and this is the another example of direct plagiarism. There are various sub-types of international plagiarism such as self-plagiarism; mosaic plagiarism and most importantly artificial intelligence (AI) produced plagiarism which is a growing concern in intellectual property (IP) law.¹¹ AI-produced plagiarism occurs when someone uses AI-generated content such as text or art and claims it as their own, without mentioning the AI. Unlike regular plagiarism (copying someone else's work),

self-plagiarism (reusing one's own work) and mosaic plagiarism (mixing sources), AI plagiarism is more complex. This is often unintentional, difficult to detect, and involves unclear ownership, as AI is pulling data from vast data sets. It is therefore a major issue for the laws that safeguard original works of art. Although deliberate plagiarism is clearly illegal under Section 14(a) of the Indian Copyright Act, which safeguards the freedom to reproduce literary works, its application to self-plagiarism is unclear because it does not violate the intellectual property rights of third parties, a matter that needs legislative clarity.¹² In self or auto plagiarism, authors copy from his/her previous writings without any citation or proper referencing but instead present it as a new idea. It is true that the researcher can expand his/her old ideas through further research, but he/she cannot use his/her old writings without citing them properly. Self-plagiarism is also a serious offense and is most commonly referred to as 'recycling-fraud' or 'duplication' in the research world. Another subtype, mosaic plagiarism, is a severe problem where an author portrays someone else's work as their own by altering the word order or structure. In this type of plagiarism, an author decorates the previously published text that is why it is also known as decorative plagiarism.

Plagiarism in the modern world has acquired a new dimension with AI-produced plagiarism. These days, large-scale datasets are used by AI technologies like ChatGPT, DeepSeek and Grok etc. to create content, frequently without giving credit. Under the Copyright Act, this presents significant inquiries: Is AI output a new work or does it violate protected sources? Although the Act's silence on machine-generated work leaves a legal void, Section 2(d) defines "author" as a human creator, barring AI which lacks consciousness, emotions, and personal experiences. This difficulty is demonstrated by instances such as the 2023 IIT Bombay incident, in which students used AI for their theses. Plagiarism detection software has trouble identifying language that has been paraphrased by AI.¹³ This disparity puts India's intellectual property system in trouble and calls for changes to address authorship and accountability in the digital era. Basically, AI applications collate information from multiple sources and present it in an attractive form and unfortunately – the content produced by AI lacks a distinct and individual perspective and is simply a repetition of the data on which it was trained.¹⁴ This, in turn, leads to ghost

writing, where the original authorship is masked or completely hidden. So, the reviewer views that this not only challenges the ethics of content creation but also complicates the detection of plagiarism, making it important to address how we attribute and use AI-generated content in educational and professional contexts.

Unintentional Plagiarism

In unintentional plagiarism, the author does not realize that he/she is plagiarizing. It occurs when he/she fails to follow proper scholarly procedures for citation that is why it is also called as accidental plagiarism. In writing and research works, rules cannot be ignored; because ignorance of rules leads to plagiarism. Atrak (2019) suggests that a researcher may intend to craft original work but fail because of ignorance or negligence, muddle references, and confuse direct and indirect quotes, which can result in unintentional plagiarism.¹⁰ Several intentional plagiarisms like self-plagiarism, mosaic plagiarism and paraphrasing plagiarism also can be happen unintentionally. Self-plagiarism is an unintentional cheating also as it presents work as new when it is actually the old. Mosaic plagiarism, also known as patch writing, can also be classified as unintentional plagiarism as it generally arises because of the lack of understanding or poor academic writing skills of the researchers. Next, paraphrasing plagiarism is also frequently seen as unintentional plagiarism for a number of reasons, including a lack of knowledge about citation guidelines, a lack of understanding of paraphrasing rules and poor note-taking. Briefly speaking, unintentional plagiarism happens because of the lack of understanding of the basics of research including citation, referencing, quoting and paraphrasing rules etc. Further complicating their attempts to produce unique work, researchers may unintentionally commit plagiarism when they fail to differentiate between concepts that need attribution and common knowledge. This misunderstanding is frequently caused by inadequate training or early exposure to academic norms. Furthermore, in their rush to finish a job, people may unknowingly neglect appropriate citation standards due to the pressure to fulfill deadlines. Lastly, because internet materials are becoming more widely available, it is now simpler for researchers to unintentionally use unattributed information, particularly if they are not completely aware of the moral implications of using digital content.

Consequences of Plagiarism with Special Reference to Indian Copyright Act of 1957

If one looks at the history of copyright law in India, it is clear that the first copyright law in India was the Copyright Act of 1847, which was primarily based on the British Copyright Act of 1842. As a replacement for the British Copyright Act, the Indian Parliament passed the Copyright Act, 1957 (Act No. 14 of 1957) on 4 June 1957 as the first post-independence copyright law, which came into force on 21 January 1958. Dr. Raghavender GR, the former joint secretary and former registrar of Copyrights, Govt. of India writes, the Copyright Act of 1957 has undergone several amendments to adopt to the changing landscape of intellectual property and technological advancements.¹⁵ After 1957, the Act was amended in 1983, 1984, 1992, 1994, 1999, 2012, 2016 and 2021, in addition to the enforcement of the Copyright Rule in 2013. The Copyright Act of 1957 protects original works; literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, cinematographic and sound recordings etc. Therefore, plagiarism in all of these areas can result in numerous legal and professional consequences under this Act:

Legal Consequences

Plagiarism is governed by Sections 55, 57, 63 and 63(a) of the Copyright Act 1957. Section 57 and 55 focus on the protection of authors' ownership rights and rights to seek remedies respectively:

Right to Claim Authorship and to Prevent Distortions under Section 57

Under Section 57 of the Act, authors are granted the rights to claim authorship of their works. They can claim damages if their work is distorted, mutilated or altered in a way that damages their reputation. They have the right to prevent their work from all kinds of distortion. They can enforce their moral rights by filing a suit in court. They can also request a permanent injunction, a declaration of their special rights, and damages.¹⁶

Right to Seek Remedies for Copyright Infringement under Section 55

Section 55 of the Copyright Act, 1957, allows copyright owners to seek remedies like injunctions and damages when their copyright is infringed. If the infringer proves they were unaware of the copyright, the owner's remedies are limited to an injunction and possibly recovering profits from the infringing copies sold.¹⁷

Similarly, Sections 63 and 63A of the Copyright Act of 1957, outline the statutory penalties applicable to offenses concerning copyright infringement:

Penalties for Copyright Infringement under Section 63

Section 63 of the Copyright Act of 1957 protects the rights of authors by providing criminal penalties for copyright infringement. It warns that infringement of copyright or related rights shall be subject to severe penalties, reflecting the seriousness of the infringement – offenders face imprisonment for six months to three years and a fine ranging from 50,000 to 2,00,000.¹⁸

Enhanced Penalties for Repeated Copyright Infringement under Section 63A

Section 63A of the Copyright Act of 1957 intensifies penalties for repeated infringements of copyright, signals a tough new approach against habitual offenders – *states that a person who has been convicted under Section 63 previously faces a fine of ₹1-2 lakh and a term of imprisonment of 1-3 years for each subsequent violation.*¹⁹

Professional Consequences

Damage to Professional Reputation

Plagiarism could seriously damage the professional reputation of a researcher, individual or an organization and lead to a loss of trust among colleagues, customers or employers.

Academic Sanctions

Most universities and research institutions have a zero-tolerance policy towards plagiarism. Penalties may include expulsion or suspension from academic programs. If plagiarism is found after graduation, academic degrees could be lost, and researchers or faculty members might lose grants or be fired.

Retraction of Publication

Articles published in journals and the publishers can be withdrawn in case of plagiarism, which can damage the individual's career and also the institution's image. Academic journals or conferences may blacklist a person for severe cases of plagiarism, making it impossible or difficult for them to present or have their work published in the future.

In brief, plagiarism in research may lead to severe legal implications under the Indian Copyright Act 1957, apart from severe professional and academic consequences. Researchers are therefore encouraged to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity to avoid such consequences.

Critical Analysis and Emerging Challenges in the Context of Indian Copyright Act of 1957

The Copyright Act of 1957 offers a strong basis for preventing plagiarism by combining criminal deterrent (Sections 63, 63A) with civil remedies (Sections 55, 57). However, there are limitations when it comes to academic plagiarism. To begin with, the Act's emphasis on "original works" limits its applicability in research contexts with different originality levels by excluding unoriginal content. Second, accidental plagiarism is exempted from the criminal penalties outlined in Sections 63 and 63A of the Copyright Act, 1957, which only apply when plagiarism is deliberate. This creates a legal loophole because inadvertent copying, such as failing to properly credit a source, is exempted from penalties including jail time. However, the UGC Regulations, 2018 address this issue more effectively by emphasizing the amount of text that is copied (using similarity percentages) rather than demonstrating intent, making it more difficult for any plagiarist – intentional or not – to avoid consequences in academic settings. Third, a growing problem, AI-generated plagiarism is not addressed by the Act. Without an obvious human "author" as defined by Section 2(d), tools like ChatGPT can produce content that might infringe upon Section 14 rights, such as copying copyrighted work. There is dissonance over how the law should treat certain circumstances because of this disparity.

Consequences of Plagiarism with Special Reference to UGC Regulation – 2018

UGC approved the "UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations 2018" in its meeting on March 20, 2018 and notified the same in the Official Gazette of India on July 31, 2018 with immediate effect.²⁰ This regulations aim to promote understanding of ethical research and writing practices among students, faculty, researchers and staff, emphasizing academic integrity and discouraging misconduct such as plagiarism in academic work etc. Through instruction and training, it also aims to create institutional frameworks that support integrity, actively discourage plagiarism in academic pursuits, and promote ethical research and writing. The rules also focus on developing tools for detecting plagiarism and methods for stopping it, as well as sanctions for students, faculty, researchers or staff at higher education institutions who commit plagiarism.

So, in these objectives; awareness, mechanisms and punishment are clearly in focus, wherein it is the duty of higher educational institutions to conduct structured awareness programmes and seminars to raise the awareness of students, researchers and faculty members on academic integrity and ethics. It is also their responsibility to develop such a mechanism through which chances of plagiarism can be minimized at all. In order to address these and other plagiarism-related activities, these regulations recommend for establishing the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) comprising of four members including a chairman.

These regulations regulate the case of plagiarism very strictly and those found guilty of plagiarism may face severe penalties in different ways. In a novel way, Clause 12 of the regulations divides the penalties for plagiarism into two areas: one that deals with violations in theses and dissertations, and the other that deals with misbehaviour in academic and research publications.

Penalties for Submitting Thesis and Dissertations that Contains Plagiarism

This sub-clause 12.1 clearly states that the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) shall impose appropriate penalties on Masters and Doctorate (Research) level students or scholars found to be engaged in plagiarism while preparing of their theses and dissertations. The degree of plagiarism found will determine the severity of the punishment is; it can range from small-scale cases to extensive copies of other people's work without giving due credit. Pupils may be subject to consequences, including lower grades, required work revisions, or, in extreme situations, program suspension or expulsion. In the event where plagiarism is found after a degree has been awarded, the IAIP is also able to suggest that the degree be revoked. To further promote

responsibility and openness, every instance of plagiarism will be recorded in the student's academic record. The relevant information is shown in the Table 1.

Table 1 outlines the consequences of plagiarism in thesis and dissertations in accordance with UGC Regulations on Plagiarism 2018. It shows that plagiarism penalties increase from no action for up to 10% similarity, to script revision for 10-40%, debarment for 40-60%, and cancellation of program registration for above 60%. The consequences for repeated or post-award plagiarism are more severe and can include degree suspension. Moreover, if unintentional plagiarism falls over the allowed similarities limit, it is still punishable by these rules even if it is not intended. In order to prevent unintentional mistakes, students must be careful to correctly cite their sources and use plagiarism detection software.

Penalties in Case of Plagiarism in Academic and Research Publications (For Faculty Members)

Under the sub-clause 12.2, plagiarism in academic and research publications is punishable. Faculty members found guilty of plagiarism at any stage of their work will be subject to these sanctions, which shall enforced by the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP). The detailed consequences are presented here in a Table 2.

Table 2 reflects the consequences of plagiarism for faculty members who plagiarise in their research publications in violation of the UGC Regulations on plagiarism 2018. It is evident that the severity of penalties step up with the level of similarity detected from Level 0 (less than 10%) that carries no penalties, to Level 1 (10–40%) requires the manuscript to be withdrawn, one increment must be lost, and the user is prohibited from supervision for two years. Then Level 2 (40–60%) adds another increment loss and increases

Table 1 — Penalties in case of plagiarism in submission of thesis and dissertations²⁰

Levels of Plagiarism	Similarity Range	Penalty on Plagiarism	Penalty on Repeated Plagiarism	Post-award Plagiarism Penalty
Level 0	Up to 10%	No Penalty (Minor similarities)	No Penalty (Minor similarities)	No Penalty (Minor similarities)
Level 1	Above 10% to 40%	Must submit a revised script within 6 months	Won't be allowed to submit a revised script for 1 year.	His/her degree or credit shall be put in abeyance for a period recommended by the IAIP and approved by the HOI.
Level 2	Above 40% to 60%	Won't be allowed to submit a revised script for 1 year.	That program's registration will be cancelled.	
Level 3	Above 60%	That program's registration will be cancelled.	That program's registration will be cancelled.	

Table 2 — Penalties in case of plagiarism in academic and research publications
(For Faculty Members)²⁰

Levels of Plagiarism	Similarity Range	Penalty on Plagiarism	Penalty on Repeated Plagiarism	Benefit Already Obtained Penalty*
Level 0	Up to 10%	No Penalty (Minor similarities)	No Penalty (Minor similarities)	No Penalty (Minor similarities)
Level 1	Above 10% to 40%	Needs to withdraw manuscript.	i) Needs to withdraw manuscript. ii) Shall be denied a right to one annual increment. iii) Shan't be allowed to supervise any new masters' or doctoral students for 2 years.	
Level 2	Above 40% to 60%	i) Needs to withdraw manuscript. ii) Shall be denied a right to one annual increment. iii) Shan't be allowed to supervise any new masters' or doctoral students for 2 years.	i) Needs to withdraw manuscript. ii) Won't be eligible for two consecutive annual increments. iii) Shan't be allowed to supervise any new masters' or doctoral students for 3 years.	His/her benefit or credit shall be put in abeyance for a period recommended by the IAIP and approved by the HOI.
Level 3	Above 60%	i) Needs to withdraw manuscript. ii) Won't be eligible for two consecutive annual increments. iii) Shan't be allowed to supervise any new masters' or doctoral students for 3 years.	Disciplinary action including suspension/termination as per service rules shall be taken by the HEI.	

the ban to three years upon repeated offenses and Level 3 (above 60%) involves the same initial penalties but leads to potential suspension or termination upon repetition. The Clause 12.2 of these regulations emphasizes accountability by stating that benefits or credits would be revoked for a period determined by the IAIP and decided by the head of the institution if plagiarism is discovered after awarding credits.

Critical Analysis and Emerging Challenges in the Context of UGC Regulations 2018

In order to combat plagiarism, the UGC Regulations of 2018 mostly rely on similarity percentages; nonetheless, this strategy raises concerns. It disregards whether the copying was deliberate or unintentional by concentrating only on the amount of text that matches. If intentional plagiarists remain below the acceptable level, this can result in unduly severe penalties for honest errors—such as forgetting a citation. Additionally, it may deter researchers and students from pursuing novel concepts because of the fear that their work might unintentionally look similar. A system that is so dependent on statistics runs the risk of discouraging

creativity rather than fostering it, leading some to wonder if it actually upholds academic integrity or merely applies strict regulations. Although the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) upholds these regulations, it lacks sophisticated instruments to identify AI-generated plagiarism, such as that produced by ChatGPT, which rejects conventional similarity checks. As contemporary plagiarism advances, this reduces efficacy and demands for new detection techniques. Penalties such as post-award degree revocation guarantee long-term responsibility, but enforcement differs throughout institutions, potentially leading to inconsistency. Its disciplinary power is limited by its lack of legal support, which makes it mostly dependent on institutional will (unlike the Copyright Act).

Law and Technology to Tackle Plagiarism as an IP Challenge

Plagiarism and intellectual property law, as defined by the Copyright Act and UGC Regulations, have both advantages and disadvantages. Although the moral rights outlined in Section 57 safeguard authorial integrity, its applicability to AI-generated works has not been established. Section 65A, the

2012 amendment that established digital rights management, has little impact on academic plagiarism, particularly AI-driven plagiarism, because it focuses on authorship disputes rather than infringement.²¹ This disparity is shown by a case from Delhi University in 2022 when AI-generated theses were able to bypass Turnitin, with claimed detection rates of just 25%.²² Despite being proactive, the UGC's IAIP lacks standardized mechanisms to handle such developments, indicating that IP legislation has to change—possibly by adding a new Section 14(e) that defines AI output rights.

Correlation between the Consequences of Copyright Act 1957 and UGC Regulations, 2018

The Copyright Act and the UGC Regulations are interlinked in their common objective of protecting intellectual property and promoting the ethical use of creative works, especially in the academic context. Below is a detailed correlation:

- (i) Both regulations highlight the importance of originality and proper attribution. For example, reproducing an academic paper without crediting the source constitutes a breach of both copyright law (Section 51) and UGC Regulations (Levels 1-3 of plagiarism). The UGC's allowances for properly cited quotations (clause 7) align with the Fair Use provisions of the Copyright Act (section 52).
- (ii) Both frameworks allow for limited use of other people's work for academic purposes, provided that it is ethical and accredited. For example, a student who quotes an academic article with a correct citation is protected under both fair use in the Copyright Act (Section 52) and the UGC exclusions (Section 7). Excessive similarity without attribution, however, entails penalties under both traditions. The provision in the UGC for recourse to copyright rules explicitly links the two frameworks.
- (iii) Self-plagiarism is approached differently in each framework. The UGC Regulations regard it as an ethical issue, while the Copyright Act considers it potentially infringing if it violates publisher rights. Reusing substantial portions of a previously published work without acknowledgment could lead to penalties under UGC (e.g., or a copyright claim from the journal). Level 1 addresses similarities ranging from 10–40%. Reusing significant amounts of a

previously published paper without giving credit, for instance, may result in UGC penalties.

- (iv) In academia, copyright infringements can be prevented by the institutional framework provided by the UGC regulations. Through early detection of plagiarism (e.g. Turnitin), higher education institutions reduce the risk of infringing copyright law. The thesis flagged by the IAI for 40 per cent similarity could, for example, be revised in order to avoid potential infringement claims.

How to Avoid Plagiarism?

To protect oneself from the consequences of plagiarism as outlined in the Indian Copyright Act of 1957 and the UGC Regulations 2018, a researcher or an academician need to understand the existing legal and regulatory frameworks. He/she must respect the moral rights of the authors and always should give due credit to the original author. He/she must be aware that institutions might use software to detect plagiarism; hence, always should check his/her work before submission. He/she must follow proper citation and referencing rules like MLA, APA or any other style. He/she also must know the correct way of paraphrasing and summarizing. He/she must use technology responsibly and in an ethical way and have experience in academic writing standards. According to Jude Carroll, *Plagiarism can be avoided by careful note-taking, where every quote, paraphrase, or idea from an external source is recorded with its source details immediately, preventing confusion later when writing up.* Moreover, to prevent plagiarism caused by AI, acknowledge the use of AI tools, provide credit where credit is due for training data, utilize detection software to confirm originality, and follow citation guidelines to ensure that copyright regulations such as Section 14 of the Indian Copyright Act are followed. By following these and other well established guidelines, a culture of academic integrity in research and writing can be fostered. The Delhi case demonstrates how AI tricks outdated tools like Turnitin, leaving IAIPs stuck. Adding a rule like Section 14(e) could say AI stuff belongs to whoever controls it, and better tech—like AI-powered detectors—could help catch this new cheating quickly. The law struggles to keep up with AI plagiarism because it was created for human creators,

not machines. Section 57 protects an author's pride in their work, but AI tools like ChatGPT don't fit this mold—there is no human "author" to claim rights. Section 65A helps with digital piracy, not subtle AI copying in schools.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to bridge regulatory gaps, strengthening detection mechanisms and encouraging ethical research practices in order to safeguard academic integrity:

- (i) Amendments are needed to improve enforcement, clarify ambiguities and bring existing laws in line with evolving technologies. The Copyright Act should be updated to take account of artificial intelligence and digital media, the standards for plagiarism in user-created content should be updated, detection technologies should be improved, and educational initiatives that promote academic integrity should be strengthened.
- (ii) AI-generated plagiarism should be addressed by amending the Indian Copyright Act, 1957, possibly by adding a new clause defining ownership and accountability for AI outputs, such as Section 14(e). This would make legal obligations more clear and bring the Act into line with contemporary technological developments.
- (iii) Academic institutions need to provide their academic integrity panels with established procedures and sophisticated tools for plagiarism detection to ensure compliance with the 2018 UGC guidelines. It is essential that Integrity Assurance Panels receive training to address new challenges, like AI-generated plagiarism.
- (iv) Academics and students should be encouraged to use AI tools responsibly by acknowledging their use, consulting the training data when needed, and using plagiarism detection software to ensure originality. Adopting AI-powered detection tools will help institutions spot artificial intelligence-generated content that conventional software like Turnitin might overlook.
- (v) In order to inform students, faculty and researchers about plagiarism, its consequences and ethical research practices, educational institutions should organise seminars and workshops in a consistent manner as required by the 2018 UGC Regulation. Such workshops should highlight correct citation, citation and paraphrase techniques to help prevent plagiarism, both deliberate and accidental.
- (vi) Standardised citation formats should be mandatory and sources such as citation management tools and style guides should be made available by academic institutions. This approach would reduce unintentional plagiarism caused by poor citation practice or ignorance.
- (vii) Institutions should promote a culture that values creativity and moral scholarship in line with the UGC Regulations of 2018 and this can be done by rewarding honest research practices and strictly enforcing penalties for plagiarism. To ensure long-term accountability, plagiarism must be documented in academic records.

Conclusion

This review-centric study has shed light on the significant concern of plagiarism within academic research by examining the Indian Copyright Act of 1957 and the UGC Regulations of 2018. Plagiarism, viewed as both an ethical breach and an infringement of intellectual property, carries substantial legal, professional, and academic implications, jeopardizing the creative economy in India. To address and remedy violations, the UGC Regulations establish specific penalties, including the retraction of articles and the suspension of academic degrees, as enforced by the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP). Conversely, the Copyright Act includes clauses such as Sections 63 and 63A, which prescribe fines and the possibility of imprisonment. The correlation between these two frameworks underscores their complementary roles: both emphasize the significance of originality and proper attribution, allow restricted ethical utilization of others' works (e.g., fair use under Section 52 and UGC's Clause 7 exemptions), address self-plagiarism distinctively (the UGC regards it as an ethical issue, while the Copyright Act considers it potential infringement), and utilize institutional mechanisms to prevent copyright infringements through early plagiarism detection. Suggested actions include updating the Copyright Act with a new clause like Section 14(e) to clarify ownership of AI-generated content, providing IAIPs with sophisticated detection technology, enforcing standardized citation

methods, and promoting ethical AI usage through training sessions and awareness initiatives aligned with UGC requirements. The study stresses that technology, ethics and legal considerations must be combined to effectively combat plagiarism. With the support of updated legal frameworks and technological advancements, India can align its academic standards with global intellectual property standards and ensure robust protection of research integrity for future generations by encouraging collaboration among researchers, educators, and institutions.

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