

A CROSS-SECTIONAL AWARENESS STUDY ON PLAGIARISM: PRINCIPLES AND PRAXIS

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ABSTRACT

Due to lack of awareness about intellectual property rights among the students, the incidents of plagiarism seem to be on the rise in conducting and compiling research reports/documents in higher education and academic content writing. Taking this into cognizance, the present study underscores the level of awareness about different aspects of plagiarism among the research scholars of West Bengal. A cross-sectional survey study was conducted with 91 research scholars from different higher educational institutions in West Bengal. A self-constructed questionnaire was developed for collecting responses through Google forms. Email & social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook were used to disseminate the questionnaire. The data obtained were analyzed through descriptive statistics. The study interpreted that most of the research scholars are aware about plagiarism and they also have knowledge on various aspects of plagiarism such as different types of plagiarism, various plagiarism detection tools, consequences of plagiarism, measures adopted to avoid plagiarism etc. Some of the reasons to reproduce the work of others are also identified from this study. Most of the respondents stated that higher educational institutions should organize awareness programmes such as seminars, workshops, etc. to increase level of academic integrity among the research scholars.

KEYWORDS: *Awareness, Plagiarism, Research scholars, Academic Integrity*