Status of Academic Integrity in Pakistan: An Overview

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Academic Integrity .... A big Question?

- It is a commitment which enhances the fidelity of an intellectual output
- It rests upon the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Why it is so important?**

- For the development of critical thinking/abilities
- To contribute genuinely in the existing body of knowledge.
Status of Academic Dis-honesty in Pakistan

- **24%** of students are involved in academic dishonesty, whereas **23%** are uncertain (Ramzan, Munir, Siddique & Asif, 2012)

- **26%** of private medical college students self-report this behavior as compared to **42%** of public medical college students (Ghias, Lakho, Asim, Azam, & Saeed, 2014).

- **71.5%** of the respondents with age range from 21-25 admit they are involved in plagiarism (Rehman & Waheed, 2014)
News Coverage of Plagiarism and HEC

HEC recommends action against ‘plagiarising’ professor

Three more teachers put on HEC blacklist

HEC gets firm in fight against plagiarism

DAWN
Plagiarism charge against acting VC of Urdu varsity proved for third time

HEC concerned by varsities violating plagiarism policy
Copyright violations: HEC struggles to get varsities to act against plagiarists

HEC strives to track plagiarism

PhD degree of Comsats rector cancelled over ‘plagiarism’

* Detection software Turnitin had found plagiarism level at 72 per cent in the thesis

Campus diary: HEC rejects appeals of four PIEAS researchers blacklisted for plagiarism
Higher Education Commission
Provincial Higher Education Commissions

- Higher Education Commission 2002 with 42 universities
- Current number of Universities is 190
- Introduced Plagiarism Policy 2006
- Compulsory for University to have Text Matching Software (Turnitin)
- 102 Number of Cases reported and decided
- Provincial HECs were established in 2014-15
Challenges

- Understanding the Academic Integrity
- Curriculum
- Evaluation System
- Awareness about plagiarism policy
- Deadline Pressure-Faculty/Students
- Management/Social Pressure
- Over Sensitization
- Cultural Issues
- Less interaction between students-teacher
- Misconception about text-matching software
- Local Languages (Urdu, Arabic, Punjab, Persian etc.)
Steps Taken to Curb Academic Dishonesty in Pakistan

• By Higher Education Commission (HEC)
  – HEC Plagiarism Policy “‘little book of plagiarism”
  – HEC’s Time bound “Standard Operating Procedures” for Plagiarism Cases
  – Videos lecture on Plagiarism on HEC’s web portal

• By Punjab Higher Education Commission
  – Repository for Indigenous Research
  – Center for Academic Integrity

• By Information Technology University (ITU), Lahore
  – National Centre for Academic Integrity (NCAI)

• Pakistan Librarians Welfare Organization (PLWO)
  – Awareness workshops and seminars on academic integrity
Way Forward

- Training – Faculty/Staff/Students
- Updating the Curriculum
- Changing the Pattern of Assignments
- Changes in Examinations/Evaluation System
- Research in the areas of Academic Integrity
- Text-matching tools for local languages
- Centers/Offices for Academic Integrity in HEIs
- Joint Awareness Campaigns by Federal & Provincial HECs, & Universities
- Need to strengthen teacher – student communication/ academic relationship
- Need to develop comprehensive Academic Integrity policy by every university
Thank You